

# Rural Bulletin

Rural Women New Zealand - informing New Zealand each month



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

February 2010

Rural Bulletin is a free publication produced by Rural Women New Zealand.

It aims to build community capacity by circulating relevant information, giving people in rural and other communities an opportunity to have their say on issues and changes that may affect them.

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# Consultation

## Special Education Review

A discussion paper from the Ministry of Education outlines how the special education system currently works, and asks:

- How could services be better coordinated and focused on the needs of students and families?
- What arrangements for funding, decision-making, verification, and fundholding should we have?
- How can individually targeted services and supports be made more efficient?
- Is the current mix of programmes, services, and supports right and does it provide value for money?
- How can families and schools be better informed?
- When things do not go well, what arrangements should be in place to resolve issues?
- What is the most important change that would improve outcomes for children and young people with special needs?

Submissions close 19 March 2010. An online submission form is at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=wJQKhOnSEpwtwUJT1L1bmYKndYi%2bVpT%2fxP9qFhs7NTs%3d&>. For more information email [SE.review@minedu.govt.nz](mailto:SE.review@minedu.govt.nz) or visit <http://www.minedu.govt.nz/theMinistry/Consultation/ReviewOfSpecialEducation.aspx>

## Simplifying Criminal Procedure

The Law Commission and the Ministry of Justice have published two consultation papers on ways to improve the timing and efficiency of criminal court cases. The proposals in the two papers aim to deal with longstanding concerns with criminal procedure, such as:

- repeated adjournments of cases;
- unnecessary court appearances and late guilty pleas;
- trials that fail to proceed on their scheduled date;
- inadequate sanctions to make sure that prosecution and defence progress the case as they should;
- long delays before cases are finalised;
- relatively minor cases being tried by jury;
- barriers to the use of modern technologies; and
- complex and outdated legislation.

Submissions close 1 March 2010. They go to M Luey, Policy Manager, Criminal Law Team, email [Malcolm.luey@justice.govt.nz](mailto:Malcolm.luey@justice.govt.nz). Both papers are available at <http://www.justice.govt.nz/courts/district-court/criminal-procedure-simplification-project>

## Review of Victims' Rights

A consultation paper called "A Focus on Victims of Crime: A Review of Victims' Rights" has been published by the Ministry of Justice. Preliminary proposals in this include:

- establishing a Victims' Services Centre as a central information point;
- developing a code of practice that will outline agencies' obligations to victims;
- establishing a Victims of Crime Officer;
- providing for more communication between victims and prosecutors;
- allowing more say in Victim Impact Statements which victims could read to the court; and
- broadening the Victim Notification System (for victims of serious offences), so victims control their level of involvement.

Submissions close on 31 March 2010. They go to A Focus on Victims of Crime, Ministry of Justice, PO Box 180, Wellington, email [VictimsRightsReview@justice.govt.nz](mailto:VictimsRightsReview@justice.govt.nz). The document is at: <http://www.justice.govt.nz/policy-and-consultation/victims>

## Increased Penalties for Price Fixing?

A discussion paper looking at options criminalising of cartels has published for comment. Hard-core cartels are formed when rival firms agree to not compete with each other, and limit or remove competition that would provide products at competitive prices. Criminal penalties for cartels have recently been introduced in Australia, but here, while hard-core cartels are unlawful under the Commerce Act 1986, they are subject to civil sanctions.

Amongst the options in the discussion paper are: funding for more Commerce Commission public awareness and enforcement; rewarding whistleblowers; granting investigators covert surveillance powers; increasing the level of financial penalties; and other penalties – i.e. imprisonment.

Submissions close on 31 March 2010. They go to Cartel Criminalisation, Ministry of Economic Development, PO Box 1473, Wellington 6140, email [cartels@med.govt.nz](mailto:cartels@med.govt.nz). The paper is at [http://www.med.govt.nz/templates/MultipageDocumentTOC\\_42186.aspx](http://www.med.govt.nz/templates/MultipageDocumentTOC_42186.aspx)

## Human Rights Action Plan

In a discussion paper published for comment, the Human Rights Commission proposes the following seven priorities for the next NZ Action Plan for Human Rights:

- review the law to make sure the Treaty of Waitangi, the rights of indigenous peoples, and human rights are provided for;
- conclude settlements for breaches of the Treaty promptly and fairly;
- set up Tangata Whenua/Crown partnerships in central and local government, business, resource management, and environmental protection;
- develop new national/local consultation forums for Tangata Whenua and the Crown;
- increase understanding of the Treaty and the human rights of indigenous peoples;
- make sure children and young people enjoy improved economic, social, cultural outcomes; and
- promote discussion on application of the Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples applies to the Pacific.

Submissions close on 19 March 2010. They go to Te Mana i Waitangi report, PO Box 12411, Thorndon, Wellington 6144, email [treaty@hrc.co.nz](mailto:treaty@hrc.co.nz). The discussion paper is at [http://www.hrc.co.nz/hrc\\_new/hrc/cms/files/documents/27-Jan-2010\\_13-00-02\\_HRC\\_Treaty\\_Report\\_web\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.hrc.co.nz/hrc_new/hrc/cms/files/documents/27-Jan-2010_13-00-02_HRC_Treaty_Report_web_FINAL.pdf)

## Regulating Health Professions

A discussion paper from the Ministry of Health considers the regulating of 21 health professions. Your feedback is sought on changes in relation to whether a profession “poses a risk of harm” or “it is otherwise in the public interest” to regulate that profession. The move follows an earlier review in which concerns were raised that NZ has too many registration authorities.

Submissions close on 5 March 2010. They go to A Sutherland, Strategic Workforce Development Unit, Ministry of Health, PO Box 5013, Wellington. The paper is at <http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/indexmh/statutory-regulation-health-professions-discussion-document>

## Review of Official Information Law

The Law Commission is reviewing the Official Information Act and relevant parts of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act. Parts of both Acts are described as “problematic”, and made even more so by the explosion of information technology. The Commission wants your views on what is working well - and also on what isn't working well.

Submissions close on 15 February 2009. To submit go to the Law Commission's online consultation site [TalkLaw](http://talklaw.co.nz/), at <http://talklaw.co.nz/>, or download survey questions at <http://talklaw.co.nz/document/index/10> then email [http://talklaw.co.nz/talkofficialinformation?module=feedback](mailto:talklaw@talklaw.co.nz)

## Child Offender Programmes' Effectiveness

This inquiry will examine how effective current rehabilitation programmes and the care and protection system are in addressing child offending.

Submissions close on 19 March 2010. Two copies go to the Social Services Committee, Parliament Buildings Wellington. Access the terms of reference from [http://www.parliament.nz/en-NZ/PB/SC/BusSum/2/2/e/00DBSCH\\_INQ\\_9724\\_1-Inquiry-into-the-identification-rehabilitation.htm](http://www.parliament.nz/en-NZ/PB/SC/BusSum/2/2/e/00DBSCH_INQ_9724_1-Inquiry-into-the-identification-rehabilitation.htm)

## Driver Licensing /Driver Testing Fees

The NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) says that driver licensing and testing fees no longer cover the licensing and testing services that are currently provided. It has released an information paper proposing increases in some fees, new fees for services that currently have no fee, and reducing some fees where they exceed recovery costs. Examples:

- learner licence application/test fees would go up from \$79.00 to \$91.90;
- full licence application/test fees would go up from 115.10 133.20;
- a new test booking rescheduling fee of \$16.00 would be introduced; and
- an application fee for a limited licence would go down from \$46.50 to \$38.50.

Submissions close on 26 February 2010. You can submit online at <http://nzta.govt.nz/consultation/driver-fees-review/submission-form.html>, email [info@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:info@nzta.govt.nz), or post your submission to DL Fees Review, Rules Team, NZ Transport Agency, PO Box 5084, Lambton Quay, Wellington 6145. The information paper is at <http://nzta.govt.nz/consultation/driver-fees-review/docs/information.pdf>

## Safe Use of ATVs on Farms

The Department of Labour (DoL) is reviewing its publication “Safe Use of ATVs on NZ Farms: Agricultural Guideline”. Views are sought on the existing publication, and on whether to extend it to apply to the agricultural, forestry and adventure tourism industries.

Submissions close on 13 February 2010. Send the Response Form at <http://www.dol.govt.nz/consultation/atvs-on-farms/ATV-guideline-responseform.doc> to D Naylor, Senior Advisor Standard Setting, Department of Labour, PO Box 3705, Wellington 6140, email [demi.naylor@dol.govt.nz](mailto:demi.naylor@dol.govt.nz). The current guide is at <http://www.osh.govt.nz/order/catalogue/23.shtml>

## Allocating Emissions Units to Industries

Emission units are to be allocated to businesses carrying out activities that are emissions-intensive and trade-exposed (the aim is to avoid the issue of these industries moving their emissions and their jobs offshore). Your views are sought on a consultation paper listing industrial activities that might be eligible for an allocation, and outlining an allocation process. Firms that think they might be eligible are asked to contact The Ministry for the Environment.

Submissions close on 12 February 2010. Email them to [emissionstrading@climatechange.govt.nz](mailto:emissionstrading@climatechange.govt.nz). More is at <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/climate/development-industrial-allocation-regulation-ets/>

## Domestic Electricity Retail Contracting...

The Electricity Commission (EC) is consulting on issues and options for domestic retail contracting arrangements, and it has developed:

- a draft set of "reasonable consumer expectations" for domestic consumers;
- a proposed package for progressing domestic retail contracting arrangements; and
- a draft set of contracting guidelines and minimum terms and conditions.

Submissions on these proposals close on 19 February 2010. Email them to [submissions@electricitycommission.govt.nz](mailto:submissions@electricitycommission.govt.nz), with Consultation Paper—Approach to domestic retail contracting arrangements in the subject line, or post them to L DuFall, Electricity Commission, PO Box 10041, Wellington 6143. A consultation paper is at <http://www.electricitycommission.govt.nz/pdfs/opdev/retail/consultationdocs/Domestic-contracts/consultation.pdf>

## ...& Electricity Competition & Supply

The purpose of the Electricity Industry Bill currently before Parliament is to improve competition in the electricity market, and also to improve security of electricity supply - by making changes to the Electricity Act 1992 and the Electricity Industry Reform Act 1998.

Submissions close on 26 February 2010. Two copies go to the Finance and Expenditure Committee, Parliament Buildings, Wellington. The Bill is at <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2009/0111/latest/versions.aspx>

## Setting Up New Food Safety System

The Food Bill has been re-drafted to allow for three levels of National Programmes, rather than Food Control Plans, so new arrangements for setting up the new system have been developed. The NZ Food Safety Authority (NZFSA) is looking for submissions in particular on proposals relating to the roll-out of National Programmes, the transition time frame, and the application of specific risk management systems to sectors.

Submissions close on 12 February 2010. They go to Policy Group, NZFSA, PO Box 2835, Wellington, 6011, email [policy@nzfsa.govt.nz](mailto:policy@nzfsa.govt.nz). More is at <http://www.nzfsa.govt.nz/policy-law/projects/domestic-food-review/paper-10/>

## Mining on Conservation Land

The government has finalised a consultation process for the review of Schedule 4 of the Crown Minerals Act 1991, and a discussion paper on the subject will shortly be published. Conservation areas listed in Schedule 4 are currently closed to mining access (except underground mining that does not disturb the land surface), and an assessment of the mineral and conservation value of some areas is currently being carried out. A discussion paper on the proposed changes is to be released this month, and then the public will have six weeks to have their say.

Keep your eye out for more information on the Ministry of Economic Development's website [www.med.govt.nz](http://www.med.govt.nz)

## Fair Trading While Fundraising

The Fair Trading (Soliciting on Behalf of Charities) Amendment Bill would require people who fundraise for charities to make sure consumers know a portion of any donation will be held back to cover fees. If more than half the donation goes to the fundraiser, they will be compelled to tell the donor the amount. Any fundraising carried out directly by charities using their own employees/volunteers will not be affected.

Submissions close on 19 March 2010. You can make a submission online at [http://www.parliament.nz/en-NZ/PB/SC/MakeSub/b/e/3/49SCCO\\_SCF\\_00DBHOH\\_BILL9680\\_1-Fair-Trading-Soliciting-on-Behalf-of.htm](http://www.parliament.nz/en-NZ/PB/SC/MakeSub/b/e/3/49SCCO_SCF_00DBHOH_BILL9680_1-Fair-Trading-Soliciting-on-Behalf-of.htm), or send two copies to the Commerce Committee, Parliament Buildings, Wellington. The Bill is at <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/bill/member/2009/0102/3.0/versions.aspx>

## Improving Immunisation Rates: Inquiry

There is clear scientific evidence that the benefits of high levels of immunisation to the individual and to society outweigh the disadvantages. However, many NZ children still contract measles, whooping cough, pneumococcal pneumonia, and other common infectious diseases, even though immunisation is free.

Submissions close on 12 February 2010. Two copies go to the Health Committee, Parliament Buildings, Wellington. More is at [http://www.parliament.nz/en-NZ/PB/SC/MakeSub/7/6/f/49SCHE\\_SCF\\_00DBSCH\\_INQ\\_9658\\_1-Inquiry-into-how-to-improve-completion.htm](http://www.parliament.nz/en-NZ/PB/SC/MakeSub/7/6/f/49SCHE_SCF_00DBSCH_INQ_9658_1-Inquiry-into-how-to-improve-completion.htm)

## Maori Community Development Act Inquiry

This 1962 Act, which covers the constitution of Maori Committees and Associations, and defines the powers and functions of the Maori Wardens and the NZ Maori Council, is being reviewed.

