

Rural Bulletin

October 2008



Rural
Women
NEW ZEALAND

www.ruralwomen.org.nz

Contents

Consultation

| | |
|--|---|
| Building Sustainable Communities: Have Your Say..... | 3 |
| NAIT Takes to the Road..... | 3 |
| The Starter Home Competition: Design NZ's Affordable Home .. | 3 |
| Priorities for Ambulances – Have Your Say..... | 3 |
| Five Current Fishing Consultations..... | 4 |
| Review of Regulations June 2009..... | 4 |
| Fisheries Treaty Strategy: Discussion Paper..... | 4 |
| Maori Aquaculture Settlement Plan: Consultation..... | 4 |
| Auckland Islands Squid Fishery Proposals..... | 4 |
| Te Wakatehaua Taiapure-Local Fishery Decision In Principle | 4 |
| Five MAF Biosecurity NZ Discussion Papers..... | 5 |
| The Draft Biosecurity Surveillance Strategy..... | 5 |
| Collecting Statistics on Animals Used in Research, Testing and Teaching..... | 5 |
| The American Foulbrood National Pest Management Strategy..... | 5 |
| Proposed Changes to Ruminant Protein Regulations..... | 5 |
| Proposal to Prohibit Use of Rodent Glueboard Traps..... | 5 |
| IRD Consultations: Compulsory Deductions from Bank Accounts..... | 5 |
| Research and Development Tax Credit..... | 5 |
| A Code of Practice for Cranes: Consultation..... | 5 |
| Consultation Reminders..... | 5 |
| No More Driving with Hand-Held Mobile Phones?..... | 5 |
| A National Policy on Urban Design?..... | 6 |
| Franchising: to Regulate or Not to Regulate?..... | 6 |
| War Pensions Act Review..... | 6 |

Rural

| | |
|--|---|
| Walking Access Bill Passes into Law..... | 6 |
| Rural Assistance Payments Increase..... | 6 |
| RWNZ Seeking Stories About Rural Women for Country Calendar..... | 6 |
| Pregnant Women Offer Insights for Asthma Research..... | 6 |
| Tell Your Story to ACC..... | 6 |
| Changes to “Recognised Seasonal Employer” Scheme..... | 7 |
| Crop & Food Research and HortResearch to Merge..... | 7 |

Environment

| | |
|---|---|
| NZ's Extended Seabed Rights Recognised..... | 7 |
| Wellington Named Green Trail-blazer..... | 7 |
| Kerikeri Basin Purchase..... | 7 |
| Wetland Purchase..... | 7 |
| Hawea National Park Created..... | 8 |
| New Mataitai Reserve in Southland..... | 8 |
| Mangawhai Coastal Walkway Opens..... | 8 |
| Hunting and Conservation Committee Established..... | 8 |

Tourism

| | |
|--|---|
| Olympics Takes a Toll on Visitor Arrivals..... | 8 |
| International Visitor Survey Results..... | 8 |

Health and Welfare

| | |
|---|----|
| Government Ratifies UN Disability Convention..... | 8 |
| Select Committee Report on Care and Services for Disabled People..... | 8 |
| Children's Commissioner: Report on Child Poverty..... | 9 |
| Primary Care Workforce Report..... | 9 |
| New Resident Medical Officer Commission..... | 9 |
| Rollies No Safer than Tailor-Mades..... | 9 |
| Smokefree Campaign Results..... | 9 |
| Check for Melanoma..... | 9 |
| New HIV Medication..... | 10 |
| Increases in Hearing Aid Subsidies for Older People..... | 10 |
| Four Reports About the Closing of Kimberley..... | 10 |

Education

| | |
|--|----|
| New Safety and Accountability in Education Bill..... | 10 |
|--|----|

Housing

| | |
|--|----|
| More Mortgages Qualify for KiwiSaver Mortgage Diversion..... | 10 |
| Buyers and Sellers of Property: Survey Results..... | 10 |

Transport

| | |
|--|----|
| Free Off-Peak Travel for SuperGold Card Holders..... | 11 |
| Public Transport Management Bill Passed..... | 11 |
| First Electric Car for Sale in NZ..... | 11 |
| NZ's Most Stolen Cars Named..... | 11 |



CONNECTING
NEW ZEALANDERS



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Energy

| | |
|--|----|
| Latest NZ Energy Quarterly Facts | 11 |
| Legislation Passes to Enable Sustainable Biofuels | 11 |
| Lines Companies: Investing in Electricity Generation | 11 |
| Electricity and Gas Complaints Commission | 12 |
| EGCC's Complaints Process | 12 |

Employment

| | |
|---|----|
| ACC Law Change Comes Into Force..... | 12 |
| Employment Protections for Casuals and Temps..... | 12 |
| Tips for Boomers Seeking Work | 13 |
| Young Contractors: Health & Safety Regulation Changes | 13 |
| Allowing the Transfer of Public Holidays..... | 13 |
| Transgender Rights in the Workplace..... | 13 |

Justice/the Law

| | |
|---|----|
| Enduring Powers of Attorney: Changes in the Law | 14 |
| Pay Your Fines or..... | 14 |

Not-for-Profits

| | |
|---------------------------------|----|
| New CommunityCentral Site | 14 |
|---------------------------------|----|

Business

| | |
|--|----|
| NZ Still One of the World's Best Places for Business | 14 |
| US: Free Trade Negotiations with Trans-Pacific Partnership.... | 14 |
| Exports/Imports Still Showing Strong Growth..... | 15 |
| Food Control Plan Distributed | 15 |
| Consumers Favour "Green" Companies..... | 15 |
| New Business Emissions Calculator..... | 15 |
| Extra Funds for Business Incubators | 15 |
| Standards and Accreditation Bill Introduced..... | 15 |

Money Matters

| | |
|---|----|
| Food Price Index: August..... | 16 |
| More Working Families Using Budget Services..... | 16 |
| Step-By-Step Financial Road Map For Kiwis..... | 16 |
| Giving is Now Worth More! | 16 |
| Sending Money Between NZ and the Pacific Gets Cheaper..... | 16 |
| Lottery Funding for 2008/2009 | 16 |
| A Bank is a Bank is a Bank? Not Quite... Bank Definitions | 17 |
| Electronic Card Spending Increases..... | 17 |
| New Tax Treaties | 17 |

Treaty Matters

| | |
|---|----|
| Central North Island Forests Land Collective Settlement Bill Passed..... | 17 |
| Te Roroa Claims Settlement Enacted..... | 17 |
| Affiliate Te Arawa Iwi and Hapu Claims Settlement Bill Passes | 17 |
| First Ever Combined Agreement in Principle Signed..... | 17 |
| Ngati Manawa Agreement in Principle..... | 18 |
| Agreement in Principle with Ngati Kahu..... | 18 |
| Ngati Ranginui Terms of Negotiation Signed..... | 18 |

Elections

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| Unable to Vote on Election Day? | 18 |
| Searching for Overseas Voters | 18 |

Internet/ICT

| | |
|---|----|
| Four Billion Cellphone Subscribers This Year? | 18 |
|---|----|

Arts & Culture

| | |
|--|----|
| Copyright: Commissioning Rule to be Repealed..... | 19 |
| Parody & Satire Copyright Review..... | 19 |
| Public Lending Right for NZ Authors Bill Passes..... | 19 |
| Maori TV to Chair World Indigenous TV Broadcasters Network | 19 |
| 2008 WriteMark Plain English Awards..... | 20 |
| Katherine Mansfield Short Fiction Prizes | 20 |
| Film Industry Co-operation | 20 |
| Creative NZ Randell Cottage Writers Residency..... | 20 |

General

| | |
|---|----|
| NIWA's Overall Spring Picture | 20 |
| Measuring the Competitiveness of Knowledge Economies..... | 20 |
| Funding for More Genomics Research | 21 |
| Referendum on Smacking for 2009 | 21 |
| Maori Language Week Awards 2008 | 21 |
| Career Decisions & the Gender Pay Gap: MWA Report | 21 |
| New Korean Service Medals | 21 |
| Tongan Aid Strategy..... | 22 |
| Princess Royal to Visit Next Month..... | 22 |
| Conferences/Festivals | 22 |
| Diwali in Auckland and Wellington | 22 |
| Conference: Volume or Value? | 22 |
| Leadership Metamorphosis | 22 |
| Parent to Parent Conference..... | 22 |
| Funding/Award Opportunities..... | 22 |
| Community Conservation Fund for Projects on Public Land | 22 |
| The 2008/09 Community Partnership Fund (CPF) | 22 |
| Veuve Clicquot Award | 23 |
| Community Internship Programme..... | 23 |
| Lottery Grants Board's Regional Community Committees .. | 23 |
| Kelloggs Rural Leadership Programme: Closing Soon | 23 |
| Rural Woman NZ Award..... | 23 |
| Appointments..... | 23 |

Consultation

Building Sustainable Communities: Have Your Say

A discussion paper called "Building sustainable urban communities – designing a place-based approach to sustainable urban development in NZ" has been published by The Department of Internal Affairs.

Sustainable urban development is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural quality of life in a city without leaving a burden on future generations. According to the NZ Urban Design Protocol, sustainable towns and cities are liveable, environmentally responsible and competitive, thriving, creative and innovative. They also offer opportunities for all, and have a distinctive identity, a shared vision and good governance.

By world standards, NZ is a highly urbanised nation, with 72% of the population living in the 16 main urban areas - around 33% of the population live in the Auckland urban region alone - and another 14% live in smaller towns.

The way NZ's towns and cities have developed is the result of both deliberate planning and the choices and decisions made by investors, property developers and home buyers. The location and type of housing available has a big influence on economic performance, social cohesion, and the ability of a large number of NZers to lead sustainable, productive and enjoyable lives. The quality and location of retail and commercial buildings, of our community services and amenities like schools and recreational facilities also matter, because people need to be able to get between home, work, shops, offices, schools, parks and playgrounds relatively easily.

NZ is increasingly seeing significant economic, social, environmental and cultural changes in its urban areas. It is also dealing with issues such as affordable housing, increased fuel prices, congestion, pollution, social disadvantage, climate change, population growth, rapid technological change and changing demographics.

The discussion paper outlines a possible approach to sustainable urban development with a view to encouraging the development of sustainable urban areas that contain a number of housing choices.

Submissions close on 28 November 2008. They go to sudu@dia.govt.nz or Sustainable Urban Development Unit, DIA, PO Box 805, Wellington 6011. The discussion paper is at http://www.dia.govt.nz/diawebsite.nsf/wpg_URL/Resource-material-Building-Sustainable-Urban-Communities-Index?OpenDocument. Copies are also in public libraries and the offices of local authorities, or you can email sudu@dia.govt.nz or tel freephone 0800 824 824 for one

NAIT Takes to the Road

A roadshow outlining covering the proposed National Animal Identification and Tracing system (NAIT) will shortly be underway, with the aim of getting feedback on the scheme so it can be fine-tuned.

The aim of NAIT is improve NZ's ability to respond quickly to biosecurity alerts and to provide food safety assurance to consumers (international markets are increasingly demanding traceability of meat products).

Electronic tracing of cattle and deer under NAIT is expected to be a regulatory requirement by mid 2011, and the system will allow for the future inclusion of other animal species, such as sheep.

The roadshow will visit the Gisborne Show on 16 October and the Waikato Show on 31 October. It will also visit farmer organisations. For more information/to arrange a meeting email craig.purcell@nait.org.nz or tel 07 825 2248

The Starter Home Competition: Design NZ's Affordable Home

The Starter Home Design Competition is aimed at encouraging designers, architects, builders and students to come up with innovative designs and solutions for good quality, affordable homes that offer flexibility and functionality for first-home buyers. The competition is being run by the Department of Building and Housing (DBH) and the winning design will be built by the Housing NZ Corporation. The competition uses the DBH's proposed "Compliance Document for Simple Housing" as a design guide. There are two categories, with cash prizes for the winners and runners-up. Entries will be judged by a panel of building sector experts, chaired by Gordon Moller.

The competition runs from until 19 November 2008 for open entries and 26 November 2008 for student entries. More information is at <http://www.dbh.govt.nz/designcomp-index>. An entry form is at <http://www.dbh.govt.nz/designcomp-rules>

Priorities for Ambulances – Have Your Say

The question of the priority the public believes should be given to appropriate ambulance crew levels - against other measures which might improve services - is being publicly consulted on, in a follow-on from the recent release of the draft NZ Ambulance Service Strategy*. The National Ambulance Sector Office (NASO) is asking for feedback on the following questions:

- Is the vision set out in the draft strategy the right one?
- Does the draft strategy contain all the key elements you think are necessary, and does it accurately identify which issues are most important?
- What sequence would you give to the initiatives identified in the draft strategy? (Achieving the vision will require sustained work over a number of years, so it's important to identify what things should be addressed first.)

