

Rural Bulletin



Rural Women

NEW ZEALAND

July 2009

www.ruralwomen.org.nz

Consultation

Referendum on Smacking a Child	3
Defence Force Review	3
Student Loan Repayment Changes	3
2020 Emissions Target: Consultation	3
Online Privacy Laws Consultation	3
Bovine TB Strategy Review	4
Land Transport & the Disabled	4
Review of Film Commission	4
Draft Maternity Action Plan	4
Returning Public Works Land	4
... & Public Works/Treaty Settlement Land	4
Rules for Financial Advisers	5
Draft Climate Change Regulations	5
Drinking Water: NES Guide	5
Heavier Loads for Trucks?	5
Keeping a Check on NZ Fisheries	5
Commercial Aquaculture: Claims Settlement	5
Regulatory Framework Bill	5
Radio NZ: New Charter?	6
Traffic Control Manual Consultations	6
Taxation of Profit Distribution Plans	6
Higher Power Control Channels	6
Commerce Commission Consultations	6
MAF Biosecurity Consultations	6
Standards NZ Consultations	7
ERMA Consultations	7
Airways Corporation: Increased Charges?	7
GE Consultation: Auckland/Nth Auckland	7
Spiritual Stuff for Kiwi Kids	7

Rural

Sheep & Beef Industry: MAF Report	7
Farm Emissions: Temporary ETS Exclusion?	8
Farming for 9 Billion People	8
Recognised Seasonal Employers: Changes	8
Bill Delays Forestry ETS	8
Greenhouse Gas Footprints: Research	8
Support Migrant Workers in Rural Areas	8
Experiences of New Migrants	9
A Free-Range Egg? No?	9

Environment

New Start for Fresh Water?	9
Drinking Water: Compliance Delayed	9
RMA Survey	10
Plain English Waste Regulations	10
Air Quality Standards Review	10
Too Much Packaging on Food?	10
Green Ribbon Award Winners	10

Tourism

1 Million+ Visitors from Oz	11
Accommodation Survey: April 2009	11

Health and Welfare

Managing H1N1 Flu	11
Mild to moderate cases	11
Serious and more severe cases	11
Free ACC Physio to End	11
DHBs: Public-Private Partnerships	11
Blood Pressure/Stroke Awareness Campaign	12
Ethnic Disparities in Hospital Care	12
Report: Senior Doctors in NZ	12
Abortions Decrease	12
Anti-Smoking/Cancer Drugs Funded	12
Milk Pricing/Morning Milk Drinks	12
Mental Health Services: Recovery Research	13
Nuclear Tests: Impact on Veterans	13

Education

Financial Literacy in Schools	13
More Apprentices/Industry Trainees	13
Early Childhood Regulations: Changes	13

Employment

The Labour Market in 2008	13
We're More Positive about Hiring	13
Holidays Act Review Underway	14
Gender Pay Gap Research	14
NZ-Spain Working Holiday Scheme	14



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Transport

June Car Sales	14
No RUC for Electric Vehicles	14
Use of Road Transport: 2007	14
Motor Vehicle Disputes Tribunal: Proposals	14

Housing

Building Consents	14
Home Loan Affordability Improves	14
Buy Your Own State House	15
Home Insulation Scheme	15
Property Managers: Review Results	15

Energy

Energy Production: March Quarter	15
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Justice/the Law

Policing: Compulsory Impairment Tests	15
Money Laundering/Terrorism: New Bill	15
Corrections Staff: More Training/Equipment	16
NZ Statute Drafting Reviewed	16
Language Line in Courts	16
Queen's Counsel Restored	16

Public Sector

Government Spending Under Spotlight	16
Public Sector Excellence Awards	16

Not-for-Profits

Trustees Matter	17
How do NZers Give?	17
Volunteering? Check the Charities Register	17
Maori Trustee Now "Stand-Alone"	17
Trust Board Members: Applications Sought	17

Business

Annual GDP Figures	17
Trade Balance Surplus: May	17
Exporters: \$100 million Trade Credit	18
Service Sector Performance: May 2009	18
... & Manufacturing Performance: May 2009	18
Women on Boards: Good for Business	18
... & Global Women Project	18
NZ – Malaysia Free Trade Agreement	18
NZ joins Oz Business Group	18
Franchising Arrangements OK	19
NZ's Most Trusted Brands	19

Money Matters

Household Spending 2007-8	19
... & Recent Spending Patterns	19
Government Rate Falls	19
Parental Leave Payments Increase	19
NZ Financial Reporting Standards: Paper	20
OAG: IRD & Tax Debt	20
IRD: New Compliance Paper	20
OZ-NZ Double Tax Agreement	20

