

Rural Bulletin

October 2006



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Consultation

Environmental Roadshow Coming to Town

The Ministry for the Environment (MfE) is shortly to hold Environmental Roadshows in 17 locations around the country (see box below for meeting dates and locations). The aim is to obtain public feedback on environmental issues and related MfE work programmes.

Roadshow Topics

- *Adapting to climate change*: greater climate variability, and the implications of this for infrastructure and communities;
- *Water and the “Sustainable Water Programme of Action*: river water, lake water and groundwater: their varying/competing uses;
- *Managing catchments and flood risk*: land-use planning, flooding, erosion, biodiversity, water use and water quality;
- *National environmental standards*: protection of human drinking water sources, telecommunication facilities, electricity transmission and the clean up of contaminated land;
- *Waste management in NZ*: reducing construction and demolition waste, developing ways to effectively manage hazardous waste, improving the sustainability of the packaging scheme and developing a policy framework for “product stewardship” (product stewardship is a “cradle to grave” tool that helps reduce the environmental impact of manufactured products); and
- *Effective environmental reporting*: MfE wants feedback on the environmental information it provides.

The meetings will be held between 27 October and 10 November 2006. Locations are: Auckland City, Blenheim, Christchurch, Dunedin, Gisborne, Greymouth, Hamilton, Invercargill, Napier, Nelson, New Plymouth, North Shore, Palmerston North, Queenstown, Tauranga, Wellington and Whangarei. For more detail about meeting dates, times and locations, further information on topics, and to register to attend a public meeting, visit MfE's website: www.mfe.govt.nz/talkenvironment/ or call freephone 0800 TALKENV (0800 825 536).

Tertiary Education Reform Consultation

The Ministry of Education has published a consultation paper setting out the Government's objectives for the tertiary sector through until 2012. Among the objectives are fewer, but clearer, goals and priorities (the idea is to avoid appearing to be all things to all people). The paper will also set out more clearly Government policy relating to regulation, funding and information.

The paper reflects the Government's changed focus on the direction of tertiary education, with a switch to “hard” academic subjects oriented to the needs of the economy, away from “soft” more socially oriented subjects.

A range of background material is available on the Ministry's proposals at a number of different education-related websites. Two examples are:

- a report entitled “Making Use? Views on the Use and Usefulness of the Tertiary Education Strategy 2002/07”. This is on the Education Counts website at <http://educationcounts.edcentre.govt.nz/publications/tertiary/making-use.pdf>; and

- a paper entitled “Background Paper to Support Consultation on the Next Stages in Tertiary Education Reform”. This one is on the Tertiary Education Commission website at http://www.tec.govt.nz/downloads/a2z_publications/background-paper-supporting-consultation-next-stages-in-tertiary-education-reform.pdf

Submissions close on 27 October. For a copy of the discussion paper go to http://www.minedu.govt.nz/web/downloadable/dl11445_v1/final-pdf-of-discussion-document.pdf

Giving to Charities: Tax Incentives Discussion Paper

A Department of Inland Revenue (IRD) discussion paper called “Tax Incentives for Giving to Charities and Other Non-Profit Organisations” outlines possible tax incentives to encourage more people to give their money, skills and time to charitable, community and voluntary organisations. At present, people can claim a rebate on donations of up to \$1,890. Companies and Maori authorities can claim deductions for donations they make, although the deductions cannot exceed 5 percent of the net income of the company or Maori authority.

One way of improving things might be to increase rebates and deductions for donations made by individuals, companies and Maori authorities. Another way could be to introduce tax relief for volunteers in the form of a modest tax rebate in recognition of the value of the time they give to charities registered with the Charities Commission.

The discussion paper is also seeking views on Australian and UK incentives. These include “workplace giving” in the form of payroll deductions, a system of private charitable trusts, and making non-cash donations tax deductible.

IRD is also holding five consultation meetings in:

Wellington: 31 October at St Johns Conference Centre, Corner Willis and Dixon Streets, 9.30am - 12.30pm. Registration enquiries to: NZFWO (04) 385-0981, or projects@nzfwo.org.nz

Christchurch: 2 November at Conference Room, Christchurch Community House, 141 Hereford Street, 10.00am - 1pm. Registration enquiries: Christchurch COSS, (03) 366-2050, or ccoss@ihug.co.nz

Dunedin: 3 November at Fullwood Room, Dunedin Centre, 1 Harrop Centre, 9.30am - 12.30pm. Registration enquiries: Dunedin COSS, (03) 471-6150, or sue.dcooss@paradise.net.nz

Hamilton: 14 November (venue to be confirmed) 9.30am - 12.30pm

Auckland: 15 November at Lynfield Room, Fickling Centre, 546-548 Mt Albert Road, Three Kings, Auckland. Registration enquiries: WADCOSS, (09) 838-7903, or wendy@wadcooss.org.nz

Submissions close 28 November. The discussion paper “Tax Incentives for Giving to Charities and Other Non-profit Organisations” is available at www.taxpolicy.ird.govt.nz

Alcohol Advertising: Discussion Paper

The Steering Group for the review of regulation of alcohol advertising is examining the role of advertising in alcohol sales, and has published a discussion paper to:

- determine whether the current regulatory framework for alcohol advertising fits with the aims of Government’s alcohol policies; and
- identify ways to strengthen and improve that support, if required.

The Alcohol Liquor Advisory Council has conducted surveys of drinking patterns. For more information, see ALAC’s website <http://www.alac.org.nz>.

The Steering Group has adopted a wide definition of advertising and is taking a broad look at all the advertising platforms, including issues such as alcohol sponsorship, promotions and newer marketing techniques, like those used on the Internet and mobile phones.

It will also be checking:

- how ads are monitored (at present, NZ has a voluntary, industry-regulated system of alcohol advertising, which is monitored by the Advertising Standards Authority);
- the Code for Advertising Liquor;
- accountability and enforcement of regulations;
- complaints procedures;
- monitoring of advertising;
- research and information needs; and
- relevant legislation.

Submissions close on 31 October. Alongside the main consultation document there is a youth version. There are some fact sheets as well. All can be downloaded from: <http://www.ndp.govt.nz/publications/review-regulation-alcohol-advertising-stakeholder.html>

The Unpublished Electoral Roll: For Safety's Sake

The Electoral Enrolment Centre (EEC) is responsible for making sure that every eligible person is enrolled so they can vote in elections. It says that some people who would like to enrol and vote are put off from doing so because their name would be published in an electoral roll, and that could affect their safety.

The EEC advises that people whose personal or family safety is at risk by the publication of their name do not have to have their details shown in a printed roll, if they can prove there is a personal safety risk in doing so. In most cases, supplying a copy of a protection or restraining order or a statutory declaration from the police will meet the proof requirement.

Applications to go on the unpublished electoral roll need to be made by 27 October, because the new printed electoral rolls will be out for public display on 13 November. Application forms are available from any PostShop, by phoning 0800 ENROL NOW (0800 367-656, or by freetexting your name and address to 3676 Applications go to the Chief Registrar of Electors at the Electoral Enrolment Centre, NZ Post Ltd, Mainzeal Building, 181 Vivian St, PO Box 190, Wellington 6015, tel (04) 801-0700, fax (04) 801-0709, email enrol@elections.org.nz

Reassessment of Methylated Spirits

Methylated spirits (meths) is regulated under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO) Act 1996. The Environmental Risk Management Authority (ERMA) is reassessing the methylated spirits formulation containing methanol, because many groups (including coroners, doctors, and the public) have highlighted how meths can damage the health of people who use it as a cheap alcohol substitute.

ERMA is considering a number of options to avoid misuse. One proposal is restricting the sale of meths containing up to 2% methanol to industrial users only. Meths has many legitimate uses, and if it was restricted, alternative formulations could be made available to the public through retail outlets.

Submissions on methylated spirits reassessment close on 17 November. Submissions can be made online at <http://www.ermanz.govt.nz/consultations/make-submission.cfm?Application=HRC05002>. You can also get in touch with ERMA NZ at PO Box 131, Wellington, tel (04) 918 4835, email submissions@ermanz.govt.nz

Rural

Rural GPs: On-Call Workload

The NZ Rural General Practice Network (NZRGPN) has commissioned research which shows that providing on-call medical services has significant negative personal consequences for GPs, nurses and their families - and also workforce implications.

