

Rural Bulletin

October 2007



Rural Women
NEW ZEALAND

<http://www.ruralwomen.org>

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Consultation

Dog Welfare: Have Your Say...

The National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC), which comes under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF), is seeking comment on a new draft code of welfare for dogs. All dogs, including pets, show dogs, working dogs or those used for breeding or sport, will be covered by this code.

The proposed minimum standards and recommendations for best practice relate to all aspects of dog ownership and care, including water, food and body condition, containment and shelter, sanitation, breeding and inherited disorders, health, behaviour, training, tail docking, transportation and euthanasia.

Under the proposals dog breeders are likely to be under a duty to make all reasonable efforts to ensure they do not produce animals which result in an increase in the frequency or severity of known inherited disorders such as, for example, hip dysplasia. The code might also prohibit the removal of dogs' tails.

Submissions close on 1 November 2007. The draft welfare code can be downloaded as a pdf file from <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/files/strategy/consultation/draft-code-of-welfare-dogs.pdf>

...& Dogs: Did You Know

The Dog Control Act 1996

The Dog Control Act 1996 requires that every dog be kept under control at all times by dog owners, that it receives proper care and attention, is supplied with proper and sufficient food, water and shelter, and receives adequate exercise. Every dog must be registered with the relevant territorial authority by three months of age. Dogs being registered for the first time after 1 July 2006, or that are classified as dangerous/menacing have to be implanted with a microchip transponder within two months of registration, unless exempted as "kept solely or principally for the purposes of herding or driving livestock". The owner has to make sure the registration disc or label is attached to a collar worn by the dog. The Act also requires local authorities to classify dogs as dangerous under certain circumstances, and owners of dogs that have been classified as dangerous have to meet special requirements.

Disease Control Requirements

The feeding of offal to dogs is controlled under a notice for management of hydatids and sheep measles issued under the Biosecurity Act 1993. For hydatids, current requirements are that:

- ruminants (e.g. cattle) and pigs in home-killing facilities must be slaughtered within a dog-proof enclosure;

- owners must ensure dogs are controlled so they are not able to access offal; and
- offal of ruminants and pigs must be boiled for 30 minutes before feeding to dogs.

In order to prevent sheep measles, dogs must not be given meat from sheep or goats unless the meat has been treated, either by being boiled for 30 minutes, or by being frozen at -10°C for 7 days (check freezer temperatures carefully - many home freezers are set at only -4°C which is inadequate for the destruction of the parasite that causes sheep measles).

Consumer Rights

The Consumer Guarantees Act 1993 ensures the right of purchasers who are consumers within the meaning of the Act to receive puppies that are "fit for purpose" and "free of defects".

Electronic/Electrical Waste Recycling: Have Your Say

As businesses and consumers we dispose of electrical and electronic equipment in a variety of ways. Depending on the item and its residual value, this "waste" has traditionally been either stored in a cupboard, attic or garage; reused, sold or given to a friend, relative, charity or intermediary for reuse; or taken to the council or a recycling/waste company, where it may be scrapped or landfilled.

The Ministry for the Environment (MfE) has now published a draft set of good practice guidelines for restoring or disposing of electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), and it wants to hear from anyone in the WEEE industry: people collecting, transporting and storing this equipment; waste management companies; handlers of hazardous waste; scrap metal merchants; central and local government with a role in managing special wastes; manufacturers or distributors of electrical and electronic equipment; organisations that use WEEE refurbishment and recycling services; and anyone else with relevant experience.

Submissions close 26 October 2007. The draft "Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Refurbishment and Recycling Good Practice Guidelines" are at <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/waste/weee-good-practice-guidelines-sep07/html/page1.html>. A submission form is at <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/issues/waste/special/e-waste/submission-form.DOC>

Biosecurity Discussion Documents

How the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry prepares for and responds to incursions of pests and diseases is under review. As part of the review, a draft MAF policy "Policy for responding to pests and diseases (risk organisms)" and a discussion paper called "Joint Decision-Making and Resourcing for Readiness and Incursion Responses" have been published.

The discussion paper describes the current way we respond to incursions, explains why a new framework is desirable, and outlines the proposed framework and its guiding principles. The proposed system or framework involves government and industries coming together to decide:

- which pests and diseases of interest to industry will trigger responses;
- what is required to be ready for a pest or disease incursion;

- how costs will be shared (based on relative public and private benefits); and
- how to make rapid, joint decisions for incursion responses if these pests and diseases do arrive.

Submissions close 14 December 2007. The draft policy is at <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/strategy-and-consultation/consultation/policy/pest-and-disease-response>, and the discussion paper is at www.biosecurity.govt.nz/strategy-and-consultation/consultation/discussion-documents

Talk About the Environment

The Ministry for the Environment (MfE) is hosting its fifth Talk Environment Roadshow between 17 October and 2 November, and is holding meetings with both local authorities and the public around the country. Each of the two-hour public meetings will include an update on MfE's work programmes, and an opportunity to have your say on environmental issues.

This year's topics are:

- dealing with the impacts of climate change: ideas for ways to adapt to climate change and minimise the risks/maximise opportunities are sought;
- encouraging household sustainability: MfE wants to hear what people are doing in their homes and communities to live more sustainably;
- sustainable business: have your say about the way the Government is encouraging environmentally sustainable businesses; and
- national guidance under the RMA: views are sought on proposed national environmental standards/policies, e.g. sources of human drinking water, electricity transmission, water measuring devices and freshwater management.

To register for a public meeting go to https://secure.clockwork.co.nz/ei/getdemo.ei?id=31&s=_2XW1AJ6R2 or contact tel freephone 0800 TALKENV (0800-825 536)

Law Commission Papers: NZ's Statutes...

The Law Commission has issued a discussion paper (Presentation of NZ Statute Law) about the state of NZ statute law. To quote Law Commission President, Sir Geoffrey Palmer "NZ statute law is in a chaotic state. There are acts on the statute books that are totally obsolete. The District Railways Purchasing Act 1885 and the NZ Institute of Journalists Act 1895 are just two examples."

New Zealand has a law that says contracts to sell books to be delivered in the future must be in writing and must contain the total price in red print. It is hidden in the Mercantile Law Act 1908, the last place you would think to look. The law on one topic can be scattered over several acts, there have been differences in drafting style over the years (some Acts have sentences containing over 200 words), and there is no official index.

The Law Commission, which is working on this project with Parliamentary Counsel Office, is proposing a subject index be developed. It is also calling for a full revision of the statute book to remove "dead wood", get rid of inconsistencies, and ensure con-

sistent drafting styles. It's noted by the Commission that a complete exercise of this kind has not been done since 1908, the same year the Mercantile Law Act, referred to above, was passed.

Submissions close 12 November 2007. They go to Z Prebble, Law Commission, PO Box 2590, Wellington 6140; email statuteaccess@lawcom.govt.nz. The paper is at http://www.lawcom.govt.nz/UploadFiles/Publications/Publication_132_361_MP17.pdf

...& Privacy and Public Registers

The Law Commission also wants to clear up the "confusion and inconsistency in the law" regarding public registers - these are the registers or databases to which the public has some specific rights of access, such as electoral rolls, land registers, company registers and many occupational registers.

In an issues paper, the Commission says the law on registers is scattered over a number of statutes and there is uncertainty about where the Official Information Act is applicable.

To resolve the problems, the Commission is proposing a new legal framework to ensure "greater clarity of regulation, the assessment and balancing by Parliament of transparency, privacy, and any competing public interests relevant to access to public registers, and where necessary, the application of mechanisms to protect personal information held on registers".

Submissions close on 5 November 2007. Submissions or comments (formal or informal) on this issues paper should be sent to: J November or R Hayward, Senior Legal and Policy Advisers, Law Commission, PO Box 2590, Wellington 6011, DX SP 23534, or by email to com@lawcom.govt.nz. You can download a copy of the issues paper from: http://www.lawcom.govt.nz/UploadFiles/Publications/Publication_129_363_Part_1_WEB%20LC24-Issues-Paper-3-Public-Registers-intro-chapter5.pdf

Measuring Noise

Updated standards for measuring environmental noise have been published for comment by Standards NZ. The draft standards (Acoustics - Measurement of Environmental Sound; Acoustics - Assessment of Environmental Noise) have been prepared primarily for local authorities in applying their noise control provisions and for use in consent conditions.

Submissions close on 14 November 2007. The draft standards can be downloaded at <http://shop.standards.co.nz/drafts/DZ6801-DZ6801Publiccommentdraft.PDF>

Emissions Trading: A Taxing Issue

The Government's proposed emissions trading scheme (see "Environment" below) will have income tax and GST implications for participants. The following suggestions for ways of dealing with these are outlined in an issues paper, on which your comments are sought:

- for sectors other than forestry, spending associated with meeting emissions trading scheme obligations should be a tax-deductible expense and recognised on an accruals or emerging basis over time;

- income from the allocation of free emissions trading units should be recognised as taxable income on an emerging basis over time;
- for forests planted before 1990, free emissions trading units received should be non-taxable, and spending associated with a change in land use should be non-deductible;
- for forests planted after 1989, income derived from the receipt of emissions trading units should be taxable, although there would be problems associated with the recognition and timing of income and expenditure; and
- emissions trading units should attract GST in the same way as other goods or services do.

The closing date for submissions on tax matters relating to the forestry industry is 28 October 2007; for submissions on general tax issues it is 30 November 2007. The issues paper "Emissions trading tax issues" is at www.taxpolicy.ird.govt.nz

Police Legislation: Online Wiki

In what is being seen as a very novel move for a government department (major newspapers overseas are running stories on it) the NZ Police has been inviting online suggestions - in the form of a "Police Act Review wiki" - as part of its review of the Police Act 1958. The idea was to help ensure positive ideas are not lost, and to provide a space for people to explain their suggestions.

The wiki Police Act was going to be kept open until 1 November, with the results being fed back into the official law-making process. However, there was an overwhelming response, with the result that the fully-open wiki has now run its course. The next step is to consider ideas from the wiki's history and consolidate everyone's suggestions. The information can then be fed into the upcoming parliamentary law-making process.

The Police say that while a great deal has been gained from the initial use of wiki technology as part of the Police Act review, they still welcome emails from people who want to keep adding ideas.

The wiki Police Act (as at 1 October) can be accessed at <http://wiki.policeact.govt.nz/> Email suggestions go to policeact@police.govt.nz

Bioethics Council: Pre-Birth Testing Consultation

Toi te Taiao: the Bioethics Council is inviting members of the public to consider four approaches to the testing of babies before birth. The different approaches reflect views voiced by the public at workshops held by the council in September.

Most babies born in NZ are tested when they were foetuses during their mother's pregnancy. Some IVF babies are tested when they were embryos outside the mother using pre-implantation genetic diagnoses (PGD). There are pre-birth tests for identifying all sorts of possible illnesses, diseases and physical disorders such as cystic fibrosis, Down syndrome and HIV. Many of these tests are well known, for example, amniocentesis and ultra sound. Other tests, such as pre-implantation genetic diagnoses (PGD) are less well known. The range of things able to

be tested for is expanding, and we need to consider how far we might go with pre-birth testing, and also who has the right to decide and what the consequences might be.