Submissions close on 12 February 2010. Two copies go to the Maori Affairs Committee, Parliament Buildings, Wellington. More is at [http://www.parliament.nz/en-NZ/PB/SC/MakeSub/e/4/2/49SCMA\\_SCF\\_00DBSCH\\_INQ\\_9297\\_1-Inquiry-into-the-operation-of-the-Maori.htm](http://www.parliament.nz/en-NZ/PB/SC/MakeSub/e/4/2/49SCMA_SCF_00DBSCH_INQ_9297_1-Inquiry-into-the-operation-of-the-Maori.htm)

## Human Embryo Storage Bill

The Human Assisted Reproductive Technology Act 2004 prohibits storage of a human in vitro gamete or a human in vitro embryo for longer than an "applicable period". This applies to storage from certain dates. The Act is being amended because fertility clinics have, in good faith, unknowingly breached the Act by storing gametes and embryos for longer than the applicable period.

Submissions close on 19 February 2010. Two copies go to the Health Committee, Parliament Buildings, Wellington. The Bill is at <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2009/0088/3.0/versions.aspx>

## Civil Defence Job Description

The Ministry of Civil Defence is consulting on the position description and accountabilities of the job of Lifeline Utility Coordinator (LUC). The LUC is responsible for coordinating lifeline utilities (including water, wastewater, ports, airports, roads, rail, electricity, gas, petroleum, telecommunications, and broadcast media) on behalf of the Controller during an emergency response.

Feedback closes 26 February 2010. More, including a submission form, is at [http://www.civildefence.govt.nz/memwebsite.nsf/wpg\\_URL/For-the-CDEM-Sector-Professional-Development-Role-Map-consultation-download-page?OpenDocument](http://www.civildefence.govt.nz/memwebsite.nsf/wpg_URL/For-the-CDEM-Sector-Professional-Development-Role-Map-consultation-download-page?OpenDocument)

## Building Standards Update

The Department of Building and Housing (DBH) is updating a number of papers on building methods designers, architects and builders use to make sure the Building Code is complied with. They include: **B1** - Structure; **B2** - Durability; **C** - Fire Safety; **E1** - Surface Water; **G9** - Electricity; **G10** - Piped Services; **G11** - Gas as an Energy Source; **G12** - Water Supplies; **G13** - Foul Water; **G14** - Industrial Liquid Waste; and **G15** - Solid Waste.

Submissions close on 15 February 2010. Use the online submission form, send submissions to [comments@dbh.govt.nz](mailto:comments@dbh.govt.nz) with "Consultation feedback - Compliance Document" in the subject line, or send them to Consultation feedback - Compliance Document Amendments, DBH, Building Quality, PO Box 10-729, Wellington. More is at <http://www.dbh.govt.nz/compliance-documents-consultation>

## Recording Marine Mammal Sightings

The Department of Conservation (DoC) is responsible for protecting, conserving and managing marine mammals. It is asking the public to report any sightings of whales or dolphins on an online form, taking particular note (if possible) of any special identifying markings of the tail, fins, and head. Sighting reports will be recorded in a database that will help DoC determine population sizes, breeding rates, and movement patterns.

The online form is at <http://www.doc.govt.nz/conservation/native-animals/marine-mammals/marine-mammal-sightings/whale-and-dolphin-sighting-form/>

## Auckland Local Government Bill

The Local Government (Auckland Law Reform) Bill - the third and final one dealing with changes to Auckland governance - makes changes to local boards and council-controlled organisations, includes provisions to deal with the transfer of staff and assets, and would establish a new regional transport authority called Auckland Transport. It would also establish a Board to promote issues of significance for mana whenua (iwi/hapu with customary authority over the area) and Maori for Tamaki Makaurau, that the Board would take into account when making decisions. As well, an ethnic advisory panel would be established to advise the Auckland Council of the views of ethnic people.

Submissions close on 12 February 2010. Two copies go to the Maori Affairs Committee, Parliament Buildings, Wellington. The Bill is at <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2009/0112/latest/DLM2635001.html#DLM2635001>

## Employment Relations: Worker Protection

The employment provisions in Part 6A of the Employment Relations Act are currently being reviewed. This section affects industries such as cleaning, food and laundry services, where work is often contracted and the change of a contract can create a restructuring or redundancy situation. The review will consider whether the special protection provided for some workers in these services is still relevant.

Submissions close in March 2010. A feedback form is at <http://www.dol.govt.nz/feedback.asp>. The Terms of Reference for the review are at <http://www.dol.govt.nz/consultation/tor-review-part6a/index.asp>. For more information call freephone 0800 20 90 20

## Student Associations: Changes Coming?

Under the Education (Freedom of Association) Amendment Bill currently being consulted on, any student at an institution would be able to decide whether or not to join a students' association. Currently, councils are required to hold a referendum to decide whether all students should become members of an association if they are petitioned by 10% of the students enrolled at the institution.

Submissions close on 31 March 2010. Two copies go to the Education and Science Committee, Parliament Buildings, Wellington. The Bill is at <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/bill/member/2009/0075/3.0/viewpdf.aspx>

## Review of Essential Skills Lists

The Department of Labour is reviewing:

- the Long Term Skill Shortage List (LTSSL), which lists occupations where there is an absolute shortage of skilled workers both globally and throughout NZ - people who gain employment in one of these areas may be granted a work permit; and
- the Immediate Skill Shortage List (ISSL), lists occupations that have an immediate shortage of skilled workers in NZ, to facilitate the approval of temporary work visa and permit applications.

Submissions close on 5 March 2010. Send them to [shortagesreview@dol.govt.nz](mailto:shortagesreview@dol.govt.nz), or to P Leniston, Consultant, Workforce Group, Department of Labour, PO Box 3705, Wellington. The lists being reviewed are at <http://www.immigration.govt.nz/NR/rdonlyres/30300143-D294-4CB8-A707-D87FEF67F386/0/SubmissionForm1stReview2010FINAL.doc>

## Dairy Industry Restructuring Act

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) has extended the deadline for submissions on the Dairy Industry Restructuring Act. Views are sought on the future of unprocessed milk markets in NZ and competition issues that could arise if pro-competition clauses expire.

Submissions close on 19 February 2010. They go to Regulation and Competition Team, Sector Performance Policy, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, PO Box 2526, Wellington 6140, email [dairyconsultation@maf.govt.nz](mailto:dairyconsultation@maf.govt.nz). More is at <http://www.maf.govt.nz/mafnet/publications/dairy-consultation/>

## Two Tertiary Institution Reviews

The Ministry of Education and the Tertiary Education Commission are undertaking two reviews relating to the use of statutory interventions at tertiary education institutions considered to be "at risk". Three of the interventions apply to all types of tertiary institutions: the CEO can require a council to provide information; the Minister can appoint a Crown observer to the council; and the Minister can dissolve the council and appoint a commissioner. Three others apply only to polytechnics: the CEO can require a polytechnic council to get specialist help; the CEO can require the council to prepare a performance improvement plan; and the Minister can appoint a Crown manager.

Consultation closes on 21 February 2010. Submissions go to [Interventions.review@minedu.govt.nz](mailto:Interventions.review@minedu.govt.nz), or to Section 195 Review Consultation, Tertiary Education Policy, Ministry of Education, PO Box 1666, Wellington, email [Interventions.Review@minedu.govt.nz](mailto:Interventions.Review@minedu.govt.nz) for a copy of the Ministry's discussion paper on the subject. More is at <http://www.minedu.govt.nz/theMinistry/Consultation/InterventionsReview.aspx>

## Consultation on Food Laws

Your views are sought on the following consultations from Food Standards Australia NZ (FSANZ):

- **Food derived from herbicide-tolerant (GM) maize** - Application A1021 Assessment: would amend the Food Standards Code to permit the sale and use of food derived from a new variety of maize genetically for tolerance to certain herbicides;
- **Food derived from insect-protected and herbicide-tolerant (GM) cotton** - Application A1028 Assessment: proposed variation to the Food Standards code to permit the sale and use of food derived from genetically modified cotton line T304-40, protecting it against certain insect larvae;
- **Food derived from drought-tolerant (GM) corn** - Application A1029 1st Assessment: would permit the sale and use of food derived from a new genetically modified (GM) variety of "drought-tolerant" corn;
- **Beta-Galactosidase as a processing aid (enzyme)** - Application A1032: seeks approval to use *Bacillus circulans* ATCC 31382 as a new microbial source of the enzyme beta-galactosidase;
- **Maltotetrahydrolase as a processing aid** - Application A1033 Assessment. Would approve use of a new processing aid produced from a genetically modified *Bacillus licheniformis*. Use of this delays the extends the acceptable eating quality period of bakery products;
- **Red 3 erythrosine in food colouring preparations** - Application A603– Draft Assessment: would expand use of the red food colouring erythrosine to icing and food colouring preparations (it is currently only permitted in preserved cherries).

Submissions close on 10 February 2010. They go to FSANZ, PO Box 10559, The Terrace, Wellington 6036, email, [info@foodstandards.govt.nz](mailto:info@foodstandards.govt.nz), visit [www.foodstandards.govt.nz](http://www.foodstandards.govt.nz), tel 04 978 5630. More is at <http://www.foodstandards.govt.nz/foodstandards/changingthecode/documentsforpublico868.cfm>

## Current Fisheries Consultations

These are:

- **Replacing the 2006 seabird scaring devices circular** (relates to trawler vessels longer than 28 metres). Submissions close on 15 February 2010. They go to T Steel, Ministry of Fisheries, PO Box 1020, Wellington 6140, email [tracey.steel@fish.govt.nz](mailto:tracey.steel@fish.govt.nz)
- **Application for a mataitai reserve at Marokopa** (re-notification): Marokopa is between Tirua Point and Harihari Beach on the West Coast of the North Island. Submissions close on 24 February 2010. They go to R Bess, Spatial Allocations Manager, Ministry of Fisheries, PO Box 1020, Wellington 6140, email [randall.bess@fish.govt.nz](mailto:randall.bess@fish.govt.nz)
- **Review of sustainability measures for surf clams stocks (QMA 2 and QMA 3) for 1 April 2010:** a position paper outlining proposed changes to the sustainability measures for selected surf clam stocks. Submissions close on 22 February 2010. They go to T Steel, Ministry of Fisheries, PO Box 1020, Wellington 6140, email [tracey.steel@fish.govt.nz](mailto:tracey.steel@fish.govt.nz)
- **Applications for three mataitai reserves around the Mahia Peninsula.** Submissions close on 17 February 2010. They go to R Bess, Spatial Allocations Manager, Ministry of Fisheries, PO Box 1020, Wellington 6140, email [randall.bess@fish.govt.nz](mailto:randall.bess@fish.govt.nz)
- **Review of Southern Bluefin Tuna (STN 1):** the Ministry is proposing to increase the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for southern bluefin tuna within the current fishing season. Submissions close on 12 February 2010. They go to T Steel, Ministry of Fisheries, PO Box 1020, Wellington 6140, email [tracey.steel@fish.govt.nz](mailto:tracey.steel@fish.govt.nz)

## Maritime NZ Consultations

- **Review of Maritime Qualifications:** a report outlining how maritime qualifications might be improved to meet the future needs of the sector has been released for comment by Maritime NZ (MNZ). Email feedback to [qolreview@maritimenz.govt.nz](mailto:qolreview@maritimenz.govt.nz), or post it to: QOL Review Feedback, Maritime NZ, PO Box 27006, Marion Square, Wellington 6141. The report and background information are at [www.maritimenz.govt.nz/quals-limits](http://www.maritimenz.govt.nz/quals-limits)
- **Community Engagement:** Maritime NZ is checking that it has identified the maritime industry's major concerns with the current community engagement programme so it has produced a summary of the issues for comment. More is at [www.maritimenz.govt.nz/quals-limits](http://www.maritimenz.govt.nz/quals-limits)

Submissions close on 1 March 2010. More is at <http://www.maritimenz.govt.nz/Consultation/Public-consultation.asp>

## LINZ/NZGB Consultations

Submissions are being sought on (closing dates for these are in brackets):

- **the preliminary proposal for the Mt Nimrod Pastoral Lease** tenure review (12 March 2010). Submissions go to Mike Todd, PO Box 1482, Christchurch 8140, email [mike.todd@opus.co.nz](mailto:mike.todd@opus.co.nz);
- **the preliminary proposal for the Glentanner Pastoral Lease** tenure review (12 March 2010). Submissions go to the Commissioner of Crown Lands, C/- Darroch, PO Box 27, email [ken.taylor@darroch.co.nz](mailto:ken.taylor@darroch.co.nz).

More is at <http://www.linz.govt.nz/about-linz/news-publications-and-consultations/consultation-projects-and-reviews/index.aspx>

## Draft Standards NZ Consultations

These ones cover (submission closing dates are in brackets):

- DR 3760: In-service safety inspection and testing of electrical equipment (12 February 2010);
- DZ4512: Fire detection and alarm systems in buildings (11 March 2010); and
- DZ5826: Pool water quality (26 February 2010).

Submissions on DR 3760 and DZ4512 go to R Mahony, Standards NZ (SNZ), Private Bag 2439, Wellington, email [Rachel.Mahony@standards.co.nz](mailto:Rachel.Mahony@standards.co.nz). Submissions on DZ5826 go to C Watkin, SNZ at the address above, email [craig.watkin@standards.co.nz](mailto:craig.watkin@standards.co.nz). The drafts are at <http://www.standards.co.nz/draft-standards/new-zealand-standards/?action=browseDrafts&draftTypeId=1&mod=drafts#none>

## IRD Consultations

These are (closing dates are in brackets):

- **Treatment of employee-related payments:** reimbursing allowances; reimbursing payments; and spending on account payments; and employer expense payments (12 February); GST: Time of supply - payments of deposits, including to a stakeholder (3 March 2010); and
- Ability of a NZ resident partner of an Australian limited partnership to claim foreign tax credits (five draft rulings - 12 February 2010).