People are being asked about how important they believe double crewing is for all ambulance services - given that many less populated parts of the country have relatively few call-outs, additional funding in other areas may give greater local benefit.

*Proposals under the Ambulance Service Strategy include, among other things, extending the role of the paramedic to enable them to treat people at home); and simplifying ACC and Ministry of Health funding arrangements.

Submissions close 12 December 2008. For more information about this consultation go to <http://naso.govt.nz/consultation/>, or contact NASO, 133 Molesworth Street, Wellington, tel 04 816 3364, fax 04 816 4484, email inquire@naso.govt.nz

Five Current Fishing Consultations

Review of Regulations June 2009...

The Fisheries Ministry is reviewing management controls in a number of areas for June 2009. Amongst them:

- net mesh minimums (it's proposed to broaden the range of fish species exempted from the 100 mm minimum net mesh specification);
- codes for a number of species;
- a review of Fisheries Observer fees;
- Southland and Sub Antarctic co-ordinates changes;
- a review of potting definitions (proposes amending commercial and amateur fishing regulations to allow the potting method of catching fish to be used to take octopus, blue cod, paddle crabs, deepwater crabs, and hagfish); and
- recreational charter vessels (proposed changes would require all marine recreational charter vessel operators to register their vessels with MFish and report monthly on fishing activity – and in some cases report on catches).

Submissions close on 22 October 2008. They go to T Steel, Executive Assistant, Ministry of Fisheries, P O Box 1020, Wellington, fax 04 819 4208, email tracey.steel@fish.govt.nz. The paper is at <http://www.fish.govt.nz/en-nz/Consultations/Review-of+Regulatory+Measures+1+June+2009/default.htm>

...Fisheries Treaty Strategy: Discussion Paper...

The Ministry of Fisheries has published a Treaty Strategy discussion paper outlining a proposed input and participation process for its Treaty consultation process. It says that some parts of the process are necessary to allow the Minister of Fisheries to meet statutory obligations, and others are part of good fisheries management. The Ministry is seeking responses to the following questions:

- What would a good input and participation process look like?
- Are there things you think should be included that it has missed?
- What would be the most effective use for the resources available to carry out this work?

MFish have scheduled hui around the country to discuss the Treaty Strategy proposals with tangata whenua, and other stakeholder groups and organisations.

Submissions close on 31 October 2008. They go to Input and Participation Process Submissions, Fisheries Policy, Ministry of Fisheries, PO Box 1020, Wellington, email mfish.policy@fish.govt.nz. The discussion paper is at http://www.fish.govt.nz/en-nz/Consultations/TS+input+and+participation/default.htm?wbc_purpose=bas

...Maori Aquaculture Settlement Plan: Consultation...

The Minister of Fisheries has released a draft Maori Commercial Aquaculture Settlement (MCAS) plan for consultation. The MCAS represents full and final settlement of all Maori claims to commercial aquaculture space since 21 September 1992. It provides iwi with 20% of all new space created after 1 January 2005 – the “new space obligation”. It

also provides iwi with the equivalent of 20% of existing space created between 21 September 1992 and 1 January 2005 – the “pre-commencement” space obligation.

The purpose of the plan (which only deals with the obligation relating to pre-commencement space) is to provide certainty about how the settlement assets will be delivered to iwi by 2014. The Ministry is particularly interested in submissions on:

- how the Crown might purchase marine farms;
- how the Crown will determine the financial equivalent;
- the proposed valuation methodology; and
- the potential options to amend the Act to improve the delivery of settlement assets to iwi.

It is also interested in other comments about how the Crown can meet its pre-commencement obligation.

Submissions close on 31 October 2008. They go to aquaculture.settlement@fish.govt.nz, or The Aquaculture Settlement, Ministry of Fisheries, PO Box 19747, Avondale 1746, Auckland. The plan is at <http://www.fish.govt.nz/NR/rdonlyres/F0B4C1C7-6F78-494B-ABD1-C47B941F64C9/0/MaoriAquaPlanWeb.pdf>

...Auckland Islands Squid Fishery Proposals...

The Ministry of Fisheries (MFish) is consulting on an initial plan for the 2008-09 squid fishery around the Auckland Islands (SQU6T). The plan is aimed at minimising sea lion mortalities caused by trawl fishing by imposing a fishing-related mortality limit (FRML).

Submissions close on 31 October 2008. They go to T Steel, Ministry of Fisheries, PO Box 1020, Wellington, or faxed to 04 470-2669, email Tracey.Steel@fish.govt.nz. The plan is at <http://www.fish.govt.nz/NR/rdonlyres/0EB78286-3DDF-4E4F-86BC-E9AE3F04FB1F/0/SQU6TOperationalPlan200809InitialPositionPaper.pdf> More information: A Martin, tel 04 819 4675

...& Te Wakatehaua Taiapure-Local Fishery Decision In Principle

The Fisheries Minister has agreed in principle to a proposed taiapure (local fishery) in the waters surrounding Te Wakatehaua Island (the Bluff), Ninety Mile Beach. Your views are sought on the proposal, which was submitted on behalf of Te Aupouri, tangata whenua of the area. Taiapure (local fisheries) can be established in areas of special significance to an iwi or hapu as a source of food or for spiritual or cultural reasons. They allow tangata whenua to become involved in managing commercial and non-commercial fishing in the taiapure-local fishery.

Submissions close on 11 November 2008. Copies of the proposal and a map of the proposed taiapure-local fishery are available on the Ministry of Fisheries website at www.fish.govt.nz and submissions on the proposal should be made to the Registrar, Whangarei Maori Land Court, Level 2 Manaia House, Rathbone St, PO Box 1764, Whangarei

Five MAF Biosecurity NZ Discussion Papers

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry's Biosecurity NZ (MAFBNZ) has published five discussion papers for your comment. All the discussion papers are at <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/strategy-and-consultation/consultation/current>. They cover:

The Draft Biosecurity Surveillance Strategy...

You input is sought on the draft Biosecurity Surveillance Strategy to make sure that the proposed direction of and the goals set for biosecurity surveillance are appropriate. When completed this strategy will guide decision making by Government in the area of biosecurity surveillance for the next 10 years.

Submissions close on 5 November 2008. Email them to NZBiosecuritySurveillance@maf.govt.nz, or use the feedback form at <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/files/biosec/consult/surveillance-strategy-feedback-form.doc>. For more information email NZBiosecuritySurveillance@maf.govt.nz.

...Collecting Statistics on Animals Used in Research, Testing and Teaching...

MAFBNZ is seeking your feedback on the regularity with which statistics are collected on the use of animals in research, testing and teaching in NZ. The paper explains the reporting requirements of the Animal Welfare (Records and Statistics) Regulations 1999, notes that current reporting practice differs from those requirements, and seeks feedback on two options for collecting statistics that relate to projects that would span more than one calendar year.

Submissions close on 7 November 2008. They go to F Matthews, Policy and Risk, MAF Biosecurity NZ, PO Box 2526, Wellington 6140, email fleur.matthews@maf.govt.nz, fax 04 894 0730

...The American Foulbrood National Pest Management Strategy...

American foulbrood is a serious disease of honeybees. A ten-year American Foulbrood Pest Management Strategy expiring this year imposed requirements on beekeepers and others in their management of American foulbrood. This strategy is being reviewed to find out if it should be continued, and if so whether it needs amending.

Submissions close on 28 November 2008. They go to H Foran, Policy and Risk, MAF Biosecurity NZ, PO Box 2526, Wellington, email holly.foran@maf.govt.nz

...Proposed Changes to Ruminant Protein Regulations...

NZ livestock are free from bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE or "mad cow disease"). MAF Biosecurity NZ administers the regulations which protect NZ's BSE-free status, and it is seeking your feedback on some changes it is recommending to them.

Submissions close on 31 October 2008. They go to S Mannan, MAF Biosecurity NZ, PO Box 2526, Wellington, email shari.mannan@maf.govt.nz, fax 04 894 0417

...& a Proposal to Prohibit Use of Rodent Glueboard Traps

In 2000, the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC) recommended to the Minister of Agriculture that the importation, sale and use of glueboards be prohibited in NZ. This discussion paper follows up on that recommendation.

Submissions close on 31 October 2008. They go to Policy Analyst, MAF Biosecurity NZ, PO Box 2526, Wellington, email shari.mannan@maf.govt.nz, fax 04 894 0417

IRD Consultations: Compulsory Deductions from Bank Accounts...

The draft Standard Practice Statement ED0106 sets out the Department of Inland Revenue's (IRD's) practice on the use of statutory notices issued to banks requiring deductions from customer's accounts.

Submissions close on: 3 November 2008. They go to public.consultation@ird.govt.nz, or Team Manager, Technical Services, Office of the Chief Tax Counsel, National Office, IRD, PO Box 2198, Wellington. More is at <http://www.ird.govt.nz/resources/file/eb667a46935ed8c/ed0106.pdf>

...& Research and Development Tax Credit

IRD is also consulting on two proposed additions to the Research and Development (R&D) tax credit online guide. The first deals with issues that arise in identifying eligible R&D in information technology and computer science. The second would replace the existing guide on R&D activities involving "an appreciable element of novelty".

Submissions close on 18 November 2008. They go to public.consultation@ird.govt.nz, or the postal address immediately above. More is at <http://www.ird.govt.nz/resources/file/eb64ab44fa5cbf6/rd-tax-credit-consultation-additional-material.pdf>

A Code of Practice for Cranes: Consultation

The Department of Labour is seeking feedback on a new draft of an "Approved Code of Practice for Cranes". The code is a statement of preferred work arrangements developed to ensure the health and safety of people involved with cranes. It covers all kinds of crane, including: dockside, pillar, truck loader, mobile, self erecting and container cranes. It also covers the following equipment when being used as a crane: forklift trucks, material handlers, telehandlers, and earthmoving and forestry equipment.

Submissions close on 25 October 2008. They go to N Jensen, Senior Advisor, Standard Setting, Department of Labour, PO Box 3705, Wellington, fax 04 915 6239, email nikki.jensen@dol.govt.nz. More is at <http://www.dol.govt.nz/consultation/acop/intro.asp>

Consultation Reminders

No More Driving with Hand-Held Mobile Phones?

A reminder that amongst a number of proposed amendments to the Land Transport (Road User) Rule 2004 is a ban on the

use of mobile phones while driving (hands-free phone kits would remain legal). Other proposals for change relate to such things as use of footpaths, firearms and child safety locks in taxis. The NZ Transport Agency is proposing that the amended Rule will come into effect on 1 July 2009.

Submissions close on 16 October. The Rule is at <http://www.nzta.govt.nz/consultation/road-user-amendment/docs/draft-road-user-amendment.pdf>, or tel 04 894 5400

A National Policy on Urban Design?

The Ministry for the Environment (MfE) is currently seeking submissions on the development of a National Policy Statement (NPS) on Urban Design. Urban design is about the design of the buildings, places, spaces and networks that make up towns and cities, and the ways people use them. The Ministry is asking whether an NPS on Urban Design should be developed, and if so what issues of national significance it should address, and in what order.

Submissions close on 30 September 2008. They go to greg.vossler@mfe.govt.nz, or to the Ministry for the Environment, PO Box 10362, Wellington 6143. A background paper is at <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/rma/central/nps/urban-design/scoping-a-nps-on-urban-design.html>

Franchising: to Regulate or Not to Regulate?

Your views are sought on a Ministry of Economic Development (MED) discussion paper on possible regulation of business format franchising (franchising based on a long-term contract). This kind of franchising is collaborative and interdependent, but also unequal: because a franchisor has its name and reputation at stake, it is often able to exert considerable control over the operations of a franchisee's business.

The closing date for submissions is Friday 21 November 2008. Submissions go to Review of Franchising Regulation, Ministry of Economic Development, PO Box 1473, Wellington 6140, email: franchisereview@med.govt.nz. The discussion paper is at http://www.med.govt.nz/templates/MultipageDocumentTOC_37853.aspx

War Pensions Act Review

The Law Commission is reviewing the War Pensions Act, in close consultation with the RNZRSA. It says our current War Pensions Act is out of date and needs to be rewritten in order to meet the needs of current and future veterans. The Commission has published an issues paper on which your views are sought.

Submissions close on 28 November 2008. They go to Law Commission, PO Box 2590, Wellington 6011. This issues paper is at www.lawcom.govt.nz

Rural

Walking Access Bill Passes into Law

The Walking Access Bill has now passed into law. It creates a Walking Access Commission that will clarify, promote and extend walking access to lakes and waterways throughout NZ.

It will also draw up a code of conduct, provide co-ordination to help local groups with access issues and mediate any disputes of walking access. The Bill reflects the consensus reported by the Walking Access Consultation Panel that new walking access over private land should be achieved by negotiation and agreement.