Unlike their city counterparts who can more easily arrange for someone else to provide after-hours cover for patients, almost all rural GPs and many rural nurses contribute a significant number of on-call hours themselves. The after hours workload of a rural general practitioner or nurse will depend on how many other providers are available locally to share the on-call roster. For example, a GP in a town with three other GPs would usually be on-call every fourth night and every fourth weekend.

Several important findings about rural GPs' on-call work were highlighted in the survey carried out by NZRGPN. They included: the personal consequences; the impact of on-call on the ability of GPs and nurses to spend time with their families; and how the essential emergency work of these providers is undervalued.

In addition, the study found that being on-call was a significant factor for both GPs and nurses when they were considering whether to leave rural practice. Respondents also commented about the problem of taking holidays because of the difficulties in attracting locums who would be prepared to do on-call.

The document can be downloaded as a pdf file from: http://www.rgpn.org.nz/downloads/files/impact_of_oncall.pdf

NZMA: Call for Rural Obstetricians

The NZ Medical Association (NZMA) says that ever fewer general practitioners trained in obstetrics are remaining in rural areas, and that younger GPs should be encouraged to pick up these skills at their end of their training. It has also indicated that the lack of specialist care at many provincial centres is threatening the future of secondary care maternity services. Some statistics offered by the NZMA:

- of the 55,000 women who give birth annually, nearly a third live in rural areas;
- only 54 general practitioners nationally are still involved in births;
- many rural GPs have previous experience with obstetric care and are able to help during emergency obstetric situations. However, many of these GPs are expected to retire within a decade and no-one with this experience is taking their place;
- there is a workforce crisis in many provincial hospitals where there are shortages of obstetricians, anaesthetists and paediatricians; and
- in many provincial centres, specialist cover is less than ideal, perhaps even threatening closure of secondary care maternity unit services.

In other countries with similar problems, the response has been to up-skill generalists in provincial areas, giving them sufficient skills to perform instrument assisted deliveries, caesarean sections and neonatal and maternal emergency care.

The NZMA is advocating that doctors in training pursue a career that includes provision of primary maternity care, the acquisition of more technical skills, and the ability to know when to refer.

For more information go to <http://www.nzma.org.nz/news/media-releases/8sept06-maternity.html>

2006 Fieldays Sales \$300 million

According to a survey of exhibitor's businesses during and after the June event, the 2006 National Agricultural Fieldays at Mystery Creek brought in sales of \$300 million. The survey also indicates that businesses are increasingly using Fieldays for branding objectives and to reach new customers: 56% of the 900 exhibitors used the event to release new products, and 72% reported that all objectives were met. Almost 80 percent of this year's exhibitors said they are likely to return next year.

Environment

Council Collects \$3 Million for Carbon Credits

In 2004 Christchurch City Council was awarded 200,000 carbon credits by the Government for a project that took methane gas from the closed Burwood Landfill to the city's QEII Park to heat and power the sports facility. The landfill gas would have otherwise escaped into the environment and contributed to climate change. (The methane gas equals the carbon from 10,900 cars taken off the road each year, and the electricity being generated would power about 200 average households).

The Council has now sold its carbon credits to British Gas for \$3 million. The sale is NZ's first of carbon credits to the overseas private sector.

More information can be found in a Christchurch City Council press release at:
<http://www.ccc.govt.nz/MediaReleases/2006/September/19134353.asp>

Biodiversity Restoration Partnerships

Grants from the Biodiversity Condition and Advice Funds (part of Government's support for nature protection on private land under the NZ Biodiversity Strategy) will benefit a total of 94 conservation projects run by private landowners and community groups carrying out biodiversity restoration. The projects will help protect kiwi, blue duck, penguins, skink, forest systems of kahikatea and kauri, as well as wetlands.

Around \$1.2 million will be provided to 74 projects from the Biodiversity Condition Fund, which was set up to improve and maintain native species and habitats. In addition, about \$500,000 will be provided to 20 projects from the Biodiversity Advice Fund, which supports the provision of advice and information to assist with managing native areas.

A further \$2.6 million is being contributed to these biosecurity projects by landowners, local and regional government and other funding agencies.

More information on the Biodiversity Condition Fund and Biodiversity Advice Funds can be found at:
<http://www.biodiversity.govt.nz/land/nzbs/pvtland/condition.html>

Granting Environmental Concessions: Changes

The Department of Conservation has been looking at the ways it grants commercial concessions on Conservation land. (A concession is official authority for a company to operate in an area managed by the Department.)

Two new processes for concessions, aimed at cutting time and costs to applicants, have been introduced: a “re-issue” process and a new “conforming” process. DoC says that the “re-issue” process will cut application costs by \$500 and reduce the time taken by two thirds.

DoC has also been working with Qualmark to reduce the costs to businesses by revisiting safety requirements to make sure there will be no need for it, in future, to duplicate requirements for concessionaire safety plans.

More information: visit <http://www.doc.govt.nz/> or contact Concessions & Tourism, at athompson@doc.govt.nz

New Geospatial Research Centre

The Government is to provide \$2 million towards the establishment of a Geospatial Research Centre in Christchurch. Most human activity depends on geospatial information – that is, on knowing where things are and understanding how they relate to each other. Geospatial information is part of our daily lives, whether it is being used to make decisions on social or environmental issues, for emergency responses, or just to find our way across town.

The research centre will be focusing on the gathering, storage, processing and use of geospatial information, and it will also carry out commercially relevant research for this rapidly evolving industry. The technology has potential applications in activities as diverse as surveying, environmental monitoring, precision agriculture and global positioning systems.

The centre is a partnership between the University of Canterbury, the University of Nottingham, and Canterbury Development Corporation. It will be established within Canterbury University’s recently announced NZ ICT Innovation Institute (UCi3).

More information about the NZ ICT Innovation Institute (UCi3) is at: www.ict.canterbury.ac.nz More information about the University of Nottingham’s Institute of Engineering Surveying and Space Geodesy (IESSG) is at: www.nottingham.ac.uk/ieessg

Northland’s Marine Environment: CD Resource

The Department of Conservation’s Northland Conservancy (in conjunction with the Northland Regional Council and Ministry of Fisheries) has put together a CD of information on the Northland region's marine environment. It's the first time all the information on a region's marine environment has been brought together and made freely available to the public.

Called “Northland’s Marine Library, Te Whanau a Tangaroa” the CD includes a wealth of information on everything from bathymetric charts, aerial photography, underwater video clips, and scientific reports and investigations, to management plans and strategies. As well being an educational and community resource the CD can be used as a management tool to start or further discussions on marine management options around the region’s coastline.

The project was developed on the grounds that the information belongs to everyone, and that better management decisions are made when everyone has access to the same information and is actively involved in the decision-making.

Copies of the CD are available free from Department of Conservation offices throughout Northland.

Our First Freshwater Mataitai

The first freshwater mataitai, at Mataura River in Southland, has been opened by the Minister of Fisheries. Local councils - Environment Southland, Gore District Council and Clutha District Council - have been working with DOC, fish and game and the fishing industry to develop the mataitai. Status as a mataitai identifies the area as an important place for customary food gathering. It means commercial fishing is not allowed. Instead, recreational fishing and customary harvesting are managed under the guidance of the kaitiaki - the caretakers.

For more information go to: <http://www.beehive.govt.nz/ViewDocument.aspx?DocumentID=27317>

Education

New Contact Rules for Teachers

Under recent changes to guidelines governing teacher contact with children, contact is acceptable now as long as it is done in a professional and responsible manner and takes into account the age of the child. Approved conduct now includes emotional support such as hugging or placing a supportive arm across a child's shoulders, or patting a child on the back when praise is due.

The guidelines also say teachers who withdraw from physical contact or who are guarded in their interactions with children may not be acting as positive role models. However, the NZEI says teachers and support staff still need to be aware that physical contact with children and students can be misconstrued, and schools should adopt practices that prevent teachers and support staff being vulnerable to allegations.

For more information on the publication "Guidelines for Physical Contact with Children" go to <http://www.nzei.org.nz/>

More Schools Added to ICT Learning Programme

Over the next 3 years \$30 million is being committed to the ICT (Information Communication Technology) Programme, the aim of which is to fund projects which transform learning through innovative use of information communication technology. The ICT Programme started in 1999, and the vast majority of schools now participate.