Internet/ICT

Broadband Quality: Report	20
Third Mobile Network Coming	20
Broadcasting Standards & Journalists	20
... & Maori Worldviews and Broadcasting	21
“.nz” Awareness Campaign	21
13th Annual Webby Awards	21
Video Relay Service for Hearing Impaired	21
A Handful of Websites	21

Treaty Matters

Foreshore & Seabed Report	22
Coastline Fisheries Assets Allocated	22
Ngati Whare Agreement in Principle signed	22

Arts & Culture

Screen Industry Revenue Increases	23
Indigenous TV Broadcasters' Network	23
World's Top Accordionist is Kiwi	23
Chinese Media in NZ: Study	23

Fishing

Large-scale Oyster Nursery Opens	23
OZ - NZ Whaling Expedition	23
Blue Cod Fishing Ban Extended	23

General

National Climate Summary – June 2009	23
NZ: Most Peaceful Nation	24
Te Reo Maori: More Speakers	24
Deaf People and Human Rights	24
Is Your Moggy NZ's Top Cat?	24
How Pigeons Navigate: Kiwi Research	24
Some Conferences/Events	24
The Greatest Show on Snow?	24
NZ Diversity Forum	24
Horticulture NZ Conference	24
Pipfruit NZ Conference	24
Funding/Awards	25
New Years Honours List: Nominations	25
Community Organisation Grants Scheme	25
Churchill Fellowships	25
ASIA:NZ Museum/Gallery Award	25
... & Culture grants	25
Every Child Counts Awards	25
Fulbright Graduate Awards	25
Apprentice of the Year 2009	25
Kathleen Grattan Award	25
NZ Arts Pasifika Awards 2009	25
Marae Heritage and Facilities	26
Pacific Provider Development Fund	26
NZIER Economics Award	26
Health Leadership Award	26
Appointments	26

Consultation

Referendum on Smacking a Child

A referendum on smacking will be held by postal ballot between 31 July and 21 August. Voters are being asked "Should a smack as part of good parental correction be a criminal offence in NZ?".

All NZ citizens are entitled to vote on the issue.

Defence Force Review

A comprehensive review of NZ's Defence Force is currently underway and your views are sought. The review will be tackling questions like:

- How does the present and potential future strategic environment impact on the security of NZ?
- How does defence contribute, and how will it contribute, to the security of NZ, Australia, the South Pacific, the Asia-Pacific region and globally?
- How does defence advance NZ's foreign policy and the relationship between Defence and other Government agencies to enhance a "whole of Government" approach?
- What are the key issues around defence personnel, including training, retention, recruitment and the role of Reserves?
- What is the best organisational structure for the Ministry of Defence and the NZ Defence Force?
- When and how should military capabilities be used for non-military purposes to support the work of other (civilian) government agencies?

It is also aimed at ensuring NZ gets value for money from its defence spending.

Submissions close on 24 August 2009. Use the official form at <http://www.defence.govt.nz/review09/terms-reference.html> to make a submission and to access a discussion paper. More is at <http://www.defence.govt.nz/defence-review.html>

Student Loan Repayment Changes

At present, over 530,000 people have a student loan. Proposed changes to the way student loan repayments are managed include:

- repayment limits would be set on a pay-period basis – weekly, fortnightly, four-weekly or monthly – rather than annually;
- borrowers and students who work for part of the year may be required to make repayments during the time they work;
- if an employer under-deducts loan repayments, future deductions could be adjusted to correct the error (a lump sum payment would not be due, and late payment

penalties would not apply);

- most overpayments would be used to reduce the loan rather than be refunded; and
- borrowers could seek a refund of overpayments only if the amount was significant and caused by an employer error.

Submissions close on 17 July 2009. Have your say via the online forum at www.ird.govt.nz/studentloanforum or read the discussion document at www.taxpolicy.ird.govt.nz, and send submissions to Student Loan Proposals, C/- Deputy Commissioner, Policy, Policy Advice Division, IRD, PO Box 2198, Wellington 6140, email policy.webmaster@ird.govt.nz with "Student Loan Proposals" in the subject line.

2020 Emissions Target: Consultation

The Government is currently holding public meetings on NZ's 2020 greenhouse gas emissions target. NZ is committed to a global goal of stabilising emissions at not more than 450 parts per million of carbon dioxide equivalent. A long-term goal has been set of 50 by 50 - reducing NZ's net emissions to 50% of 1990 levels by 2050.

For the interim 2020 goal scientific, economic, environmental and foreign affairs advice will be taken into account, together with the views of the public and business.

NZ will be tabling NZ's 2020 target policy at the Bonn climate change negotiations in August, to help achieve global agreement at the Copenhagen Conference in December.