Rural Assistance Payments Increase

In recent months there has been a series of events – first drought, then snow, then floods - and the follow-on impact on land based industries can often continue for a long period of time. Farming families experiencing hardship from these events can get extra support following an increase to the Rural Assistance Payment (from 75% of the applicable Unemployment Benefit to 100%).

More information about Rural Assistance Payments is on the Work and Income website: www.workandincome.govt.nz, or the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry website: www.maf.govt.nz. You can also call freephone 0800 559 009

RWNZ Seeking Stories About Rural Women for Country Calendar

Through Rural Women NZ (RWNZ) Country Calendar is searching for stories for its 2009 TV series and the programme wants some that focus on women. The stories can be based anywhere around the country. Key factors in selection are relaxed people who will come across well on TV, a good story line and enough material for a half-hour programme.

Suggestions for stories go to enquiries@ruralwomen.org.nz. Include contact details, and also a brief profile of the women involved, a short description of the focus of the suggested story, and reasons why you think it should be selected for the series

Pregnant Women Offer Insights for Asthma Research

The Centre for Public Health Research says asthma and allergies are becoming more common in NZ but living on a farm may protect children against developing these conditions. The research so far indicates children whose mothers have been frequently exposed to farm animals during pregnancy had a 50% reduction in the risk of having asthma, hay fever or eczema. The researchers now want to find out which specific aspects of animal contact during pregnancy are protective. In order to do this they need pregnant women from both farming and non-farming backgrounds to help.

For more information contact H Duckett email: h.g.duckett@massey.ac.nz or call 0800 000 544

Tell Your Story to ACC

ACC is continuing with its agriculture safety campaign and wants to hear from farmers who've been injured on the farm who are willing to describe how the injury has affected them and those around them. The idea is to share the lessons learned. The stories will be published in Country-Wide Northern and Southern.

If you're interested in helping spread the safety in farming message, please email megan.nagel@acc.co.nz or call Megan on (04) 918 7497

Changes to “Recognised Seasonal Employer” Scheme

Changes are being made to Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) scheme, which enables employers in the horticulture and viticulture industries to recruit up to 5,000 workers a year from overseas to meet labour shortages, if there are no NZers available. They include:

- improving pre-departure orientation information for RSE workers so they will know what to expect when they arrive in NZ;
- employers will need plans to ensure good cross-cultural communication, and effective and fair dispute resolution;
- RSE workers will be able to change between RSE employers; and
- employers will be required on request to fully disclose all payments received from workers.

In addition, the Department of Labour, which oversees the scheme, is:

- investigating ways of keeping health costs manageable for RSE workers;
- developing a good practice induction guide to assist employers;
- exploring ways of improving the induction and training provided to workers; and
- considering the establishment of liaison officers to help with worker/employers/pastoral care provider communication.

Crop & Food Research and HortResearch to Merge

The two Crown research institutes (CRI) HortResearch and Crop & Food Research are to merge into a single CRI on 1 December 2008. HortResearch currently has 541 staff and in 2007/08 earned revenue of \$65 million. It is acknowledged as a world leader in integrated fruit research. Crop & Food Research currently has 380 staff and in 2007/08 earned revenue of \$56 million. Its key research focus is engaging with industry in producing and transforming high-quality raw materials into high-value foods. A name for the new CRI will be announced before 1 December 2008.

Environment

NZ’s Extended Seabed Rights Recognised

NZ’s rights over around 1.7 million square kilometres of seabed have been confirmed by the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf. The confirmation follows a submission to the Commission on the outer limits of NZ’s continental shelf that was prepared over a period of 10 years. The continental shelf is the area of seabed outside NZ’s existing 200 nautical mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), and the area confirmed is more than six times the size of NZ’s land area.

The boundary will be binding on other countries, so NZ can now exercise its rights to the continental shelf, including future rights to resources such as minerals and petroleum.

The Executive Summary of NZ’s submission is at http://www.un.org/Depts/los/clcs_new/submissions_files/submission_nzl.htm
Information on the preparation of the submission is at <http://www.lin.govt.nz/hydro/projects-programmes/continental-shelf/index.aspx>.
Information on the continental shelf is at <http://www.mfat.govt.nz/Treaties-and-International-Law/04-Law-of-the-Sea-and-Fisheries/NZ-Continental-Shelf-and-Maritime-Boundaries.php>

Wellington Named Green Trail-blazer

Wellington has been recognised for its sustainable green initiatives in a prestigious international survey. Business ethics and anti-corruption promoters Ethisphere Institute has selected Wellington as one of 10 mid-sized cities around the world that are leading the way in sustainability. The institute took into account several factors before selecting its top cities, including the state of the local economy and the level of international acclaim of each city. It also considered whether cities had “a plan in place to shift their bulky, mega-hub selves” on to an environmentally sustainable path so that by 2020 they would be sustainability role models.

The Institute noted that more than 60% of new residential growth in Wellington was in the central city. It said “The city has already established several effective initiatives to handle growth in a sustainable manner, such as its Southern Landfill which generates electricity through gas produced from waste in the landfill. It also has a well-established public transport system, used by a good chunk of its residents.”

The leading sustainability cities with population below 600,000: Copenhagen, Denmark; Doha, Qatar; Edinburgh, Scotland; Helsinki, Finland; Oslo, Norway; Portland, US; Reykjavik, Iceland; Victoria, Canada; Wellington, NZ; Rotterdam, Netherlands. More information: <http://ethisphere.com/>

Kerikeri Basin Purchase

The last remaining block of land still in private ownership in the Kororipo-Kerikeri Basin has been purchased by the Government. The property has been owned by the Kemp family since the mid 1800s. The purchase protects an historic part of the basin, while allowing for footpaths and access to the land from a new car park to be established behind the property.

The Kerikeri Basin is considered by many historians to be one of NZ’s most important cultural and historic sites, and the Government recently announced that it is promoting the basin as a potential World Heritage Site.

Wetland Purchase

A total of 240 hectares of wetland and regenerating native forest in Waituna, Southland, has been purchased by the Nature Heritage Fund. It is significant as it links two internationally significant wetland blocks, the Waituna Wetland Scientific Reserve and the large Toestoes Conservation Area, both of which form part of NZ’s largest RAMSAR recognised wetland.

Note: The Ramsar Convention is an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable utilization of wetland. The Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance now includes 1,755 sites (known as Ramsar Sites) covering around 1,610,000 km². Find out more at: <http://www.ramsar.org/>

Hawea National Park Created

The new 105,000 hectare Hawea Conservation Park in Otago is the ninth high country park created since 2000. It is located between Mount Aspiring National Park and Ahuriri Conservation Park, and covers the big catchments feeding into Lake Hawea. It brings the development of a network of high country parks in the South Island another step closer.

New Mataitai Reserve in Southland

A new mataitai reserve has been established over waters within Waikawa Harbour, Porpoise Bay, Curio Bay and the lower section of the Waikawa River. Commercial fishing is now banned within the 7.02 km² mataitai reserve but recreational and customary fishers can still fish there. Mataitai reserves are established under the South Island customary fishing regulations. They recognise traditional Maori fishing grounds that are important for customary food gathering. They also allow local Maori to advise the Fisheries Minister directly on how best to manage fishing in the local area.

Mangawhai Coastal Walkway Opens

A new Coastal Walkway has been established at Mangawhai, south of Whangarei. The track is eight kilometres long with stunning views of the northern Hauraki Gulf. It begins with a beach walk, has three kilometres of cliff top track and an elaborate boardwalk through native coastal forest.

For more information about the Mangawhai Walkway see:
www.doc.govt.nz/templates/trackandwalk.aspx?id=36948

Hunting and Conservation Committee Established

A new Wild Animal Control Advisory Committee (WACAC) is to focus on improving hunters' recreational experience and their contribution to conservation by advising the Minister and Department of Conservation (DOC) on best-practice from around the country. Another committee will also be appointed to establish a Big Game Hunting Council to represent and advocate for all hunting sector interests.

Tourism

Olympics Takes a Toll on Visitor Arrivals

A dip in Chinese visitor arrivals in August has demonstrated the importance of this growing market to NZ's tourism industry. The "stay at home" influence of the Olympics and a continued ban on government travel after the May Sichuan earthquake resulted in a 29% drop (2600) in Chinese visitor arrivals in August. Overall, visitor arrivals to NZ were down 1.4% in August 2008, a decrease of 2,300 people from August 2007.

Details include: Australia 79,178 up 1.3%; UK 11,792 down 6.9%; USA 10,010 down 5.8%; Canada 2,134 up 4.3%; China 6,446 down 28.5%; Korea 6,336 up 10.3%; Japan 9,108 down 7.8%.

International Visitor Survey Results

The Ministry of Tourism's International Visitor Survey shows international visitor spend increased by almost five percent in the year to June 2008, up to \$6.2 billion. Key markets where spending increased include: Australia – up 16.5% to \$1.7 billion, the United Kingdom – up 13.7% to \$1 billion, Japan – up 10.6% to \$426 million, Korea – up 6.5% to \$256 million and Singapore – up 6.4% to \$62 million.

Decreases in spend were recorded in the US, Chinese, Taiwanese, German and Canadian markets.

To view the survey go to: www.tourismresearch.govt.nz

Health and Welfare

Government Ratifies UN Disability Convention

The United Nations Disability Convention was ratified by NZ last month. This Convention sets out what countries should do to ensure disabled people can enjoy human rights on an equal basis with others. It places obligations on them to set up, promote, protect and ensure those rights and to carefully monitor them.

Earlier this year NZ was awarded the 2007 Roosevelt International Disability Award. This Award recognises countries that have made sustained improvements, over time, in the lives of disabled people through economic, humanitarian and social efforts.

The text of the convention and explanatory notes are at
<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/rights/ahc8adart.htm>

Select Committee Report on Care and Services for Disabled People

Following an Inquiry into the Quality of Care and Services for Disabled People the Social Services Select Committee has recommended that the Government (among other things):

- appoint an appropriately funded lead agency with responsibility for disability issues;
- make the agency responsible for ensuring that the NZ Disability Strategy is put into action effectively;
- investigate the appointment of an independent disability commissioner;
- establish a new entry point in the community for people seeking disability information;
- change the role of existing Needs Assessment and Service Coordination agencies to make sure there is no duplication with local area coordination;

- direct the relevant ministries to ensure that funding is provided in a way that allows people with disabilities more choice about their day-to-day living arrangements;
- make sure that evaluations of disability services focus on the quality of life of and opportunities for people with disabilities;
- introduce legislation to strengthen and expand the scope of government-funded advocacy and complaints services for people with disabilities; and
- establish a strategy for improving training, pay rates, and working conditions for the caring and support workforce in the disability sector.

The report is at http://www.parliament.nz/NR/rdonlyres/06259D2F-780B-40A0-9170-005C8C046E72/93089/DBSCH_SCR_4194_6219.pdf

Children's Commissioner: Report on Child Poverty

The Children's Commissioner's Report has released a report called "A Fair Go for all Children", which outlines how social and economic influences affect the wellbeing of children in NZ. The report looks at the impact of poor health and housing, child poverty in NZ, economic arguments for reducing child poverty, and the need to set goals. It also includes a summary of suggested actions to deal with child poverty under headings of: giving children a good start; supporting parents to work; ensuring an adequate income for all families with children; and setting goals and targets.

It says that poverty experienced by children in the early years or for long periods casts a shadow over the future and can lead to long-term health problems, decreased potential for gainful employment and lower adult earnings. Children who grow up poor also have a higher chance that their own children will grow up poor. In money terms, there are extra health, welfare, education and other costs. In social terms, poverty drives a wedge between those growing up with plenty and those who regularly experience hardship and social exclusion. In the future, the ongoing costs are high for society, with greater social costs, lower productivity growth and poorer economic performance.

NZ is not alone in facing these issues. Across much of the developed world child poverty has become a policy priority in recent years as countries respond to the consequences for children, their families and society as a whole.

The report is at http://www.occ.org.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0016/4921/poverty_report_execsum_m_chap1.pdf

Primary Care Workforce Report

In a recently released report, measures to address barriers to the effective use of the primary health care workforce were outlined. They include proposals to:

- review funding to enable innovation;
- resolve issues of capital investment for the providers of primary health care;
- provide professional leadership and governance; and
- develop a consistent national framework and programme for continuous quality assessment and improvement.

The Workforce Taskforce's report "Working Together for Better Primary Health Care" is available on the Ministry of Health's website: <http://www.moh.govt.nz>

New Resident Medical Officer Commission

An independent Resident Medical Officer Commission is being set up by the Ministry of Health to look at the way resident medical officers or junior doctors are employed. The Commission will make recommendations on the medical workforce needed to deliver services to meet the NZ population's health needs taking into account changing models of service delivery. The Commission will report to the Minister of Health on 6 April 2009.