A further 174 of schools (in 30 or so clusters) will now be joining the ICT Programme, with each cluster having access to a national online network, ICT resources, professional development, and support from a professional facilitator.

Some of the projects funded in the latest round include:

- a group of five South Auckland schools working with students to develop "e-portfolios" of their work to help them from primary to intermediate school;
- two North Shore schools in Auckland working to create computer games that integrate learning across subjects;
- a group of nine rural South Island primary schools exploring with their students and their families digital stories, using digital video and audio, email, blogging and digital imaging;

- two secondary schools in the South Island using ICT to increase the range of courses available for students; and
- a group of eight primary schools in Christchurch using voice over internet and online chatrooms to share teaching ideas and information.

More information about the ICT Programme and related ICT initiatives in schools is on the Ministry of Education web site at: <http://www.minedu.govt.nz/index.cfm?layout=document&documentid=7219&indexid=6919&indexparentid>

Teaching Resource for Parents

A new booklet provides information tips on how parents can support kids in their learning. Parents will find information on how to support children with their homework, ideas for reading at home, advice on choosing a school, and much more.

Parents can also get easy access to information on their local schools through the new School Directory section of the Team-Up website. This area includes information on school population, student achievement, learning areas offered, the school's location and contact details.

To view the School Directory and the new Team Up booklet visit: www.teamup.govt.nz

School Vandalism Costs Record Amount

The Ministry of Education says the cost of vandalism at schools has reached a record high of more than \$9 million in the past year. The ministry allocates money to schools to cover the damage caused by vandals, ranging from graffiti to broken windows. It says steps have been taken to boost security at schools including better lighting, security patrols and closer cooperation with the Fire Service and police.

Health

Nutrition for Healthy Young Kiwis

“Mission-On” is a new \$67 million Government-wide package that has been produced to help young NZers improve their nutrition and be more active. The “Mission-On” package includes:

- improving nutrition in schools and early childhood education services, at a cost of \$28 million (see box below for more details);
- school-based health promotion events;
- a new “lifestyle ambassadors” campaign featuring high-profile NZers;
- encouraging the advertising industry to take measures to decrease children's exposure to the advertising of less healthy foods;
- the creation of youth-focused websites to promote healthy eating and physical activity;
- sponsorship of television and radio programmes that promote healthy choices;
- a “screen-free” campaign to encourage less time in front of television and computers;
- government departments leading by example in the promotion of healthy workplaces;
- an expansion of the “Green Prescription” programme (see <http://www.sparc.org.nz/getting-active/green-prescription/overview> for more information); and

- the introduction of Health Impact Assessments for new government policy and legislation – this is run through the Public Health Advisory Committee and you can download an explanatory document at:
<http://www.nhc.govt.nz/PHAC/publications/GuideToHIA.pdf#search=%22.nz%20Health%20Impact%20Assessments%22>

Healthier Lifestyles in Schools

Strategies to encourage healthy eating in schools and early childhood services will include:

- changes to the National Administration Guidelines, requiring school boards to develop policies that promote and achieve healthy nutrition, and reduce the consumption of unhealthy foods and drinks;
- new guidelines to help schools provide healthy food options, including a food and drink classification system;
- a regional Nutrition Fund available to schools, which will support the implementation of guidelines (this initiative is part of an agreement with the Green Party);
- a social marketing campaign, including a toolkit for schools to use, national and local advertising and research on the effectiveness of the campaign;
- professional development support for teachers to strengthen and improve the teaching of food and nutrition education;
- work to reduce consumption of unhealthy foods within early childhood services; and
- a programme of high-profile events to encourage students to get involved in learning about nutrition.

MSD: Three Programmes for Families

The Ministry of Social development (MSD) has announced three new programmes for families. They are:

The “Vulnerable Families” Programme

Through this programme families identified by Work and Income and local organisations will receive extra support to make sure they get access to all the services and help they need. A Service Co-ordinator from Work and Income will be assigned to each family to provide intensive case management, and make sure all relevant government and non-government agencies are involved.

Community leaders will also be involved, encouraging and supporting families who may be reluctant to take up the help offered. Initially the programme will be working with about 50 families around the country. The work will be undertaken confidentially.

The “Early Years” Initiative

In this one, seven Early Years Service Hubs will be established in high need areas to provide a central point where teen families can access a range of services, from ante natal care through to parenting support and education. Eight teenage parent service co-ordinators will work with young parents and their children, and put them in touch with groups and agencies who can give them good support.

A pilot “Roots of Empathy” programme (modelled on one in Canada) will also be set up in up to 10 NZ schools. This programme, which has been found to reduce violence and improve empathy, involves a parent from the local community bringing their baby into the classroom over a school year. Children learn about developmental stages of a baby’s first year, their needs, and how the baby communicates its needs to the parent. They also learn about others’ feelings, how to communicate feelings, and how to resolve problems.

The “Action Plan for Young People”

The third programme, initially planned for Counties Manukau and Otahuhu, aims to improve outcomes for young people and steer them away from crime and gang affiliation. It involves intensively working with about 100 at-risk families, whanau, and fono; establishing safe houses for youngsters found wandering the streets late at night, who don’t have a safe home to go to; and co-ordinated work among organisations to help every at-risk young person into work, training, or further education.

More information: www.msdc.govt.nz More information of Early Start and Family Start programmes can be found at: <http://www.familyservices.govt.nz/our-work/strong-families/family-start/early-learning-programme.html>. More information of the Roots of Empathy programme can be found at: <http://www.rootsofempathy.org/>

More Money for Elective Surgery

Extra funding of \$200 million has been made available over four years for elective surgery to 10,000 more people each year. The money has been set aside for district health boards (DHBs) that meet the requirements of the Government’s booking system policy from 1 November. The money will:

- ensure that the people who need treatment the most receive it first; and
- enable people who are promised treatment to receive it within six months.

Mental Health Commission’s Term Extended

The term of the Mental Health Commission was to have expired next year. However, the Government now intends to introduce an amendment to legislation extending that deadline to 2015. The Commission, which is an independent voice for people with mental illness, their families and whanau, caregivers and support groups, was established in September 1996 in response to the recommendations of the Mason Inquiry into Mental Health Services. One of its achievements has been the development of its Blueprint for Mental Health Services, a plan which sets targets for resourcing and services for mental health consumers.

For more information go to <http://www.mhc.govt.nz/> or contact Communications Manager, Mental Health Commission, (04) 474-8919

ACC: Wider Cover of Occupational Diseases

Up to 25 more occupational diseases are now likely to be covered by ACC, by being included in Schedule 2 of the Injury Prevention, Rehabilitation, and Compensation Act 2001 in December 2006. They are:

- brucellosis diagnosed as caused by working with animals or their carcasses;
- orf diagnosed as caused by working with animals or their carcasses;
- streptococcus suis diagnosed as caused by working with animals or their carcasses;