Email comments to [public.consultation@ird.govt.nz](mailto:public.consultation@ird.govt.nz), or post them to Office of the Chief Tax Counsel, National Office, Inland Revenue Department, PO Box 2198, Wellington. More is at <http://www.ird.govt.nz/public-consultation/>

## Pharmac Consultations:

Pharmac is consulting on the following (closing dates for submissions are in brackets):

- **Consultation on altering subsidies for special foods** - foods are subsidised in the Pharmaceutical Schedule for a wide range of medical conditions including gluten intolerance, phenylketonuria (a genetic disease), and as general nutritional supplements (19 March 2010).
- **Proposal to fund donepezil and decline memantine applications** (25 February 2010)

Email feedback to [feedback@pharmac.govt.nz](mailto:feedback@pharmac.govt.nz), or post it to PHARMAC, PO Box 10-254, Wellington 6143. More is at <http://www.pharmac.govt.nz/patients/haveyoursay/consultation>

## ERMA Consultations

Hold your breath. The Environmental Risk Management Authority is currently consulting on (submission closing dates are in brackets):

- **Douglas Pharmaceuticals Limited's proposal to issue a new group standard\*** for active ingredients intended for use in the manufacture of human pharmaceutical medicines (16 March 2010). A consultation paper is at [http://www.ermanz.govt.nz/resources/publications/word/Pharma Ings \(2010.02.02\).doc](http://www.ermanz.govt.nz/resources/publications/word/Pharma%20Ings%20(2010.02.02).doc)
- **importing Root X** for the control of roots (9 March 2010);
- **importing/manufacturing Sea Alu** as a coating inhibiting marine organism growth on aluminium vessels (9 March 2010);
- **importing/manufacturing StemCap KF-2 as a fungicide** for the control of the disease Armillaria in kiwifruit (5 March 2010);
- **importing/manufacturing J57.41** for use as a timber treatment (5 March 2010);
- **importing/manufacturing Bravium** as an insecticide containing the active ingredient pymetrozine, for the control of aphids and whitefly in various crops (4 March 2010);
- **importing/manufacturing Cyrus as an insecticide** containing the active ingredient imidacloprid for the control of thrips in onions and cabbage aphids in vegetable brassicas and aphids in lettuce (4 March 2010);
- **importing/manufacturing BRD** as a reproductive hormone analogue preparation intended for injection into horses (4 March 2010);
- **importing/manufacturing Taskforce** as a herbicide for the selective control of two invasive weeds, Chilean needle grass and Nassella tussock in pasture (4 March 2010);

- **proposals for the continued safe use of methyl bromide** following ERMA's evaluation of the risks, costs, and benefits of the use of the substance (26 February 2010);
- **importing/manufacturing PAPP Paste A, PAPP Paste B and a PAPP Ready-to-use Bait** containing para-aminopropiophenone (PAPP) to be used as vertebrate toxic agents (19 February 2010); and
- **proposed amendment to a group standard\*** - requested by ACCORD Australasia Ltd (12 February 2010).

\* A group standard is an approval for a group of hazardous substances.

Email submissions to [submissions@ermanız.govt.nz](mailto:submissions@ermanız.govt.nz) or send them to. To ERMA NZ, PO Box 131, Wellington. More is at <http://www.ermanız.govt.nz>

## Rural

### Forestry: Emissions Trading Consultations Coming

Watch out for Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) consultations coming up in the next couple of weeks on:

- **pre-1990 Forest Land Allocation Plan Consultation Draft:** comment will be sought on proposed regulations covering forestry sector allocations, dealing with eligibility for different rates of allocation, and information requirements. Feedback will also be sought on rules applying for mapping pre-1990 forest land for the Allocation Plan;
- **tree weed exemptions:** proposals for exemptions for the deforestation of tree weeds on pre-1990 forest land specify tree species that may be considered weeds, also deals with tree weed exemption applications; and
- **revised indigenous look-up table for calculating carbon stocks:** these proposals provide revised values used for calculating carbon stocks in post-1989 indigenous forests in the NZ Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS). These increase the carbon units claimable in the medium- to long-term.

Watch <http://www.maf.govt.nz/mafnet/consultation.htm> and <http://www.maf.govt.nz/sustainable-forestry/index.htm>

### Northland Drought

Northland has been declared a medium-level drought zone, following a recent meeting of the Northland Rural Support Trust. Drought relief measures offered by the Government include tax assistance for farmers under the Income Equalisation Scheme, farm management advice,

welfare support, and funding for Rural Support Trusts to provide help.

The Ministry of Agriculture's Drought Guide is at <http://www.maf.govt.nz/mafnet/rural-nz/adverse-events/droughts/drought-guide.htm>

### Dairy Discharge Applications Called in

The Minister for the Environment has called in three large dairy effluent discharge consents in the Mackenzie Basin in the South Island, and established a board of inquiry to decide on the applications. The discharge consents are seen as nationally significant due to their scale, the fragile and iconic nature of the environment, the importance of freshwater quality to the Government, and the high level of public interest.

Once the Minister has formally called in and publicly notified the proposals, anyone can make a submission on the matter. The closing date for submissions is 20 working days after public notification of the proposals.

More is at <http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/minister+calls+mackenzie+basin+dairy+discharge+consents>

### Animal Identification Scheme

The National Animal Identification and Tracing (Nait) project, more than two years in the planning, is to get government funding. Under Nait, farmers will have to tag cattle and deer with electronic identifiers and record when they move animals between properties. The scheme, which will enable "plate to farm" tracing, is expected to become compulsory for beef after a short voluntary period in October next year, and to be joined by venison the following year. Sheep meat is likely to be added later.

### Fresh Food Microwave Packaging

Reporting on a Microwave Packaging report by The Freedonia Group, the Asia Food Journal says that this type of packaging is projected to climb by 7% annually to US\$2.4 billion because of consumer demand for convenient meal options. Fresh prepared foods will represent the fastest growing application for microwave packaging through to 2013, with demand expected to climb 11.2% each year. The big gains will be based on the convenience of fresh prepared foods, and the perception that they are of higher quality than frozen and canned alternatives.

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# Environment

## NZ Joins Copenhagen Accord

NZ is joining the Copenhagen Accord on climate change and is submitting its existing conditional 2020 target range. The accord provides a framework for more progress to be made. NZ's offer, set by the Government last year, is to cut emissions by 10 to 20% from 1990 levels by 2020. The offer is subject to the following conditions:

- a global agreement that sets the world on a pathway to limit global temperature rises of not more than 2°C;
- comparable efforts by other countries;
- actions by advanced and major emitting developing countries that matches their respective capabilities;
- effective rules governing land use, land use change and forestry; and
- full access to a broad and efficient international carbon market.

More is at <http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PA1002/S00016.htm>

## “What Drives Climate Change” Debate

Chemical & Engineering News (C&EN), the weekly newsmagazine of the American Chemical Society (the world's largest scientific society) has published a major analysis of the divisive issues at the heart of the debate over global warming and climate change. C&EN's story notes that global warming believers and sceptics actually agree on a cluster of core points:

- earth's atmospheric load of carbon dioxide - the main greenhouse gas - has increased since the Industrial Revolution began in the late 1700s;
- carbon dioxide increase results largely from burning of coal and other fossil fuels; and
- average global temperatures have risen since 1850, with most of the warming occurring since 1970.

But there is where the cordial agreements stop: at the heart of the debate is whether warming is directly the result of increasing anthropogenic (human-induced) CO<sub>2</sub> levels, or if it is simply part of Earth's natural climatic variation.

The C&EN article was published at the conclusion of the recent United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen.

The article is at <http://pubs.acs.org/cen/coverstory/87/8751cover.html?featured=1>

## The Decade's Top Sustainability Trends

According to a US expert, the decade 2010-2019 will be one day looked at as either the turning point for addressing climate change by using effective urban management strategies, or the time when we collectively fumbled the “Big Blue Ball”. The top global sustainability trends for this decade are seen as:

- **Bikes culture 2.0** (time period: 2010-2019). The author believes that bicycles and their riders will become legit, which will influence fashion, and the economies and the design of cities in particular.
- **Mexico City, Climate Change, and the Future of Cities** (time period: November-December 2010). The Mexico City United Nations Climate Change conference is taking on much bigger proportions than initially envisioned.
- **The rise of cellulosic biofuels** (time period 2014-2019). Cellulosic biofuels, says the author, offer the promise by the middle of the decade of creating a viable energy source (one of many that will be needed) from waste products, such as wood waste, grasses, corn stalks, and other non-food products.
- **The marriage of ICT and green cities** (time period: 2013-2019). Green ICT (information and communications technologies) holds promise for increasing the energy and resource efficiency of most aspects of urban development.
- **Implementation of carbon taxes** (time period: 2010-2019).
- **The first big urban climate change adaptation: Drought** (2010-2019). A major effort at climate change adaptation is underway in California as well as other urban areas that are experiencing or are likely to feel the early effects from climate change.
- **End of cheap oil/ onset of fossil fuel shortages** (time period: 2012-2019).
- **Focus on urban agriculture and foodsheds** (time period: 2012-2019). As fuel prices rise and unexpected energy shortages occur, food prices will rise rapidly, the author says there will be increasing emphasis on greater local and regional food production in and around cities.
- **Resiliency planning: cities, towns, homes** (time period: 2010-2019). Resiliency is about making a system or one's self stronger and more able to survive adversity.
- **Sustainability movie/ novel /art/ song** (time period 2010-2019). There has yet to be a significant work of popular art that he is aware of that captures the modern systemic aspirations of sustainability.

More is at <http://www.worldchanging.com/archives/010922.html>

## Annual 1080 Report Released

The Environmental Risk Management Authority (ERMA) has released its second annual report on the aerial use of 1080. It includes details of aerial pest control operations undertaken in 2008, reports on incidents, and research projects completed or underway. There were 74 aerial 1080 operations carried out in 2008, covering nearly 600,000 hectares and targeting mainly possums and rabbits. The size of operations varied with location and purpose, with the largest covering 52,000 hectares and the smallest 65 hectares.

To read or download the annual report, go to <http://www.ermanz.govt.nz/hs/1080resources/ERMA1080AR%20for%20web%20publication.pdf> and detailed reports about each operation can also be found on the 1080 homepage, [www.ermanz.govt.nz/1080](http://www.ermanz.govt.nz/1080)

## Streamlining Resource Management

An Urban Technical Advisory Group and an Infrastructure Technical Advisory Group, have been set up to advise on urban planning and design, and resource management law. The Urban group will consider aspects of current urban planning and design (e.g., housing affordability; urban design), and look at combining the RMA, Local Government, and Land Transport Management Acts. The Infrastructure group will look at streamlining infrastructure (transport and communication networks) provisions in the RMA and related legislation, and managing the effects of activities on these networks.

More is at <http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/new+work+underway+phase+ii+rma+reforms>

## Measure Your Environmental Performance

Envirostep is a web-based assessment tool that has been developed to help organisations determine their environmental performance. It provides:

- an environmental performance score and profile;
- recommendations for ways to reduce operating costs, environmental impacts & risk;
- an action plan; and
- over 300 links to other environmental tools, service providers & further information.

Envirostep is at: <http://www.eco-verification.med.govt.nz/envirostep>

## News Then Shoes

A Taiwanese company is making a fashion statement with old newspapers, turning discarded newsprint into shoes and bags. The designer has sold about 4,000 pairs of shoes made with recycled paper, which eliminates the need for many of the chemicals and new materials that go into most shoes. Each pair takes three to four hours to create and sells for up to \$150.

More is at [http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hcOuqVh1rthjH10DEFJZNbZD2D\\_AD9C337K00](http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hcOuqVh1rthjH10DEFJZNbZD2D_AD9C337K00)

## Tourism

### Top Domestic Destinations 2009

Online accommodation website Wotif.com has revealed Kiwi domestic travellers' favourite destinations in 2009, according to the top 20 locations booked online. Auckland, Christchurch, and Wellington held their respective spots at the top in 2009, with Christchurch overthrowing Wellington to sneak into second place after holding third in 2008.

The North and South Islands were equally represented in the top twenty, with ten destinations from each region. Te Anau and Hammer Springs were two of the biggest movers in 2009 jumping a few places to 12<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, respectively.

More information at [http://info.wotif.com/media\\_release](http://info.wotif.com/media_release)

### International Guest Nights

Overnight stays by international visitors in commercial accommodation in the South Island were up 5% in the November 2009 month compared with the previous November, Statistics NZ said recently. Comparing the same two months, domestic guest nights were up 2%, resulting in total South Island guest nights increasing 4%. This is the fifth consecutive month of increase for the South Island.

Overall, nationally, international guest nights were up 2%, while domestic guest nights were down 1% in November 2009 compared with November 2008. Total guest nights in November 2009 were up 0.5% for the month. Increases in guest nights were recorded for backpackers and holiday parks, while hotels and motels had fewer guest nights in November 2009 compared with November 2008.

More is at [http://www.stats.govt.nz/browse\\_for\\_stats/tourism/accommodation/Accommodation-Survey\\_MRN09.aspx](http://www.stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats/tourism/accommodation/Accommodation-Survey_MRN09.aspx)

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# Health and Welfare

## Global Childhood Immunisation Up

A new report from the World Health Organisation (WHO) indicates that - reversing a downward trend - childhood immunisation rates around the world are now at their highest ever. However, WHO also indicates that, due to a funding gap of at least US\$1 billion, life-saving vaccines still do not reach some 24 million children – one in five born each year – who are most at risk in the poorest countries.

More is at [http://www.unicef.org/immunization/index\\_51482.html](http://www.unicef.org/immunization/index_51482.html)

## Older People in Residential Care...

A 20-year University of Auckland study has shown that the population in residential aged care has become older, frailer and more dependent, suggesting that new models of care are required. This is because NZers are staying well and independent until a much more advanced age than they once did, and only go into residential care when they really need to. The researchers attribute these changes to improvements in how well people age, our attitudes towards ageing, and the options available to older people, and in particular the implementation of "ageing-in-place" strategies.