Rollies No Safer than Tailor-Mades...

Ministry of Health research has found that five top-selling brands of loose tobacco used in rollies are no safer than the most commonly sold tailor-mades, and some brands actually produce more cancer-causing substances. For most of the brands tested by the Ministry it was found that the tobacco companies market as "mild" is just as harmful as "regular" tobacco. And in this testing, adding a filter made no difference to the risk of exposure to cancer-causing substances.

... & Smokefree Campaign Results

An evaluation of the Health Sponsorship Council's "Smoking Not Our Future" campaign indicates that 74% of the 939 respondents agreed that the ads make smoking seem "less cool", and 82% of those aged 12-14 years and 63% of those aged 15-17 years agreed that the ads have put them off smoking. One in four respondents reported knowing someone who has tried to quit smoking as a result of the campaign, and around half of young people who smoke reported that the ads made them think they should try and quit.

More is at www.notourfuture.co.nz

Check for Melanoma

According to researchers from the University of Otago, the incidence of the most dangerous kind of skin cancer, thick melanoma, is still not decreasing in NZ nearly 15 years after early-detection strategies were introduced to educate the public. Similar issues are now surfacing internationally where despite widespread information about early detection of thick melanoma, many are being missed and the incidence rate has not declined as expected.

In other research MoleMap NZ has found that men are 10% less likely to first recognise a potential melanoma mole than their female counterparts. However, skin cancer research from 1994 to 2004 shows that men are more than twice as likely to get melanoma on the harder to inspect area of their torso or back (41%), compared to only 19% in women, while women are twice as likely to get melanoma on their legs (39%) than men (15%).

Many melanomas go undetected because of where they are located on the body. The MoleMap study found that 10% of all diagnosed melanomas are on the head and 5% on either the soles of the hands and feet or under toenails. Acral melanomas on hands and feet show up as darker patches or streaks, and are the most common form of melanoma in Maori, Pacific Island, Asian and African populations.

Check for melanoma - for melanoma images go to www.dermet.org.nz and click on melanoma

New HIV Medication

ISENTRESS™ (raltegravir) has been approved for use in NZ. ISENTRESS is used in combination with other HIV medications and is for patients whose HIV has developed resistance to a number of the existing HIV treatments. In NZ there are around 40 people who are in this position. The next few years will see increasing numbers of patients requiring ISENTRESS. While in NZ HIV is not as prevalent as in other parts of the world, in 2007 156 new cases were diagnosed. Of those, 31 men and 29 women were infected through heterosexual contact although most acquired HIV overseas.

Increases in Hearing Aid Subsidies for Older People

If you are aged 65 or over and hold a SuperGold Card you will be able to get an increased hearing aid subsidy from the Ministry of Health. The new subsidy of up to \$500 (incl GST) per hearing aid replaces the existing subsidy of \$198. If you need two hearing aids, the total subsidy will be \$1,000 (incl GST). The subsidy is not means or asset tested.

For more information visit:
www.disabilityfunding.co.nz/internal.asp?CategoryID=100258&SubCatID=100287

Four Reports About the Closing of Kimberley

The reports, from the Donald Beasley Institute, examine the impact of the closure three years ago of the Kimberley Centre and reinforce previous findings that better outcomes are generally associated with less institutional, community based settings. The Institute found that moving residents to homes they were proud of had materially improved their well-being and allowed the former residents to recognise their own skills and develop a sense of individualism. Many former residents regained the ability to communicate, because in a community setting they were spoken to more often. The biggest gains were realised when residents were moved close to their families. This was found to have a significant impact on their quality of life. The longer the residents had been living outside the former institution, the greater the improvement generally was.

However the reports also noted that some residents had trouble adjusting and not all individuals or families were always happy with the moving process, nor all of the outcomes.

"The impact of deinstitutionalisation on the families of the Kimberley Centre residents", "An examination of the outcome of the resettlement of residents from the Kimberley Centre" and "The impact of deinstitutionalisation on the staff of the Kimberley Centre" are at <http://www.donaldbeasley.org.nz/publications.htm>

Education

New Safety and Accountability in Education Bill

Amongst other things a new Education Amendment Bill proposes:

- police vetting of all people who have unsupervised access to children during the opening hours of early childhood centres and schools;
- creation of an information matching programme to identify teachers who are teaching without a current practising certificate or authorisation; and
- removal of early leaving provisions for 15-year olds.

The Bill also offers more clarification to school boards of trustees about their roles, and increases flexibility around timing of board elections. Some technical amendments are included.

Housing

More Mortgages Qualify for KiwiSaver Mortgage Diversion

Recent amendments to mortgage diversion regulations allow more types of mortgages to qualify for the mortgage diversion facility. Kiwisaver members are now able to divert up to half of their contributions to repaying the mortgage on their home, so long as the mortgagee and the scheme provider agree. Previously the regulations only applied to mortgages like table mortgages because of concerns that people with flexible mortgages would use the diverted contributions to repay part of their mortgage then automatically borrow these contributions up to their credit limit.

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

Buyers and Sellers of Property: Survey Results

The annual Nielsen Online study into the behaviour of buyers and sellers of property shows a significant increase in homeowners planning to get a professional real estate agent to sell their property instead of a DIY sale. Some 41% of vendors say they will definitely list with a real estate agent compared to 35% last year. Last year the survey said 50% would try to sell without using an agent, and only 14% said they would definitely sell privately in 2008.

Despite the market slowing down since the last Nielsen Online survey interest in looking at property online has not dropped away. In fact over a million hours a month are spent looking at property online every month (an increase of 22% on last year) with people spending almost 3 hours (167 minutes) on average on specialist real estate websites every week.

Transport

Free Off-Peak Travel for SuperGold Card Holders

More than 500,000 SuperGold Card holders around NZ are now eligible for free off-peak public transport travel by bus, train and, where applicable, harbour ferry services within a region. Off-peak travel is from 9am to 3pm and from 6.30pm to the end of service on weekdays, and any time on weekends and public holidays. Regions that rolled out free off-peak travel on 1 October were: Auckland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Hawke's Bay, Gisborne, Manawatu/Wanganui, Wellington, Nelson, Canterbury, Otago and Southland. Northland, Taranaki and Marlborough are expected to be ready to roll out the concessions from 1 November.

More information on free services in specific regions can be obtained from regional councils. For more information on the SuperGold Card call 0800 25 45 65 or visit www.supergold.govt.nz

Public Transport Management Bill Passed

The new Act empowers regional councils to impose greater controls over commercial public transport services, and also enables them to require that any or all public transport services must be provided under contract. Councils will also be able to set longer notice periods for commercial public transport providers in starting, changing and stopping services, and they will have more access to transport user statistics.

First Electric Car for Sale in NZ

Hyundai will be the first automotive manufacturer to offer new electric cars for sale in NZ. The cars for sale will be a fully electric, plug-in version of the Getz. As an electric car the Getz will have zero carbon emissions. The Getz is a retro-fit electric car, meaning that the batteries and electric motor are fitted to the car after the petrol engine is taken out. This process will be done in NZ.

NZ's Most Stolen Cars Named

The Nissan Silvia, Subaru Impreza WRX and BMW 325 coupe have topped AA Insurance's list of cars most attractive to car thieves. The 2008 AA Insurance Drivers Index found 26% of thefts occurred when a car was parked in the garage, carport or driveway. Sixteen percent of thefts occurred when a car was parked on the street near the home.

Top 10 targets: 1. Nissan Silvia; 2. Subaru Impreza WRX; 3. BMW 325 coupe; 4. Nissan 200SX; 5. Mazda Lantis; 6. Subaru Legacy turbo; 7. Subaru Impreza non-turbo; 8. Nissan Skyline; 9. Subaru Legacy non-turbo; 10. Honda Prelude. Note: this list is not a reflection of the cars' security features, but showed the models preferred by car thieves

Energy

Latest NZ Energy Quarterly Facts

The Energy Quarterly presents quarterly statistics on the supply of major fuels, electricity generation and greenhouse gas emissions, and fuel prices to the end of June 2008. This quarter:

- record high international crude oil prices led to significant price increases at the pump;
- NZ's oil production remained near record levels for the fourth consecutive quarter;
- estimated oil and gas reserves at Pohokura increased significantly;
- NZ coal production was up 21% compared with the June quarter 2007;
- drought conditions resulted in an 11% drop in hydro generation compared with the June quarter 2007, and as a consequence emissions from electricity generation were up 25%; and
- electricity generation from wind was up 10% compared with the previous June quarter.

Download (for free) or subscribe to by going to www.med.govt.nz/energy/nzeq/

Legislation Passes to Enable Sustainable Biofuels

The Biofuel Bill aims to stimulate the market for sustainable alternative transport fuels. The legislation introduces a biofuels sales obligation which means that biofuels will have to make up 0.5% of oil companies' sales this year, with obligation levels rising by 0.5% increments to 2.5% in 2012.

The bill contains sustainability principles which will make sure biofuels sold towards the obligation will:

- emit significantly less greenhouse gas over their life cycle than fossil fuels;
- avoid negative impacts on food production; and
- do not reduce indigenous biodiversity or adversely affect land with high conservation values.

Lines Companies: Investing in Electricity Generation

Barriers to electricity lines companies investing in renewable generation have been removed by a Bill amending the Electricity Industry Reform Act that was recently passed in Parliament. The Electricity Industry Reform Amendment Bill widens the definition of renewables to encompass geothermal, wind, hydro and others, and it's expected that local lines companies will invest in some of the smaller projects that are not of interest to the larger generators. It also makes it easier for lines businesses to get back into retailing by allowing them to:

- sell 100% of the nominal output of their generation to their own consumers;
- trade in financial hedges without restriction to manage risks; and
- own generation and retail without limit outside their lines area.

The risk of monopoly lines businesses competing unfairly in retail markets is managed by retaining the requirements for corporate separation and compliance with arms-length rules, but the Bill lowers the costs of compliance.

Electricity and Gas Complaints Commission

The Office of the Electricity and Gas Complaints Commission (EGCC) offers a free service for resolving disputes between consumers and electricity/gas companies that have occurred since 1 October 2001 (for electricity) and 1 April 2005 (gas).

EGCC's latest statistics for the 2007-8 year show that: the office received 1855 enquiries and complaints mainly from residential customers (85%). It dealt with member companies on 855 complaints, and most were resolved within seven days. There were 460 complaints about a problem with a bill and 145 complaints about disconnection. Most of the complaints received were about electricity (87%), with gas or gas/electricity complaints making up 8.1%. Some 1.6% of complaints were from owners/occupiers of land. Lines company complaints increased, making up 22.3% of complaints received.

EGCC's Complaints Process

To lay a complaint, first approach the company itself to try to have the matter settled. If it remains unresolved, check whether the company involved is a member of the scheme. If it is, contact the office and lay a complaint with the Commissioner. The Commissioner will assess the complaint, allocate a conciliator to investigate the matter, and call in expert advice if necessary.

After that the investigation will either be discontinued and reasons given - or an agreement will be negotiated and the matter settled - or the Commissioner will make a recommendation for the parties to consider.

If the consumer accepts the recommendation but the company does not, the recommendation will be binding on the company. If the company accepts the recommendation, but the consumer does not, the consumer remains free to pursue the matter at the Disputes Tribunal, through the Courts system, or (if the company is a state-owned-enterprise) with the Office of the Ombudsmen.

EGCC's member companies are:

- *electricity retail companies:* Contact Energy, Genesis Energy, Energy Online, Meridian Energy, Mighty River Power, and Trustpower;
- *electricity lines companies:* Aurora Energy, Buller Electricity, Centralines, Counties Power, Eastland Network, Electra, Electricity Ashburton, Horizon Energy, Main Power, Marlborough Lines, Nelson Electricity, Networks South (incl. Alpine Energy and Network Waitaki), Network Tasman, Northpower, Orion, Powerco (incl. Central Power), Powernet (incl. Electricity Invercargill, The Power company, Otago Power), Scanpower, The Lines company, Top Energy, Unison, Vector (incl. United Networks), Waipa Networks, WEL Networks and Westpower;

- *gas retail companies:* Contact Energy, Genesis Energy, Wanganui Gas and Mighty River Power (incl. Mercury); and
- *gas lines companies:* PowerCo, Vector (incl. former NGC) and Wanganui Gas.

Contact details for the Electricity and Gas Complaints Commission are: Freepost 192682, Electricity and Gas Complaints Commission PO Box 6144, Wellington, freephone 0800 22 33 40, freefax 0800 22 33 47, email infoa@egcomplaints.co.nz, web www.egcomplaints.co.nz

Employment

ACC Law Change Comes Into Force

Injured NZers who are over 65 and want to return to the workforce will have better access to vocational rehabilitation under a law change which came into effect from the start of October.