- angiosarcoma of the liver diagnosed as caused by vinyl chloride monomer;
- byssinosis diagnosed as caused by working with cotton, flax, hemp, or sisal dust;
- pneumoconiosis diagnosed as caused by tin, iron oxide, barium, or cobalt;
- diseases of a type generally accepted by the medical profession as caused by tungsten (pneumoconiosis);
- hand arm vibration syndrome diagnosed as caused by hand and/or arm vibration;
- sino-nasal carcinoma diagnosed as caused by working with wood dust;
- diseases of a type generally accepted by the medical profession as caused by ethylene oxide (leukaemia);
- extrinsic allergic alveolitis caused by work involving the inhalation of organic dusts;
- naso-pharyngeal carcinoma diagnosed as caused by formaldehyde;
- laryngeal carcinoma diagnosed as caused by sulphuric acid mists or organic solvents;
- lung or bronchus cancer diagnosed as caused by bis (chloromethyl) ether (and chloromethyl methyl ether), cadmium, coke oven emissions, nickel, radon, silica, or soot;
- primary epitheliomatous cancer of the skin diagnosed as caused by shale oil;
- bladder carcinoma diagnosed as caused by 2-naphthylamine, benzidine, 4-aminobiphenyl, N, N-Bis (2-chloroethyl)-2-naphthylamine, other aromatic amines, or poly-cyclic aromatic hydrocarbons;
- Hodgkin's lymphoma diagnosed as caused by wood dust;
- chronic solvent-induced encephalopathy diagnosed as caused by organic solvents, particularly styrene, toluene, xylene, trichloroethylene, methylene chloride, or white spirit;
- peripheral neuropathy diagnosed as caused by organic solvents such as n-hexane, carbon disulphide or trichloroethylene; pesticides such as organophosphates; acrylamide;
- asthma diagnosed as caused by recognised sensitising agents or irritants inherent in the work process;
- chronic obstructive pulmonary disease diagnosed as caused by coal, silica, cotton dust, or grain dust;
- chronic renal failure diagnosed as caused by metals such as cadmium, or copper, including via welding fumes;
- contact dermatitis (irritant and allergic) diagnosed as caused by recognised sensitising agents or irritants inherent in the work process;
- vitiligo diagnosed as caused by para-tertiary-butylphenol, para-tertiary-butylcatechol, para-amyphenol, hydroquinone, or the monobenzyl or monobutyl ether of hydroquinone; and
- noise-induced hearing loss diagnosed as caused by employment-related exposure to noise.

For more information go to http://www.acc.co.nz/wcm001/groups/external_levies/documents/internet/wim2_063973.pdf

PHARMAC to Fund Medicine for Acute Heart Patients

PHARMAC (the Pharmaceutical Management Agency of New Zealand) is now subsidising clopidogrel, a drug that helps prevent blood clots developing in arteries. The drug will be available as a three-month treatment following acute heart problems, such as heart attacks, as well as to people who cannot take aspirin. Aspirin is a blood-thinning agent that is widely used to help prevent clotting that can lead to cardiac events, and people who are allergic to it will be able to have continuing access to clopidogrel.

Flu Pandemic: Testing Readiness

The Ministry of Health is to run what it is calling the country's largest emergency exercise to test how well prepared NZ is for an influenza pandemic. It will launch a paper exercise on 9 November to test border control, followed in February by a similar test of national communications.

After that, over four separate days next May, it will activate and fully staff the national crisis management centre under the Beehive in a government-wide exercise. The exercise could include arranging to have several hundred passengers on a fake flight pass through an international airport to test border-control agencies' handling of vetting for flu, quarantine and other issues.

Employment

Workplace Partnership Reports Released

The Partnership Resource Centre of the Department of Labour has published two reports about workplace partnership, with the aim of encouraging employers, employees and unions to use them as a springboard for closer workplace relations:

- the first report, "Stocktake on Workplace Partnership in NZ", shows employers and unions are more willing to work together in partnership than common perception would suggest (benefits include innovation, productivity growth, improved service delivery and more satisfied staff); and
- the second, "International Experiences of Partnership", looks at four countries - Denmark, Norway, Ireland and the UK - and the benefits they have experienced from partnership approaches.

The reports are available on the Partnership Resource Centre website at: www.dol.govt.nz/services/partnershipresourcecentre/

Value of Women's Work/Men's Work: Research

The Ministry of Women's Affairs (MWA) is to lead a trans-Tasman research project on the economic effects of the different work that men and women do. The research will:

- explore whether or not "occupational segregation" has an impact on key economic outcomes, such as productivity;
- clarify whether sex-role stereotyping of jobs has disadvantages for the economy, as well as limiting choices for both men and women at a personal level; and
- examine the link between occupational segregation and economic performance.

The \$50,000 cost of the research is to be met by the Australasian Minister's Conference on the Status of Women (MINCO). MWA will be approaching the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to carry out the study as the OECD has the expertise to undertake the analysis. It also has access to relevant information from many countries.

Seasonal Work Permit Pilot Extended

The seasonal work permit pilot scheme was originally launched in December 2005 to help meet the horticulture and viticulture industries peak season labour needs.

The pilot, which aims to create a pool of increasingly experienced workers for the two industries, is now to be extended until September 2007. Under the extension current permit holders can apply to renew their permits for a total of up to nine months.

New applicants can apply for permits for a total of up to six months. Applicants must either be:

- from visa-free countries and be on a current temporary permit in NZ; or
- from visa-required countries and be on a current temporary permit on 15 September 2006.

A set of questions and answers on these changes is available at:

<http://www.immigration.govt.nz/migrant/general/generalinformation/qanda/swpsept06qa.htm>

Tourism

NZ a Favourite with Tourists

NZ has been voted the second-best country in the world by readers of the prestigious Condé Nast Traveller (UK) magazine. Thirty thousand readers voted in the awards, naming Italy top country with a score of 95.57 out of a possible 100, followed by NZ (94.81) and Australia (94.44).

Huka Lodge was voted 5th in the Australasia & Pacific Lodge category, with Blanket Bay Lodge coming in 12th and Wharekauhau lodge 19th. Air NZ was sixth in the long-haul airline category and Polynesian Spa in Rotorua was 15th in the Destination Spa category.

Decline in Camping Opportunities

The Department of Conservation has carried out a review of camping areas, which shows that:

- a third of all the commercial camping capacity in the Coromandel region has been lost in the past decade;
- noticeable declines in camping areas have also been identified in the Auckland, East Coast/Hawkes Bay, Rotorua/Central North Island, and Waikato/Bay of Plenty areas (this is despite the vast majority of NZ campers using places in the upper North Island for their summer camping holiday); and
- there has been a net reduction of about 70 campgrounds nationally since 1996, most of those since 2001 (despite no apparent drop in demand).

The options proposed for further discussion by the review include:

- extending the network of camping areas on public land, and letting more contracts to private providers to run campgrounds on public land;
- establishing a fund to purchase select camping grounds for public ownership;
- encouraging the expansion of existing camping areas on to adjacent land over peak periods;
- encouraging camping on unused sports fields, open space reserves, and rural school grounds, where there is clear demand to do so over the peak season;
- seeking a review of the Camping Ground Regulations to enable other organisations to provide basic camping experiences similar to those provided by the Department of Conservation; and
- providing better information to the public about available camping opportunities.

You can download a copy of the review from:

<http://www.beehive.govt.nz/Documents/Files/DoC%20Camping%20Review%20Sep%2006.pdf>

International Visitor Spend Up...

International visitor spending in NZ increased to \$6.6 billion in the year to March 2006, up 8.2% on the previous year, according to data just released by the Ministry of Tourism.

The result includes the 2005 Lion's Tour which clearly had a positive impact on the spending by the UK market: that increased by 18.5% to \$1.1 billion - a gain of \$172 million.

Highlights of key markets: Australia - up 8.8% to \$1.5 billion; USA - up 5.6% to \$649 million; Japan - down 13.1% to \$496 million; China - down 39.5% to \$244 million; Germany down 4.9% to \$207 million.

Strong growth came from those on holiday (up 8.3% to \$3.5 billion) and those visiting friends and relatives (up 9.8% to \$1.2 billion). Business travel declined slightly (0.2%) to \$798 million and education travel declined by 24% to \$472 million.

...and Domestic Visitor Spend Stabilises

New Ministry of Tourism data shows that domestic travellers within NZ spent \$7.0 billion in the year to March 2006, a decline of 0.4% compared to the same period the previous year. The research shows that spending on overnight trips increased by 5.1% to \$4.5 billion even though the number of overnight trips declined by 2.0% to 14.4 million.

The increased spend appears to be primarily driven by higher transport related expenditure that increased by 10.7% to \$2.1 billion - a result directly attributed to rising fuel costs.

Day trip spending fell by 8.8% to \$2.5 billion. The actual number of day trips fell by 4.9% to 29.7 million.

These and other findings come from the Domestic Travel Survey, a telephone survey of 15,000 NZ residents undertaken throughout the year. A range of data and reports from the survey are available on the Ministry of Tourism's research website – www.tourismresearch.govt.nz

Money Matters

New Zealand's International Investment Position

Australia and the US continue to be NZ's top two investment partners, Statistics NZ said recently. Together, they accounted for \$49 billion (46.9%) of NZ's total investment abroad and \$110.5 billion (47.1%) of foreign investment in NZ, at 31 March 2006.