The study is at <http://researchspace.auckland.ac.nz/handle/2292/5594>

## ...& Monitoring Rest Homes: Report

The Auditor General's Office (OAG) has released a report on the certification and monitoring of rest homes. In the view of the OAG, Ministry of Health (MoH) has not responded quickly enough to address weaknesses and risks in the arrangements. However, it notes that the MoH has a certification improvement project and wider work programme that have been well managed, and communication between those involved in overseeing rest homes has improved. More work remains to be done, and the OAG says it is still too early to tell whether the efforts to make the current arrangements work as intended will make a difference, or whether certification is unable to do what the legislation envisaged.

The report is at <http://www.oag.govt.nz/2009/rest-homes>

## New Outdoor Safety Code

A new "common-sense" outdoor safety code has been developed with tourists in mind, after reports of poor trip planning, such as attempting to hike in rugged terrain wearing jandals. It is short and sweet:

- **plan your trip:** Seek local knowledge, and plan the route you will take and the amount of time you can reasonably expect it to take.
- **tell someone:** Tell someone your plans and leave a date for when to raise the alarm if you do not return.
- **be aware of the weather:** NZ's weather can be highly unpredictable. Check the forecast and expect weather changes.

## Maori Health Service Delivery

A Ministry of Health report called Te Toi Hauora-Nui provides information about new approaches to improving Maori health, particularly where cardiovascular and diabetes programmes delivered in the primary care setting are concerned.

To download a copy of the report visit:

[www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/indexmh/te-toi-hauora-nui](http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/indexmh/te-toi-hauora-nui)

## ... & Mental Health: Twitter Feeds

Two new Twitter feeds devoted to information on mental health in NZ have been launched. The feeds are being run by the Mental Health Foundation and the Like Minds, Like Mine Programme.

The Mental Health Foundation's Twitter feed can be found at

[www.twitter.com/mentalhealthnz](http://www.twitter.com/mentalhealthnz) and Like Minds' Twitter feed can be found at <http://twitter.com/NZLikeMinds>

## Energy Boosting Tips

Tips for an emergency energy boost when your energy level is low include:

- **go outside into the sunlight.** Light deprivation is one reason people feel tired, and research suggests that light stimulates brain chemicals that improve mood;
- **go for a brisk walk.** Even a ten-minute walk can give you a surge of energy and decreased tension; and
- **listen to your favourite zippy song.** Hearing stimulating music gives an instant lift.

For other tips and readers' comments go to [http://www.happiness-project.com/happiness\\_project/2009/12/ten-tips-for-an-emergency-energy-boost.html](http://www.happiness-project.com/happiness_project/2009/12/ten-tips-for-an-emergency-energy-boost.html)

## Quitline Data for 2009

Around 54,000 people signed up with the Quitline last year to give up smoking – double the total from four years ago. Figures for 2009 also show:

- Quitline advisors received thousands more calls from people asking for additional help;
- advisors made 106,000 outwards calls to support people in their quit attempts (35% up on 2007);
- nearly one in four new callers were Maori; and
- 5500 blogs were written on [www.quit.org.nz](http://www.quit.org.nz); a 38% increase on 2008.

Call the Quitline free on 0800 778 778 or see [www.quit.org.nz](http://www.quit.org.nz)

and businesses. The aims are to simplify the tertiary education funding system, reduce central bureaucracy, strengthen quality, and to require greater accountability;

The strategy is at <http://www.minedu.govt.nz/theMinistry/PolicyAndStrategy/TertiaryEducationStrategy.aspx>

## Pasifika Education Plan Revised

The Pacifica Education Plan 2009-2012 plan has been revised to include national standards in literacy and numeracy, and a need to respect and value Pacific language and culture in schools. It also focuses on participation and quality in early childhood education; making sure students are engaged in learning; more effective engagement with parents; and moving students into higher levels of learning and achievement in tertiary education.

Pasifika people make up 7.2% (or 302,000) of the NZ population.

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## Education/Training

### ERO: Reading & Writing Report

An ERO evaluation into reading and writing in the crucial Years 1 and 2 at primary schools in 2009 has found that:

- many principals and senior managers aren't properly monitoring how well young children are achieving or progressing;
- many don't set expectations of high achievement levels;
- 70% of teachers are doing well, but 30% are not teaching reading and writing effectively;
- some principals have no way of assessing if young children are falling behind; and
- some school leaders are ignoring achievement information that does not show positive results.

The ERO report is at <http://ero.govt.nz/publications/pubs2009/readingwriting-y1&2-dec09.doc>

### Tertiary Education Strategy Released

The recently-released Tertiary Education Strategy 2010-2015 outlines plans to link funding more closely to performance. It also highlights the importance of supporting high quality research across the tertiary sector, and of building closer ties between research institutions

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## Employment

### NZ Hiring Expectations Up

According to the latest quarterly "Hudson Report: Employment Expectations", NZ employers are increasingly looking to hire more people in the coming quarter as businesses put the difficulties of 2009 behind them. Of over 1,200 employers surveyed, 27.7% are looking to increase permanent staff levels, up from 21.9% the previous quarter. The proportion intending headcount reduction decreased from 11.2% to 8.2%.

The IT industry showed particularly strong growth, with over 40% of employers expecting to hire, even in the face of skill shortages. Telecommunications showed the largest increase in confidence and employing expectation. Professional services hiring expectations rose from just over 18% of employers last quarter to 31% now looking to hire, while manufacturing sentiment is the highest seen in two years. Employer sentiment in the construction, property, and engineering industry is steady.

More is at <http://www.hays.net.nz/forecast/>

## Best & Worst Paid Occupations...

From the Careers Service comes information about highest and lowest income occupations (note: salary figures are average incomes – ranges are not shown):

- **Highest income earners by industry:** medical practitioners - \$98,300; ICT Managers - \$87,700; legal professionals - \$82,100; chief executives, general managers and legislators - \$69,600; advertising and sales managers - \$69,300; financial brokers and dealers, and investment advisers - \$69,200; air and marine transport professionals - \$67,300; education, health and welfare services managers - \$64,700;
- **Lowest income earners by industry:** Education aides - \$16,800; cleaners and laundry worker - \$16,700; sales support workers - \$16,200; hospitality workers - \$16,100; child carers - \$15,900; food preparation assistants - \$11,100; checkout operators and office cashiers - \$10,800.

More is at [http://www2.careers.govt.nz/who\\_earns\\_what.html](http://www2.careers.govt.nz/who_earns_what.html)

## ... & Most Stressful Jobs

A recently compiled US list of most stressful jobs has these as the top eight: 1, surgeon; 2, commercial airline pilot; 3, photojournalist; 4, advertising account executive; 5, real estate agent; 6, general practice physician; 7, newspaper reporter; and 8, physician's assistant. The list takes into account 21 different stress factors, including deadlines, life and death situations and physical demands. By the way, the least stressful jobs are actuary, dietician, computer systems analyst, statistician, astronomer, and mathematician.

More is at [http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/34114804/ns/business-personal\\_finance/?pg=1#Biz\\_StressfulJobs\\_091123](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/34114804/ns/business-personal_finance/?pg=1#Biz_StressfulJobs_091123)

## Salary & Wage Rates

In the December 2009 quarter, salary and wage rates (including overtime) increased 0.4%. From the December 2008 quarter to the December 2009 quarter: salary and wage rates (including overtime) increased 1.8%, overtime wage rates increased 2.2%, and private sector salary and ordinary time wage rates increased 1.5%.

## Annual Work Stoppages Decrease

Four work stoppages (two complete strikes and two partial strikes) ended in the September 2009 quarter, and 18 work stoppages ended in the September 2009 year, according to Statistics NZ. Stoppages in the September 2009 year involved 2,010 employees, and losses of 1,382

person-days of work and an estimated \$0.3 million in wages and salaries. In comparison, the 30 stoppages in the September 2008 year involved 5,401 employees, and losses of 10,782 person-days of work and an estimated \$2.7 million in wages and salaries.

## Housing

### More New Home Consents

According to recent figures from Statistics NZ, the number of new homes authorised (excluding apartments) continued to rise in December 2009. This came despite a fall of 1.4 % in the seasonally adjusted number in December 2009. Although the number dropped slightly in December, it followed six months of increases and the series is still moving upwards.

Building consents were issued for 1,260 new housing units, and for 93 new apartment units. The value of residential building consents was \$494 million, an increase of 12% compared with December 2008, while the value of non-residential building consents was \$404 million, an increase of 5.6%.

More is at

[http://www.stats.govt.nz/browse\\_for\\_stats/industry\\_sectors/Construction/BuildingConsentsIssued\\_MRDec09.aspx](http://www.stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats/industry_sectors/Construction/BuildingConsentsIssued_MRDec09.aspx)

### Building on Ancestral Land

A new housing programme called Kainga Whenua\* offers the opportunity for Maori to build, purchase or relocate a house on multiple-owned Maori land. Maori land cannot be sold - and this means banks are unable to meet their standard requirements for mortgage security, so the Crown will act as guarantor for qualifying home loans.

Kiwibank is the lender for the scheme, approving and providing home loans that will be insured by Housing NZ. The bank can lend 100% of house building costs or the purchase price of the house, up to \$200,000, as long as the borrower has a right to occupy the land, a valuation from a registered valuer, and a satisfactory building contract. Kainga Whenua is available to first-home buyers, or people who have previously owned a home and are in a similar financial position as a first-home buyer.

\*Kainga Whenua: combines the concepts of home/homestead (kainga) and attachment to the land (whenua)

More about the scheme is at [www.hnzc.co.nz](http://www.hnzc.co.nz)

## Size/Cost of Leaky Homes

A PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) report on the size and cost of the weathertightness problem indicates that:

- approximately 42,000 homes built between 1992 and 2008 have been affected;
- it is likely only a minority of these homes - around 3500 - have had repairs done to date;
- around 9000 of them have now gone beyond the 10-year legal liability limit period;
- the total economic costs of fixing the affected homes at \$11.3 billion in 2008 dollars;
- the many causes of the weathertightness problem include: poor design (e.g., no eaves), poor workmanship, use of new materials without adequate knowledge, and issues with inspection processes; and
- the vast majority of leaky homes will show evidence of failure within the 10-year period.

A Government assistance package for leaky home owners will shortly be taken to Cabinet.

For copies of the report go to <http://www.dbh.govt.nz/2009-news-index>

## Energy

### “Smart Grid” Spending to Rise

Governments and utilities around the world are expected to ramp up their investments in the electrical smart grid, spending a total of US\$200 billion worldwide from 2008 through 2015, says a new report from a US company.

The term “smart grid” is shorthand for a number of technologies intended to automate and digitise management of electrical power. By computerising the 20th century electrical system, utilities and others in the power industry hope to manage and control electrical output more efficiently and reliably. Though smart grid sounds like it's a single system, it's really number of different tools and technologies, from smart meters to solar power, all designed to reduce costs, waste less energy, and provide better networking and communications between homes and utilities.

More on this can be found at [http://news.cnet.com/8301-11128\\_3-10422232-54.html](http://news.cnet.com/8301-11128_3-10422232-54.html)

## Crude Oil Production Up...

NZ's production of crude oil jumped nearly 20% in the quarter ending September 2009, largely due to the Maari field reaching full production. This is according to the NZ Energy Quarterly, published by the Ministry of Economic Development (MED). Other findings include:

- wind generation set a new record high, accounting for over 3% of the quarter's total generation;
- electricity emissions were down 6% on the same quarter in 2008, due to better hydro inflows and less fossil fuel generation; and
- gas flaring was up on recent quarters, due to the large quantity being flared at the Maari field.

The NZ Energy Quarterly presents statistics on the supply of major fuels, electricity generation and greenhouse gas emissions, and prices to the end of the September 2009. Find out more at [www.med.govt.nz/energy/nzeg](http://www.med.govt.nz/energy/nzeg)

### ...& 2010 Oil Reserves Target Met

NZ's oil reserves have been secured for 2010, ensuring the country continues to meet its International Energy Agency (IEA) obligations. Under IEA rules, NZ is required to hold 90 days of the previous year's net oil imports. For 2010, tickets for 100,000 tonnes of crude oil and petroleum have been secured, covering stock held in Japan and the United Kingdom. This is down on 107,000 tonnes in 2009, 285,000 tonnes in 2008 and 461,000 tonnes in 2007. The figure is less than previous years because of increasing domestic oil production.

## Transport & Travel

### Air NZ Top Airline

Air NZ has been named Airline of the Year by “Air Transport World” magazine, for its commitment to safety and operational excellence, its groundbreaking customer service, its environmental record, and its financial performance and fiscal management during one of the most turbulent periods in aviation history.

### Report on Vehicle insurance

A survey of 4,000 NZers has found that 92.4% have some form of motor vehicle insurance, while 7.6% of vehicle owners had an uninsured vehicle or did not know whether their vehicle was insured. This is a level similar to countries that have compulsory vehicle insurance (e.g., in the UK where insurance is compulsory about 6% of all motorists are estimated to be uninsured).

The survey also showed that young people did not own the majority of uninsured vehicles - 70% of uninsured vehicles were owned by people under the age of 40, but there was a fairly even split between those aged under 25 years and those aged over 25 years. The most common reason given by people for not insuring their vehicle was that they could not afford to do so.

More is at <http://www.transport.govt.nz/ourwork/Land/Vehicleinsurance/>

## NZ Drivers: Delusions of Competence?

More than a quarter of NZ drivers are awful, but think they're great, according to a new FlyBuys online poll. The poll found that 27% of voters thought drivers were "frankly awful, but think they're great". 41% said that kiwi drivers "need instruction to find their indicators, brakes or rear-view-mirror". Only 3% agreed drivers were courteous and skilful.

One commentator noted, "our open road car control is generally pretty good, [but] as a nation we still struggle with city and motorway congestion and a lot of us fail to grasp the bigger picture when it comes to traffic flow in these situations".