The Council is seeking expressions of interest from people interested in joining a group of up to 15 people who will be considering the four approaches (each meeting will take up to three hours). People will also have the opportunity to consider the issues using an on-line forum going live this month.

More information is at <http://www.bioethics.org.nz/about-bioethics/issues-in-focus/prebirth-testing/index.html>, or email prebirth@bioethics.org.nz. Expressions of interest can be registered at <http://www.bioethics.org.nz/about-bioethics/issues-in-focus/prebirth-testing/expression.html>, or tel freephone 0800-327 633, fax 04-439 7700

Maori Television Seeks ANZAC Stories for 2008

Maori Television is appealing for ANZAC story ideas for next year's marathon broadcast to mark NZ's national day of commemoration on Friday 25 April. For the third year in a row, the channel will devote its entire broadcast schedule to ANZAC Day 2008 including coverage of key memorial ceremonies at home and overseas as well as veteran interviews, studio debates and documentaries.

In the lead-up to ANZAC Day in 2008, researchers and producers from Maori Television will be travelling the country talking to people and crafting unique stories about their events and experiences.

People can email story ideas to anzacday@Maoritelevision.com or download a submission form at www.Maoritelevision.com

Have Your Say: Broadcasting Amendment Bill

The Broadcasting Amendment Bill amends the Broadcasting Act 1989 to enable the broadcasting funding agencies to fund content, archiving, and transmission likely to be essential to digital radio and television platforms.

Submissions close 26 October 2007. Print copies can be ordered online from Bennetts Government Bookshops. Find out more about the Bill online at <http://www.parliament.nz/en-NZ/SC/SubmCalled/b/b/b/48SCCObroadcasting200710261-Broadcasting-Amendment-Bill.htm>

Dairy Industry: Export Licence Transfer Consultation

Parliament is considering the Dairy Industry Restructuring Amendment Bill No 2, which provides for the future allocation of rights to designated dairy export markets. This bill includes powers to make regulations governing the transfer of export licences between industry participants.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) is currently consulting on composition of these regulations (the Draft Dairy

Industry Restructuring (Transfer of Export Licences) Regulations) which will cover the transfer of export licences between people who are eligible to hold licences under the Dairy Industry Restructuring Act 2001.

Submissions on the regulations close 22 October 2007. They go to "Consultation on Transfer of Export Licences Regulations", Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, PO Box 2526, Wellington, email rachel.nicholas@maf.govt.nz The draft regulations are at <http://www.maf.govt.nz/mafnet/publications/dairy-export-licences/draft.htm>

Funding Auckland Arts/Community Services

Public submissions are now being invited on the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Bill. This bill establishes a legal framework for sustainably funding organisations that provide arts, education, rescue or other community facilities or services used or relied on by people throughout the Auckland region. These organisations include: Auckland Philharmonia, Auckland Regional Rescue Helicopter Trust, Auckland Theatre Company Limited, NZ National Maritime Trust Board, and NZ Opera Limited.

Submissions close 5 November 2007. The bill is available for download from the "Related documents" panel on Parliament's website, at http://www.parliament.nz/en-NZ/PB/Legislation/Bills/b/d/c/00DBHOH_BILL8229_1-Auckland-Regional-Amenities-Funding-Bill.htm Print copies can be ordered online from Bennetts Government Bookshops.

Rural

Horticulture/Cropping: Optimism in Some Hard Times

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry's (MAF) 2007 monitoring report into the status of the horticulture and arable sectors shows growers in some sectors expecting low or negative profits from the 2007 harvest season, with the recent high exchange rate reducing export returns. However, the report also illustrates grower optimism and resilience, and notes ongoing investment in the horticulture and arable sectors in order to improve returns in the medium term.

The report is based on model operations designed to be typical of average orchards, vineyards and farms, and uses information drawn from surveys of real growers and a wide cross-section of agri-business. It monitors the production and financial status of operations and also notes trends, issues, and sector concerns.

Poor returns are expected for the pipfruit and kiwifruit models in 2007, despite optimism earlier in the year when growers were surveyed. The Marlborough wine grape growing model contin-

ues to make a profit, and good yields in the 2007 harvest improved the profit achieved in the Hawkes Bay wine grape growing model compared with the previous season. The arable model achieved an increased operating surplus in 2006/07 but this is reflected in increased crop on hand, rather than cash in the bank.

The report finds the exchange rate has been the most significant influence on grower revenue in 2007, resulting in a reduction in export returns and increased competition from imported produce on the domestic market.

Most crop sectors are maintaining operating costs under tight control, due to the low incomes achieved in 2006 and/or uncertainty about the level of returns that will be achieved in 2007. However, growers are continuing to spend on repairs and maintenance, and to develop their orchards, vineyards and farms. In the kiwifruit sector this includes investments that will improve production levels, and in the pipfruit sector, growers continue to redevelop orchards to more preferred varieties. Expansion continues in the wine grape growing sector with a total of up to 4000 hectares expected to be planted in 2007 and 2008.

The variation in profitability of the main horticultural crops has prompted some land use change. This is particularly evident in Marlborough with the conversion of less-profitable horticultural, arable and pastoral land uses to wine grape production.

The full horticulture report can be viewed online on the MAF website at <http://www.maf.govt.nz/mafnet/rural-nz/statistics-and-forecasts/farm-monitoring/2007/horticulture-and-arable/2007-horticulture-monitoring-report.pdf>

Rural Real Estate Market - August Figures

The national farm median price eased back slightly, from \$1,270,000 for the three months to July to \$1,262,800 for the three months to August, on sales down from 669 in the July period to 592 to August.

A feature was the strength of the dairy median, up from \$3,162,500 to \$3,450,000. Finishing property median prices were also up, from \$1,650,000 in July to \$2,150,000.

Other findings include:

- arable prices were sharply up from \$810,000 to \$1,587,000 but on sales lower at 34 compared with 36 to July;
- grazing property median prices declined from \$1,200,000 to \$1,129,881 for the three months to August on sales down from 281 to July, to 242 to August; and
- horticultural property median prices were down from \$1,140,000 to July, to \$1,075,000 to August on sales down from 58 to 48.

However, things were less positive for lifestyle property median prices which softened on a reasonably large drop in volumes from 1,898 to July, down to 1,752 to August, with the median price falling from \$445,750 to July, to \$430,000 to August.

The Wine Industry: Land Use

A planning guide for the wine industry has been commissioned by NZ Winegrowers and prepared in partnership with the Ministry for the Environment, Local Government NZ and territorial authorities in the main winegrowing regions. It considers five

resource management issues and related effects that are associated with the wine industry, including:

- multiple land-use activities on one site (vertical integration);
- reverse sensitivity;
- water allocation and use;
- worker accommodation; and
- waste management.

The guide looks at how these issues are dealt with in district plans, identifying relevant examples. Approaches in regional plans to address particular issues, such as the use of agrichemical sprays, water allocation and use, and waste management are also discussed.

The planning guide is at <http://www.qualityplanning.org.nz/plan-topics/wine-industry.php>

Velconz: Velvet Marketing Through Joint Venture

A single marketing body for NZ's \$30 million deer antler velvet exports is a step closer with a joint venture between deer farmers and PGG Wrightson. The parties have formed Velconz, a joint venture to market velvet. It will begin operation at the start of the season. NZ is the world's biggest producer of deer velvet. It exports 500 tonnes a year, mostly to the Korean market where it is used in medicine and tonics.

Staying Safe in Rural NZ

This booklet is about how to respond to rural crime. You are entitled to protect yourself and your property, but the response must always be within the law. Your first concern should be your own safety and that of others. Never take the law into your own hands or take unnecessary risks. If there are intruders, call the police. The brochure includes the relevant provisions of the Crimes Act 1961 relating to defence of movable property, dwellinghouse and land or building.

The booklet is available from the Police or from www.police.govt.nz/safety

Funding for Community Irrigation

The Minister of Agriculture recently announced new Government funding of \$5.7 million over eight years to help community irrigation projects get off the ground. The fund was announced at the launch of the new Irrigation NZ Code of Practice and Design Standards. It is part of the Government's Sustainable Land Management Climate Change package.

A press release is at <http://www.beehive.govt.nz/ViewDocument.aspx?DocumentID=30596>

Agrichemical Container Recycling

Agrecovery, a nationwide rural recycling programme launched in April, now has some 43 collection sites operating around the country. Under the programme, farmers, foresters and growers

can dispose of carefully rinsed unwanted plastic agricultural containers in a safe way. The plastic gathered is then shredded and reprocessed. The programme is funded by a 13 cent levy on every litre of eligible product sold. Participating brand owners collect this and send it to the Agrecovery Foundation, which manages the programme.

For more information and location of sites go to www.agrecovery.co.nz

Emergency Measures: Horses Coming to NZ

MAF Biosecurity NZ (MAFBNZ) has introduced temporary emergency import requirements for horses from countries that have equine influenza, to reduce the risk of the virus coming here (NZ is free of equine influenza). Horses coming here from the affected countries will now have to be tested for the virus before being exported, and then tested again when they are quarantined after they arrive. Increased hygiene measures have also been introduced for fresh horse semen imports from Australia. Inspectors will also be questioning anyone who has visited an infected area or had contact with horses in Australia, and may search their luggage to check clothing and footwear.

Anyone who suspects their horse may be showing symptoms of equine influenza should isolate the horse from other animals and contact their vet immediately or phone the MAFBNZ emergency hotline 0800 80 99 66.

New Agriculture ITO Training Programmes

Rural Staff Management Training: Agriculture Industry Training Organisation (Agriculture ITO) is offering a new Certificate in Rural Staff Management (RSM) at venues around NZ. The certificate covers skills needed to recruit and develop high-performing teams, manage employee performance and understand an employer's legal responsibilities. A certificate is awarded on completion of each of four workshops, and people completing all four qualify for the Certificate in Rural Staff Management.

Milk Quality Programme: The Milk Quality Programme is a new training course developed by Agriculture ITO and Fonterra to help milk harvesters and managers to improve milk quality through better processes. The workshops, which are also held regionally throughout the country, enable milk teams to be trained together.

More information on the rural staff management workshops is at <http://www.agricultureito.ac.nz/TempFiles/TempDocuments/Stakeholder%20Resources/Rural%20Staff%20Mngmnt.pdf> For information about the Milk Quality Workshops go to <http://www.agricultureito.ac.nz/TempFiles/TempDocuments/Stakeholder%20Resources/Milk%20Quality.pdf>. To register for either workshop tel freephone 0800 327 633 or go to www.agricultureito.ac.nz

Environment

Managing Climate Change

The Government has announced the following moves to address climate change:

An Emissions Trading Scheme

This will provide NZ businesses with a least-cost, flexible way of reducing their carbon footprint and help put NZ on the path to a more sustainable future. It will be phased in from next year, beginning with the forestry industry, and including all sectors and gases over time. NZ's forestry industry will receive incentives to plant trees equivalent to hundreds of millions of dollars under the scheme. The transport sector will be next in 2009, when fuel importers will have to buy allocation permits to cover their emissions. Agriculture will join the scheme in 2013, and will receive free allocation equivalent to 90% of its 2005 emissions (the aim is to assist business as much as possible without defeating the purpose of the scheme). Other industries will also receive transitional assistance.

The moves will mean increased costs in, for example, petrol and energy and the Government is considering what assistance households need to adjust to these increases. Efforts to make all households more energy efficient - through insulation, solar panels, and other measures - will be increased.