The other significant destinations for NZ's investment abroad at 31 March 2006 were the UK, Switzerland and Singapore. Their combined contribution to NZ's total investment abroad was \$20.4 billion, up \$10.3 billion from 31 March 2005.

Besides Australia and US, the other significant source of foreign investment in NZ was the UK. At 31 March 2006, UK accounted for \$36 billion of the total foreign investment in NZ, up \$5.5 billion from 31 March 2005.

Australia continued to be NZ's number one investment partner. Direct investment relationships (those where there is ownership of 10% or more) are a key feature of the investment relationship between NZ and Australia. Of NZ's total investment in Australia at 31 March 2006, 37.4% (\$9.3 billion) was direct investment in Australia. On the same date, of the total Australian investment in NZ, 57.4% (\$39.4 billion) was direct investment.

New Zealand finance and insurance industry continues to hold the largest proportion of NZ's overseas assets (70.3%) and overseas liabilities (61.8%). Between 31 March 2005 and 31 March 2006, overseas liabilities held by this industry increased \$18.1 billion. This reflects an increase in borrowing by NZ banks from abroad for domestic lending, as part of their financial intermediary role.

Information for Investors

The five brochures below from the Securities Commission have information about investing, including how to choose an investment advisor, information you are entitled to before you invest, and how to spot a scam.

Do not be sucked in:

Slam the phone on share scams. Don't engage with the caller. They will use all their skill to persuade you to part with your money.

Your right to know:

Get informed about investing. Do you know the single biggest difference between people who make money investing and those who lose their shirts? It's information.

Choosing an investment adviser:

Some people are happy to make their own decisions about investing. Others prefer to get help. If you want help with investing you can consult an investment adviser. This brochure explains who offers investment advice, what rules apply to them, and what you should know before paying any money.

How to spot a scam:

If you want to make money from investing you must learn to spot an investment scam. Every year ordinary NZers lose millions of dollars in investment scams. Most of these scams could have been exposed - if people had used their common sense and asked a few questions.

You can help stop fraud:

Did you know that you may be a prime target for con artists who peddle investment scams? Fraudsters prey on people who trust each other, particularly members of religious, social, or cultural groups. They use the trust that exists within these groups to help them steal money.

These free brochures can be downloaded electronically or ordered in hard copy from seccom@sec-com.govt.nz

Money Can Buy Love, Study Reveals

Contrary to popular belief, money can buy you happiness, a UK study into lottery jackpot winners suggests. A Nottingham University study found 97% of 34 people who won more than £1 million on the National Lottery were just as happy, if not happier, than before. Researchers

also found money can buy you love - 68% of winners were married pre-jackpot, rising to 75% afterwards.

None missed working or found that the money caused domestic arguments or led to relationship breakdowns. Only 3% of winners who filled in the questionnaires said they were less happy than before, citing new pressures in their lives.

The original BBC story can be found at: http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/uk_news/england/5410504.stm

Trade

New Free Trade Agreement Negotiations

Foreign Ministers from the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states have agreed to negotiations for a free trade agreement with NZ. The six states - Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman - collectively took \$720 million in exports from NZ over the last year. That makes the region only a slightly smaller market for us than a major market like Germany.

It's believed NZ's traditional big exports like dairy and meat could stand to benefit, but so too could areas like forestry, horticulture and manufacturing. Emerging and rapidly growing areas such as services, ICT, construction materials, medical equipment and education also stand to gain.

NZ officials will travel to the region within a few months for initial discussions. Our Government will then be issuing a discussion paper seeking the views of NZ companies and the public. The next step after that is Cabinet approval of our negotiating mandate. After that the process of formal negotiations will begin.

Housing

Retirement Village Residents: More Protection

New regulations have been introduced that bring the Retirement Villages Act 2003 fully into force. They include the introduction of a formal disputes resolution process, greater disclosure of information by operators, and statutory supervisors to provide a watchdog role over villages. A Code of Practice has also been approved.

The dispute resolution provisions came into force on 1 October 2006. Every retirement village must now have a way of dealing with complaints. Disputes that cannot be resolved internally will access to a new independent Disputes Panel.

Retirement Village business owners will now need to:

- promote good relationships between residents and operators through a Code of Residents' Rights;
- require compliance through a village registration process and appropriate sanctions and penalties for breaches of the legislation;
- enable statutory supervisors to oversee the financial viability of villages; and
- in conjunction with a proposed Code of Practice, provide for sound practices to be applied in village management and operations, including in the on-sale of vacant units.

From 1 May 2007, potential residents of retirement villages must receive full disclosure of information from operators, as specified in the regulations. Other new features include a cooling-off period of 15 working days during which an intending resident can withdraw from an occupation right agreement. A lawyer will need to certify that the details and implications of the occupation right agreement contract have been clearly explained to the intending resident.

New villages will need to be registered with the Registrar of Retirement Villages from 1 May 2007, and existing villages by 1 November 2007, including those currently governed by the Securities Act.

The changes are being funded by retirement villages' registration fees. The initial registration fee has been set at \$540 for up to 34 units, \$1700 for 35 to 84 units and \$4410 for 85 units and above. Annual fees will be \$450 for up to 34 units, \$1510 for 35 to 84 units and \$3850 for 85 units and above. The fees include GST.

The Retirement Villages Act 2003

The Retirement Villages Act protects the rights of residents and sets out a legal framework for operators to run villages. It places new responsibilities on all retirement village operators for disclosure of information to residents and intending residents, and makes provision for a disputes resolution process. It also introduces independent oversight of villages through statutory supervisors.

Note: This Act does not cover rest homes, which are regulated under separate legislation by the Ministry of Health.

The Code of Practice

The Code specifies details that must be included in any occupation right agreement, including clauses on requirements around safety and personal security of residents, transfer of residents within retirement villages, and complaints facilities. The Code comes into force on 25 September 2007. The Act requires retirement village operators to provide residents a copy of the Code of Practice. Copies can also be downloaded from the Department of Building and Housing's website: www.dbh.govt.nz

For information on the Act visit www.dbh.govt.nz or ring 0800 836 262. For details about registration requirements visit www.companies.govt.nz and for further information on operators' obligations to residents and potential residents visit www.retirement.org.nz

New Rules for Landlords and Tenants

A new package of reforms to improve tenancy law and tenancy services includes proposed amendments to the Residential Tenancies Act 1986, and changes to landlords' and tenants' advice and dispute resolution services. The changes follow a review of the Act, which identified the following issues:

- a lack of stable tenure for longer term tenants;
- variable standards of rental housing;
- a lack of knowledge among landlords and tenants on their rights and responsibilities; and
- dispute resolution issues.

Benefits for Both Landlord and Tenant

Benefits for landlords include new property entry rights, and allowing the landlord to recover reasonable debt collection costs incurred in enforcing Tenancy Tribunal Orders through a private debt collection agency. It is also proposed that some tenant breaches become unlawful acts that could result in exemplary damages being awarded, as an alternative to eviction. The breaches would include sub-letting, assigning a tenancy without consent, over-populating the premises or becoming a problem neighbour.

Ministry of Justice will also be reviewing the way in which civil debts – for example unpaid rent – can be collected faster and easier by landlords.

The changes are also aimed at strengthening tenants' rights. For example, landlords who breach building, health and safety regulations may face financial penalties payable to the tenant.

Greater protection for fixed term tenants is proposed by compelling landlords to notify tenants at least three weeks before the tenancy period ends if they are not going to renew the contract. Fixed term tenancies that expire with no new agreement being signed will automatically become periodic tenancies, whereby tenants must give three weeks notice and landlords give three months notice, if either party wants to end the tenancy.

Fixed term tenants will also be allowed to apply to end a tenancy early, in the event of a substantial and unexpected rent increase.

Service Changes As Well

In addition there are changes to the Department of Building and Housing's tenancy advice and dispute resolution services. They include:

- extended hours for phone advice - 8am to 5.30pm weekdays instead of 8.30am to 4.30pm;
- new easy to use Tenancy Tribunal application forms;
- access to face to face services in 17 more locations throughout NZ;
- straightforward disputes being resolved quickly through a new phone mediation service; and
- the introduction of online applications to facilitate quicker case turnaround.

What Happens Next?