More on this story at <http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/CU1001/S00108.htm>

## Justice/the Law

### OPCAT Report

Under the UN Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT) in 2007, the Ombudsmen, the Children's Commissioner, the Independent Police Conduct Authority, the Inspector of Service Penal Establishments, and the Human Rights Commission have the role of making sure the places where people who are detained are safe and humane environments that meet international standards. They visit prisons, premises approved under the Immigration Act 1987, health and disability places of detention, and youth justice residences.

The latest combined annual report of the five organisations shows that, in its first full year of operation, preventive monitoring has proved to be an effective approach to preventing inhuman or degrading treatment of people in detention. Issues that continue to be a focus, include:

- the rights and needs of: children and young people, asylum-seekers, Maori, and people with mental health issues;
- staffing levels and training conditions of detention and standard of facilities; and

- resourcing of the monitoring groups so they can carry out their roles effectively (given their size, the nature of their roles, and the scope of places to be visited - there are currently more than 500 places of detention).

Of particular concern is the need for greater availability of mental health services for prisoners.

Download the report "Monitoring Places of Detention" at [http://www.hrc.co.nz/hrc\\_new/hrc/cms/files/documents/18-Dec-2009\\_14-23-46\\_Opcat\\_2009\\_final-web.pdf](http://www.hrc.co.nz/hrc_new/hrc/cms/files/documents/18-Dec-2009_14-23-46_Opcat_2009_final-web.pdf)

## Suppressing Names & Evidence

The Law Commission says the (35) recommendations in this report represent a balance between protecting the principles of open justice and freedom of expression, and protecting the administration of justice and the right to a fair trial.

Its clear view, supported by the majority of submitters, is that suppression is currently granted inconsistently and sometimes too readily, and that the grounds for it need to be clarified and tightened.

The report is at [http://www.lawcom.govt.nz/UploadFiles/Publications/Publication\\_149\\_453\\_R109.pdf](http://www.lawcom.govt.nz/UploadFiles/Publications/Publication_149_453_R109.pdf)

## "Three Strikes" Bill Amended

The Sentencing and Parole Reform Bill (the "Three Strikes" Bill) which was introduced early in 2009, has been amended. The main changes include qualifying offences moving from sentences of five years or more to seven years, and third strike offenders getting a maximum sentence rather than a life sentence with a minimum period of 25 years in imprisonment. The public will get a chance to comment when the Bill goes to select committee.

## On-the-spot Protection Orders

The Domestic Violence (Enhancing Safety) Act introduces police safety orders, under which police can issue orders on the spot to ensure the immediate safety of victims by removing the alleged violent person from the home for a period of up to five days. The orders will be issued in situations where there is an insufficient basis to arrest but where police believe there is a likelihood of domestic violence occurring. The criminal courts are also able to issue a protection order on behalf of victims in cases where an offender is sentenced for a domestic violence offence. Both provisions run from 1 July 2010.

Other provisions of this new law include:

- removing the existing the two-tiered penalty structure for breaches of protection orders, leaving only the maximum penalty of up to two years' imprisonment;
- providing a penalty of up to six months' imprisonment for failing to attend a court-ordered programme;
- repealing the criteria that police have to take into account when considering whether to arrest without warrant, a person who they suspect has contravened a protection order; and
- allowing police to impose any conditions considered reasonably necessary to protect any particular person residing with the victim, such as children, new partners, or elderly parents.

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## Public Service / Local Govt

### Budget Day 2010

The Government has announced that this year's Budget will be delivered on 20 May 2010.

### Protecting Values of Crown Land

Government departments, state-owned enterprises, and Crown entities now need to identify, manage and protect if necessary, important cultural, historic heritage, and conservation values when Crown land is being disposed of. Guidelines for ways of assessing these values are currently being developed.

More is at [www.lin.govt.nz](http://www.lin.govt.nz)

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## Not-for-Profits

### Issues for N-F-Ps

A recent (2009/10) biennial survey on issues impacting on the not-for-profit sector (by business advisors Grant Thornton) has found that most not-for-profits are trying to keep spending to the essentials and better understanding their business risks. Some N-F-Ps have also strengthened their links with key donors. However, just a quarter would actively consider a consolidation or merger and about half are opposed to the idea.

The article is at <http://www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/business/3243351/Recession-hits-not-for-profits> and the survey is at <http://www.grantthornton.co.nz/Assets/documents/pubSeminars/NFP-Survey-2009-2010.pdf>

## Go for Payroll Giving

The payroll giving scheme offering workers the chance to make ongoing charitable donations is now available to all employers who file their employer monthly schedules electronically.

With the scheme, employers deduct the donation from workers' pay, reduce their PAYE tax by the appropriate tax credit at the time (rather than at the end of the tax year), and send the donation to the chosen organisation/s.

More about payroll giving is at [www.ird.govt.nz](http://www.ird.govt.nz)

## Social Lending by Foundations?

A report from ASB Community Trust and The Tindall Foundation considers the international and NZ experience of social lending and addresses whether foundations should be involved in social lending. This kind of lending – also called peer-to-peer (P2P) lending - happens when borrowers and lenders do business without traditional “in-betweens” like banks.

The report recommends that foundations should consider social lending because it will: increase their reach both in the amount and type of project they can fund; allow successful projects to achieve greater scale; build stronger projects by improving a project's management; provide better focus on long-term operational sustainability in projects; allow projects to acquire assets; avoid the weakening of a project through inappropriate grants; help build social markets; and allow systematic interventions where a mixture of loans and grants are needed. There would also be a wider benefit to society.

The report and a summary are at [www.asbcommunitytrust.org.nz/research-social-lending.html](http://www.asbcommunitytrust.org.nz/research-social-lending.html)

## Something for Nothing

The December issue of “Insight” from the NZ Institute of Economic Research (NZIER) looks at what motivates people to volunteer their time. The report includes a table explaining the three broad motivations for volunteering: consumption (the “here and now”, the enjoyment and benefits of volunteering); investment (the future rewards from investing today's volunteer hours); and altruism (a genuine selfless act benefiting others).

The article is at [http://www.nzier.org.nz/Site/Publications/NZIER\\_Insight.aspx](http://www.nzier.org.nz/Site/Publications/NZIER_Insight.aspx)

## Effective Charities

The Charities Commission has developed a statement of the qualities that it considers contribute to making a charity efficient and effective, and quite able to achieve its purposes. These are that it:

- is clear about its purposes and direction;
- has a strong board;
- has the right people for its activities;
- shows fitness for purpose;
- maintains a focus on learning and improving;
- is sound and prudent; and
- is accountable and transparent.

More is at [www.charities.govt.nz/news/fact\\_sheets/qualeff.htm](http://www.charities.govt.nz/news/fact_sheets/qualeff.htm)

## Business

### 2009 Commodity Prices

Large increases in the price of dairy, aluminium, and sawn timber products led to a 30% gain in NZ commodity prices in the 2009 year. Dairy, aluminium and sawn timber increased 50%, 47% and 40%, respectively, as global demand for raw materials returned after the slump caused by the credit crunch.

More is at <http://www.anz.co.nz/resources/5/e/5ea11600410598d29ca4dfd5d7811059/CPI-20100113.pdf>

### Imports/Exports Fall

Import values declined 3.2% in the December 2009 quarter, compared with the September 2009 quarter, Statistics NZ said recently. The decline for the December 2009 quarter was widespread, with falls in capital goods, intermediate goods, and consumption goods being partly offset by increases in passenger cars and petrol and avgas.

Similarly, merchandise export values fell 2.8% in the December 2009 quarter. The decline for the December 2009 quarter was dominated by falls in milk powder, butter, and cheese, and crude oil.

The trade balance for the December 2009 quarter was a deficit of \$170 million (1.8% of exports), following deficits of 2.6% and 2.3% of exports in the June and September 2009 quarters, respectively. The most recent quarterly trade surplus was in the December 2001 quarter.

More is at

[http://www.stats.govt.nz/browse\\_for\\_stats/imports\\_and\\_exports/Goods/OverseasMerchandiseTrade\\_MRDec09.aspx](http://www.stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats/imports_and_exports/Goods/OverseasMerchandiseTrade_MRDec09.aspx)

## Companies' Financial Reporting Issues

While there has been some improvement overall, the latest round of the Securities Commission's monitoring programme showed mistakes continuing to be made in financial reports, despite these having been highlighted in previous reviews. Among the issues still causing concern were clearly stating the assumptions behind plant, equipment, and investment property valuations; incomplete information about financial instruments\*; and inadequate disclosures for related parties, including what is paid to key managers.

\* Financial instruments are cash, evidence of an ownership interest in an entity, or a contractual right to receive, or deliver, cash or another financial instrument.

More is at <http://www.sec-com.govt.nz/new/releases/2009/181209.shtml>

## Tighter Rules for Company Registration

These include:

- NZ-registered companies should be required to have a NZ resident director;
- directors should be required to provide date-of-birth information to the Registrar of Companies; and
- providing a tax number should be a requirement for all companies upon registration.

## China: Increasing Resource Spending

China's economy grew by 10.7% in the fourth quarter of 2009, the fastest pace since 2007 - making it the world's largest metal consumer - and, according to Bloomberg (among the top five most-trafficked financial sites on the Web), it is poised to increase its spending on resource acquisitions. China's investments in overseas resource and energy companies has risen every year but one - from US\$578 million in 2004. In 2008 it spent a record US\$32 billion on resource acquisitions, including zinc mines in Australia, oil reserves in Nigeria, and gold deposits in the Philippines.

## NZTE: US and Them

The reasons US consumers buy a particular product, and their perceptions of NZ products, have been explored in an NZ Trade and Enterprise (NZTE)-commissioned study into consumer insights by the US-based market research company The Hartman Group. The findings were based on the researchers' extensive data on the US market, as well as focus groups and retail buyer interviews looking specifically at NZ.

The report is at <http://www.nzte.govt.nz/features-commentary/Features/Going-global/Pages/Understanding-the-US-consumer.aspx>

More is at [http://www.stats.govt.nz/browse\\_for\\_stats/economic\\_indicators/CPI\\_inflation/ConsumersPriceIndex\\_MRDec09qtr.aspx](http://www.stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats/economic_indicators/CPI_inflation/ConsumersPriceIndex_MRDec09qtr.aspx)

## Money Matters

### A Strong Economic Rebound?

The country's economic recovery will be stronger than most economists are forecasting, with growth likely to top 4% next year, according to Westpac Banking Corp's latest quarterly economic overview. *Note:* Westpac's predictions are at the top end of the 16 other forecasters Westpac monitors.

The Quarterly Review is at [http://www.westpac.co.nz/olcontent/olcontent.nsf/content/FM\\_Economic\\_Overview\\_Jan2010/\\$FILE/OEOJan10.pdf](http://www.westpac.co.nz/olcontent/olcontent.nsf/content/FM_Economic_Overview_Jan2010/$FILE/OEOJan10.pdf)

## Flat Christmas Spending

Electronic card transaction figures for December 2009 confirm a modest recovery (by value, up 0.7% when adjusted for seasonal patterns) in consumer spending but, at best, an unspectacular Christmas for retailers. Statistics NZ's "core" retail spending on credit and debit cards continued to be flat through the month, with a trend rise of just 1% since June last year. However, non-core retail electronic spending was up a respectable 3.6% on sales in December 2008, when the global financial crisis was fresh, and total retail sales were heading downwards.

More is at [http://www.stats.govt.nz/browse\\_for\\_stats/businesses/business\\_characteristics/ElectronicCardTransactions\\_MRDec09.aspx](http://www.stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats/businesses/business_characteristics/ElectronicCardTransactions_MRDec09.aspx)

## Current Account Surplus

NZ had a current account surplus of \$340 million in the September 2009 quarter, compared with a deficit of \$406 million in the June 2009 quarter. The current account balance is a surplus for the first time since the December 1988 quarter. For the year ended September 2009 the current account deficit was 3.1% of GDP, compared with a deficit of 5.6% for the year ended June 2009. Net international liabilities were \$173.3 billion (93.7% of GDP) at 30 September 2009, compared with \$171.7 billion (93.3% of GDP) at 30 June 2009.

## TWG: Future NZ Tax System?

The recently-released report of the Victoria University Tax Working Group (TWG) outlines why the current system needs to change, saying that "the status quo is not a viable option" because it lacks coherence, integrity, and fairness. Options put forward included:

- having a single (lower) tax rate for company, top personal and trust tax rates; or
- having "non-aligned" rates, e.g., lower corporate tax rates and higher personal and other tax rates.

The TWG supported taxing the returns from capital invested in the property market at a low rate, and raising GST to 15%. They also recommended a "comprehensive review of welfare policy and how it interacts with the tax system, with an objective being to reduce high effective marginal tax rates".

The report is at <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/sacl/cagtr/pdf/tax-report-website.pdf>

## CPI Down for December Quarter

The consumers price index (CPI\*) fell 0.2% for the December 2009 quarter, Statistics NZ said recently. This fall, which was driven by lower food prices and weaker increases for other goods and services, contributed to an annual increase of 2.0%. The CPI increased 2.0% for the year to the December 2009 quarter.

\*The CPI measures the rate of price change of goods and services purchased by households. Statistics NZ visits 3,000 shops around NZ to collect prices for the CPI and check product sizes and features.

## Retailer Credit Card Surcharges

The Commerce Commission is monitoring the surcharges some retailers have introduced for consumers paying by credit card. The surcharges follow changes introduced by Visa and MasterCard and the major trading banks, after the Commission investigated anti-competitive arrangements between them over the fees the banks charged to retailers for credit card transactions. These arrangements had prevented retailers from passing on these costs to customers who presented credit cards for payments. Retailers had to absorb the credit card costs across their business, meaning all consumers paid higher prices regardless of the payment method used.