Once emissions trading scheme legislation has been introduced, the public will be able to have a further say as part of the select committee process.

A Plan of Action for Sustainable Land Management and Climate Change

This is a partnership approach to developing and putting in place sustainable land management and climate change policies and practices for the agriculture and forestry sectors. The plan will cover adapting to climate change, other ways of lessening the effects of climate change (over and above the Emissions Trading Scheme), and business opportunities arising from climate change. Research, technology transfer and communications will also be covered.

Climate Change Research Funding

New research and development funding, totalling \$6.7 million a year from next year is aimed at promoting sustainability and helping NZ respond to climate change. Details include:

- a contestable fund of \$4 million a year aimed at helping bring forward the use of alternative energy sources such as liquid biofuels, biomass, solar, hydrogen, wind power, and low carbon fossil fuels;
- funding of \$2.5 million per year from 2007/08 for research to help manage the likely effects of climate change on NZ; and
- funding of \$200,000 per year for researching the effects of pest control on carbon storage in native forests. This research will identify the best places to manage animal pests to increase carbon storage.

Climate Change Publications

A number of documents have also been released. They include:

- NZ's Climate Change Solutions - an Overview;
- The Framework for a NZ Emissions Trading Scheme (150 pages);
- A series of emissions trading fact sheets;
- Forestry in a NZ Emissions Trading Scheme (64 page booklet);
- Sustainable Land Management and Climate Change Plan of Action (18 page booklet);
- Questions and Answers on the Sustainable Land Management and Climate Change Plan of Action, and on Forestry and Agriculture in an ETS; and
- Government Investment Initiatives under the Plan of Action - 12 summary sheets describing various government-funded initiatives to help the land management sectors adapt to climate change, reduce emissions and create carbon sinks, and exploit the business opportunities of climate change.

Copies of the emissions trading reports are available from www.climatechange.govt.nz. Copies of the land management sector reports (Forestry in the NZ ETS, the Sustainable Land Management and Climate Change Plan of Action booklet, Government Investment Summary Sheets and Questions and Answers) are available from www.maf.govt.nz/climatechange or printed copies can be ordered from climatechange@maf.govt.nz or 0800 CLIMATE (254 628). Speeches and press statements by the Prime Minister and government Ministers including the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry will be available on www.beehive.govt.nz

Preferred Waste Policy Released

The Government has released details of its preferred waste minimisation policy. This includes:

- a national waste levy on waste going to landfill;
- product stewardship legislation (this is where companies take responsibility for managing the environmental impacts of their products throughout their life cycle);
- the establishment of a network of recycling facilities in public areas;
- new requirements for reporting on waste data; and
- a review of roles and responsibilities of local and central government.

At the same time, the Government has given the Local Government and Environment Committee a Supplementary Order Paper (SOP) that contains amendments to the Waste Minimisation (Solids) Bill that reflect the preferred policy. The Select Committee will decide whether the SOP needs further consultation and, if so, who will be consulted. It will report back to the House by 31 October 2007 before Parliament votes on the Bill later on this year.

The preferred waste policy is at <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/issues/waste/>. The "Towards a Sustainable NZ: Measures to minimise solid waste" cabinet paper is at <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/issues/sustainability/cabinet-papers/pol-07-132.html>

Kyoto Protocol Commitment: Likely NZ Emissions

The Ministry for the Environment has updated its "net position" report covering the first commitment period (2008-2012) of the Kyoto Protocol. This report projects what NZ's balance of emissions units for 2008-2012 (an emissions unit is equivalent to one tonne of carbon dioxide gas) is likely to be.

The information is needed because, as a party to the Kyoto Protocol, NZ has made a commitment to reducing its average net emissions of greenhouse gases between 2008-2012 (the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol or CP1) to 1990 levels, or taking responsibility for any difference.

The projected amount of greenhouse gas emissions and removals has a big influence on NZ's projected financial surplus or deficit over the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. The surplus/deficit is also affected by the international price of emissions units and the exchange rate between the NZ and United States currencies.

The report projects a deficit of 45.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (Mt CO₂-e) for 2008-2012. This is an increase of 4.3 Mt CO₂e over last year's estimate of the Kyoto deficit of 41.2 Mt CO₂e.

More information is at <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/issues/climate/about/qa-net-position.html>. The report is at <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/climate/projected-balance-emissions-sep07/html/index.html>

Didymo Control: More Research on Chelated Copper

MAF Biosecurity NZ is to carry out more research into the possible use of chelated copper in the battle against the invasive alga, didymo, following field trials earlier this year that confirmed it has some potential as an emergency control measure. More research needs to be done about where and when it can be used, and on any effects it may have on other non-target species like molluscs, eels, koura (freshwater crayfish), and other algae.

Note: the very best way to control the spread of didymo is for all freshwater users to check, clean and dry their equipment between waterways.

Tourism

August Visitor Arrivals

International visitor arrivals increased by 5.8 percent in August compared with August 2006, to 164,775 arrivals for the month. The year ended growth was also strong - up 3.9 percent to a record high of 2.47 million visitors.

While Australia was very strong, there were mixed performances by other markets in the month of August - United Kingdom was up 4.4 percent, China up 17.7 percent, while the United States was down 6.5 percent, and Japan down 10.2 percent.

More Kiwis than Brits Move to Aussie

For the first time, NZ has overtaken the UK as the largest source country for permanent migrants to Australia, according to new immigration statistics. Arrivals from NZ have jumped nearly 5000 in the past 12 months, up from 19,033 in 2005/06 to 23,906 in 2006/07, with Queensland as their destination of choice. The former leaders in the permanent settler stakes, the UK, held steady at 23,223 arrivals, with WA and Queensland their preferred destinations.

Health & Safety

Type 2 Diabetes: One Third of Cases Preventable?

A report released by the Ministry of Health (MoH) projects that the number of people with diagnosed Type 2 Diabetes could increase from about 120,000 in 2001 to 180,000 in 2011. The "Diabetes Surveillance population-based estimates and projections for NZ 2001-2011" indicates that of the projected 60,000 new diagnosed Type 2 Diabetes cases in 2011, about a third will be the result of an increasing number of people who are overweight and obese and the rest will largely be due to our ageing population and other factors.

The report is at <http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/indexmh/diabetes-suveillance-population-estimates-projections-2001-2011>

Hearing Loss: Research Results

New research conducted by the National Foundation for the Deaf (NFD) shows that seven out of ten under-30 year olds are experiencing symptoms of permanent hearing damage after listening to loud music - yet do nothing to prevent it.

The symptoms include dullness of hearing and ringing in the ears (tinnitus) - both early signs of irreversible hearing damage. Worryingly, the TNS Survey of 1000 NZers revealed that just 6 percent of us bother to regularly take precautions, such as wearing earplugs or reducing the volume, to protect our hearing when listening to music.

Deafness was the disability or impairment under-30 year olds felt they could cope with the least, ahead of blindness and being confined to a wheelchair, but nearly a quarter (24 percent) of under-30 year olds were unsure of how to properly protect their hearing.

Other key findings include:

- 22 percent of respondents identified as having hearing problems. Not surprisingly the figure increases as people aged (41 percent of those aged 60 or over have hearing problems);
- over a quarter of us listen to a personal music device (iPod or MP3 player) on a daily basis. This figure jumps to 37 percent in those aged 30 years or under. The average listening session is just over two hours;

- 58 percent of those aged 45+ say they always limit the volume when listening to a personal music device. Just a quarter (26 percent) of those aged under 30 always limit the volume. A further 22 percent of under-30 year olds say they never limit the volume;
- 52 percent of respondents said they would wear ear protection (ear plugs) if they were made available free of charge at noisy music venues;
- more than one in five of those with hearing problems (22 percent) blamed listening to loud music as the cause. In the under-30 year age bracket this was the leading cause, with 38 percent within this age bracket blaming loud music for their hearing loss;
- other reasons given by those with hearing problems as to why their hearing has become worse included ageing (37 percent), operating machinery without protection (34 percent), because of an illness (12 percent), it has always been poor (6 percent), or because of an accident (5 percent). Twenty percent either weren't sure or gave other reasons as to why they had hearing loss;
- 59 percent are aware that listening to loud music even for a short time can damage hearing and 68 percent are aware that hearing damage is irreparable; and
- people's knowledge of how to look after their hearing increased as they aged. While nearly a quarter of under-30 year olds don't know how to look after their hearing, just 9 percent of those aged 60+ said they weren't sure.

The NFD is urging music lovers to invest in a pair of reusable earplugs and wear them with pride at clubs and concerts. These will reduce the volume but not quality of music to help protect ears from damaging decibels. People should also stand away from loud speakers in clubs and try to spend some time in quieter chill out zones to give ears a break. When listening to an MP3 player try turning the volume down a notch and avoid using the volume to drown out background noise. Find out about special headphones that can reduce background noise and enhance the quality of music at a safe volume.

The research was conducted in July 2007. It involved an online interview of 1003 NZers over 16 years of age.

New Cervical Screening Campaign

September saw the launch of the \$2.5 million campaign to raise awareness of the benefits of regular cervical screening for all women. The advertisements specifically target Maori and Pacific Island women (who continue to be screened at lower rates than other ethnic groups).

Cervical cancer is one of the most preventable of all cancers. All women between 20 and 70 years of age are encouraged to take part in the National Cervical Screening Programme. Ten years ago 180 women died each year from cervical cancer. Now that figure has reduced to 70 per year, largely due to increases in screening, and thus early detection.

Three New Reports: NZ Health Information Service

A report from the NZ Health Information Service (NZHIS) called "Cancer: New Registrations and Deaths 2003" shows there were 18,586 new cancer registrations in that year. This is an increase of 3.6 percent since 2002 and 17.2 percent since 1995. Cancer is NZ's leading cause of death, with the 8027 deaths from cancer ac-

counting for almost one in three deaths in 2003. The increased risk of cancer in older people means NZ's aging population and population growth accounts for most of the increase in new cancer registrations. The report also shows Maori are more likely than non-Maori to die from cancer.

The "Report on Maternity: Maternal and Newborn Information 2004" gives, for the first time, the number of NZ women who planned homebirths (2000 women planned a homebirth in 2004, and of them about 55 percent went on to give birth at home). There were 58,723 live babies born in 2004 and the average age of mothers is 30.3 years. The percentage of mothers having caesareans increased to 23.7 percent, from 23.1 percent in 2003.

A report called "The Mental Health: Service Use in NZ 2004" presents information about mental health clients seen in a particular year and details of the services they received. District Health Boards saw 88,540 mental health clients in 2004. Of these clients, about 55 percent were seen by community teams, about 10 percent received in-patient care and the rest were seen by other services such as child, adolescent and family services, or alcohol and drug teams.

More information about the reports is at www.nzhis.govt.nz

Managing Anti-Social Behaviour: Ministries Combine

Four ministries (Health, Education, Justice and Social Development) have produced a plan aimed at improving the Government's response to the management and treatment of children and young people with severe antisocial behaviour. Under the plan, which focuses on better co-ordinated services across government, and evidence-based decision-making, some services will be expanded and some re-designed.