Further work is being done on how the Act connects with other related legislation, such as the Retirement Villages Act and the Unit Titles Act. Once the final decisions are taken, a draft Bill will be developed for Parliament to consider next year.

More information is at <http://www.dbh.govt.nz/rta-review#september>

Treaty Negotiations and Settlements

Kurahaupo Iwi Begin Treaty Negotiations

Three iwi from the northern South Island have begun their Treaty settlement negotiations. Ngati Apa Ki Te Ra To, Ngati Kuia and Rangitane o Wairau, have formed the Kurahaupo Ki Te Waipounamu Trust. The combined tribal area of the three Kurahaupo iwi covers the entire top of the South Island.

In June, the Crown and the Trust signed Terms of Negotiation, which set out the ground-rules for the negotiations. The negotiations now underway will be the first settlement negotiations relating to the South Island since Ngai Tahu settled with the Crown in 1997, and they will set the scene for settling the claims of other iwi in the northern South Island.

Currently, the Government is in negotiations with over 20 groups, covering several hundred claims.

Te Arawa Settlements

Te Arawa has signed a deal with the Crown thought to be worth around \$200 million. The settlement, which deals with more than 50 claims, includes 50,000 hectares of forestry, and a cash lump sum. The tribe is also seeking an apology for past breaches of The Treaty Of Waitangi.

In the past month, Te Arawa has also been granted compensation under the Lakes Settlement Bill and from the Waitangi Fisheries Tribunal. The total amount from the three settlements is in the region of \$240 million.

For more information go to <http://www.ots.govt.nz/>

The Law

Landmark Supreme Court Decision: Barristers' Immunity

New Zealand's Supreme Court recently released a landmark decision, abolishing barristers' immunity and allowing claims to be brought for negligent work by court lawyers. In other words, lawyers can now be sued by their clients.

The Supreme Court decision upheld the Court of Appeal's decision to abolish a common law rule that barristers cannot be sued for work they do in court, and "other intimately connected work". In reaching its decision, the Supreme Court disregarded a recent ruling of the High Court of Australia to retain immunity for lawyers, preferring instead to follow an earlier decision by Britain's House of Lords to abolish barristers' immunity.

The legal profession has fought hard to keep immunity, warning that removing it would result in trials being re-heard, jeopardising the finality of the legal process. Lawyers have also claimed that removing immunity would also open the floodgates for claims with no merit. But the Supreme Court said sufficient avenues existed to prevent any abuse.

The protection was removed by a Court of Appeal decision in March which found in favour of an Auckland couple. The couple were directors of a company being sued by creditors, and law firm Chamberlains represented them in the High Court case in 2002. The couple sued the firm over its conduct and lost the case after Chamberlains used immunity as a defence - but they won their appeal.

For more information go to <http://www.justice.govt.nz/supremecourt/>

Retirement Age of Judges to be Raised

Since 1980 the compulsory retirement age for all judges has been 68 years, but this is now to be raised to 70 years. It is believed the move will assist the retention of our most experienced and capable judges and encourage recruitment of senior lawyers. It will also bring NZ into line with comparative jurisdictions overseas such as Australia and the UK. Legislation covering the change will be introduced to Parliament later this year.

Internet Items

\$16 Million for Urban Broadband Challenge Projects: The aim of the \$24 million Broadband Challenge Fund is to establish a series of urban fibre networks by 2009, and develop broadband Internet access solutions for rural and urban communities. Last month we listed the five successful applicants in the rural (remote and under-served) category. Five Broadband Challenge applications totalling \$16.3 million for urban fibre network projects have now been approved by the Government. They are:

- North Shore City in association with Vector Communications Ltd (\$4,640,625);
- Hamilton City Council (\$3,290,625);
- Smartlinx 3 (\$2,372,353);
- Nelson Marlborough Inforegion (\$1,788,750); and
- Canterbury Development Corporation (\$4,218,750).

The networks that are set up will be operating with open access to encourage competitive and innovative services and should provide two-way data transfer rates of at least one Gigabyte a second - about 250 times current maximum broadband ADSL download speeds.

Internet Access to Judicial Decisions - www.justice.govt.nz - now has Supreme Court, Court of Appeal and High Courts Decisions online, available free of charge. Judicial Decisions Online is a permanent, comprehensive reference library of judicial decisions that are not subject to some form of legal prohibition. Over time other jurisdictions, such as the District Court, Employment Court and the Environment Court, will be added.

Super-fast internet for scientists and researchers: the Advanced Network at <http://www.reannz.co.nz/about/> has the aim of enhancing the range and quality of research in NZ. To be known as KAREN (Kiwi Advanced Research and Education Network), the network will comprise an optical fibre "backbone" linking universities and research institutions in Auckland, Hamilton, Palmerston North, Wellington, Christchurch, and Dunedin as well as connections to the Hawkes Bay, Nelson and Rotorua. This will enable scientists to participate in real-time collaboration with other colleagues around the world. A \$43 million investment from Government will cover the initial costs of the Network during the establishment period of around four years; that amount will be matched by Advanced Network members, which include tertiary institutes, CRIs and the National Library. As capabilities develop, it is expected that other organisations will be able to use it, for example schools, libraries and museums. Government departments, hospitals, private firms, and international networks will also have the opportunity to collaborate with members for education and research purposes.

Community groups' information sharing - www.community.net.nz - CommunityNet Aotearoa, an on-line information-sharing resource for community and voluntary groups, has had a

makeover to help visitors find information easily; and offer faster routes to the huge amount of information it offers.

New cultural website - www.NZLive.com - This website is designed to increase awareness of, and participation in, cultural activities and events. The website encompasses culture in the widest sense including: art and design, museums and historic buildings, festivals, public gardens and zoos, literature, the performing arts, NZ movies, music, sports and recreation. The site represents the first phase in a four-year development programme. The events and activities guide has links to cultural websites across the sector and the country, and new content and services will be added over time.

Maori Land Site - <http://www.courts.govt.nz/maorilandcourt/> - The Maori Land Court, Wellington, offers free information on Maori land issues: you can also contact the Advisory Officer for the Maori Land Court on (04) 914-3102 or samantha.nepe@justice.govt.nz.

Community organisations database - www.communityconnect.co.nz - is a searchable database of voluntary organisations and not-for-profit organisations working around NZ. Organisations can publicise their organisation for free and promote events through the site's community calendar. Also offers volunteers additional training and support by publishing monthly articles and advice from experts in the voluntary sector.

Fishing

Foreign Fishing Crews: Minimum Wage Increases

From January, the minimum wage rate for foreign crews will gradually increase to a rate more comparable with that of NZ fishing crews. A new mandatory code of practice governing foreign crew on foreign charter fishing vessels in NZ is also being introduced. The aim is to stop unsustainable practices such as crew exploitation.

Tougher Line on Fishing Quotas Proposed

The Ministry of Fisheries is proposing to take a tougher line with fishers who keep on exceeding their quotas. The proposals are contained in a paper entitled "Working Group on Deemed Values". "Deemed values" are the penalties which fishers must pay to the Government if they exceed their quota.

The working group has made nine recommendations in all, including:

- fishers who keep on exceeding their catch should no longer be tolerated by the management system;
- a "more responsive stance" is needed in monitoring over-catch problems, and in reviewing both the Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) and the deemed value rate;
- the deemed values penalties should be set above the price at which Annual Catch Entitlement would settle, if over-catch were not an option; and
- quota rights holders who comply with their quotas should be entitled to a proportion of the money paid to the Government as deemed values, on the grounds that their future quota could be reduced by the over-catching of miscreant fishers.

The Ministry indicates that 1 October 2007 is the earliest date any changes to rates policy could be made.

The document can be downloaded from: <http://www.fish.govt.nz/NR/rdonlyres/8F3B060A-1758-495B-8A47-497DA9677DCA/2499/DVpublicdiscussiondocfinalstripped2.pdf>

Orange Roughy Catch Reduced

Commercial catch limits for orange roughy were reduced at the start of the new fishing year (1 October). The commercial catch limits for orange roughy in the northern North Island (ORH1) are down by 43% to 800 tonnes per year, and the commercial limits for the Chatham Rise and southern NZ fishery (ORH3B) by almost 10%, to 11,500 tonnes.