Settlements the Commission reached last year with the credit card companies and the banks included an undertaking that those parties would no longer enforce this "no-surcharge rule". Also included in the settlement was a requirement that credit card-issuers set their own credit card transaction fees in competition with one another. As a result, from April this year most retailers will pay lower fees to their banks on credit card transactions. And, because retailers now have the ability to pass the cost of credit card acceptance directly to the card-holder, pressure can be brought to bear on card issuers to reduce their transaction fees. This should eventually result in decreased costs to credit card users while benefiting retailers and their customers through reduced costs.

## Minimum Wage Rise - Just

The minimum wage will go up by 25 cents an hour to \$12.75, and the training and new entrants' minimum wages will increase from \$10 to \$10.20. The new rates will come into effect on 1 April 2010.

## Borrowing Patterns Changing

The latest information from credit bureau Veda Advantage shows more and more kiwis are choosing to purchase goods and services by way of hire purchase or personal loan rather than a credit card. The figures show an increase of 27.75% in those applying for hire purchase in December 2009 over December 2008 and a massive 119% increase in those applying for a personal loan over the same period. This contrasts with a 26.01% fall in the numbers of people applying for a credit card in December 2009 compared with December 2008.

## Veterans' Travel Concessions

The war pensions travel concession will now be paid for travel in private cars for trips over a distance of 80km (a 160km round trip), at 22.5 cents per km. Travel costs on public transport not accessed via the SuperGold card will be refunded for trips of the same distance, as will travel by air for distances over 80km, by paying the equivalent mileage or refunding the actual airfare, whichever is the lesser amount.

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# Internet/ICT

## Consumer NZ: ISP Survey Results

Consumer NZ's latest annual internet survey, answered by over 15,000 Consumer subscribers, asked customers to rate their ISP's overall performance, customer service, connection problems and more. Survey findings include:

- Actrix and Inspire rated as the best nationally available ISPs;
- in terms of mobile broadband, 2degrees was the best for speed and connection reliability while Vodafone rated the worst on disconnections and dropouts, slower-than-expected speeds, and unexpected charges for excess usage;
- Actrix was rated the best dial-up provider, while Telecom rated the worst; and
- Ten percent of survey respondents changed providers in the past year, but over a quarter of those encountered problems with billing, connection delays, or set-up issues.

More at [www.consumer.org.nz](http://www.consumer.org.nz) (note: detailed information is only available to members only)

## iPhone CPR Application

St John and Marker have released a free iPhone application which could help you save a life. This CPR application is the first of its kind developed for NZ. The application reminds users of the steps in CPR. The information can be used at anytime to review CPR or to assist anyone helping a collapsed patient requiring CPR.

Information about first aid courses and an option to book a first aid course online can be found at [www.stjohn.org.nz](http://www.stjohn.org.nz)

## NZ YouTube Hit Parade

YouTube has released its first official Most Watched list, a breakdown of the videos kiwis have been watching and searching for in 2009. Among the videos most watched by Kiwis in 2009 were Air NZ's cabin crew baring all in body paint and the music video to Smashproof single Brother featuring Gin Wigmore. But Susan Boyle's performance on Britain's Got Talent proved the most popular of all, both in NZ and internationally.

For other details of NZ YouTube watching go to [http://www.nzherald.co.nz/technology/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=5&objectid=10615913&pnum=0](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/technology/news/article.cfm?c_id=5&objectid=10615913&pnum=0)

## A Handful of Websites

The *New Year Honours List for 2010* can be found at <http://www.dpmc.govt.nz/honours/lists/list.asp?id=47>

The 2009 issue of online literary journal "Turbine" is now live, featuring the best and freshest in NZ writing, at [www.vuw.ac.nz/turbine](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/turbine)

To find out what weekly rent is being charged in your area go to <http://www.dbh.govt.nz/market-rent> and select a region, then click on a suburb. You'll get information about the average rent for apartments, flats and houses of all sizes. You'll also find out how many bonds have been paid in the area to the Tenancy Bond office.

NZ has the world's first user driven map showing the location and intensity of sandflies. Take a look at <http://www.goodbyesandfly.co.nz/map.php>

Browse the Sony World Photography Awards 2009 at <http://www.worldphotographyawards.org/>

Read about the *ten things one worker does to keep her email inbox at zero*:

<http://webworkerdaily.com/2010/01/07/10-tips-my-personal-journey-toward-maintaining-inbox-zero/>

The following article (published in early 2009) discusses *10 business words the author would like to have banned*, but the real joy of the piece is reading through the comments. At

<http://blogs.harvardbusiness.org/silverman/2009/02/10-business-words-to-ban.html>

Should you wish to know *why champagne bubbles seem to have that extra hint of 'magic'* find out more at

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB126108284326695963.htm?mod=dist\\_smartbrief](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB126108284326695963.htm?mod=dist_smartbrief) and it turns out that drinking the bubbly out of the right kind of glass is important too – see <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5isZjpxNPvkPE3X4yKfGqkUhrampQ>

An up-to-date guide for carers on government resources available to them is available at

<http://www.carers.net.nz/files/pdf/carers-brochure-english.pdf>. It covers financial help, help at home, and information about needs assessment, where to go for equipment and modifications and information about carers' rights. For free copies call 0800 777 797

Long-time employees at many restaurants pride themselves on taking orders and keeping them straight, all without writing them down. Now, things are changing.

Read about it at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/01/11/AR2010011103936.html?ref=delicious>

An article called "*Writing English as a Second Language*" (which includes much sound, sensible advice for those writing English as a first language) can be found at <http://www.theamericanscholar.org/writing-english-as-a-second-language/>

A website featuring a *sample of sustainable farm practices* was launched recently by the Green Party at: [www.goodfarmstories.org.nz](http://www.goodfarmstories.org.nz)

Read about the *top 10 green living myths* at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/green-living-blog/2009/nov/26/top-10-green-living-myths> (bearing in mind that some of the information is specific to the UK)

Find out about *ten trends that could fuel the growth of green building in 2010* (according to a US non-profit that is the largest certifier of Earth-friendly homes in Oregon) at [http://www.earthadvantage.com/top\\_ten\\_green\\_building\\_trends\\_2010.pdf](http://www.earthadvantage.com/top_ten_green_building_trends_2010.pdf)

Aggregator site "The Daily Beast" has put together a *gallery showcasing what it considers to be the 20 best art books of 2009*, at <http://www.thedailybeast.com/blogs-and-stories/2009-12-17/the-best-art-books-of-2009/?cid=topic:mainpromo2#>

UK paper The Times has compiled a *list of the 50 best design blogs in the world* at [http://property.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life\\_and\\_style/property/interiors/article6953167.ece](http://property.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life_and_style/property/interiors/article6953167.ece)

Learn how to tie a variety of popular and useful knots in the categories of stopper knots, hitches, loops, and bends at <http://www.iwillknot.com/>

Just click on the stick man, click on play, then leave the mouse alone, *sit back and enjoy a piece of creative brilliance*, at [http://fc01.deviantart.com/fs13/f/2007/077/2/e/Animator\\_vs\\_Animation\\_by\\_alanbecker.swf](http://fc01.deviantart.com/fs13/f/2007/077/2/e/Animator_vs_Animation_by_alanbecker.swf)

The NZ Disability Support Network website is now live at <http://www.nzdsn.org.nz/>. This new network has been established to provide a clear voice to government on the issues and challenges ahead of the disability sector

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## Treaty Matters

### Treaty Claims Update

Here is the status of claimant groups who have entered negotiations with the Crown - as at 31 October 2009 (note that the list does not include settlements that are being implemented):

- Te Rarawa: signed Terms of Negotiation in December 2002 and an Agreement in Principle in September 2007; negotiating towards a Deed of Settlement;
- Te Aupouri negotiators signed an Agreement in Principle in September 2004; negotiating towards a Deed of Settlement;
- Te Runanga-a-Iwi o Ngati Kahu signed an Agreement in Principle in September 2008 and are currently negotiating towards a Deed of Settlement;
- Ngatikahu ki Whangaroa Trust Board signed Terms of Negotiation in October 2004 and an Agreement in Principle in December 2007;
- Ngai Takoto mandate recognised in 2008; working towards signing Terms of Negotiation;
- Ngati Kuri mandate recognised in September 2009; working towards signing Terms of Negotiation;
- Ngati Whatua o Orakei signed an Agreement in Principle in June 2006;
- Ngati Whatua o South Kaipara signed Terms of Negotiation in June 2008; negotiating towards an Agreement in Principle;
- Te Kawerau a Maki signed Terms of Negotiation in August 2008; negotiating towards an Agreement in Principle;
- Te Runanga o Ngati Whatua signed Terms of Negotiation in October 2008; negotiating towards an Agreement in Principle

- Waikato-Tainui (Waikato River) signed an Agreement in Principle in December 2007 and a Deed of Settlement in August 2008. Legislation to implement the Deed of Settlement introduced in September 2008;
- Ngati Raukawa signed Terms of Negotiation in June 2008 and in September 2008 their mandate was recognised by the Crown; negotiating towards an Agreement in Principle;
- Ngati Ranginui (Tauranga) mandate recognised in April 2008, and Terms of Negotiation were signed in September 2008;
- Ngati Manawa signed an Agreement in Principle in September 2008 and initialled a Deed of Settlement in October 2009;
- Ngati Whare signed an Agreement in Principle in June 2009 and initialled a Deed of Settlement in October 2009;
- Ngati Makino/Waitaha and the Crown signed separate Agreements in Principle on 16 October 2008; negotiating together towards a Deed of Settlement;
- Ngai Tuhoe mandate recognised in September 2007 and Terms of Negotiation were signed in July 2008; negotiating towards an Agreement in Principle;
- Te Tokotoru (Tapuika/Ngati Rangiwewehi/ Ngati Rangiteaorere) are negotiating towards an Agreement in Principle;
- Ngati Tuwharetoa: Ngati Tuwharetoa Hapu-a-Iwi Waitangi Claims Forum mandate recognised in March 2004;
- Turanganui-a-Kiwa: Ngai Tamanuhiri Whanui Trust, Te Pou a Haokai and the Rongowhakaata Trust signed an Agreement in Principle in August 2008; negotiating towards a Deed of Settlement;
- Ngati Porou: Te Runanga o Ngati Porou mandate recognised in April 2008; agreement reached in October 2008, and parties negotiating towards a Deed of Settlement;
- Ngati Pahauwera signed an Agreement in Principle in September 2008; negotiating towards a Deed of Settlement;
- Ngati Hineuru mandate recognised on 29 September 2009; working towards signing Terms of Negotiation;
- Ngati Tu mandate recognised on 22 September 2009; working towards signing Terms of Negotiation;
- Ngati Apa (North Island): Te Runanga o Ngati Apa signed an Agreement in Principle in July 2007 and a Deed of Settlement in October 2008. Settlement Legislation has been approved;
- Rangitaane O Manawatu signed a Heads of Agreement in 1999. Tanenuiarangi Manawatu Incorporated (TMI) have recently completed a mandate reconfirmation process;
- Ngati Toa Rangitira (Northern South Island) signed Terms of Negotiation in 2007 and signed an Letter of Agreement in February 2009; negotiating towards a Deed of Settlement;
- Kurahaupo (Northern South Island): the Kurahaupo Trust (Ngati Apa Ki Te Ra To, Ngati Kuia and Rangitane o Wairau) signed Terms of Negotiation in 2006 and a Letter of Agreement in February 2009; negotiating towards a Deed of Settlement;
- Tainui Taranaki ki te Tonga (Northern South Island - Ngati Koata, Ngati Rarua, Te Atiawa, and Ngati Tama) signed Terms of Negotiation in 2007 and a Letter of Agreement in February 2009; negotiating towards a Deed of Settlement; and
- Moriori: the Hokotehi Moriori Trust signed Terms of Negotiation in July 2004.

## Arts & Culture

### More than \$6.50 Men

Mark Albiston and Louis Sutherland's short film "The Six Dollar Fifty Man" has won both the top prize at Flickerfest 2010 19th International Short Film Festival in Australia, and the Jury Prize in International Short Filmmaking- at the 26th Sundance Film Festival in Utah. It now qualifies for consideration for an Academy® Award nomination for an Oscar.

### Historic Place Trust: Changes

Following a review last year the Historic Places Trust's will focus more on its regulatory work of protecting and preserving heritage sites on behalf of the Crown (which contributes around 80% of its funding), rather than local heritage advocacy. Its national board will be reduced from nine members to eight, all of, whom will be appointed by Government (currently, three positions are elected by the wider membership of the Trust). Local branch committees will be disestablished.

The Trust currently has about 23,000 subscriber members who contribute around 5% of its funding.

### Maori TV goes Global

Website statistics show that people in 188 other countries are now watching Maori TV, and in increasing numbers. The number of visits from Australia, where many NZers settle, has trebled, and Australia now makes up around 20% of the total online audience. The number of visits from the United Kingdom has doubled. Visits from Canada and the United States have each doubled and the number of hits from Hong Kong, Japan and the Netherlands is rising rapidly.

More is at  
<http://media.maoritelevision.com/default.aspx?tabid=400&pid=5689>

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## Fish & Ships

### New South Pacific Fisheries Convention

NZ has signed this convention, which establishes a South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO) to sustainably manage deep-sea fish stocks such as orange roughy and bluenose, and species such as jack mackerel. NZ has played a major role in the SPRFMO's development.

### Trial Tagging of Whitebait

The giant kokopu is one of five "galaxiid" fish species which, in their juvenile form, make up the whitebait catch and it is classified by the Department of Conservation as "nationally vulnerable". Now, NIWA scientists are carrying out a trial involving "tagging" of individual farm raised kokopu as part of a plan to reintroduce them to our waterways. The fish are to be implanted with tiny transponder tags (PIT tags). Each tag has a unique ID, enabling NIWA to monitor how well they survive and where they choose to live.

The trial aims to repopulate a stream in Orewa with giant kokopu.