The main proposals in the plan include:

- a focus on leadership, co-ordination, monitoring and evaluation, including establishment of an Experts' Group;
- building on the specialist behaviour services already provided by the Ministry of Education to make sure that, by 2012, children requiring a behavioural intervention (up to 5 percent of children) receive this level of intervention before they are 8 years old;
- progressively moving to evidence-based, best-practice interventions; and
- developing a shared system for delivering specialist behavioural services, including common screening and eligibility procedures.

Conduct problems are said to be the single most important predictor of later chronic antisocial behaviour problems including academic underachievement, early school leaving, teenage parenthood, delinquency, unemployment and substance abuse.

The plan is at <http://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/work-areas/cross-sectoral-work/interagency-plan.pdf>

Children's Toys: Lead Limits

The Government has issued an unsafe goods notice banning children's toys with excessive lead levels. The Unsafe Goods Notice (Lead in Children's Toys) will limit the permissible amount

of lead in toys in line with international standards. It is issued under section 31 of the Fair Trading Act and it will be enforced by the NZ Customs Service at the border and the Commerce Commission in the marketplace. Breaches of an unsafe goods notice attract penalties of up to \$60,000 for an individual and up to \$200,000 for a company. The ban is in place for 18 months from 20 September 2007.

Single Parent Families and Children's Development

Latest research from the University of Otago's Christchurch Health and Development Study (of children born in Christchurch in 1977, and who were followed until they turned 16) shows that the major influences on how a child develops are not related to single parenthood, but rather to how a family functions, both socially and economically.

Some international research has linked mental health problems, educational performance, economic and criminal behaviour outcomes to the fact that a child is brought up by one parent. However, most of this research has tended to focus on childhood and relatively little has been reported on the longer-term consequences of being reared in a single parent family.

This latest paper, which has just been published in the United States journal "The Archives of General Psychiatry", shows negative outcomes over 25 years are linked to factors such as socio-economic status and family functioning, and how these relate to single parenthood. It concludes that being brought up in a single parent family is not the main predictor of health outcomes by young adulthood.

Resources for Parents

The Office of the Children's Commissioner has various resources available for parents and those who work with children, young people and families. Among the titles are: Choose to Hug, Not to Smack, Hey! We Don't Hit Anybody Here, Children are Unbeatable: 7 very good reasons not to hit children, and an Information Series of seven pamphlets.

More information/copies (free to NGOs): Office of the Children's Commissioner at PO Box 5610, Wellington, email children@occ.org.nz

Glass of Wine Aids Memory

Recent University of Auckland research suggests drinking in moderation may increase the ability to remember, whilst "drinking to forget" may make things worse. Apparently, moderate levels of alcohol consumption, equivalent to a glass or two of wine a day, can enhance memory.

In contrast, high levels of alcohol decrease the ability of new brain cells to develop and mature, and cause an impairment of memory except at times of heightened emotion, when memory is increased. In fact, the researchers' work suggests that heavy drinking actually reinforces negative memories.

Land Search & Rescue's Annual Report

NZ Land Search and Rescue Incorporated ("LandSAR") volunteers worked with the Police in more than 200 search and rescue

missions last year, the organisation said in its annual report. A total of 1,824 LandSAR volunteers participated in 224 searches spending nearly 17,000 hours in field search operations. Around 17 percent of LandSAR operations involved tourists, but the number of tourists getting into difficulty in the mountains and bush is growing, especially in the South Island.

LandSAR has over 2,500 members trained in alpine, bush, caving, suburban and swift water search and rescue, organised into 75 regional and specialist groups.

Nearly \$13 Million for Outdoor Safety

The Lottery Grants Board's Outdoor Safety Committee has announced that it has allocated \$12,916,675 to 12 major outdoor safety groups over the coming year. The Royal NZ Coastguard will receive the largest grant of \$4,623,621, with other organisations receiving more than \$1,000,000 in grants being Surf Life Saving NZ and Water Safety NZ.

Education

Attracting More Teachers: New Scholarships

All scholarships for teachers are being remodelled into a new single, flexible scholarship, the aim of which is to make teaching a more accessible and attractive career. The changes include a new "Enhanced Scholarship" for people wanting to change to a career in teaching. This offers a \$30,000 annual allowance (nine times more than the current allowance for a three year course), as well as course costs.

Teacher Recruitment Scholarships are targeted at areas of priority for teacher supply to meet increasing demand for teachers in certain areas over the next 10 years. Currently these areas are early childhood, rural, Maori Medium, and secondary teachers of specific subjects, e.g. technology.

There will be 538 new scholarships available for aspiring teachers next year, 80 Enhanced Scholarships, and also scholarships for tertiary students and graduates.

Applications for the new scholarships will be available this month from TeachNZ, with successful candidates starting to train next year. Recipients of TeachNZ scholarships currently in training will not be affected by the changes.

More information is available at www.teachnz.govt.nz, or tel freephone phone 0800-165 225

A Chance to Learn Beyond the Classroom

Across NZ, 21 organisations have been awarded \$2.1 million to take students out of the classroom for hands-on interactive learning. The Learning Experiences Outside the Classroom initiative funds 350,000 students a year to get out and about to learn new things.

This year's round focuses on the social sciences, and successful organisations include museums, local and regional councils and heritage parks.

"Learning Experience Outside the Classroom" is at the Online Learning Centre, Te Kete Ipurangi at www.tki.org.nz/r/leotc/

Asian Students as Friends and Allies: ASIANZ Report...

A new report by the Asia NZ Foundation (ASAINZ) called "Friends and Allies: The Impacts of Returning Asian Students on NZ-Asia Relationships" says about 80 percent of Asian students who study in NZ return to Asia.

They can become ambassadors for NZ and commentators on this country's values, people and lifestyles and advocate for NZ as a tourism destination as well as for its quality of education. But the research shows that most Asian students return home without having really connected with the host community or NZ student peers as much as they would have liked.

The most frequently encountered problems returned Asian students identified were NZ's poor public transport systems and grappling to communicate well in English. Experiencing cultural distance and being unable to make NZ friends were also identified. The research indicates that friendships of Asian students studying in NZ are more likely to be made with other Asian and international students rather than with local domestic students and other NZers.

The report says there is a need to address issues of social exclusion and discrimination in the school or university, and in society at large. It recommends the facilitating and maintaining of person-to-person relationships between Asian students and others in NZ through education institutions, and groups such as churches and sports clubs.

For more information/a copy of the report, email Asia:NZ researcher L Hall at lhall@asianz.org.nz

...& Helping Chinese Students Come to NZ to Study

A new pilot scheme aims to make it easier for Chinese students to come to NZ to study. Prospective students can deposit money into a remittance account in Beijing, and this deposit will be accepted by Immigration NZ as evidence of the applicant's ability to support their intended study plan in NZ. When the student arrives in NZ to study, he or she can access a portion of the money each month to help cover their living costs, while another transfer will go to the NZ education institution to cover tuition fees. Benefits of the scheme include the ability for parents to control the amount of money their children can access while studying in NZ, and the scheme's relative simplicity in comparison to previous Student Bank Loan arrangements.

Kiwi Teachers Sought for Zambian Global Experience

Under the ChildFund Global Schools programme ten NZ teachers are invited to participate in a two-way exchange to raise awareness and generate understanding of the importance of education

in the developing world. In the year-long programme Auckland based teachers willing to travel to Zambia for two weeks early next year will live in the local community and teach at a local school. In return they will commit to a fundraising target and agree to help host a Zambian teacher who will visit NZ later in the year.

The Childfund programme operates in 54 countries and focuses on nutrition, education and sanitation.

More information is at www.childfund.org.nz/globalschools. To register an interest in participating contact the Education Programmes Manager, ChildFund NZ, tel 09-366 2278, email globalschools@childfund.org.nz

Employment

More Support for Sick and Disabled People to Work

Changes to the Working NZ Programme which came into effect from 24 September 2007 build on changes to the social support system put in place earlier this year. This includes the Job Search Service, changes to employment and training programmes to make them more widely available, and the alignment of benefit rules to make the system easier to understand.

There is now one medical certificate for people applying for Sickness and Invalid's Benefits, and the family doctor will be able to issue this. People applying for Invalid's Benefit will be able to use existing information about the nature of their illness, injury or disability and will not be automatically referred to a designated doctor. More specialist advice will only be necessary if there is insufficient information to establish eligibility or determine service needs.

People receiving an Invalid's benefit won't have to re-establish their condition at regular intervals if it is unlikely to change, and all clients will receive a service that helps them plan for their future, whether it is about work, or involvement in their community.

New specialist health and disability advisors will work alongside case managers and clients, there will be new co-ordinators to support health practitioners, and more staff will be working directly with employers in their workplace.

Transport

Public Transport Management Bill

The main objectives of a new Public Transport Management Bill are to:

- give Regional Councils greater powers over non-contracted transport services (the Bill calls these commercial public transport (PT) services);

- help regions get the best value for money and also have a coordinated, responsive and sustainable transport system;
- encourage fair competition and an open market for all PT service providers; and
- clarify the role of Regional Public Transport Plans.

The changes would mean that Regional Councils could require operators to meet quality and performance standards for commercial public transport services (the changes could include, for example, emissions standards or more accessible vehicles). The Bill would also enable Regional Councils to opt to group services together if this better suited the needs of the region and its community, or, alternatively, to maintain the existing commercial public transport service network without change.

The Bill now goes to select committee where there will be an opportunity for the public and stakeholders to make further submissions.

More information is at www.transport.govt.nz

Aviation Security Legislation Passed

The main elements and objectives of this legislation are to:

- provide aviation security officers with the power to search for and seize items prohibited or restricted from being taken on aircraft;
- enable the screening and searching of airport workers;
- provide a power for aviation security officers to search passengers' outer garments and undertake pat-down searches;
- require that airlines deny carriage to passengers who refuse to be searched;
- provide a power for aviation security officers to seize potential weapons;
- enable foreign in-flight security officers to enter and depart NZ and enable NZ to deploy in-flight security officers, should the Government decide to do so in the future;
- formalise the process for checking the background of people working in areas critical to aviation security; and
- provide a general regulation making power to ensure that the law is able to respond to new aviation security matters in a timely fashion.

Business

NZ: World's Second Easiest Place to do Business

For the second year in a row, Singapore was ranked the world's easiest place to do business, followed by NZ and the United States, the World Bank's annual "Doing Business" reports. The report, which compares business regulations in 178 economies, ranked Hong Kong fourth overall, followed by Denmark, Britain, Canada, Ireland, Australia and Iceland.

New Zealand had the top rating for property, investment and lack of red tape in starting up. But the country fell in factors such as international trade (16th), closing a business (16th), employment (13th), and enforcing contracts (13th).

The Doing Business survey measures countries on 10 criteria - starting a business, dealing with licences, employing workers, registering property, getting credit, protecting investors, paying taxes, trading across borders, enforcing contracts and closing a business.

The World Bank noted that as countries reform their business regulation, more businesses are starting up. Eastern Europe has witnessed a boom in new business entry that rivals the rapid growth in East Asia in the past. Large emerging markets such as India, China, Egypt, Turkey and Indonesia are also reforming fast and investors are taking notice. This year Egypt tops the list of reformers that are making it easier to do business. It had deep reforms in five of the 10 areas studied by Doing Business. The other top 10 reformers are, in order: Croatia, Ghana, Macedonia, Georgia, Colombia, Saudi Arabia, Kenya, China and Bulgaria.