Full details of the new catch limits are available on the Ministry of Fisheries' website at www.fish.govt.nz and more information on the orange roughy fishery can be found at: <http://www.fish.govt.nz/en-nz/SOF/Species.htm?code=ORH&list=name>

New Shellfish in Quota Management System

Two new shellfish species were introduced into the Quota Management System this month - the deep water clam or "geoduck" and the knobbed whelk. In most regions not much is known about how many of either species there are, so low catch limits have been set in most areas. However, higher limits have been set for the Nelson / Marlborough region, where more information is available about the two species.

Arts and Culture

APRA Silver Scroll Awards

The Australasian Performing Right Association Limited (APRA) is a copyright collecting society set up in Australasia. It represents over 5,000 NZ music writers and publishers, and is part of a world-wide network of similar organisations. APRA also provides local representation for over 2 million music writers and composers worldwide.

The APRA Silver Scroll Awards celebrate NZ's talented songwriters. This year's APRA category winners are:

- Silver Scroll Award: Don McGlashan for the song "Bathe in the River";
- SOUNZ Contemporary Award recognising creative excellence by a NZ classical composer: Ross Harris for "Symphony No.2";
- Maioha Award for the best Maori waiata :Richard Bennett for "E Hine";
- Most performed work in NZ: James Reid for "Stand Up"; and
- Most performed work overseas: Neil Finn for "Don't Dream it's Over".

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

More Government Support for Fashion Week

As this year's Air NZ Fashion Week drew to a close it was announced the Government is providing \$200,000 to the event for each of the next three years. The funding will be used to bring strategically targeted buyers and media to the event for the three years to 2008/09, and also to develop a public day.

You can find out more from: <http://www.nzfashionweek.com/>

Some Funding Opportunities

Lottery Grants Board: Regional Community Committees: closing date for applications is 1 November. The committees make grants for projects that enable or encourage community self-reliance, capacity building and stability, opportunities for social, civil or cultural participation and reducing or removing barriers to such participation. Priorities include projects that have a community or social service focus, such as developmental or preventative projects, welfare and support services, and projects that help improve the well-being of people in the community. The committees sit from 6 – 16 March 2007. More information from www.dia.govt.nz, or phone: 0800 824-824.

Building Pacific Organisations: Closing date for applications is 31 October. For programmes that help build good governance, management and administration structures in social service and community health organisations working with Pacific people in NZ. Contact I Hines or A Glen, J R McKenzie Trust, PO Box 10 006, The Terrace, Wellington, tel (04) 472 8876, fax (04) 472 5367. Email info@jrmckenzie.org.nz, web www.jrmckenzie.org.nz

CLANZ (Community Learning Aotearoa/NZ): closing date for applications is 31 October. For specific learning projects or programmes for adults. Contact CLANZ - Community Learning Aotearoa/NZ, Tertiary Education Commission, PO Box 27 048, Wellington, tel (04) 462 5200, fax (04) 499 4947. Email anne.rayner@tec.govt.nz, web www.tec.govt.nz

2006/7 Significant Community Based Project Fund: closing date for applications is 1 December 2006. The Significant Community Based Projects Fund was set up in 2005 to provide communities with a way of obtaining funds needed to complete major projects. Particular importance is placed on projects in arts, culture and heritage; sport and recreation; conservation and environment; tourism; and economic development. Funding decisions will be made in April 2007. Grants in the first funding round were awarded to the Invercargill Velodrome (up to \$1 million), the Dunedin Chinese Gardens (up to \$3.75 million), an eco-tourism attraction in the West Coast's Oparara Valley (up to \$1.8 million), Maungatautari Ecological Island (up to \$5.5 million), Auckland's ASB Showgrounds (up to \$4.7 million), and the Hawke's Bay Opera House (up to \$2.5 million).

For more information the Significant Community Based Projects Fund go to http://www.dia.govt.nz/diawebsite.nsf/wpg_URL/Services-Community-Funding-Significant-Community-Based-Projects-Fund#two. To obtain an application pack, please call the National Grants Administration Team on Freephone 0800 824-824 or email: GrantsOnline@dia.govt.nz.

Record Funding for Lottery Grants in 2005/2006: A record \$138.5 million has been transferred to the Lottery Grants Board by NZ Lotteries in 2005/2006. This figure is \$24.5 million more than was budgeted. Since NZ Lotteries began in 1987 over \$2 billion has been transferred to the Grants Board for distribution to our communities. NZ Lotteries profits are a major source of funding for Creative NZ, Sport and Recreation NZ and the NZ Film Commission. In addition more than 3,400 community organisations and projects receive lottery grants each year. Lottery Grants benefit a diverse range of projects and organisations, from bowling clubs to botanical gardens; museums to maternity services.

Background information on Lotteries grants can be found on the website of the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) at: http://www.dia.govt.nz/diawebsite.nsf/wpg_URL/Services-Lottery-Grants-Index

General

Research Report: Numbers of Sex Workers

Researchers have rejected claims that prostitution in NZ has ballooned since it was decriminalised in 2003, saying there has been no apparent increase in sex workers on the streets. The early results of a study by the Christchurch School of Medicine and Health Sciences found the number of sex workers on the streets in NZ's main centres had stayed about the same or fallen since the Prostitution Reform Act came into force.

Some of the specific findings include:

- in Auckland, researchers estimated there were 106 sex workers on the streets where prostitutes operated, considerably fewer than police estimates of 360 in 2003;
- in Wellington, 47 street workers were counted, slightly fewer than a 2003 estimate of 50; and
- in Christchurch it is estimated there are 100 street workers.

The research team is surveying a sample of sex workers about their health and safety practices, and carrying out in-depth interviews with a smaller group to help understand these. This work is due to be completed by late 2007 and will assist the statutory review of the Prostitution Reform Act.

More information on the Christchurch School of Medicine and Natural Sciences, as well as access to the press release on which this piece was sourced, can be found at: http://www.chmeds.ac.nz/departments/medicine/barry_palmer.htm

Registering with the Charities Commission: Overview

In April 2005 the Charities Act 2005 was passed (a copy is at www.legislation.govt.nz). The functions of the Charities Commission, which was set up under the Act, include:

- deciding on whether to accept applications for registration as a charitable organisation;
- monitoring annual returns submitted by charitable organisations;
- reporting and making recommendations to Government about charitable sector matters;
- promoting public trust and confidence in the charitable sector;
- encouraging the effective use of charitable resources;
- educating charitable organisations about matters of good governance, and management; and
- stimulating and promoting research about the charitable sector.

Registration as a charity is voluntary. But if you register, your organisation is given (or retains) its tax exempt status, and only charities registered with the Commission will have tax-exempt status. Once registered, your organisation also receives a registration number and is listed on the register, which is available to the public (see the Charities Register on the Commission's website).

You can apply for registration as a charitable entity if:

- your organisation is established and maintained for charitable purposes;
- your organisation is not for the private profit of any individual or organisation;

- your organisation has a name that complies with the Charities Act 2005; and
- the officers of your organisation are qualified to be officers.

A charitable purpose is one that:

- advances education;
- advances religion;
- relieves poverty; or
- is otherwise beneficial to the community.

There is provision for several groups of charities to be registered as a single entity under certain circumstances. Organisations that have a secondary or supplementary non-charitable function (such as advocacy) as part of its charitable purpose may also apply for registration.

To apply for registration, organisations have to:

- fill out an application form;
- submit a copy of their rules, constitution, trust document or similar;
- provide information about their current and proposed charitable activities;
- register the officers of the organisation.

Once registered, organisations need to file an annual return within six months of their nominated balance date; and notify the Commission within three months if certain changes occur in their organisation. For organisations with a gross annual income of over \$10,000 there is an annual return filing fee of \$50 for online filing and \$75 for paper filing.

The Charities Register will open to receive applications from charitable organisations on 1 February 2007. Registration is free. Existing charities will have until 1 July 2008 to register before their tax exemption is affected.