People over 65 who are working are now entitled to weekly compensation for up to two years if they are injured. Over 65s are eligible for both compensation and superannuation for the first year, but have to elect one or the other for the second year. People who become entitled to weekly compensation in the two years leading to the age of 65 are also entitled to receive it for a period afterwards (but there are similar phase-out clauses).

Employment Protections for Casuals and Temps

Employment protections for temporary and casual workers would be strengthened under proposed amendments to the Employment Relations Act (ERA) recently introduced to Parliament.

Under the changes, employees and employers would be able to clarify their relationship using a test that has already been developed in case law by the Employment Court. The test takes into account how regular the employment is, how much autonomy the worker has, and whether the worker is genuinely free to accept or reject offers of employment.

The Department of Labour would develop a Code of Employment Practice for Casual and Non-Standard Employment with the aim of making it easier for employers to understand and comply with their obligations to casual and temporary workers. An awareness-raising campaign that aims to increase workers' knowledge of their statutory rights in the workplace is also planned.

Another planned amendment would strengthen the rights of employees who are in a "triangular" employment relationship. These are employees whose employer contracts their services to a third party, which effectively controls the employee's work. Employees in this situation, who belong to a union, will be entitled to terms and conditions at least as favourable as those enjoyed by unionised workers employed directly by the secondary employer under a collective agreement.

Tips for Boomers Seeking Work

The average age of retirement is extending rapidly because of increased life expectancy (and health) along with rapidly shrinking nest-egg reserves and an increased cost of living. As a result, many older "boomers" are re-entering the work force. Job seekers with decades of experience face hurdles directly attributable to their age. Despite laws barring age discrimination, reality means there are "tapes" and questions that tend to run through a hiring manager's mind: "Does this person have the energy to do this job?" "Is this person looking for a job to coast in until retirement?" "Why is this person applying for a job he or she is obviously overqualified for?" "Will this person fit with younger team members?" "Is this person rigid or set in his ways?" "Is this person technologically savvy and current with industry trends?" "Won't there be issues for this person reporting to someone younger?"

Older job seekers will need to prepare to overcome these hurdles in interviews. Here are some tips a Seattle-based career coach offered in a recent issue of the Seattle Post-Intelligencer:

- you get one chance to make a first impression. Look professional and stylish. Men: minimal or no facial hair (beards tend to make you look older), and avoid outdated clothing (that tie you bought a few decades ago!) Women: no clunky jewellery (it's distracting), strong perfumes or clothing that screams frumpy. If in doubt, get an opinion from a young professional;
- be prepared with recent examples demonstrating your willingness to learn new skills. Note specifics that establish you as being current with your industry. Identify yourself as a "lifetime learner." Relay your continual interest in learning new technologies and ways to work smarter;
- prove you are technically savvy. If you can't submit an online resume through a company's Web site, find someone to help you learn. Likewise, don't say, "I don't have a cell phone or e-mail address," because this will signal you are way behind the technology curve. Consider bringing in a USB stick of some of your best work portfolio examples to leave behind. Find a way to convey your comfort level using the latest communication tools and/or software common in today's workplaces;
- demonstrate passion. Hiring managers I coach often relay a common apprehension they have about older workers -- that they don't have the necessary energy or commitment. Prove them wrong. Show up energetically and positive. Don't give off body language that you are tired or depressed. When asked, "Tell me about yourself" skip the fact that you have grandkids and let them know (if it's true) that you climbed Mount Ruapehu last weekend or play tennis regularly. Give examples of how you handle stress, deadlines and your track record of going the extra mile when required;
- provide evidence that you are flexible and adaptable. If you come off as rigid, condescending or like a stern schoolmarm, odds are you won't be hired. Don't give off any cues that you are put out being interviewed by someone much younger. Keep good eye contact, smile and use a confident handshake;
- don't give away age clues. It's illegal for them to ask your age, but reality is, interviewers will often try to find out in other ways. Avoid the temptation to list every single job you've ever held on your resume. Keep focused on relevant professional accomplishments/skills that apply to the open position; and
- prepare for the following common interview questions: *What are your career goals?* What they really want to

know is, "How soon will you retire?" Reassure them that you plan to keep working because you love what you do. Use this question as an opportunity to relay your passion for work you enjoy. *What are your salary requirements?* Don't scare them off using your top previous salary. Be prepared to accept less than your highest earning. Determine the going appropriate range for the position, ask if it's within the range, then let them know you expect a competitive salary for what you will contribute. *Aren't you overqualified for this position?* Tricky question. Assure them that your top priorities aren't salary and titles. Convey your sincere interest in the new position and challenge. Emphasise your strengths (and how they are a fit for the position), your interests that led you to apply, that you'll hit the ground running and that you can be trusted to get the work done.

Lastly, if you are dusting off the resume, consider hiring professional support for re-entry and/or reinventing yourself.

Original article:
http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/business/380863_workcoach29.html

Young Contractors: Health & Safety Regulation Changes

People who work with young contractors have a general duty under the Health and Safety in employment Act to keep their contractors safe at work, but under proposed new regulations they will have a duty to provide standards of safety similar to those employed young people have. This means, for example that people contracting young pamphlet deliverers will have to take all practical steps to restrict them from lifting any weight that is likely to cause injury, and also have to restrict them from working between 10pm and 6 am unless there is an approved code of practice in place that is being followed. The changes are planned for 1 April next year.

Allowing the Transfer of Public Holidays

A recent change to the Holidays Act will allow the transfer of public holidays for employees whose work shift crosses midnight. It will ensure that when a shift spans two days, at least one of which is a public holiday, an employer and employee can agree that the public holiday can be recognised on one whole shift.

Transgender Rights in the Workplace

The Department of Labour has developed two factsheets to provide information for employers and employees about the legal rights and protections available to transgender people in the workplace. The work follows an investigation and report by the Human Rights Commission (HRC) into discrimination experienced by transgender people. More than half the submissions HRC received were about discrimination in employment.

A factsheet for employees is at <http://www.dol.govt.nz/consultation/transgender/employee-factsheet.pdf>, and one for employers is at <http://www.dol.govt.nz/consultation/transgender/employer-factsheet.pdf>

Justice/the Law

Enduring Powers of Attorney: Changes in the Law

A new Protection of Personal and Property Rights Amendment Act 2007 is now in force that makes the interests of the donor (the person giving another person the power of attorney) a main consideration.

Amongst the changes to the previous law:

- where a donor has lost capacity, and decision making is taken over by an attorney, the donor still has the right to be consulted about their views;
- the attorney must encourage the donor to develop competence to manage her or his own affairs in relation to his or her property;
- new witnessing requirements have been introduced for all new Enduring Powers of Attorney - a lawyer, legal executive, or an officer of a Trustee Corporation must now act as the witness;
- attorneys must now keep records of each financial transaction they enter into while the donor is mentally incapable; and
- a donor who is no longer mentally incapable can suspend the attorney's authority to act by giving written notice to the attorney (this will not revoke the Enduring power of Attorney but an attorney then cannot act unless the donor has been certified as mentally incapable by a health practitioner of the Court).

There is also a new definition of "mental capacity". A donor is deemed mentally incapable if he or she: lacks the capacity to make a decision about a matter relating to his or her personal care and welfare; to understand the nature of decisions about matters relating to his or her personal care and welfare; to foresee the consequences of decisions about matters relating to his or her personal care and welfare; and communicate decisions about matters relating to his or her personal care and welfare.

A copy of the Act is at http://www.austlii.edu.au/nz/legis/consol_act/popapraa2007553.pdf

Pay Your Fines or...

New measures that have been proposed to encourage people to pay their fines include:

- suspending drivers' licences for those with overdue vehicle-related fines;
- allowing the Court to seize vehicles that are heavily financed or are of low value;
- vehicle owners being made responsible for fines incurred in their vehicle regardless of who is driving;
- people automatically being referred back to the courts when fines get to a certain threshold to enable a judge to take action to ensure offenders are penalised appropriately and fines do not get to unaffordable levels; and
- allowing the release of information about overdue fines and reparation to credit agencies.

Fines will also continue to be collected at airports.

People can contact their local District Court or ring 0800 4 FINES to resolve any outstanding fines or reparation

Not-for-Profits

New CommunityCentral Site

A new blog site for not-for-profits called CommunityCentral is to be launched this month. CommunityCentral has been set up for Tangata Whenua, the community and voluntary sector, public health workers, advocates and others to come online to enable them to:

- quickly find relevant information for the sector in one place;
- develop broad online networks;
- discuss hot topics;
- share documents and communicate with others on a project or committee in a private workspace; and
- subscribe to broadcasts, newsletters, and notice boards.

CommunityCentral is an initiative of five national umbrella organisations: ANGOA (Association of Non-Governmental Organisations of Aotearoa); NZ Council of Social Services (NZCOSS); NZ Federation of Voluntary Welfare Organisations (NZFVWO); SHORE (Centre for Social and Health Outcomes Research and Evaluation) and Volunteering NZ. It has been funded by the Digital Strategy Community Partnership Fund, the JR McKenzie Trust and Lottery Community.

CommunityCentral is at <http://blog.communitycentral.org.nz/>

Business

NZ Still One of the World's Best Places for Business

The World Bank's Doing Business 2009 survey showed that NZ has retained its second place ranking (after Singapore) for ease of doing business. The World Bank's Doing Business survey is an annual cross-economy study that measures government regulations and their effect on business across 178 economies. The Survey uses 10 key indicators to measure and compare ease or difficulty of operating a business. Economies receive a ranking for each key indicator; and an overall 'Ease of Doing Business' ranking.

Find out more at: <http://www.doingbusiness.org/>

US: Free Trade Negotiations with Trans-Pacific Partnership

The US is to enter into Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations to become a full partner to the Comprehensive Trans-Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership Agreement. The Trans-Pacific Partnership (P4) is made up of NZ, Singapore, Chile and Brunei. The US is NZ's second largest individual

trading partner and second largest export market. NZ's total trade with the US in the year to June 2008 was worth \$8.14 billion, accounting for 9.6 per cent of NZ's total Trade. It is expected that the first round of negotiations will take place in early 2009.

Exports/Imports Still Showing Strong Growth

According to Statistics NZ the value of NZ's exports rose 34.1% from August 2007 to August 2008, to reach \$3.6 billion. Imports were up 19.6% to \$4.3 billion over the same period. While the exports trend continued to grow in recent months, it has eased compared with the period of strong growth in the second half of 2007. The imports trend has increased strongly since the middle of 2007, coinciding with a significant rise in fuel prices up until mid July 2008.

Milk powder, butter and cheese (up \$210 million) led the exports increase in August 2008 compared with August 2007, with whole milk powder a significant contributor. Crude oil exports followed closely with an increase of \$190 million compared with August 2007 (the first full month of production from the Tui oilfield). Crude oil prices have increased significantly since August 2007. Meat and edible offal exports were up \$121 million in August 2008 with frozen beef and lamb cuts the main contributors to this rise. Petroleum and products (up \$329 million) led the imports increase in August 2008 compared with August 2007 and crude oil was the main contributor. The next largest increase came from aircraft and parts (up \$169 million) – two large aircraft were imported during August 2008.

In August 2008 the monthly trade balance was a deficit of \$750 million. This deficit is the smallest since 2004 and equates to 21.0% of exports. The annual trade balance for the year ended August 2008 was a deficit of \$4.3 billion (10.3% of exports). As a percentage of exports, this is the smallest annualised trade deficit since August 2003.

Food Control Plan Distributed

Since it was launched in August by the Food Safety Authority (NZFSA), over 80% of local councils have signed up to take part in the voluntary scheme to introduce food control plans (FCPs), meaning most operators of the food businesses will have easy access to them. The FCP provides operators with a ready-written food safety management system that identifies potential risks at each step of their production process (e.g., receiving and storing goods, displaying food etc) and contains procedures to keep food safe at each of those steps. It's accompanied by a suite of complimentary information resources, and is currently available at no charge to food operators registering under the new programme.

Consumers will soon be able to choose to shop at a business using such plans and programmes when a window sticker and information flyers are distributed to participating businesses.

FCP's are at most local councils or downloaded from NZFSA's website (where the list of participating councils can also be found) - www.nzfsa.govt.nz

Consumers Favour "Green" Companies

The first global poll of company ethics and corporate responsibility has found most consumers want companies to do more to protect the environment and believe firms should take a pro-active role in fighting climate change. The Nielsen poll of 28,000 people in 51 countries shows corporate commitment to green ethics is playing "an increasingly influential role in consumers' purchasing behaviour." The survey found 51% of respondents considered it "very important" for firms to improve the environment and another 36% "somewhat important."

Asked by Nielsen to name the biggest contributions society can make to combating climate change (some gave more than one answer) 40% said governments should restrict companies' emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants. In second place, 38% favoured government-led research into low-emissions cars, houses and renewable energy. Some 37% said people should recycle more waste.