In China, a new property law put private property rights on equal footing as state property rights and expanded the range of assets that can be used as collateral, while a new bankruptcy law gave secured creditors priority to the proceeds from their collateral. Construction became easier with electronic processing of building permits. Indonesia and Vietnam strengthened investor protections while Turkey cut its corporate income tax.

But it was not all one-way traffic. In 27 countries, business became tougher, with the most egregious example being Venezuela, as the government of Hugo Chavez moved further to the Left. The countries considered least business-friendly were, from the bottom: Congo, the Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau, the Congo Republic, Burundi, Chad and Venezuela. Estonia ranked 17th, and with Georgia, at 18, was ahead of Belgium, 19, Germany, 20, the Netherlands, 21, France, 31, Spain, 38, and Italy, 53.

For more information go to: <http://www.doingbusiness.org/>

Review of NZ's Innovation System: OECD Report

An Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) report on the NZ innovation system has found NZ has the right conditions for innovation and entrepreneurship, including a favourable business environment, but it faces challenges.

The report says the "knowledge and skills of the population represent its most important asset", highlighting Kiwis' ingenuity and creativity. It also says: NZ has the foundations for entrepreneurship and innovation; product markets work well; the labour market is flexible; the economy is open; and public research organisations are world-class especially in agriculture and health.

The challenges covered by the report include broadband infrastructure, low business spending on research and development, and some shortcomings in the diffusion and absorption of technology.

The recommendations advise NZ policy makers to focus on four key areas: promotion of innovation in the business sector; improvements to the business environment for innovation; improvements to competitive research funding; and improvements to the governance of the innovation system. Main recommendations are: fewer, better funded innovation support programmes; improvements to the supply of seed and venture capital; better

links between business, higher education, and research organisations; the creation of an Advisory Council on Innovation Policy; and improvements to how public research organisations are funded.

More is at http://www.oecd.org/document/5/0,3343,en_33873108_33873658_39148805_1_1_1_1,00.html

First Meeting of Pacific Women's Economic Board

Members of a new Pacific Women's Economic Development Advisory Board that will oversee a plan to advance the economic development of Pacific women (the Pacific Women's Economic Development Plan) met for the first time last month. The Plan focuses on key areas for development including education; workforce development; business development; and leadership. The Board is chaired by Pele Walker, who is joined by Shirley Sisepi-Fraser, Diane Mara and Caren Rangi.

Business Deliveries: Internet Increasingly Used

A survey by logistics company DHL, shows that most exporters use the internet for deliveries, pick up and shipping of their goods. The DHL Online Trade Survey asked over 250 NZ importers and exporters their views on eCommerce.

The key findings of the survey were:

- sixty percent of exporters use the internet for deliveries, pick up and shipping of their goods;
- of those who do, 57 percent stated it was because it was more time efficient and 25 percent claimed it was because they find booking online easy to use;
- of those who didn't use the internet for deliveries, pick ups and shipping their goods, only 4 percent stated it was because they had fears around security. However, the majority (68 percent) stated it was because they prefer to speak to someone in person; and
- a total of 81 percent of exporters have a website for sales and marketing. According to the exporters surveyed, 64 percent of queries or sales orders come from within NZ. The next largest number of responses was from the US with 12 percent.

Money Matters

Reserve Bank to Register all Deposit Takers

All deposit-takers will have to be registered by the Reserve Bank and comply with minimum prudential requirements under a new regulatory framework. The framework will apply to non-bank deposit-takers, including finance companies, building societies and credit unions.

The requirements will include:

- a credit rating from a rating agency approved by the Reserve Bank;

- a minimum amount of capital of \$2 million;
- the need for a capital ratio, measured on a standardised and comprehensive basis;
- restrictions on lending to persons that are related to the deposit-takers; and
- fit and proper requirements for the directors and senior managers of deposit-takers.

Legislation required to set up the compulsory credit ratings will be introduced into Parliament this year - but there is nothing to prevent deposit-takers obtaining a credit rating now.

For more information on the main features of the new arrangements see the Reserve Bank's website <http://www.rbnz.govt.nz>

Growth in Household Spending Eases this Quarter

Economic activity increased 0.7 percent in the June 2007 quarter, Statistics NZ said recently. Service industries continue to underpin growth, with finance, insurance and business services industries accounting for over half of this quarter's increase. In the year ended June 2007, the economy grew 2.2 percent. Domestic spending increased 1.5 percent in the June 2007 quarter, continuing on from the March 2007 quarter's strong growth.

Government Super Fund Update

The Government Superannuation Fund made an after-tax surplus of \$355 million for the June year, reflecting good results from property and international and local equity investments. The surplus represented a 9.5 percent return on the fund's assets, now at \$4 billion. The pre-tax surplus was \$553 million, or 14.9 percent, and compares with 13.7 percent a year earlier. The after-tax result had exceeded its investment performance measure by 5.8 percent, and over each of the last three years by 4.3 percent.

The latest result compares favourably with that of other super schemes. The Mercer Investment Performance Survey, which covers 65 stand-alone NZ schemes, had a median average after tax-return of 6.4 percent for the same period, compared with the fund's 9.5 percent.

The best performing asset classes in the fund were international equities, which returned 22.36 percent pre-tax (20.7 percent in 2006), NZ equities at 20.45 percent (11.4 percent in 2006) and property, which achieved 22.06 percent (27.7 percent in 2006). Returns on NZ fixed interest dropped to 2.46 percent (5.7 percent in 2006) on the back of increasing interest rates, while international fixed interest at 6.54 percent (2.9 percent in 2006) was in line with the long-term average.

Changes to the tax treatment of investments means the authority is to change its investment strategy to a higher risk profile. It plans to buy more "growth assets" - shares - and less fixed interest assets.

NZ Spends on Communications

An Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Communications Outlook 2007 has found NZers spent 5.39 percent of gross domestic product on telecommunications in 2005, the highest level of 30 OECD countries. The OECD average was 3 percent, Portugal spent the next highest amount, at 4.88 percent and Luxembourg was the lowest at 1.54 percent.

However, the report also showed the NZ sector reinvested only 8.7 percent of revenue, almost half the average OECD rate of 15.3 percent. Only Greece and Austria spent less.

Aussies Retain Top Spot in NZ Investment

Statistics NZ (SNZ) says Australia continues to be NZ's most significant investment partner. Australia is the main destination for NZ investment abroad, and the main source of foreign investment into this country.

At 31 March 2007, the level of NZ's investment abroad was \$111 billion, of which investment in Australia was \$30.1 billion or 27.3 percent. At that time, the level of foreign investment in NZ was \$254.1 billion, of which \$79 billion or nearly one-third was investment from Australia.

SNZ says the significance of trans-Tasman investment has increased in recent years. At 31 March 2002, Australia was the destination for about 20 percent of NZ's level of investment abroad, and was the source of about 20 percent of the level of foreign investment in NZ.

New Zealand's other main investment partners continue to be the United States (US) and the United Kingdom (UK). The US and UK, together with Australia, were the destination for almost 60 percent of the level of NZ's investment abroad, and the source of 62 percent of the level of foreign investment in NZ.

New Zealand's foreign currency overseas debt was \$85.4 billion as at 31 March 2007, and of this, 92.3 percent was hedged, compared with 92.8 percent at 31 March 2006. Hedging manages risks, such as changes to exchange rates, which affect the NZ dollar value of the debt.

Electronic Card Transactions for August 2007

According to Statistics NZ (SNZ), in August 2007 there were 81 million electronic card transactions totalling \$4.6 billion, an increase of 1.2 percent compared with July 2007. In the retail industries, the (seasonally adjusted) value of card transactions increased 1.4 percent in August 2007 compared with July 2007. The main contributors to the increase were the consumables, durables (long-lasting products, e.g. cars, stoves, refrigerators) and hospitality industries. Adjusted sales for motor vehicle-related and non-retailing industries were flat in August compared with July.

The overall trend was 8.0 percent higher in August 2007 than in August 2006. The increase is the same as that recorded for the 12 months to July 2007 (this was the smallest annual increase since the series began in October 2002).

Internet

Digital Future Summit

As part of the Government's digital strategy, the Digital Future Summit V2.0 is to be held at Auckland's Hyatt Regency on 28 and 29 November. It's goals are to identify the changing economic, community, environment and cultural landscape in NZ, and maximise "being digital".

Other themes include:

- affordable, fast broadband for all NZers;
- ICT driving productivity and wealth creation;
- ICT skills and capability - education and life long learning;

- NZ community content - strengthening communities; and
- sustainable NZ - ICT supporting a sustainable economy and harnessing NZ's uniqueness.

The people participating will be invited to join on-line Digital Strategy web forums and participate in creation of a wiki that will collect ideas for and feedback on the development of Digital Strategy V2.0.

More information is at <http://www.digitalsummit.org.nz/>. To register go to <https://www.tuanz.org.nz/content/bf7a591f-2c22-414d-ac3a-96e2dd0e758b.html>

The "Truth About Food" is a free booklet downloadable from Consumer at <http://www.consumer2.org.nz/resources/index.php?i=2&v=1> A 16-page booklet, it examines the complicated, contradictory messages facing consumers when shopping for food. It also considers the logos on food packaging, checks out promises made about foods on labels, dispels myths about food and diet, makes recommendations about what to eat - and drink - and profiles what it calls "urban myths". Hints about food handling and food for children are also included. As well, you can use an interactive calculator to find out how much energy, fat, carbohydrates and other nutrients you need, and what this equates to in real terms.

Statistics NZ has launched a searchable, web-based service at <http://www.stats.govt.nz/census/census-outputs/quickstats/aboutAPlace.htm> which provides a wide range of information about the population of each regional council and territorial authority throughout the country. "QuickStats About A Place" brings together information from the 2006 Census to provide a picture of geographic areas in terms of: population and dwelling counts, age and sex, cultural diversity, marital status, education, work, income, families, households, phones, internet access, transport and housing. The information is also provided for the Maori population of each area as well as comparisons with the country as a whole.

The *Australasian Association for Volunteer Administrators* has launched a new website at <http://www.aava.asn.au> The site includes "The Interview" (a regular series of interviews with people of note from within and outside the volunteering sector), the AAVA Forum, training opportunities and latest news.

A new *Forest Industries Development Agenda* website at www.fida.org.nz provides members and the public with information about FIDA's activities and the forest industry in NZ. FIDA's role is to: support the forest industry to make the best contribution it can to NZ's sustainable development; develop a strategy for identifying and overcoming barriers to the industry's future development; and allocate government and industry funding for initiatives/projects and monitor their progress.

Arts & Culture

Sponsorship of the Arts: NBR Award Winners

Buddle Findlay has won the 2007 National Business Review Award for Sponsorship of the Arts for its sponsorship of the Buddle Findlay Sargeson Fellowship, a national literary fellow-

ship offered annually in partnership with The Frank Sargeson Trust.

Multi-Media Systems Ltd, an audio-visual staging and production company, won the 2007 Creative NZ Award for Bravery for its partnership with the NZ Symphony Orchestra. The NZSO held a live outdoor concert, which made use of big screen technology and was streamed as a live webcast.