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## Science/Technology

### Less Rotten Fruit?

A professor at Georgia State University in the US has developed a new way to keep produce and flowers fresh for longer periods of time. His system uses a naturally occurring micro-organism no larger than the width of a human hair to induce enzymes extending the ripening time of fruits and vegetables, and keeping the blooms of flowers fresh. It does not involve genetic engineering, but just micro-organisms known to be associated with plants and considered to be beneficial to them.

More is at [http://www.thaindian.com/newsportal/health/new-method-to-keep-fruit-vegetables-and-flowers-fresh-for-longer-periods-of-time\\_100263552.html](http://www.thaindian.com/newsportal/health/new-method-to-keep-fruit-vegetables-and-flowers-fresh-for-longer-periods-of-time_100263552.html)

## NZ Venture Investment Fund Report

In its 2009 annual report, the NZ Venture Investment Fund (NZVIF) posted a net surplus of \$3 million (its first surplus) and completed 50 investment transactions totalling \$18.7 million- a record level despite the demanding investment environment. Over \$80 million of private capital was raised alongside this.

NZVIF has equity interests in 81 NZ companies in sectors such as ICT, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, life sciences, and telecommunications.

The report is at <http://www.nzvif.com/publications.html>

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## General

### Last Decade Warmest on Record

The first decade of the 2000s was the warmest on record in NZ, according to the National Institute of Water & Atmospheric Research (NIWA). NIWA says the decade was slightly warmer than the previous warmest decade of the 1980s. This finding is consistent with a World Meteorological Organization forecast that 2000–2009 is likely to be the warmest decade on record for global average temperatures.

After the 1980s, the other warmest decades in NZ were the 1970s followed by the 1990s. Globally, 2009 is predicted to be among the top 10 warmest years on record, but NIWA says that in NZ last year it was slightly colder than the 1971 to 2000 average.

### An Older Population...

The estimated resident population of NZ was 4,331,600 at 30 September 2009, up by 51,700 (1.2%) in the September 2009 year, the highest growth in three years. What was also interesting was that the higher growth compared with the September 2008 year was due to increased net migration.

Over the last decade the proportion of children (aged 0–14 years) has fallen from 23% to 21%, while the proportion of people aged 15–39 years has fallen from 37% to 34%. In contrast, the proportion of people aged 40–64 years has increased, from 29% to 32%, and the proportion aged 65 years and over is also up, from 12% to 13%.

There were 63,160 live births, down from 64,540 in the September 2008 year. The total fertility rate was 2.1 births per woman, and women aged 30–34 years had the highest fertility rate (124 births per 1,000 women).

There were 28,680 deaths, down from 29,130 in 2008. The median age at death was 77 years for males and 83 years for females. The infant mortality rate was 4.5 deaths per 1,000 live births.

Births exceeded deaths by 34,480.

More is at [http://www.stats.govt.nz/browse\\_for\\_stats/population/estimates\\_and\\_projections/NationalPopulationEstimates\\_MRSep09qtr.aspx](http://www.stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats/population/estimates_and_projections/NationalPopulationEstimates_MRSep09qtr.aspx)

## ...Means More, Smaller Households

All 16 regional council areas of NZ are projected to have more households in 2031 than in 2006, according to projections released by Statistics NZ – even though the population of three of the regional council areas is projected to be smaller in 2031 compared with 2006.

The average household size is likely to decrease in all regional council areas and territorial authorities. There will be more one-person households and smaller family households, both of which are said to be a consequence of an ageing population.

The Auckland region is projected to account for almost half of the national increase in households between 2006 and 2031, increasing from 466,000 to 726,000. Over the same period, it is projected to account for 62% of NZ's population growth. By 2031, 35% of all households in this country will be in the Auckland region, up from 30% in 2006.

## Kiwis Optimistic...

Kiwis are feeling optimistic for 2010 and beyond, according to the results of a recent online poll by the Mental Health Foundation. In total 34.6% of voters said they felt very optimistic about their future and 11.5% said they felt somewhat optimistic. For some, 2009 had been difficult, 30.8% said they felt 2010 had to be better than the preceding year. Only 11.5% said they didn't feel at all optimistic for 2010 and beyond. The same percentage said they were uncertain.

The Foundation offers the following tips for nurturing optimism:

- try to see the bigger picture – ask yourself if something is really that important in the long term;
- practice gratitude – try writing something down every night for which you feel grateful;
- celebrate your achievements and successes;
- when faced with a tough situation remember that you have overcome obstacles before; and
- focus on solutions, not the problem itself.

## NZ Life for Business Migrants...

According to the latest findings from a survey being carried out by the Department of Labour's (DoL) immigration research team, 89% of migrant responders reported they were satisfied or very satisfied with life in NZ and 92% said they would recommend NZ to others as a place to come and live. The relaxed pace of life, and the clean and green environment were most likely to meet skilled migrants' expectations.

The research is at <http://www.dol.govt.nz/publication-view.asp?ID=303>

## ... & Family Immigration to NZ

China has for the first time outstripped NZ's traditional source of family immigration - the United Kingdom - to produce the highest number of new residents through the Family Sponsored Stream and the Partnership policy. *Note:* the UK is still the largest source country of people granted permanent residence.

Figures in the Department of Labour's Migration Trends and Outlook also show that last year, for the second time in five years, China was NZ's top source of new immigrants aged 20 and over. There were 6361 new Chinese residents aged 20 and over, topping the UK's 6302.

More is at <http://dol.govt.nz/publications/research/migration-outlook-200809/index.asp>

## Children's' Views of Poverty

The Office of the Commissioner for Children recently asked children, young people and young adults the following questions: Does poverty exist in NZ? How would you define poverty? How does poverty affect children and young people?

The resulting report, called "This is how I see it" views and experiences of poverty" is a collection of poems, stories, and autobiographical accounts from the young people who were interviewed.

The report is at [http://www.occ.org.nz/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0017/7118/OCC\\_Photovoice\\_260110.pdf](http://www.occ.org.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0017/7118/OCC_Photovoice_260110.pdf)

## NZ's Muslim Youth Do Well

A Victoria University study looks at life satisfaction, psychological symptoms, school adjustment and behavioural problems as indicators of psychological and social well-being in 180 Muslim youth, aged 13-19 years.

The findings revealed that Muslim youth demonstrated more positive outcomes on all indicators than their Maori and Pakeha peers. The study also found that Muslim

youth strongly identify as NZers, but it is their identity as Muslim that predicts better psychological and social adaptation.

Professor Colleen Ward from Victoria University's Centre for Applied Cross-cultural Research believes that religion, strong family support, and the relatively tolerant atmosphere in multicultural NZ smooth the progress of psychological and social well-being amongst Muslim youth.

More at

<http://www.vuw.ac.nz/victorianews/ViewNews.aspx?id=3337&newslabel=hn>

## A One-Stop Event Shop

Two NZ online event calendar websites - privately-operated Eventfinder and government-operated NZLive.com - are to combine their 162,000 and 85,000 visitors per month respectively under the Eventfinder name. The move means artists and arts organisations will gain maximum exposure by entering their events at no cost in one place (and have them appear in many places); and consumers here and overseas need to visit just one site where they can find out what's on. The events information will go to a number of other websites, including Stuff, the NZ Herald, Yahoo!Xtra, MSN NZ, AA Travel, Jasons, Tourism NZ, Air NZ and the MetService.

## Discrimination in NZ Today

Recent survey numbers released by Statistics NZ show one in 10 people had been discriminated against in the past 12 months. The Human Rights Commission dealt with 5834 enquiries and complaints in 2009, the majority relating to discrimination based on race, disability, and sex. The Commission also resolved 2084 complaints related to other human rights issues, such as prisoners' rights and the rights of seasonal workers.

"Te Rito" is an annual collection of 25 cases handled by the Commission in the past year. They include claims of discrimination based on race, disability, age, ethical belief, and sexual orientation. Some of the cases involved the Office of Human Rights Proceedings, with one settlement including a payout of \$10,000 for emotional harm.

To view a copy of Te Rito, visit

<http://www.hrc.co.nz/home/hrc/resources/resources.php#case>

## France Best Place to Live

France retains its No. 1 ranking as the best place in the world to live for the fifth year in a row, according to International Living magazine which has been analyzing data and publishing its annual Quality of Life Index for 30 years. Following France in the number one spot are Australia (2), Switzerland (3), Germany (4), NZ (5),

Luxembourg (6), the U.S. (7), Belgium (8), Canada (9), and Italy (10).

To compile the Quality of Life Index, International Living editors compare almost 200 countries in nine categories: Cost of Living, Culture and Leisure, Economy, Environment, Freedom, Health, Infrastructure, Safety and Risk, and Climate.

To see the complete scores for every country in every category, go to: [www.internationalliving.com/qofl-data](http://www.internationalliving.com/qofl-data)

## NZ Ratifies Cluster Munitions Ban

NZ has ratified the Cluster Munitions Disarmament Convention which bans the use, development, production, and stockpiling of cluster munitions. Ratification enables NZ to take part in the first meeting of States Parties to be held in Laos next year.

## Some Conferences/Events

### Social Enterprise/Community Development Forum

NZ Federation of Voluntary Welfare Organisations NZFVVO is hosting this forum on 16 February 2010.

More is at

<http://www.community.net.nz/communitycentre/events/wellington/nzfvwoforum.htm?region=default>, or email [info@nzfvwo.org.nz](mailto:info@nzfvwo.org.nz)

### Rural General Practice Network Conference

The NZ Rural General Practice Network conference is being held in Christchurch's Convention Centre from 11 – 14 March. The theme is "Rural Health – No.8 Wired".

The conference programme/registration details are at

<http://www.conference.co.nz/index.cfm/rqpn10>

### Two Lantern Festivals

The 11th Auckland Lantern Festival, organised by Asia:NZ in partnership with Auckland City Council is being held in Albert Park on 26-28 February 2010. A week later, on 6-7 March, the sixth Chinese New Year Lantern Festival will be held in Christchurch's Victoria Square.

More is at <http://www.asianz.org.nz/our-work/arts-community/chinese-lantern-festival>

## Official Statistics Forum 2010

This forum, called "Realising the value of official statistics" is being held from 24-25 March 2010 at Te Papa in Wellington.

More is at

[http://www.stats.govt.nz/about\\_us/news\\_and\\_events/events\\_calendar/March%202010/oss-forum.aspx](http://www.stats.govt.nz/about_us/news_and_events/events_calendar/March%202010/oss-forum.aspx)

## 2010 International Gambling Conference

The 2010 International Gambling Conference – "The Implications of Technology for Policy, Practice and Research" is being held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Auckland.

Registration details are at <http://rwnznewslink.blogspot.com/2009/11/2010-international-gambling-conference.html>

## Fundamentals of Carbon/Emissions Management for Businesses

Being held on 11 Mar 2009 at the Museum Hotel, Wellington, and on 16 March at the Mercure Hotel, Auckland. Presents a new way of taking advantage of the opportunities/challenges a carbon-constrained global economy presents to your business.

More is at <http://www.nzbcsc.org.nz/publicevent.asp?EventID=587>

## Tainui Kapa Haka Festival

This is being held on 14 February 2010 at Mystery Creek Events Centre, Hamilton. It will include Maori performing artists, visual art Exhibitions, crafts, clothing/food stalls, and bands.

More is at <http://www.tainuihaka.org.nz/page/7-2010-Tainui-Waka-Kapa-Haka-Festival>

## National Not-For-Profit Conference?

This year's Way Forward: Inspiration + Skills Conference, to be held over 11-12 March at the Waipuna Conference Centre in Auckland.

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

## Maori Housing Conference

Community Housing Aotearoa is hosting a National at Te Papaouru Marae, Rotorua, 22-24 March 2010.

More is at <http://www.communityhousing.org.nz/files/2009/12/NMHC-Poster.pdf>

## Funding/Awards Opportunities

### Enterprising Rural Women Award

The Rural Women New Zealand Enterprising Rural Women Award 2010 is open to rural businesswomen running their own business. A North and South Island finalist will be chosen, and the winner announced at the Rural Women New Zealand national conference in Oamaru on Tuesday 25 May. Last year's award attracted 46 entries, and was a valuable marketing opportunity for both entrants and finalists.

The Enterprising Rural Women Award 2010 is sponsored by Access Homehealth Limited and Rural Women New Zealand.

Entries close on 17 February 2010. Entry criteria and forms are available on the Rural Women New Zealand website, [www.ruralwomen.org.nz](http://www.ruralwomen.org.nz), or by ringing (04) 473 5524

### Lottery Regional Community Committees

Lottery Community consists of 11 regional committees and one national committee. Funding is available for projects, activities, resources or services that have a community/social service focus, for example developmental or preventative projects, and welfare and support services.

Applications close on 1 March 2010. More is at [http://www.cdgo.govt.nz/available-grants/downloads.aspx#ApplicationType\\_14](http://www.cdgo.govt.nz/available-grants/downloads.aspx#ApplicationType_14)

### Community Facilities Fund

The Lottery Community Facilities Committee makes grants for projects to build/improve community facilities that support participation in community activities and social interaction. The aim is to foster cohesion and strengthen communities.

Applications close on 5 March 2010. More is at [http://www.cdgo.govt.nz/available-grants/downloads.aspx#ApplicationType\\_24](http://www.cdgo.govt.nz/available-grants/downloads.aspx#ApplicationType_24)

### Environment and Heritage Committee

This committee makes grants for projects that promote, protect and conserve NZ's natural, physical, and cultural heritage.

Applications close on 19 March 2010. More is at [http://www.cdgo.govt.nz/available-grants/downloads.aspx#ApplicationType\\_7](http://www.cdgo.govt.nz/available-grants/downloads.aspx#ApplicationType_7)

## Pacific Provider Development

The Pacific Provider Development Fund is designed to strengthen Pacific community groups' ability to operate in an effective and accountable way, and to improve their access to lottery funding. It supports a partnership approach.