New Business Emissions Calculator

A new online guide and calculator have been launched to help businesses measure and cut their emissions – and boost profits. Although emissions pricing is now on its way following the 10 September passage of the emission trading law, the NZ Business Council for Sustainable Development says few business decision makers feel fully informed on the issue – and most have not measured their emissions.

The Emissions Guide and Calculator service has been developed in association with the Ministry for the Environment and the climate change team of Business Council member company Pricewaterhouse Coopers. The service is funded and provided free by the Business Council, whose 73 member companies believe businesses should make a profit, but also take care of the environment and people. Their annual sales of about \$45 billion equate to about 34% of gross domestic product in dollar terms.

The online guide and calculator are at <http://www.nzbcscd.org.nz/emissions/content.asp?id=418>

Extra Funds for Business Incubators

The Incubator Support Programme run by NZ Trade and Enterprise (NZTE) is to be broadened and it will get a \$1.8 million funding boost to its \$2.7 million existing funding. The programme was established in 2001 provide assistance to fledgling NZ businesses to become established and viable during their start up phase. It does this by providing shared premises, business advice, business services, mentoring, a full-time, hands-on management team, and access to investors, markets and international networks.

For further information on business incubators go to www.nzte.govt.nz and click on Business Incubators under Business Development

Standards and Accreditation Bill Introduced

This bill replaces the Acts covering the Standards Council and the Testing Laboratory Registration Council, and its main

purpose is to simplify the governance arrangements of both by separating their governance and technical advisory functions. It provides for a smaller governing board for each entity, directly appointed by the Minister of Commerce, to promote a better focus on governance. The Bill also re-names the entities using the trading names by which they are known to their stakeholders: Standards NZ and International Accreditation NZ.

Money Matters

Food Price Index: August

According to Statistics NZ figures, food prices increased 2.7% in the August 2008 month, the largest monthly increase since July 1989, when the rate of GST increased from 10.0 to 12.5%. All five subgroups recorded upward contributions to the latest Food Price Index (FPI) increase, with the most significant upward contribution coming from the fruit and vegetables subgroup (up 9.6%). Within this subgroup, the main contribution came from vegetable prices (up 14.5%), driven by higher prices for lettuce (up 33.6%) and tomatoes (up 42.8%). If vegetable prices had remained constant at July 2008 prices, the FPI would have risen 1.3%.

Vegetable prices have increased by a total of 36.4% over the past four months, with growing conditions hampered by unusually wet weather. Other subgroups that made significant upward contributions were grocery food (up 1.9%) and meat, poultry and fish (up 2.6%).

Food prices rose 10.6% in the year to August 2008, the largest annual increase since the year to May 1990. All five subgroups recorded upward contributions to the annual increase, with the most significant being the grocery food subgroup (up 13.1%). Within this subgroup, the main contributions came from higher prices for cheese (up 43.8%), bread (up 17.4%), fresh milk (up 12.5%), and butter (up 87.6%). The fruit and vegetables subgroup rose 19.1% in the year to August 2008.

More Working Families Using Budget Services

Enquiries to Family Budgeting Services have risen by more than 16% this year to over 293,000. Services throughout the country are also seeing more working families than ever before. The 12 months to 30 June 2008 saw a surge in salary and waged clients to over 30% of the total client base.

The increase in mortgage repayments appears to be one common factor among these clients. Two of the higher debt categories owed by Family Budgeting Services' clients in the last 12 months were to retail providers and accommodation providers. The average debt was over \$20,000 per client from a total debt presented figure of more than \$234 million.

Family Budgeting Services offer free, confidential, culturally aware and non-judgmental advice to all NZ. For more information visit their website www.familybudgeting.org.nz or call the free phone service 0508 BUDGETLINE (0508 283 438) and speak directly to a certificated budget adviser

Step-By-Step Financial Road Map For Kiwis

"Sorted – Your Guide to Getting There", a new free 16-page booklet from the Retirement Commission, takes Kiwis through

the six key steps to getting financially sorted. The six steps are: setting goals, making a budget, managing debt, saving, retirement planning, and protecting assets. It also includes a useful glossary that explains financial terms like compound interest, equity, net worth and PIEs. The Retirement Commission has also produced free seminar information for employers and community groups to accompany the booklet.

You can order free copies of the booklet by ringing 0800 SORT MONEY (0800 767 866) or download or order copies from sorted.org.nz (the booklet is also available from ANZ and The National Bank's branches). The seminar presentation can be downloaded from www.sorted.org.nz/seminars along with a guide for facilitators and a worksheet for participants

Giving is Now Worth More!

Changes to our tax rules are set to encourage a stronger culture of giving in NZ. The laws which are effective from the 2008/09 year make it easier for individuals and companies to give. For individuals the \$1890 threshold for which individuals can claim a rebate for cash donations to donee organizations has been removed. Individuals will be able to claim a rebate of one third of all donations they make, limited only by the level of their annual taxable income. Likewise the 5% limit on deductions that companies can claim for cash donations has been removed.

For more information go to the IRD website www.ird.govt.nz

Sending Money Between NZ and the Pacific Gets Cheaper

A new regulation under the Financial Transactions Reporting Act aims to reduce the high costs of sending money between NZ and the Pacific (about 75% of Pacific people in NZ send money home to family members in the Pacific). Under the old system the total cost of remittances could be anywhere from 15 to 25% of the value of the transaction. The new regulation will enable mainstream financial institutions to provide a two-card remittance transfer facility using the banking system's international ATM and EFTPOS networks. This will allow funds to be loaded on to a special remittance account by a NZ-based remitter, while a second card can be used to withdraw money in the Pacific.

Lottery Funding for 2008/2009

IN 2008/2009 the Lottery Grants Board will distribute \$102.91 million to its distribution committees. Regional and national community committees have been allocated \$38.43 million. A total of \$64.47 million has been allocated to specialist distribution committees - Community Facilities, Community Sector Research, Environment and Heritage, Health Research, Individuals with Disabilities, Marae Heritage and Facilities, Minister's Discretionary, Outdoor Safety, Pacific Provider Development, and Significant Projects.

The Board's statutory bodies – Creative NZ, the NZ Film Commission (including funding for the NZ Film Archive), and Sport and Recreation NZ (SPARC) - will together receive \$63.34 million.

For more information on lottery grants see www.dia.govt.nz or www.cdgo.govt.nz

A Bank is a Bank is a Bank? Not Quite... Bank Definitions

Central bank, reserve bank: A country's central bank maintains the stability of its national currency. In the United States, the Federal Reserve functions as the central bank and acts as a last-resort lender to failing financial institutions. The Fed was created in 1913 to provide financial stability in response to the Panic of 1907. NZ's equivalent is the Reserve Bank of NZ (RBNZ). It was established in 1934, and although not a government department, has been wholly owned by the government of NZ since 1936.

Commercial bank: A commercial bank, also known as a business bank, takes deposits and gives loans, mostly to corporations. There is no formal distinction between commercial and retail banks in NZ. Many banks essentially perform both functions here (i.e., they deal with consumers and businesses). We also have some entities that perform the function that the US investment banks have (i.e. broking of securities). They do so on a much, much smaller scale than in the US essentially because our securities markets are nowhere near as deep. However it's important to note that most of these entities are not registered banks and therefore are not referred to as "banks" in NZ.

Investment bank: An investment bank raises money by selling securities to companies and to the government. They also provide advice to corporations about mergers and buyouts. With Lehman Bros. and Merrill Lynch out of the picture, Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley are the two largest investment banks in the United States. In NZ there are some entities that perform investment banking type functions in NZ, but on a much smaller scale than in the US relative to the size of our economy.

Retail bank: A retail bank deals directly with consumers instead of companies or other banks. (The latter business is conducted by a commercial bank.) A retail bank primarily handles savings and checking accounts, mortgages, and personal loans. The main retail banks in NZ are, for example, Westpac, ANZ, BNZ, NBNZ, Kiwibank (note: our larger banks typically deal with both consumers and businesses).

We don't distinguish our banks in NZ with the prefixes commonly used in the US (though some people occasionally do so informally). Given the relatively small number of registered banks in NZ (relative to the US), this doesn't generally cause issues as the lines of business of individual banks is well known.

A list of the 17 banks currently registered in NZ is on the RBNZ's website at <http://www.rbnz.govt.nz/nzbanks/0091622.html>

Electronic Card Spending Increases

According to Statistics NZ there were 85 million electronic transactions in August 2008 with a value of \$4.6 billion. This represented an increase of 0.8% in August 2008 compared with July 2008. The consumables and non-retail industries were the main contributors to the increase, which was partly offset by a decrease in the fuel retailing industry. The trend for the total ECT series has been comparatively flat since February 2008, but has started to rise in recent months. The retail ECT series was 1.1% higher in August 2008 than in July 2008. The core retail ECT series (which excludes the motor vehicle-related industries) increased 1.7% in August following a 1.7% increase in July.

New Tax Treaties

Three new tax treaty arrangements are in place:

- a new double tax agreement with Czech Republic will take effect in both countries from 1 January 2009 for withholding taxes. For other taxes it will generally take effect from 1 April 2009 in NZ and from 1 January 2009 in Czech Republic;
- Mexico and Austria have been added to the list of treaty partners which have access to the income tax exemption for gains made on the sale of shares in unlisted NZ companies by certain non-resident investors; and
- There is a new tax information exchange agreement with the Netherlands (on behalf of the Netherlands Antilles).

Treaty Matters

Central North Island Forests Land Collective Settlement Bill Passed...

This Act provides for the transfer of the central North Island Crown forests land, worth \$196 million and associated accumulated rentals of approximately \$223 million to the seven iwi groups that make up the Central North Island Forest Iwi (CNI) Collective. The settlement was completed after Central North Island iwi joined together to develop a proposal for the use and allocation of the Crown forest licensed land in the region. The members of the CNI Collective will now turn to the task of managing and allocating this asset, and negotiating their individual comprehensive historical settlements.

...Te Roroa Claims Settlement Enacted...

The Te Roroa Claims Settlement Bill is the final stage in the settlement of Te Roroa's historical Treaty of Waitangi claims. It enables the transfer of settlement redress agreed in the 2005 Deed of Settlement. The settlement package contains a formal Crown apology, cultural and commercial redress, and a financial package of \$9.5 million. The Act strengthens the relationship between the Crown and Te Roroa and it also enables Te Roroa to have increased input into the protection of the Waipoua Forest – home to Tane Mahuta, NZ's largest living kauri tree.

... & Affiliate Te Arawa Iwi and Hapu Claims Settlement Bill Passes

This Act provides for quantum of \$38.6 million and the transfer of 19 areas of Crown-owned land of special significance (including the land under six Rotorua schools and the Ngatamariki geothermal assets) to Te Pūmāutanga o Te Arawa.

First Ever Combined Agreement in Principle Signed...

The Crown and Ngāti Pahauwera have signed an Agreement

in Principle which is unique because it's the first ever Agreement in Principle to deal with both historical Treaty claims and foreshore and seabed recognition. Ngati Pahauwera is a confederation of hapu centred on the Mohaka River in the northern Hawkes Bay. The next stage will be agreeing and ratifying a Deed of Settlement.

...Ngati Manawa Agreement in Principle...

The Crown and Te Runanga o Ngati Manawa have signed an Agreement in Principle to settle the outstanding historical Treaty claims of Ngati Manawa. Ngati Manawa are a Central North Island iwi whose traditional tribal area centres on the Kaingaroa Plains and the upper Rangitaiki River. Their claims relate primarily to the NZ Wars, Crown actions and omissions in respect of the operation and impact of the Native Land Laws, the Crown's land-purchasing techniques particularly in respect of land they wished to retain and twentieth-century land, river and forestry development.

Ngati Manawa's claims to financial and commercial redress in respect of the Central North Island Forest land will be settled by the Central North Island Forestry Settlement (see above) signed in June of this year.

...& Agreement in Principle with Ngati Kahu

Te Runanga-a-iwi Ngati Kahu has signed an Agreement in Principle with the Crown outlining the settlement package that the parties have agreed will settle Ngati Kahu's historical Treaty of Waitangi claims. There is a history of large-scale loss of Ngati Kahu land, much of it within twenty-five years of their ancestors and the Crown signing the Treaty of Waitangi. The settlement includes financial and commercial redress of \$14 million (including the opportunity to purchase Rangiputa Station), a social revitalisation package worth \$7.5 million and cultural redress including a Statutory Board consisting of Ngati Kahu and Crown representatives over conservation lands. It also includes the transfer of 17 sites of high cultural and historical significance to Ngati Kahu.

Ngati Kahu is located around Kaitaia, Taipa and Mangonui, and has between 8,300 and 14,000 members.