The Edge Pathway Award went to ASB Bank for its sponsorship of the ASB Polyfest, the largest Polynesian festival in the world, while ABE's Real Bagels won the Liberty Press Award for "Best Arts Sponsorship under \$15,000" with their sponsorship of AK07. Sky City was awarded the Long-Term Partnership Award for its substantial financial contribution over a sustained period of time to the massively popular Sky City Starlight Symphony. Infinity Investment Group won the Best Regional Sponsorship Award for its partnership with the Southern Lakes Festival of Colour in Wanaka. Special Merits were awarded to AUT University, NZ Post, Norsewear of NZ, Hesketh Henry, Vector, Mazda NZ, with Audi also receiving a Special Merit for their sponsorship of the NZSO.

Wollywood Meets Bollywood - NZ/India Film Deal

New Zealand and India have agreed to negotiate a film co-production agreement. The aim of the agreement is to expand and facilitate film co-production to benefit film makers in both countries, and to develop cultural and economic exchanges. Under it, filmmakers from both countries would be able to pool resources to create films which will benefit both countries financially and culturally. Many Indian screen productions have used NZ as a location, but more recently the number doing so has been declining.

Leading NZ Writers Honoured

Three of NZ's most celebrated writers - Dick Scott, Bill Manhire and Fiona Farrell - were honoured at the recent 2007 Prime Minister's Awards for Literary Achievement at Premier House in Wellington. Each writer received \$60,000 in recognition of their significant contribution to NZ literature. The Awards are administered by Creative NZ.

Jam Radio: Community & Arts Radio on the Web

A new outlet for the future of sound has begun on Auckland's North Shore. The webpage known as JamRadio is an online resource of locally made radio programmes, including punk, folk, blues, electronica, unsigned artists, interviews, arts reviews, literary readings and live recordings.

Go to: www.jamradio.co.nz

Stones Rolling in Money

Veteran rock band The Rolling Stones have been named the top earning music act of the past year. According to US business publication Forbes, they made US\$88 million between June 2006 and June this year, largely thanks to their Bigger Bang tour. United States rapper and Def Jam records boss Jay-Z came second in the list with a total income of \$US83 million. Pop icon Madonna came third with earnings of \$US72 million.

Rock band Bon Jovi have taken home \$US67 million, while Sir Elton John rounded out the top five with earnings of \$US53 million. Canadian pop singer Celine Dion, country singer Tim McGraw, rapper 50 Cent, and Irish rock group U2 were also in the top ten.

The Treaty: Claims/ Reports/Progress

Central North Island Region Inquiry WAI 1200

With this claim, in order to assist claimants and the Crown into early settlement negotiations, the Waitangi Tribunal agreed to focus the first stage of its inquiry on the big-picture issues affecting most claimants in the region, and to report with broad findings on these issues. A panel (Judge Caren Fox (Presiding Officer), Ann Parsonson, John Baird and Gloria Herbert) heard evidence from over 300 witnesses from 50 Central North Island iwi and hapū over a period of nine months during 2005. It upheld the claimants in their fundamental grievances on the central issue of autonomy. Under the Treaty, central North Island Maori were guaranteed their tino rangatiratanga, and the same rights and powers of self-government as settlers. The Tribunal found that the Crown breached the Treaty when it did not accord them those rights and powers.

The Tribunal has now released the rest of its on Treaty claims in the Central North Island region: Parts 3, 4 and 6. These address claims concerning land loss and economic development over a wide area stretching inland from the Bay of Plenty coast to just south of Lake Taupo and including most of the Kaingaroa forest.

Part three of the report examines issues concerning land legislation, the operation of the Native Land Court and Crown control of Maori land. The Tribunal found that the introduced land titles system, Crown purchasing and Crown administration of Maori-owned land had negative impacts on the ability of Maori to utilise their lands and resources effectively, over generations. This was in breach of the Treaty. It found that significant alienation of Maori land also resulted, especially for Maori in the coastal Bay of Plenty and Kaingaroa areas.

In part four of the report the Tribunal concluded that a Treaty right to development exists and imposes obligations on the Crown. The Crown failed to fulfil these, in breach of the Treaty. The Tribunal noted that some Maori in the region had managed to retain a reasonable proportion of their land and that in some cases Crown initiatives had made a positive contribution. However, in general the Tribunal found that other Crown actions or, in some cases, inaction had hindered Maori economic development by limiting their autonomy and restricting their control over their land and resources.

In short, the Tribunal found that many Maori communities in the region lost land and resources through the Crown's actions, while those who were able to keep their land and resources were often severely hampered in their ability to use them effectively.

While making potentially far-reaching findings on Treaty breaches, the Tribunal made no overall recommendations in re-

spect of possible Treaty settlements with the various hapū and iwi, instead leaving it to claimants and the Crown to address these matters in negotiation.

New Deed of Settlement for Lake Taupo

The Crown has signed a new deed of settlement with the Tuwharetoa Maori Trust Board regarding Lake Taupo. The deed updates a 1992 deed which vested ownership of the bed of Lake Taupo - including the Waikato River to Huka Falls and tributaries flowing into the lake - with the Board while guaranteeing public access. Since 1926, the Crown has paid Tuwharetoa an annuity and a share of revenue from things such as trout fishing licences and boating facilities. But the value of the annuity decreased over time and the Crown and the Board wanted to clarify rights under the 1992 deed.

The new deed includes a one-off, lump-sum payment of approximately \$9.85 million plus an annual, non-reviewable payment of \$1.5 million. The lump sum compensates the Board for increases it would have been entitled to in perpetuity under previous arrangements. The Board will also have the right to licence commercial users of the lake and new Crown and private structures. It has already entered into an agreement with at least one commercial operator.

Ngati Toa Rangatira Begins Negotiations

The Crown and Ngati Toa Rangatira have formally agreed to enter into negotiations for settlement of the tribe's historical Treaty of Waitangi claims. Ngati Toa Rangatira's claim area spans the lower North Island and the top of the South Island.

The Crown has acknowledged that its detention of Te Rauparaha without trial for 18 months was a breach of the Treaty of Waitangi. The Crown also recognises that its acts and omissions have contributed to the losses suffered by Ngati Toa Rangatira, and that this was a breach of the Treaty of Waitangi and its principles. On this basis, the Minister of Treaty Negotiations has signed Terms of Negotiation.

Far North Treaty Settlement Negotiations Update

The Crown and Te Aupouri have begun consulting with overlapping claimants on the redress proposals for the settlement of the Te Aupouri historical Treaty of Waitangi claims. This follows the recent signing of an Agreement in Principle with another Far North iwi, Te Rarawa, at Pangaru on 7 September 2007. Other iwi, including Ngati Kuri, Ngai Takoto, and Ngati Kahu claim interests within the area in which both Te Aupouri and Te Rarawa have customary and historical associations.

Te Aupouri and the Crown have been in negotiations since March 2001. A high level Agreement in Principle was signed on 13 September 2004, which included a quantum of \$12 million, the key elements of commercial redress and an agreement to develop a detailed cultural redress package.

The parties have now agreed it is an appropriate time to begin consulting, on a without prejudice basis, with other claimants who share interests with Te Aupouri, and to receive feedback about the redress.

Following this consultation the parties will begin drafting a Deed of Settlement. The settlement will be subject to ratification

by the people of Te Aupouri, the establishment of an appropriate governance entity to receive the settlement redress and the passage of enabling legislation.

Proposed Treaty Bill Will Not Proceed

A NZ First bill that would have removed references to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi from legislation has been turned down by a select committee. The committee received 171 submissions from the public on the bill and 160 opposed it.

Elections 2008

New Electorate Boundaries Finalised

New boundaries for the country's 63 general and seven Maori electorates have been finalised - with a completely new electorate named Botany created in Auckland. Seven electorates have had no change to their boundaries. Nine electorates have new names.

Five general electorates - Whangarei, North Shore, Northcote, Tauranga, Kaipara and two Maori electorates - Te Tai Tokerau and Wairariki - retain the same boundaries used in the 2002 and 2005 general elections.

An additional general electorate named Botany is being created in the south of Auckland. The Botany electorate comprises much of the Botany Community Board areas including the proposed new town centre of Flat Bush. It replaces parts of the former Clevedon and Manukau East electorates and includes the Cockle Bay area from the Pakuranga electorate.

The existing electorates of Clevedon, Port Waikato, Piako, Ohariu-Belmont, Banks Peninsula, Rakaia, Otago, Aoraki and Tainui are being replaced with new electorates with new names:

- Papakura - replaces parts of the Clevedon, Port Waikato and Manurewa electorates. The Papakura electorate is centred on the Papakura urban area and includes Kingseat and Clarks Beach to the west. To the north it includes the suburbs of Wattle Downs, Mahia Park, and the suburbs of Manurewa East and The Gardens to the east of the motorway.
- Hunua - replaces parts of the Clevedon and the existing Port Waikato electorates including the towns of Clevedon, Maraetai, Tuakau, Pukekohe, Waiuku and up to Manukau Heads.
- Waikato - replaces parts of the Piako, Coromandel, Hamilton West and Taranaki King Country electorates. The Piako electorate disappears.
- Ohariu - replaces Ohariu-Belmont with the Belmont area shifted into the Rimutaka electorate.
- Selwyn - replaces parts of the Waimakariri, Banks Peninsula and Rakaia electorates.
- Port Hills - is the new name for the revised Banks Peninsula electorate with most of the peninsula area itself transferred to Selwyn.
- Rangitata - replaces parts of the Aoraki and Rakaia electorates. It includes Timaru City, Temuka, Orari and Ashburton up to the Rakaia River. Pleasant Point and its

immediate surrounds are included in this electorate. The Rakaia electorate disappears.

- Waitaki - replaces parts of the Otago and Aoraki electorates. The Waitaki electorate includes all of the Waitaki, Central Otago and Mackenzie Districts as well as the northern portion of Queenstown Lakes District around Wanaka and a portion of the Timaru District (excluding Timaru City) around Paeroa and Geraldine. The Aoraki and Otago electorates disappear.
- Hauraki-Waikato - replaces the Tainui electorate and includes population from the Tairāhema Makaurau electorate from the southern part of Manurewa. The people from Ngati Maniapoto (formerly in the Tainui electorate) will be in the Te Tai Hauāuru electorate with the people of Ngati Raukawa.

A summary of the changes, maps of the new boundaries and the Commission's report can be viewed at www.elections.org.nz

Fishing

New Fisheries Limits Set

New limits have been set in nearly every corner of NZ's fisheries, including in the deep water, inshore environment and in freshwater fisheries, affecting commercial and recreational fishers alike. These limits applied from 1 October 2007. Changes include:

- orange roughy catch limits are being reduced by 38 percent in one area, 10 percent in another and a third area is being effectively closed all together;
- the hoki fishery catch is being reduced by 10 percent and the fishing industry has been requested to reduce catch on the western stock by nearly 50 percent of current levels (to cushion the economic impact of this reduction on the industry a modest increase in the fishery on the eastern stock has been mooted);
- the South Island red cod fishery catch limit has been reduced by 63 percent, with further reductions possible;
- the South Island flatfish catch limit is reduced by 47 percent; and
- the North Island eel fishery commercial catch limits are reduced by between 13 and 78 percent, although recreational and customary allowances remain unchanged for all stocks.

It's not all reductions, however. Tarakihi and school shark stocks around the top half of the North Island appear to be in good shape; consequently, modest increases in catch limits have been made.