Applications close on 5 March 2010. More is at [http://www.cdgo.govt.nz/available-grants/downloads.aspx#ApplicationType\\_9](http://www.cdgo.govt.nz/available-grants/downloads.aspx#ApplicationType_9)

Apply online for all Lottery Grants at <http://www.cdgo.govt.nz/apply-for-funding/>. For more information freephone 0800 824 824

## Sustainability Reporting Awards

ACCA (The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) is calling for nominations for its annual NZ Sustainability Reporting Awards. The Awards reward companies for excellence in environmental, social, and sustainability reporting. Entrants are judged on transparency in their reporting, and on how well they communicate their sustainability performance to their target audiences.

Entries for the 2009 Awards close 2 April 2010. An entry form is at <http://www.accaglobal.com/documents/sra09nz.pdf>. More is on the ACCA website at [www.accaglobal.com/australia/publicinterest/sustainability](http://www.accaglobal.com/australia/publicinterest/sustainability)

## Japan Artists' Residency

Young NZ arts professionals are invited to apply for an arts residency opportunity in Japan in the middle of 2010. For up to two and a half months, it is being offered as part of the JENESYS\* programme administered by the Japan Foundation in partnership with the Asia NZ Foundation.

\*The JENESYS (Japan East Asia Network of Exchange of Students and Youths) programme is an initiative offered by the Japan Foundation in 13 Asia-Pacific countries, including NZ.

Applications close on 12 February 2010. For more information, visit <http://www.asianz.org.nz/opportunities/arts-community>.

## Community Irrigation Fund

The CIF provides grants to assist:

promoters of community water storage and/or irrigation schemes for generating investor and community support; and

local government-led water strategies that consider the potential for rural irrigation related infrastructure.

Applications close on 22 February 2010. More is at <http://www.maf.govt.nz/mafnet/rural-nz/cif/>, or email [IFund@maf.govt.nz](mailto:IFund@maf.govt.nz)

## Community Development Scheme

The Community Development Scheme (CDS) enables communities to work together in innovative ways, to generate their own solutions to local issues, and achieve sustainable community outcomes. Grants are available to support 10 new projects in 10 priority territories around the country: Wairoa District, Kaikoura and/or Hurunui Districts, Dunedin City, Hauraki, Matamata and/or Piako Districts, Wellington City, Mackenzie, Timaru and/or Waimate Districts, North Shore City, Central Hawke's Bay District, Manurewa, and Gore and/or Clutha Districts.

Applications to the scheme close on 22 March 2010. For more information visit: [www.dia.govt.nz/diawebsite.nsf/wpg\\_URL/Services-Community-Funding-Community-Development-Scheme?OpenDocument](http://www.dia.govt.nz/diawebsite.nsf/wpg_URL/Services-Community-Funding-Community-Development-Scheme?OpenDocument), or tel freephone 0800 824 824

## New Publishing Award

The NZSA Pindar Publishing Prize offers budding NZ authors the opportunity to be professionally edited, produced, marketed, and distributed throughout NZ.

Entries close 30th March 2010. For more details visit [www.authors.org.nz](http://www.authors.org.nz) or email [programmes@nzauthors.org.nz](mailto:programmes@nzauthors.org.nz)

## Romance Writing Contest

The Clendon Award is an annual writing contest in which unpublished authors submit a romance novel manuscript to be judged by devoted romance readers. Finalist manuscripts are judged by an editor at Harlequin Books in New York, the world's largest publisher of romance and women's fiction.

The 2010 Clendon Award closes 26 February 2010. Full details, including the entry form, can be found on the Romance Writers of NZ website, [www.romancewriters.co.nz](http://www.romancewriters.co.nz)

## Applications Wanted: Writer-in-Residence ...

The University of Auckland and the Michael King Writers' Centre are calling for applications for a joint six-month writer's residency between July and December 2010. A stipend of \$30,000 is offered.

Applications for the residency close on 26 February, 2010, and the selection will be made by the end of March. Detailed information about eligibility, terms and conditions, and information about the centre can be viewed at [www.writerscentre.org.nz](http://www.writerscentre.org.nz) or email the administrator at [administrator@writerscentre.org.nz](mailto:administrator@writerscentre.org.nz)

## ... and for Maori Writer's Residency

The Michael King Writers' Centre is calling for applications for the first Maori writer's residency at the Devonport centre in 2010. The residency is for eight weeks from 14 May 2010, and a stipend of \$8,000 is offered.

Applications close on 12 February 2010. The selection panel expects to announce its decision in early March. Information about the opportunity, eligibility, the terms and conditions, and how to apply is available on the centre's web site at [www.writerscentre.org.nz](http://www.writerscentre.org.nz)

## Waste Minimisation Fund

This fund has been set up to boost NZ's performance in waste minimisation, and applications relating to reduction of waste; reuse, recycling and recovery of waste and other material. and educational projects that promote waste minimisation are eligible

Applications close on 1 March 2010. Email them to [wmfapplication@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:wmfapplication@mfe.govt.nz), or post them to Waste Minimisation Fund, MfE, Environment House, PO Box 10362, Wellington 6143. More is at <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/issues/waste/waste-disposal-levy/waste-minimisation-fund.html>

## Appointments

Recent changes to ministerial portfolios include: Steven Joyce has been given the *Tertiary Education portfolio*; Kate Wilkinson becomes *Conservation Minister*; and Tim Groser is now the *Minister Responsible for International Climate Change Negotiations*. Our next *Ambassador to the United States* will be the Rt Hon Mike Moore.

Hilton Collier and Jenifer Prattley have been *reappointed* to the *National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee* and Dr David Scobie and Dr Kathryn Bicknell are *new appointees*. Dr Peter Larsen has been *appointed* to the *National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee* (NAEC) and Allison Dodds and Dr Dave Morgan have been *reappointed* (**apologies for confusion in Dec. issue**).

Eight new *Community Magistrates* have been appointed for the Auckland region. They are: Una Rebecca Ewert, Philip Greenbank, Dianne Hale, Janet Holmes, Laulefale Lemalu, Lavinia Nathan, Joanna Sihamu, and Fenella Thomas. Fa'amatua'inau Tino Pereira has been *reappointed* as *chair* of the *National Pacific Radio Trust* and James Prescott and Brian Chamberlin have been *reappointed* as *trustees*. Chai Chuah has been appointed as the *National Director* of the *National Health Board*. Auckland University of Technology Vice-Chancellor Derek McCormack has been appointed for a two-year term as *chair* of the *NZ Vice-Chancellors' Committee*. Two new *directors* to the *board of the Reserve Bank* are Neil Quigley and Kerrin Vautier. Shelley Cave has been appointed as a *new member of the Securities Commission*.

Dr Mark Berry has been *reappointed* as *chair* of the *Commerce Commission*. Denise Bovaird has been appointed a *new commissioner* to the *Earthquake Commission*. Lauraine Jacobs has been elected *president* of the *NZ Guild of Food Writers* (NZGFW). Kathryn Leafe and Cherry Sonderer joined the *NZ AIDS Foundation Trust Board* as *Trustees*. Judge Carolyn Henwood has been *reappointed* as *chair* of the *Confidential Listening and Assistance Service*. Darrin Sykes has been

appointed *chief executive* for the *Crown Forestry Rental Trust*. Rear Admiral (Retired) David Ledson is appointed as *chair* of the *board of Maritime NZ*, David Morgan has been *reappointed* as *deputy chair* of this board, and Kenneth Gilligan and Michael Ludbrook have been *reappointed* to the board. Pauline Winter has been *reappointed* as *deputy chief commissioner* of the *Transport Accident Investigation Commission*. Richard Bettle has been *reappointed* as *chair* of the *Civil Aviation Authority Board*. The *Board of Inquiry* appointed to *consider dairy effluent discharge consent applications in the Mackenzie Basin* is Environment Court Judge Jane Borthwick (*chair*) and *members* Michael Bowden, Dr Jim Cooke, Edward Ellison (Ngai Tahu), and Professor David Hamilton. The nine people appointed to the *Small Business Advisory Group* include: Graham Dockrill, Rae Finlay, Jeannette Samundsen, Mark Duxfield, Nancy Beck Peter Clinton-Baker, Herani Demuth, Bryan Nunweek, and Suzanne Hall. *New Housing NZ Corporation Board members* are Adrienne Young-Cooper (*deputy chair*), Amos Forrester, and Jeff Staniland. *Reappointed members to the HNZ Board* are Lope Ginnen and Colin Dale.

Richard Holden has been appointed to the *board* of the *Lotteries Commission*. The following people have been appointed to *Lottery Community Distribution Committees*: Beryl Lusty, Dennis Catchpole and Fatuma Elmi (Waikato); Susan Perry, Michelle Laurenson and Mele Wendt (Wellington/Wairarapa); Janette Brocklehurst, Lynn Bublitz, Matthew Hammond and Heather Dodunski (*presiding member* - Taranaki); Nigel Moore and Beverly Evans (Otago/Southland); Murray Broadbelt, Neil Clements, and Heather Ayrton (Northland); Dot McKinnon, Bernard Wanden and Neil Riddle (Manawatu/Whanganui); Tom Mulligan and Diana Peterson (Hawke's Bay); Quentin Hix (Presiding Member), Christine Korako and Dugald McLean (Canterbury/Kaikoura); Sue Price, Wendy Tozer and Jacky James (Bay of Plenty/Gisborne); Jeremy Sole and Roger Burrill (Auckland); Alison McAlpine (*presiding member*), Jim Mears, Maria Williams and Butch Bradley (West Coast/Nelson/ Marlborough). John Clarke, Marina Sciascia and Paora Ammunson and Haare Williams (*presiding member*) have been appointed to the *Lottery Marae Heritage and Facilities Distribution Committee*.

An *Urban Technical Advisory Group (TAG)* advising on aspects of resource management reform will be *chaired* by Alan Dormer and include Adrienne Young Cooper, Arthur Grimes, Graeme McIndoe, Connal Townsend and Ernst Zollner. An *Infrastructure TAG* will be *chaired* by Mike Foster, and include Adrienne Young Cooper, Alan Dormer, Kelvin Reid, Lindsay Crossen, Sacha McMeeking and Stephen Selwood. Sam Morgan and Richard Leggat have been appointed to the *board of Tourism NZ*, and Kevin Bowler has been *appointed* as the *Tourism Board's chief executive*.

\*\*Together Rural Women NZ, the Lottery Grants Board, and Rural Bulletin's other generous supporters make it possible to provide timely information to people in rural and other communities so they have the opportunity to make informed decisions about, and have their say on, issues and changes that may affect them.

## Messages from Our Supporters



### Telecom's XT Outage

Mid-morning Wednesday 27 January 2010 saw an outage of mobile voice, texting and data services to Telecom XT customers from Taupo southwards. While most customers were back up and running on XT by late afternoon that day, some lower South Island customers continued to experience major problems with XT.

#### Getting it fixed

Over the next two-and-a-half days network technicians worked around the clock and sites were brought back online one by one, with priority given to those in the most densely populated areas.

At the time our front line people worked with affected customers to offer solutions and ways around the XT outage where practicable.

By 10pm on Friday 29 January all remaining XT sites were operating and stable.

#### Saying sorry

Telecom NZ CEO Paul Reynolds has apologised to customers and called for an independent review of the XT network.

The root cause of the outage is now under extensive investigation. This is a different issue to the one that caused a disruption of services in December and the technical teams continue to work through a range of possible causes for the failure.

On Tuesday 2 February [Paul Reynolds](#) and Telecom head of retail Alan Gourdie fronted up in Dunedin to outline details of a goodwill gesture for affected customers.

"We felt that it was important to take a few days to ensure we do the right thing by our customers, recognise those customers who were most badly affected, and also develop a package that allowed us to give something back to the wider communities involved," Paul told local media and Telecom staff.

Details of Telecom's goodwill gesture are available at [www.telecom.co.nz](http://www.telecom.co.nz)

The refund applies to all XT customers based in areas from Taupo to the bottom of the South Island who were affected by the outage.

"We make this gesture in recognition of the inconvenience and frustration the outage caused our customers, but we fully appreciate that what our customers most need is to have confidence that we are putting every conceivable effort into ensuring that the XT network delivers for our customers. And that's what we are doing," said Dr Reynolds.

#### Donation to lower South Island communities

In recognition of the particular disruption caused in the lower South Island by the XT outage, Telecom will be working closely with community leaders and local councils to donate more than \$250,000 to community projects across the lower South Island.

TotalSpan

**WE EVEN COVER KIDS!**

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TotalSpan's Undercover Kids Bus Shelter programme is a nationwide initiative that provides protection for children on rural school bus routes.

As well as keeping off the rain, wind and sun the shelters increase visibility, improving road safety. We've provided 184 shelters throughout the country so far. Applications are made in March each year. See our website for details.

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## Access Homehealth

Access Homehealth supports kiwis of all ages with personalized quality healthcare – at home and in the community. Established in 1927 by Rural Women NZ, we are now a national provider (Whangarei to Invercargill) of home and community health services - and we pride ourselves on our commitment to NZ's rural communities.

Our aim is to help people maintain their independence so that they can live successfully in their own home and within their local community.

Our skilled professional team supports more than 13,000 people nationwide with healthcare services including:

- aged and disability support;
- rehabilitation and recovery;
- long-term condition management;
- clinical and assessment services; and
- respite care.

We specialise in providing personalised care and support that's relevant and based on an individual's particular health needs. This includes short- and long-term assistance with daily living activities such as showering and grooming, household assistance, meal preparation, skilled and qualified nursing, socialisation, and general companionship.

You can find out more by phoning 0800 161 444, emailing us at [info@access.org.nz](mailto:info@access.org.nz), faxing (03) 366-0344, or by visiting our website, [www.access.org.nz](http://www.access.org.nz)

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