Ngati Ranginui Terms of Negotiation Signed

Te Roopu Whakamana o Nga Hapu o Ngati Ranginui and the Crown have signed Terms of Negotiation, for the settlement of Ngati Ranginui's historic Treaty of Waitangi claims. These claims primarily relate to raupatu (confiscation) of Maori land in the Tauranga district, following the war of 1864, and later land purchasing by the Crown.

Ngati Ranginui's area of interest extends from Nga Kuri a Whare north of Tauranga, inland to the summit of Mount Te Aroha, extending south-east along the Kaimai Range to Puwhenua and extending south to the Mangorewa River. From the Mangorewa River the boundary extends north-east to Otanewainuku and to coastal Wairakei. The area of interest includes Motiti and Tuhua Island, Mauao and the Athenree Crown Licensed Forest.

Elections

Unable to Vote on Election Day?

If you're not going to be in your electorate or can't get to a polling place on election day you can vote in advance from Wednesday 22 October. You have the following choices:

- you can vote in advance at an advance voting place;
- ballot papers can be collected for you by someone else; or
- ballot papers can be sent to you in the mail.

Contact the Returning Officer for your electorate if you would like ballot papers to be sent to you in the mail or collected for you by someone else.

Contact details for electorates Returning Officers are at <http://www.elections.org.nz/voting/votingsub/returning-officers-contact-details.html>

Searching for Overseas Voters

Twenty-five thousand innovative postage-free cards are the latest tactic in the campaign to find tens of thousands of missing NZ voters living overseas. Currently about 50,000 NZers overseas are enrolled to vote, but it's reckoned that ten times as many are eligible to vote – leaving hundreds of thousands of eligible voters missing. In the 2005 election, only 28,000 votes were cast from overseas.

People in NZ can send the cards free of charge to any overseas address, reminding Kiwi family and friends of their right to vote in the General Election on 8 November.

NZ citizens are eligible to vote from anywhere in the world if they have been in NZ at any time in the three years before election day. Enrolling and voting from overseas is simple. Eligible voters can enrol online and download their voting papers online, and return the paperwork by fax or post. There is no need to visit an Embassy or Consulate to enrol and vote. Overseas voters can download their ballot papers online beginning Wednesday 22 October.

The cards are now available on the retail counters of 157 PostShops throughout the country. The cards are free of charge, and include international postage to anywhere in the world. The website www.everyvotecounts.co.nz has all the information overseas voters need to enrol and vote.

Internet/ICT

Four Billion Cellphone Subscribers This Year?

According to the United Nations International Telecommunications Union (ITU) the number of mobile cellular subscribers worldwide will reach the 4 billion mark by the end of 2008. The number of subscribers has surged nearly 25% per year for the past eight years. Global mobile penetration

stood at only 12% in 2000, growing to reach over 60% by the end of 2008.

Rapidly developing economies such as Brazil, Russia, India and China are driving the growth in the number of cellular subscribers, with these nations alone accounting for over 1.3 billion of them by the end of 2008.

The ITU emphasized the need to carefully interpret data. A 61% penetration rate does not mean in reality that every other person in the world is using a mobile phone - the statistics reflect the number of subscriptions, not people. Double counting could occur if people have multiple cellular subscriptions, while some could be sharing their phone with others.

The *redeveloped* website *NZMuseums* (<http://nz museums.co.nz>) has been launched by National Services Te Paerangi - a team at the Museum of NZ Te Papa Tongarewa. The new website is a global showcase for the collections and activities of NZ museums and it offers people the opportunity to get information on their collections (e.g., about un-named people in photos they hold). The site also includes a museum directory, online collection management system, and a site for discussion and learning about museum issues and events through its Blog, News, and What's On sections. For more information about the NZMuseums project go to www.tepapa.govt.nz/TePapa/English/NationalServices

Do you really need your tax cut? If not go to www.giveitup.org.nz. The site notes that some organisations and agencies are working every day to try and make a positive difference with very limited resources, and that people who don't really need their tax cut could make a real difference to their work by donating the extra amount they are receiving to one of them. It also notes that, with recent changes in tax law, Kiwis can give away more because Inland Revenue will now give a rebate on all the money donated to registered charities (no longer capping eligible donations at \$1890) – see “Money Matters” below. For example, if you gave away \$3000 in a year, you would now get a rebate of \$1000 (instead of the old maximum of \$630).

If you're constructing a family tree try searching for relatives through <http://www.familysearch.org/eng/default.asp>. To do so you enter their first and/or last names, a particular life event (e.g. birth, christening, marriage, death) - or any event; a particular year - or an approximate year (within a range of 40years); and a specific country - or “all countries”.

An agency that develops and places recruitment advertisements at no cost to you is at www.big splash.co.nz. Useful for small organisations without design resources – you can either check them out on 09 308 7994 or book online.

NZ's community outcomes and a directory of government, local government and community services are at www.communityoutcomes.govt.nz. Community outcomes describe what NZers think is important for their local community, now and in the future. They are generally developed by a community with the local authority, and they can relate to anything affecting community well-being. The outcomes are used by central and local government, as well as community organisations to guide their plans. The site also includes a guide to the information and services that are provided by central government, local government, and non-government agencies around the country.

The Inland Revenue website contains a summary of the tax changes made as a result of the introduction of the NZ Emissions Trading Scheme at www.taxpolicy.ird.govt.nz/publications/files/climatebill.pdf

Arts & Culture

Copyright: Commissioning Rule to be Repealed...

Recently introduced to the House was an amendment to the Copyright Act that would repeal the commissioning rule. With copyright, the general rule is that the creator of a work holds the copyright to it. However, the commissioning rule, which affects artistic workers, has been an exception to this, and this has meant that the commissioner of a work is the default copyright holder. Currently, the commissioning rule allocates copyright ownership by default to the commissioner for artistic works, sound recordings and for the taking of a photograph or the making of a film. The rule does not apply to dramatic works or literary works (except computer programmes). The UK repealed their commissioning rule in 1988, in Australia commercial photographers have default copyright over their works, and Ireland and Canada have either amended or repealed their commissioning provisions or are in the process of doing so.

...& Parody & Satire Copyright Review

A review on whether there should be a copyright exception for the purpose of parody and satire has begun. The review aims to ensure the Copyright Act continues to provide clarity to copyright users, rights-holders and internet service providers as to what constitutes infringing material. The Copyright Act is currently silent on the issue of parody and satire. Key considerations in the review will be whether a parody and satire exception is necessary in NZ, and whether providing such an exception would disrupt the balance between the competing interests of copyright creators, owners and users. A discussion paper on the issue of parody and satire is planned for public release in December 2008.

Public Lending Right for NZ Authors Bill Passes

This new Act establishes in law the right of eligible NZ authors to receive an annual payment compensating them for free access to their books in our libraries. The Public Lending Right scheme will be administered by the National Library of NZ. Annual payments are to be based on regular surveys of NZ libraries.

Maori TV to Chair World Indigenous TV Broadcasters Network

Maori Television is to chair the World Indigenous Television Broadcasters Network (WITBN) until 2010, the launch of which was a key outcome of the first World Indigenous Television Broadcasting Conference hosted by Maori Television in NZ this year. The WITBN Council foundation members are APTN (Canada), BBC Alba (Scotland), Maori Television (Aotearoa NZ), NITV (Australia), NRK Sami Radio and Television (Samiland, Norway), TG4 (Ireland), TITV/PTS (Taiwan), S4C (Wales) and SABC (South Africa). Training and development activities will initially focus on staff exchange programmes. Indigenous broadcasters share similar organisational visions and purpose – to protect, maintain and strengthen indigenous representation in the media while preserving and developing their indigenous languages, culture, people and stories.

A report outlining the key decisions of the inaugural Council meeting is available on the [WITBN website](#)

2008 WriteMark Plain English Awards

The premier award for Plain English Champion—Best Organisation went to NZ Trade and Enterprise (NZTE). The prize was given to acknowledge the organisation's outstanding progress in creating an organisation-wide plain English culture.

Other winners included:

- *Plain English Champion*—Best Project: Ministry of Education;
- *Plain English Champion*—Best Individual: Deborah Morris (Barnardos);
- *Best Plain English Document*—Private Sector: ASB;
- *Best Plain English Document*—Public Sector/Non-Government Organisation (NGO): Cancer Society of NZ;
- *Best Plain English Website*—Public Sector/Non-Government Organisation (NGO): Ministry for Culture & Heritage;
- *Best Plain English Website*—Private Sector: Seafood Industry Training Organisation;
- *People's Choice*—Best Plain English Document: Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management; and
- *Best Sentence Transformation*: Steelbro NZ Limited.

Two well-known organisations received "Brainstrain" awards of stainless-steel rubbish bins. Pacific Blue received the People's Choice—"Brainstrain" Document award for its Terms and conditions of carriage, which the judges described as almost impossible to understand in some places. The Embassy of the United States, based in Wellington, won the People's Choice—"Brainstrain" Website award because confusing "government speak" gave the website an unfriendly and impersonal tone.

Find at more about the awards at: <http://www.plainenglishawards.org.nz/2008-writemark-new-zealand-plain-english-awards/>

Katherine Mansfield Short Fiction Prizes

Christchurch born and raised Julian Novitz has took the BNZ Katherine Mansfield premier prize (the nation's top short fiction prize) of \$10,000 for his story, "Three Couples". Wellington creative writing student, Joseph Ryan won the novice category for "Stranger Than Beautiful", and Clare Tanton, a year 13 student at Taikura Rudolf Steiner School in Hastings, won the young writer's prize for "The Hole in the Fence".

Film Industry Co-operation

NZ and the Republic of Korea have signed a film co-production agreement to facilitate screen industry partnerships between the two countries. The agreement with Korea is limited to productions intended to be shown in cinemas. NZ has a current pool of nine international co-production agreements. In the last year agreements have been signed with Ireland and Spain, and an agreement with South Africa has been finalised, and awaits signature. Work is also underway on agreements with India and China.

Creative NZ Randell Cottage Writers Residency

Applicants for this residency should be writers whose work has already been published and well received. The project proposal submitted by the writer may be in any genre: fiction,

children's fiction, poetry, drama, biography, other literary non-fiction, or art topics.

Closing date for applications is 14 November 2008. Application forms and more information are at <http://www.randellcottage.co.nz/>, the Secretary, Box 11-032 Wellington, or email randell@writerstrust.co.nz

General

NIWA's Overall Spring Picture

The National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research paints the following picture of what we might expect this spring:

Temperature: air temperatures are likely to be average or above over the entire country. Sea surface temperatures around NZ are likely to remain near normal.

Rainfall, soil moisture, and stream flows: rainfall is likely to be near or below normal over much of the South Island, and the north of the North Island, with near normal rainfall elsewhere. Normal or below normal soil moisture levels and streamflows are likely in the north of the North Island and below normal conditions are likely in the south and west of the South Island. Elsewhere, normal soil moisture levels and streamflows are likely.

Regional predictions for the next three months:

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

Measuring the Competitiveness of Knowledge Economies

The 2008 edition of the World Knowledge Competitiveness Index (WKCI), published by the Centre for International Competitiveness at the University of Wales Institute, Cardiff (UWIC), was released recently. First published in 2002, the WKCI is the only composite and relative measure of the competitiveness of the knowledge economies of the world's leading regions. It is a benchmark of the knowledge capacity, capability and sustainability of 145 regions across the globe, and the extent to which this knowledge is translated into

economic value, and transferred into the wealth of the citizens of these regions.

Asian and European regions have seen a general improvement in their competitiveness; North American regions have seen an overall decline. Although US regions still head the very top of the rankings, the balance of power in the knowledge economy is becoming more evenly spread across the globe. WKCI findings include:

- San Jose, the heart of California's Silicon Valley heads the WKCI 2008 is the most competitive, followed by the US regions of Boston, Hartford, Bridgeport, and San Francisco;
- the highest ranked non-US region is Stockholm in Sweden, which is in sixth position and climbs two places;
- Tokyo (9th) is the highest ranked region outside of North America and Europe, climbing 13 places;
- significant gains have been made by a number of Asian regions, with Singapore (27th), Kyoto (43rd), Taiwan (53rd) all moving rapidly up the rankings, and Shanghai now ranked above cities such as Berlin; and
- in Europe, regions in Finland, Sweden, Denmark and the Netherlands all show significant improvement in competitiveness (however, London slides 46 places to 102nd).

Copies of the full WKCI report can be freely downloaded at www.cforic.org

Funding for More Genomics Research

Government funding of \$40 million has been given to a consortium led by the University of Otago so it can develop new genomics in a wide range of areas of genetic research including medicine and health, food production and environmental protection.