In addition, effort has been put into re-setting deemed values - the price per kilogram fishers are charged for catching more fish than they have entitlement for - to ensure catches remain within limits.

More is at <http://www.fish.govt.nz/en-nz/Press/Sustainability+Round.htm>

General

Weather Update for Pacific Countries and NZ...

Weak La Niña conditions are likely to alter the chances of tropical cyclone activity for some tropical South Pacific countries over coming months.

For the coming tropical cyclone season, from November 2007-May 2008, we are likely to see an average risk of occurrence for those areas of the South Pacific near the Date Line. These countries include Tuvalu, Fiji, Wallis and Futuna, Tonga, Niue, and northern regions of NZ. However, a reduced risk of tropical cyclones is likely in several parts of the South Pacific east of the Date Line, such as The Cook Islands, French Polynesia, and Pitcairn Island. Islands west of the Date Line are still likely to experience tropical cyclones, with a near normal rate of occurrence.

For NZ, the predicted weak La Niña conditions will not have much effect on the likelihood of experiencing an ex-tropical cyclone. There is an 80 percent chance of an ex-tropical cyclone passing within 500 km of the country some time between November and May, with the highest-risk districts being Northland and Gisborne.

By the time these systems reach NZ they are no longer classified as tropical cyclones, but can still cause strong winds and heavy rainfall. The most common months for ex-tropical cyclones affecting NZ are January to March.

...& NZ Climate Outlook: October to December

According to NIWA's National Climate Centre the weak La Niña conditions are likely to bring above average temperatures for the late spring (October-December) period for most of the country and only a 10-20 percent chance of cool (below average) conditions over the country.

The overall picture for the country is:

- Temperature: Air temperatures are likely to be average or above average in eastern parts of both Islands, and above average in other regions. Sea surface temperatures are expected to be above average around the North Island, and near average east of the South Island.
- Rainfall, soil moisture, and stream flows: likely to be normal or above normal in the north and east of the North Island. Normal or below normal rainfall is likely in the north and east of the South Island, with below normal soil moisture and stream flows. Normal rainfall soil moisture and stream flows are likely in the west of both islands.

Regional predictions for the next three months are:

- Northland, Auckland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty: Above average temperatures are likely with normal or above normal rainfall, soil moisture and stream flows;
- Central North Island, Taranaki, Wanganui, Manawatu and Wellington: Above average temperatures are likely. Normal rainfall, soil moisture and stream flows are likely;
- Gisborne, Hawkes Bay, Wairarapa: Average or above average seasonal temperatures are likely. Normal or above normal rainfall soil moisture levels and river flows are likely overall;

- Nelson, Marlborough, Buller: Above average temperatures are likely, with normal or below normal rainfall. Soil moisture levels and stream flows are likely to be below normal;
- West Coast, Alps and Foothills, Inland Otago, Southland: Above average temperatures are likely. Normal rainfall, river flows and soil moisture levels are likely; and
- Coastal Canterbury, East Otago: Average or above average temperatures are likely. Normal or below normal rainfall is likely, with below normal soil moisture and river flows.

Official Information Complaints Up: Ombudsmen

The Office of the Ombudsmen has reported that the number of complaints under the Official Information Act increased by more than 6 percent to 812 in the last year. In its Annual Report, the Ombudsmen say the increase is because more people are aware that they can request information and more prepared to complain if they are turned down, experience delays or incur charges. The Office report notes that responses by ministers and core government departments show signs of improvement on releasing information under the Official Information Act.

Findings from the report include:

- Police topped the table for Official Information Act complaints to the Office of the Ombudsmen in the year to 30 June 2007 (the Office received 98 complaints, five fewer than the previous year);
- the Ministry of Social Development was second, with 64 complaints - 11 of these concerned Child Youth and Family; and
- District Health Boards (DHBs) had 47 complaints and Educational Institutions 40, of which 19 concerned Boards of Trustees.

The Office also reports that the number of complaints received under the Ombudsmen Act in the past year is lower (at 7,593) than the previous year. Most complaints received against departments related to main service delivery and regulatory areas of IRD, Social Welfare, ACC and Immigration. There were 290 Ombudsmen Act complaints against Immigration NZ. This is down 6 percent on the previous reporting year but still significantly higher than the 2004/05 year. There was a decline for the second year in the number of complaints about the ACC with 111 received.

Ombudsmen publications, including the annual report, are at <http://www.ombudsmen.govt.nz/internal.asp?cat=100011#AR>

Corruption Assessment: NZ is Looking Good

The 2007 report from Transparency International called the Corruptions Perceptions Index, shows NZ sharing the top spot with Finland and Denmark. The index scores 180 countries on a scale from zero to ten, with zero indicating high levels of perceived corruption and ten indicating low levels. NZ, Finland and Denmark scored 9.4.

Transparency International's 2006 report ranked NZ as equal first with Iceland and Finland. Also in 2006, Gallup launched a Worldwide Corruption Index, a poll ranking 101 countries according to perceptions of corruption in business and government. NZ ranked equal second with Denmark, behind Finland.

More information is at http://www.transparency.org/news_room/in_focus/2007/cpi2007#pr

Independent Police Conduct Amendment Bill Passed

This Bill puts in place recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry into Police Conduct carried out by Sir Rodney Gallen in 2000. The main provisions in the legislation are:

- a name change: from the Police Complaints Authority to the Independent Police Conduct Authority, to emphasise its enhanced independence and its role, which is broader than the investigation of complaints;
- clarifying that the Authority has the ability to investigate historic complaints;
- requiring Police to notify the Authority no later than five working days of receiving a complaint;
- enabling the Authority to refer minor matters back to the Police for investigation where it is appropriate to do so, allowing the Authority to concentrate on investigating serious matters;
- requiring the Authority to provide a copy of its opinion and recommendations to the Minister of Police and the Attorney-General if unsatisfied with Police's response to a recommendation; and
- allowing the Authority to have up to five members.

Sale of Crown-Owned Land: New Process

The Government has announced a new process for the sale of all Crown-owned land to enable national interests including heritage, cultural, local and recreational values to be better protected. Under the process government departments, Crown entities and state-owned enterprises will notify Land Information NZ (LINZ) if the land meets the criteria for "potential interest". LINZ will then assess whether the land should be protected and ministers will make the final decision.

The action comes after concerns were raised about the proposed Landcorp sale of Whenuakite on the Coromandel Peninsula and Rangiputa in Northland. Landcorp is retaining ownership of these and seven other properties, in return for market value compensation from the Crown.

A full list of 2007 recipients, and highlights from the current funding round, is available at www.marsden.rsnz.org

National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee Report

The 2006 National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee's (NAEAC) Annual Report shows that the overall number of animals used in research, testing and teaching has increased from last year to 318,489, but still remains below the totals for 2000 and 2003. Some 87.1 percent of these animals were classified as experiencing no or little suffering, and just over 5 percent - nearly all rodents - were in the severe or very severe grading. Almost all the animals in this category were used for testing the safety and effectiveness of animal health products to meet requirements in

regulations. Other uses were for medical research studying arthritis, wound healing and for public health testing for algal bloom-induced marine biotoxins. In all projects associated with moderate, severe or very severe suffering all possible steps are taken to reduce or improve the impact on animals.

Testing/teaching involving live animals in NZ must be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Animal Welfare Act 1999. It also needs to be approved by an Animal Ethics Committee (AEC) which includes at least three independent members: a veterinarian, a person nominated by an approved animal welfare organisation, and a person nominated by a local authority.

A copy of the report is available at <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/animal-welfare/naeac/annual-report/naeac-ar-06.pdf>

International Volunteer Day

International Volunteer Day is 5 December 2007. The day was created to acknowledge and show appreciation to all those people who dedicate their time and skills to the many community organisations across the world.

UN Adopts Indigenous Peoples Rights Declaration

The United Nations General Assembly has adopted the Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples. While the Declaration is not legally binding it sets out certain standards, presenting "a standard of achievement to be pursued in a spirit of partnership and mutual respect". They include the individual and collective rights of indigenous peoples, as well as their rights to culture, identity, language, employment, health, education, land and resources and other issues.

The Declaration emphasises the rights of indigenous peoples to maintain and strengthen their own institutions, cultures and traditions and to pursue their development in keeping with their own needs and aspirations. It also prohibits discrimination against indigenous peoples and promotes their full and effective participation in all matters that concern them, and their right to remain distinct and to pursue their own visions of economic and social development.

The Declaration is at <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/declaration.html>

Parliament TV to Broadcast on Freeview

The latest addition to Freeview's free-to-air digital satellite TV is Parliament TV, which will include live broadcasts of all sessions from the House of Representatives.

To access Freeview you need a set top box. For more information go to www.freeviewnz.tv

China to Host Halal Food Exhibition

A major International Halal Food and Products Fair is to be held on 1-3 November 2007 in Qinghai, China. It is hosted by the China

Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT), in cooperation with the People's Government of Qinghai Province, China (Qinghai). The fair aims to provide an extensive and interactive platform for global halal food manufacturers, buyers and dealers.

The global market value for trade of halal food and products is estimated at \$US2.1 trillion per year. With a 20 million Muslim population and a 1200 year history of halal food production, halal food and products have been a life style in China and a part of Chinese culture.

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

NZ Students: Work and Play in US

New Zealand tertiary students can now work and travel in the United States (US) for up to a year under an extension to the US State Department's tertiary student summer work travel programme. The extension - from four to twelve months - takes effect immediately and will be trialled for two years.

NZ's Most Beautiful Towns...

Kaiapoi and Gisborne have won Keep NZ Beautiful's "Beautiful Towns" award for 2007. Paeroa has been highly recommended. The award to Kaiapoi was for towns with populations of between 8,001 and 20,000. Gisborne won the category for towns and cities with populations of more than 20,000. Last year's winners were Alexandra/Clyde, Feilding and Rotorua.

Entrant towns were judged for the top awards on the presence and enthusiasm of litter education and beautification projects; public involvement and achievement; and costs and benefits of the projects.

...& NZ's Best Loos

New Zealand's best loo for 2007 is in Te Awamutu, say Keep NZ Beautiful's judges, and the next two best loos - coming second equal - are but a comfort stop away in Whakatane and Taupo. Best Loo judges chose the winners on criteria that included the regularity of servicing, cleanliness, presence of an attendant, availability and hand washing facilities. In recent years, North Island provincial towns have presented the best loos: Raglan, Rotorua, New Plymouth and Kawakawa have each won previous awards.

Conference Brief

Primary Industries 2020 Summit

The Primary Industries 2020 Summit is to be held from 28-29 November 2007 in Christchurch. It will provide an opportunity to:

- examine the key trends that are driving changes in consumer demand;
- assess the impact these changes could have on our existing markets and sectors; and
- develop ideas on how businesses and sectors can build and maintain competitive advantage.

For more information/to register go to www.primaryindustries.org.nz

Two Nations Ten Cultures?

This is being held in Auckland from 4-7 November 2007. It will bring together two major addiction conferences in Australia and NZ. The programme focus is on the role of culture - in its various manifestations - in the understanding, prevention and treatment of addiction.