For more information go to <http://www.charities.govt.nz/news/updates/electronic-guide.htm>. A new Charities Commission fact sheet from the Commission called "How the Charities Act affects charitable trusts and incorporated societies" is available at http://www.charities.govt.nz/news/fact_sheets/charitable_trusts_inc_soc.htm

Animals: Research/Testing/Teaching - Attitudes

An independent national survey commissioned by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) has investigated NZers' awareness and interest in the use of animals for animals in research, testing and teaching (RTT), and the levels of support and attitudes towards it. It also explored levels of awareness of the regulations governing RTT and degree of confidence in the Animal Welfare Act 1999. Some of the findings:

- 33% of respondents expressed an interest in RTT;
- the majority agreed that the use of animals for teaching (72%) and research and testing (68%) was acceptable as long as there was no unnecessary animal suffering;
- the main reason respondents were concerned about RTT was because they felt that animals would suffer;
- the main reason they were unconcerned was because they felt it was necessary to protect human health;
- 21% of respondents declared an awareness of any rules and regulations governing the use of animals in RTT, and 37% of those declared they knew a lot about them;

- around 50% of the respondents felt less comfortable with RTT when they learned about the number of animals used each year in NZ; and
- nearly three quarters of them felt more comfortable when the membership of an animal ethics committee (AEC) was explained.

More information: animal-welfare@maf.govt.nz, or call Animal Welfare at MAF on (04) 894-0100, or write to: Animal Welfare, MAF, PO Box 2526, Wellington

Climate Summary for September 2006: NIWA

September was a month of climate extremes with record low rainfall. It was also the third equal warmest September on record with the national average temperature being 11.5 °C, 1.1 °C above normal.

September summary:

- rainfall: extremely low in the east from Wairarapa to Otago; above average in Fiordland and coastal Southland;
- significant soil moisture deficits in Central Otago, deficits developing in other eastern regions;
- temperature: above average, especially in the east from Marlborough to Central Otago;
- sunshine: very sunny in Gisborne, Otago, and inland South Canterbury; and
- very windy in the south of the South Island.

No More “Ambush Marketing” of Sports Events?

Legislation later to provide greater protection to sponsors of major sporting events from ambush marketing is planned for later on this year. Ambush marketing describes the actions of companies or advertisers who “unofficially” associate themselves, their goods or their services with sponsored events such as the Olympic or Commonwealth Games or the Rugby World Cup.

It is a form of free riding, where the ambush marketer cashes in on the goodwill and popularity of the event by creating an association between itself and the event without having to pay any sponsorship fees.

Ambush marketing has become a significant international concern, with countries such as Australia, the UK, South Africa and the West Indies moving to pass legislation to protect the commercial interests of sponsors of international sporting events.

Examples of ambush marketing include:

- at the 2006 World Cup, Lufthansa painted a soccer ball on the nose of many of its planes to the annoyance of FIFA and Emirates Air which paid a substantial sum to FIFA to be an official sponsor;
- at the 1984 Los Angeles Games, even though footwear company Converse was the official sponsor, Nike built huge murals near the LA Coliseum displaying the NIKE logo and athletes wearing NIKE clothes;
- at the Atlanta Olympic Games in 1996, Nike handed out to crowds, paper flags bearing its logo and this was picked up by television coverage; and
- at the 2006 Football World Cup, Dutch brewer, Bavaria, gave away garish orange lederhosen displaying its name to hundreds of Dutch supporters attending the match against

the Ivory Coast. Budweiser was the official beer. Stewards at the match ordered the fans to remove the garments before letting them in.

Population Reaches 4.14 Million

According to Statistics NZ, on 30 June 2006 the estimated resident population of NZ was 4,140,300. The population increased by 41,400 (1.0%) in the June 2006 year, compared with 37,400 (0.9%) in the June 2005 year.

For more information go to <http://www.stats.govt.nz/default.htm>

NZ Antarctic Medal

A new NZ Antarctic Medal has replaced the British Polar Medal. It may be awarded to NZers and other persons who either individually or as members of the NZ programme in the Antarctic region have made an outstanding contribution. The contribution can be to any one of the following: exploration; scientific research; conservation; environmental protection; knowledge of the Antarctic region; or support of NZ's objectives or operations (or both) in Antarctica. The first recipients will be announced in the 2007 New Years Honours list.

Further information may be found on the Honours Secretariat website www.honours.govt.nz

CommunityNet Advisory Group: Nomination Sought

Nominations are open for the CommunityNet Aotearoa Advisory Group. CommunityNet Aotearoa (www.community.net.nz) is an information sharing resource for New Zealand community and voluntary groups, with how-to guides, news, tools and links. The Advisory Group guides editorial policy and strategy. They advise the Department of Internal Affairs, which maintains CommunityNet as a community service. One position is open for nomination by community, voluntary and Māori organisations.

Nominations close 13 November. More information is at www.community.net.nz/communitycentre/news/national/advisory-group

New Working Holiday Scheme

A Working Holiday Scheme has been established between NZ and Estonia. This scheme enables young people from both NZ and Estonia to experience each other's countries and cultures, and to build people-to-people links between the two nations.

The scheme is the first of what is hoped will be several working holiday schemes covering the northern EU nations of Poland and the three Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. NZ now has working holiday schemes with 14 European countries. All the schemes allow people aged between 18 and 30 to travel and work for a year in the host country

Some Coming Conferences/Meetings

Community/Voluntary Sector Research Forum: convened by ANGOA, the Association of Non-Government Organisations of Aotearoa. ANGOA meetings are open to anyone interested in increasing the pool of information on the voluntary sector by carrying out research or research-related projects, or by promoting or funding research. Next meetings: Auckland Forum: 1 November 2006, 1pm - 4pm Fickling Centre, 546 Mt Albert Road, Three Kings, Auckland.

Wellington Forum: Wednesday 22 November, 1pm-4pm Auditorium, 3rd Floor, Bowen State Building, Bowen Street, Wellington. Registrations: email dave.henderson@angoa.org.nz

Annual Treaty Workers Gathering, Waikato Anti-Racism Coalition, Hamilton, 27-29 October 2006. See <http://www.community.net.nz/communitycentre/Events/National/treaty-workers.htm>

Building Bridges Conference, Community Mental Health sector, Christchurch, 30 October - 1 November 2006. See <http://www.conference.co.nz/index.cfm/buildingbridges2006>

Involve 06 Creativity Diversity Connection, NZ Association for Adolescent Health and Development, Lincoln University, Christchurch, 1-3 November 2006. See <http://www.involve.org.nz/>

Conference - Asian Health and Wellbeing, Centre for Asian Health and Research Evaluation, Auckland, 11 and 13 - 14 November 2006. See <http://www.health.auckland.ac.nz/population-health/cahre/conference/>

Appointments and Departures

Three re-appointments to the *Takeovers Panel* are Alastair Lawrence (for two years), and Colin Giffney and David Quigg (for five years). Bob Francis will be the new *Chair of the board of Wairarapa DHB*, and Ian MacLennan has been appointed to the *board of Nelson Marlborough DHB*. Selwyn Katene has been appointed as new *General Manager of the Mental Health Commission*. Former Ngai Tahu Development Corporation Chief Executive Ray Watson has been appointed as a *Mental Health Commissioner*. A new appointment to the *board of Te Papa Tongarewa* is Dr John Henderson. Air Marshal Bruce Ferguson is the new *Director of the Government Communications Security Bureau (GCSB)*. Professor John Burrows QC has been appointed as a *Commissioner of the Law Commission*. *Director of Civil Aviation*, John Jones, is to retire from on 30 November 2006 and the *Chair of the Civil Aviation Authority*, Ron Tannock, has resigned. Richard Westlake has been reappointed as a member and *Chair of the Standards Council*. Professor Bob Buckle from Wellington's Victoria University has been selected as the new *Chair of the APEC Economic Committee* starting in 2007. Hamilton primary school principal, Irene Cooper, has been re-elected *National President of NZEI Te Riu Roa*, the country's largest education union.

Craig and Paddy

Rural Bulletin is a free publication produced by Rural Women NZ. 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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Printing Rural Bulletin

The publication and circulation of Rural Bulletin has been a partnership since 1992, with many communities reproducing some or all of it for local distribution. This helps with circulation, and contributes to the cost of publishing.

To print the full Rural Bulletin its easy to use the PDF formatted version (which is also on Rural Women's website at www.ruralwomen.org).

If you want to print a selection of articles but not the whole document, use the Word version rather than the PDF one. With Word you can easily cut and paste items you want into a smaller document for printing, or you can select and print individual articles.

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