Genomics is the study of all an organism's entire complement of genes. The field includes intensive efforts to determine the entire DNA sequence of organisms and fine-scale genetic mapping efforts. Genomics research has helped the fight against diseases such as cancer, obesity and heart disease. In agriculture genomics has helped improve health, productivity and quality of animals and crops. In biosecurity genomics research plays a role in identifying pests and diseases. And research into ruminant genetics is important in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Referendum on Smacking for 2009

A Citizens Initiated Referendum on the question "should a smack as part of good parental correction be a criminal offence in NZ?" will be held between Friday 31 July 2009 and Friday 21 August 2009. The Chief Electoral Office will run the postal referendum, the first held under the Referenda (Postal Voting) Act 2000.

Maori Language Week Awards 2008

There were 36 finalists in the Maori Language Week Awards, and the winners by category were:

- *Supreme Award Winners:* TV3 and Ngaiterangi Iwi Runanga;
- *First Time Entrants:* I AM TV;
- *Print Media:* Gisborne Herald;

- *Radio:* George FM;
- *Television:* TV3;
- *Community:* Ngaiterangi Iwi Runanga;
- *Local Body Organisations:* Wellington City Council;
- *Business:* Diagnostic Medlab;
- *Central Government:* Inland Revenue;
- *Pre-school:* Kids to Five on Somerset;
- *Primary and Intermediate Schools:* Albany Primary School;
- *Secondary Schools:* Greymouth and John Paul II High Schools; and
- *Tertiary Institutions:* University of Auckland.

Next year NZ will celebrate Maori Language Month from June 16 – July 16 with a theme of "Maori language in the community".

More on the awards is at <http://www.tpk.govt.nz/en/newsevents/news/maori-language-week-awards-2008>

Career Decisions & the Gender Pay Gap: MWA Report

The Ministry of Women's Affairs (MWA) has published a report called "Trading Choices: young people's career decisions and gender segregation in the trades". It is based on research commissioned from the NZ Council for Educational Research which found that 99% of builders, electricians and motor mechanics are men, and women make up over 90% of people working as caregivers, registered nurses and secretaries.

The fact that men and women continue to do different types of jobs is one of the factors in the gender pay gap. Currently when comparing men's and women's median hourly earnings, women earn 12.1% less than men. Barriers to more mingling of the sexes in these kinds of jobs include how the trades are portrayed in the media, and the extent to which schools encourage young people to consider a variety of career options.

The report is at www.mwa.govt.nz/news-and-pubs/publications/trading-choices, or contact MWA, PO Box 10 049, Wellington, tel 04 9165849

New Korean Service Medals

Two new medals recognise NZers who served with the United Nations Command in the Republic of Korea since 1958. The first medal will recognise service between 1958 and 2000, and the second medal will be awarded to those who have served in the Republic of Korea since 2001. Eligible currently-serving NZ Defence Force (NZDF) personnel will be presented with their medals later this year. Eligible ex-military personnel, or their surviving spouse or families of deceased veterans, will be able to apply for their medals.

More information on the medals awarded for service in Korea can be found on the NZDF medals website: <http://medals.nzdf.mil.nz> and enquiries and applications for medals should be made in writing to: The Medals Office, Headquarters NZ Defence Force, Private Bag 905, Upper Hutt 5140

Tongan Aid Strategy

Over the ten-year period of this new strategy, NZAID is to deliver resources in excess of \$120 million to support Tonga achieve its development goals. The strategy's main aim is to reduce hardship in Tonga through activities which promote good governance, equitable access to quality education, and increased economic opportunities.

The Government of Tonga has asked for NZAID's economic development assistance to be focused on tourism and technical and vocational training and NZAID is designing new programmes in these areas in conjunction with the Tongan government. Tonga is currently NZ's fifth largest bilateral aid recipient with an annual programme of \$12 million.

Princess Royal to Visit Next Month

HRH the Princess Royal will visit NZ from 14 to 18 November. Princess Anne is representing HRH the Duke of Edinburgh at the [23rd Commonwealth Agricultural Conference](#), and will undertake other engagements during her brief visit. She last visited NZ in June 2006.

Conferences/Festivals

Diwali in Auckland and Wellington

This month will see the seventh Diwali Festival of Lights celebrating the sights, sounds, fashion and food of India in Wellington and Auckland. The Auckland event will be at the Auckland Viaduct Harbour over two days - 18-19 October - and the Wellington event will be held at the TSB Bank Arena on 26 October. Diwali or Deepavali (literally "a row of lamps") is among the most ancient and important festivals in Indian culture. It is informally known as "the Festival of Lights" – the time when families light candles and small oil lamps (known as diyas) around the home, and set off firecrackers and fireworks.

For more information, visit <http://www.asianz.org.nz/diwali>

Conference: Volume or Value?

AgResearch and Australia's CSIRO Livestock Industries are holding an industry and scientific conference from 28-30 October at the Convention Centre in Christchurch.

Details are at <http://www.livestockhorizons.com/>

Leadership Metamorphosis

This conference, which covers both the light and dark sides of the transition to leadership in the not-for-profit sector, is being held from 28 – 29 October in Christchurch.

More information: I Harper, Executive Officer ASENZ, PO Box 261, Wanganui, tel 06 342 3899, email asenz@asenz.org.nz, www.asenz.org.nz

Parent to Parent Conference

This has the theme of "Trusting partnerships: establishing right relationships between families, disabled people, organisations, service providers and community." It is being held from 30 October to 1 November at Novotel Lakeside, Rotorua.

More information tel 0508 236 236, or visit national@parent2parent.org.nz

Funding/Award Opportunities

Community Conservation Fund for Projects on Public Land

A new \$4 million Community Conservation Fund has been established to help community groups restore important native areas and protect rare and threatened native biodiversity on public land. It will provide funding of up to \$40,000 per year to community groups undertaking restoration projects on land managed by DOC, local and regional councils, NZ Rail, Transit NZ, Land Information NZ, and Maori reserve land. A range of restoration activities will be funded, including:

- pre-planting weed control for an area;
- mulching newly planted areas to assist with weed suppression and maintenance;
- fencing, where this is required to help protect new planting;
- expertise and/or advice on specific concerns or problems associated with the project – for example, paying a supervisor to oversee tasks which require a large number of volunteers, or a one-off payment for a planting plan;
- grants for buying tools; and or
- publicity material or newsletters associated with the project.

Groups applying will need to show how they will maintain the project once the two year funding period ends.

The first of three funding rounds closes on 5 November 2008. Submission dates for the other two rounds will be posted on the web site <http://www.doc.govt.nz/communityfund> and anyone who registers interest will be notified by email when each funding round opens. Send your details to ccf@doc.govt.nz to be included on the contact list. More is at <http://www.doc.govt.nz/templates/summary.aspx?id=71632>

The 2008/09 Community Partnership Fund (CPF)

The CPF Fund aims to "support local, regional and national initiatives, through partnerships, to develop and achieve capability, confidence, relevant content, and connection to realise community aspirations through Information and Communication Technology (ICT)". CPF projects should:

- increase the capability of people to use ICT;
- demonstrate a really innovative use of ICT;
- demonstrate shared use of resources by using ICT e.g., having a multi-use ICT hub; or
- improve people's access to ICT and digitised information.

Applicants need to find partners and fund half the costs of the project – either in-kind or cash contributions. Priorities for funding for 2008/09 are expansion of existing CPF projects, and new projects that support "digitally disadvantaged NZers". Expansion of existing projects includes projects that link up existing projects, e.g., linking up ICT learning centres; those that will enable other people to use technologies and/or models in projects funded earlier (includes support for mentors/facilitators); projects that expand into other regions (including national roll-outs) or other user groups; and those that apply existing resources for a new use.

Registrations for expressions of interest close on 10 November for the 08/09 round. More information and application details (including registration as a mentor) are at <http://www.digitalstrategy.govt.nz/Funding/The-Community-Partnership-Fund/>

Veuve Clicquot Award

The organisers of this award are looking for women who display entrepreneurial drive; leadership skills; an ability to motivate and inspire others; to meet challenges, take risks and overcome obstacles to achieve success; with experience in managing a profitable company or organisation that has shown consistent financial success; a woman with charisma, individuality, style and tenacity. The recipient will travel to Champagne, join past and present laureates from other countries at the Veuve Clicquot Businesswomen's Meeting, christen a vine in her own name and enrol as a Friend of the Widow (Madame Clicquot was the founder of the brand). The person who nominates the successful candidate will receive 12 magnums of Veuve Clicquot Yellow Label Brut to celebrate.

Nominations close on 1 December 2008. The winner will be announced at the Veuve Clicquot Award luncheon in Auckland during March 2009. Nomination forms and further information can be found at: www.veuvecliquotaward.co.nz

Community Internship Programme

The Community Internship Programme funds community groups with identified development needs to employ skilled professionals from the public, private or community sector as interns for three to six months at no cost to the organisation. It focuses on skills sharing and the exchange of knowledge between sectors and community organisations, while building ongoing relationships and networks which continue after the internship ends.

Applications close on 15 December 2008. They go to Community Internship Programme, Crown Funding and Trusts, Department of Internal Affairs, PO Box 805, Wellington 6140. Application forms are at [http://www.dia.govt.nz/Pubforms.nsf/URL/CIPappform.pdf/\\$file/CIPappform.pdf](http://www.dia.govt.nz/Pubforms.nsf/URL/CIPappform.pdf/$file/CIPappform.pdf). More information: freephone 0800 824 824

Lottery Grants Board's Regional Community Committees

The 11 regional Lottery Grants committees make grants for projects that encourage or enable community self-reliance, capacity building and stability, or opportunities for social, civil or cultural participation and reducing or overcoming barriers to such participation.

Applications close on 3 November 2008. More information: your nearest Dept. Internal Affairs office, or www.dia.govt.nz, or tel freephone 0800 824 824

Kelloggs Rural Leadership Programme: Closing Soon

This programme is aimed at enabling young men and women living/working in rural areas to: develop solid leadership skills, learn how political, cultural, social, economic and physical forces impact on NZ agribusiness; and establish networks with leaders from NZ and beyond.

Applications close on 20 October 2008. More information /application forms are at <http://www.leaders.ac.nz/>

Rural Woman NZ Award

The Rural Women NZ Enterprising Rural Woman Award 2009 is aimed at supporting and promoting women running their own rural small businesses. The three award finalists will be presented with their prizes at a ceremony at Parliament on 15 May 2009.

Entries close on 16 February 2009. More information and entry forms are on the RWNZ website at www.ruralwomen.org.nz or telephone 0800 256 467

Appointments

NZ's next *Ambassador to Timor-Leste* will be career diplomat Tim McIvor. Dell Higgle is to be *appointed UN Ambassador to Geneva*. Vangelis Vitalis is to be *Deputy High Commissioner to Canberra*. Jane Diplock has been re-elected as *executive chair of the International Organisation of Securities Commissions*. Joseph Victor Williams has been appointed as a *Judge of the High Court*.

Keitha Dunstan and Mai Chen have been appointed as *members of the Securities Commission*. Dr Scott Champion has been appointed as *Meat & Wool NZ's new chief executive officer*. Bronwyn Dalley has agreed to act as *chief executive of the Ministry for Culture and Heritage*. Allan Galbraith and Mel Smith have been appointed to the *Independent Police Conduct Authority*. Chris Hodson QC has been appointed to the position of *Judge Advocate General of the Armed Forces*.

Dr Philip Cowan has been reappointed to the *National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC)* for a second term, and Dr Karen Phillips is a new appointee. Colleen Marshall has been appointed to the *NZ Symphony Orchestra Board*. David Peart has been appointed for a second term to the *National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee* and Peter Mason is a new appointee. Jim McLean has been appointed as *chair of the new Crown Research Institute being formed by the merger of HortResearch and Crop & Food Research*. Murdo Beattie and Andy Coupe have been appointed to the *Takeovers Panel*. Norma Campbell and Dr Alec Ekaroma have been appointed to the *National Screening Advisory Committee*. Jane Koziol-McLain has been appointed to the Ministry of Health's *Violence Intervention Programme Advisory Group* and to the *NZ Family Violence Clearinghouse Advisory Group*. Richard Tankersley, Ngai Tahu, has been appointed as a part-time *Human Rights Commissioner*.

Reappointments of *21 Visiting Justices* (whose role is to examine the treatment and conduct of prison inmates) include those of: Frank Edward Ashworth, Antonius Godefridus Fredericus Christophorus Bouchier, Shirley Lorraine Christie, Gina Christine de Graaff, John Douglas Walter Gadsby, Philip James Greenbank, Anthony Albert Winton Israel, Caroline Kellaway, Dame Dawn Ruth Lamb, Sally Geraldine MacAuley, Michael Nicholas McCarthy, William George Mathew, Dorothea Patricia Clare Millen, Marion Grace Miller, Denis Blake Pain, Merelyn Susanne Redstone, Denis George Rich, Michael James Robb, Shelley Rae Sage, Nicholas John Silvester, and Ronda Tokona.

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.

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

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Website: www.ruralwomen.org

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

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

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