More is at www.chmeds.ac.nz/departments/psychmed/treatment/conference.html, or contact Lindsay.stringer@chmeds.ac.nz

Tangata o le Moana Festival

This is at the Museum of NZ Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington, from 20-22 October 2007. Te Papa goes Pacific over Labour Weekend with a three-day celebration launching Tangata o le Moana, the new long-term exhibition focusing on Pacific Island communities in NZ. This will include a range of free events: Pacific Island drumming and hula workshops, ukulele, poetry, and cultural group performances, traditional craft demonstrations, film screenings, fun activities for kids, and the best in hip-hop and youth culture.

More information: <http://www.community.net.nz/communitycentre/events/wellington/pacific-festival.htm?region=default>

Collaboration for Success

This inaugural conference is being held in Wanganui on 17-18 October 2007. It will provide a forum to showcase the benefits of collaborative practice on children, young people and their families/whanau in NZ.

Further information from Trish Greer, trishg@ghw.co.nz or ph 06 348 1900.

Young Maori Leaders Conference 2007

This conference is being held in Wellington on 23-24 October 2007. Organised by the Foundation for Indigenous Research in Society & Technology, it is for young Maori with leadership potential. It offers participants collaborative leadership skills and a greater understanding of the inter-relatedness of all parts of society.

More information/registrations: http://www.firstfound.org/ymlc_2007%20front%20page.htm

IPNANZ 2007 Conference - Weaving the Strands

Injury Prevention Network of Aotearoa NZ is holding its annual conference on Napier on 29-31 October 2007. MC is Pio Terei and keynote speakers are Mereana Pitman, David Engwicht; and Jim Tully.

More information/registration: <http://www.ipn.org.nz/page.php?62>

Emerging Technology: New Opportunities for the Community Sector

"Making Links 2007" is being held in Sydney on 30-31 October 2007. It is for people working or volunteering in community based, not-for-profit and activist organisations, and for staff in

government departments or commercial organisations with a community focus.

To register go to <http://www.makinglinks.org.au/registration.shtml>

Strengths Conference 2007: The New Frontier?

This is being held from 5-7 November 2007 in Palmerston North. Designed for people working in health, education, welfare and justice, with all ages, this event will cater for those new to, or experienced in, working in a strength-based approach. Keynote speakers are Whaturangi Winiata, Michael Durrant, Barry Duncan, Tania Thomas and David Hanna.

For more information/to register go to <http://www.fromstrength2strength.org.nz/>

Suicide Prevention Information NZ (SPINZ) Symposium

SPINZ, a service of the Mental Health Foundation, will be hosting a Symposium in Wellington on 21-22 November 2007. The theme is "policy, research and practice" and SPINZ is encouraging anyone whose field of work may be touched by suicide prevention to attend.

For more information or to register contact J Frank 09 300 7022 or email judit@mentalhealth.org.nz

PLAN Workshops

Standards Plus are hosting a series of presentations around NZ between 12 and 25 November 2007 called the PLAN Series of Workshops. Workshop topics include:

- 7-Steps to a Safe and Secure Future - for families and people with disabilities;
- Sustainable Social Innovation - for philanthropic funders and social entrepreneurs; and
- From Dependency to Independence - service providers and non-government agencies.

More information is at: http://www.imaginebetter.co.nz/planseries2007_index.shtml

Scholarships & Funding Opportunities

Kellogg Rural Leadership Programme

Applications are now invited for the 2008 Kellogg Rural Leadership Programme. This programme, which is sponsored by the Primary Industry Council, involves an initial nine-day residential workshop and seminar session at Lincoln University from 21-30 January 2008, followed by personal study culminating in a second six-day residential session at Lincoln and in Wellington from 24-29 November 2008.

The 24 participants are selected on their willingness to assume responsibility in public and rural affairs, and on evidence of leadership potential.

Applications close on 23 October 2007. More information and an application form are available at <http://www.leaders.ac.nz>. The course costs \$2,250 incl GST. This fee covers all accommodation and meals. Applicants are encouraged to find sponsorship for the registration fee and travel costs. Information on how to do this through self-created sponsorships is at [http://events.lincoln.ac.nz/kelloggs/images/Self-created sponsorships.doc](http://events.lincoln.ac.nz/kelloggs/images/Self-created%20sponsorships.doc)

Motu Maori Research Award

Motu Economic and Public Policy Research Trust is offering an award aimed at encouraging university students of Maori descent to undertake public policy research, and at increasing Maori research capacity. Preference will be given to applicants planning work on either an Honours or Masters thesis on a subject relating to one of Motu's current research programmes.

Applications close 16 November 2007. They go to: Administration Manager, Motu Economic and Public Policy Research Trust, PO Box 24 390, Wellington, tel 04-939 4250. More is at <http://www.motu.org.nz/pdf/Scholarships/Info%20Sheet%2007.pdf>

Families Commission Research Fund

The Families Commission Research Fund November funding round is coming up. The Fund is available each year for projects likely to produce information that will make a difference for families. Projects can run for up to two years.

For more details contact the Families Commission at www.nzfamilies.org.nz, email enquiries@nzfamilies.org.nz, or write to Families Commission, O Box 2839, Wellington

Support for Volunteering Fund

Round two of the Support for Volunteering Fund provides grants to hapu/iwi/ Maori, Pacific, Ethnic and other community groups for projects to support volunteering. The maximum grant available is \$26,667.

Closing date for applications is 29 October 2007. More information is at <http://www.ocvs.govt.nz/work-programme/volunteering-policy.html> or from Department of Internal Affairs advisers

Global Education Fund

The Global Education Fund (GEF) provides funding of between \$2,000 and \$15,000 (ex GST) for small projects to develop awareness and understanding of global perspectives among NZers, and to encourage them to become responsible global citizens.

To qualify:

- the subject matter of the educational materials and/or activities must be explicitly global;
- the educational materials/activities should highlight the relevance of the issue to those living in Aotearoa NZ; and
- the project must encourage critical thinking, reflection, and action encouraging NZers to be responsible global citizens.

Applications close 31 October 2007. For more information on eligibility/how to apply visit www.globaleducationfund.org.nz or write to GEF Administrator c/- Development Resource Centre PO Box 12 440 Wellington, tel 04-472 9549, email gef@drc.org.nz

Lottery Regional Community Grants

Lottery Community considers applications for developmental or preventative projects, welfare and support services, or projects that help to improve the wellbeing of people in the community. They may be for: activity, resource and programme costs; administration costs; care and support; domestic travel; projects encouraging community participation; salaries (up to \$30,000); training and supervision; feasibility studies; one-off projects and new initiatives; regional and national gatherings; volunteer costs and expenses; community awareness; or minor capital works (up to \$30,000).

The 11 Lottery Regional Community Committees serve: West Coast/Nelson-Marlborough; Canterbury-Kaikoura (including Chatham Islands); Otago/Southland; Northland; Auckland; Waikato; Taranaki; Bay of Plenty/Gisborne; Hawkes Bay; Manawatu-Wanganui; and Wellington.

Applications to Regional Community Committees (committees sit 6-16 March 2008) and close 1 November 2007 More information is at www.cdgo.govt.nz, email grantsonline@dia.govt.nz or tel freephone 0800-824 824.

Funding Information Service

The Funding Information Service's FundView, BreakOut and CorporateCitizens can be accessed free of charge in local council offices and libraries:

- FundView offers funding opportunities for voluntary organisations and contains over 600 different funding schemes;
- Breakout has information about scholarships grants and awards in NZ for people looking for funding for study/professional development; and
- CorporateCitizens holds details of NZ businesses that are committed to building relationships with community and voluntary organisations.

An online map indicates the organisation closest to you that holds the databases: go to <http://www.fis.org.nz/> and click on the database in which you are interested

Cultural Funding Guide

A new online Cultural Funding Guide aims to help cultural groups match projects with potential funders. The guide was developed by Creative NZ, National Services Te Paerangi (Te Papa) and the Ministry for Culture and Heritage, along with the Funding Information Service.

Go to www.NZLive.com <http://www.nzlive.com/en/index?type=funding>

Directory of Potential Funding for Sport

Sport & Recreation NZ (SPARC) hosts a directory of potential funding sources for sporting organisations.

Go to www.sparc.org.nz/about-sparc/funding

Appointments

NZ's next *High Commissioner to Niue* will be career diplomat Brian Smythe. Christopher Blake (currently chief executive of the Department of Internal Affairs) has been appointed *Chief Executive and Secretary of Labour*. Grant Liddell is the next *Chief Executive and Director of the Serious Fraud Office*.

Val Sim has been appointed as a *member of the Law Commission*. Four appointments to the *Electricity Commission* are David Caygill (chair), Richard Bentley, David Bull, and Linda Constable. Judge David Sheppard. (chair) Kevin Prime, Deborah Read and John Rutherford have been appointed as the *Board of Inquiry* to consider Transpower's proposal for a new electricity transmission line in the upper North Island.

Christchurch GP David Kerr is a new *member of the PHARMAC Board*. Two new directors have been appointed to the *Maori Fisheries Board (Te Ohu Kaimoana)*: Sonny Tau and Fred Cookson. Three of the *Charities Commission's board members* have been re-appointed for a second term: Frank Claridge, Ian Calder and deputy chair Judith Timpany. Jacky Stafford was recently re-elected for the fifth time to be *chair of the Rural Education Reference Group*.

Dr Richard Grant has been appointed *Chief Executive of the Asia NZ Foundation*. Norm Thompson has been appointed to the newly created position *Deputy Chief Executive Officer at Air NZ*. Peter Farrelly has been elected as a *member of the Fonterra Board* and Directors Henry van der Heyden and Malcolm Bailey have been *re-elected to the board*. Liz Dawson has been appointed an *independent member of the Racing Board*. Lesley Milne is *NZ Rowing's first female president*. Michelle Slade has been appointed *Director of the NZ Commerce and Industry Office (NZCIO) in Taipei*. Timaru lawyer Jocelyn Munro and Hamilton lawyer Melanie Harland have been appointed *District Court Judges*. Auckland lawyer Carole Durbin has been reappointed *chair of the Legal Services Agency Board*. Mhyre Oman from the Waikato has been appointed *President of Athletics NZ*. Former Black Ferns captain Farah Palmer has been elected as a new *independent director of the NZ Maori Rugby Board*. The *Family Planning Association (FPA)* has appointed Jackie Edmond as its new *Executive Director*.

Members of the Emissions Trading Advisory Group, which has been formed to advise the Government on emissions trading and related issues are: *Forestry* - Peter Clark, David Anderson; *Agriculture - sheep and beef*: Mike Peterson; *Agriculture - dairy*: Henry van der Heyden, Charlie Pedersen; *Energy*: David Baldwin, Keith Turner; *Transport*: Peter Griffiths, Rob Fyfe; *Industry*: Tom Campbell, Phil O'Reilly, Peter Neilson, Charles Finny; *Union*: Helen Kelly; *General Business, Markets, Finance*: Stephen Tindall (leader), Nick Main, Julia Hoare, Mark Weldon; *Science and Business*: Sue Suckling; *NGO*: Suzi Kerr, Bunny McDiarmid, Gary Taylor; *Local Government*: Ian Buchanan; *Maori*: Timi Te Heuheu, Apirana Mahuika; *Central Government*: John Whitehead, Hugh Logan, Geoff Dangerfield, Murray Sherwin, Maarten Wevers, Alan Thompson.

Craig Matthews and Paddy Twist
Editors
Rural Bulletin

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

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