The meetings are being held between 6-17 July. More, including meeting dates and venues, is at <http://www.national.org.nz/Article.aspx?ArticleID=30265>

Online Privacy Laws Consultation

The Law Commission has published an issues paper on NZ's privacy laws. The Commission says that while privacy laws support NZers' freedom to live in the way they choose, in some situations some people may have to accept less privacy to ensure that other people's rights and freedoms are protected. It also says that the law has not always kept up with technological developments. For example, it generally doesn't stop people from using surveillance technologies like CCTV cameras, nor does it control the way these technologies may be used. Among the questions it has asked readers to consider are:

- Should it be a criminal offence to publish deeply private information about someone without their consent?
- Should people's privacy be protected in any way when they are in public places?
- Should news media be exempt from some laws if they are acting to expose matters of real public concern?

The Commission recently launched an online consultation site at www.talklaw.co.nz. The aim, of TalkLaw is to generate wider public discussion and feedback about law reform projects the Commission is working on (plans to establish a presence on FaceBook to attract interest from a younger audience are also underway).

Submissions close on 11 September 2009. The Law Commission's review of privacy law is the first issue available on TalkLaw for online comment and debate. To make a comment or submission, or join a forum discussion, first sign up (this is quick, easy and anonymous). The issues paper is at <http://www.talklaw.co.nz/document/index/9>

Bovine TB Strategy Review

The Animal Health Board (AHB) is reviewing the Bovine TB Strategy and wants to hear from cattle and deer farmers about future directions for bovine TB control in NZ.

The current strategy is aimed at having no more than 0.2% of cattle and deer herds infected per year by 2013 - keeping the disease at that level for three years would classify NZ as officially free from bovine TB as defined by the World Organisation for Animal Health. Good progress is being made towards this goal. However, TB is still present in possums across nearly 40% of NZ – and possums are the cause of the great majority of herd infection cases.

The paper contains long-term options for completely eradicating TB from wildlife from parts of NZ, reducing the range of infected wildlife in other areas and controlling herd infection levels.

*Submissions close on 17 July 2009. An online submission form is at <http://tbfree.ahb.org.nz/Default.aspx?tabid=320> (submissions can also go to TB Strategy Submission, PO Box 3412, Wellington). More is at <http://tbfree.ahb.org.nz/Default.aspx?tabid=313>

Land Transport & the Disabled

The Human Rights Commission is reviewing NZ's progress towards making all public land transport services accessible to disabled people, and seeks your feedback. It wants to hear about positive experiences and also about situations where barriers still remain. The reviewers also want to hear from people who made submissions on the matter earlier, and from regional and local government, central government agencies, public transport providers and professional associations.

Responses to the survey close on 30 July 2009. The survey itself (which is also available in Braille and audio) is at <https://hrcnz.wufoo.com/forms/accessible-public-transport-for-disabled-people/> More is at <http://www.hrc.co.nz/home/hrc/search/search.php?q=how+bumpy+is+your+journey%3F&Submit=Go>

Review of Film Commission

Director/producer Peter Jackson is to lead a Ministerial review of the NZ Film Commission. The film industry has been one of NZ's highest profile successes of the last 15 years, and the Commission plays a part in every stage of the industry from funding start-up productions to helping market and distribute the end product.

David Court, Head of Screen Business at the Australian Film, Television & Radio School, will work with Jackson to examine the Commission's legislation and the constitution, function, powers and financial provisions it provides.

Comments need to be in by 31 July 2009. Email them to nzfcreview@mch.govt.nz, or post them to Film Review, Ministry for Culture and Heritage, PO Box 5364, Wellington. The terms of reference for the review are at www.mch.govt.nz/projects/culture/nzfc-review.html

Draft Maternity Action Plan

A new draft of this plan has been prepared because of recent changes in government policy, publication of a report called "The Perinatal and Maternal Mortality in NZ 2006", and a recent review: "The Review of the Quality, Safety and Management of Maternity Services in the Wellington Area".

Submissions on the Draft Maternity Action plan close on 31 July 2009. An online submission template is available, or you can email submissions to maternity_actionplan@moh.govt.nz or you can send them to Senior Advisor, Maternity Services, Ministry of Health, PO Box 5013, Wellington. The perinatal report is at <http://www.pmmrc.health.govt.nz/moh.nsf/indexcm/pmmrc-resources-second-report-200708>; and the review of Wellington maternity services is at <http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/indexmh/wgtn-maternity-services-review-oct08>. More on the draft plan is at <http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/indexmh/draft-maternity-action-plan-2008-2012-oct08>

Returning Public Works Land...

Your views on the Public Works (Offer Back of and Compensation for Acquired Land) Amendment Bill are being sought. This Bill would ensure that former owners of Maori or general land taken or acquired by the Crown for the purposes of a public work are given the first right of refusal to purchase that land where the Crown no longer requires it for the public work for which it was originally taken. Where the former owners of the land are deceased, these rights would be exercised by their descendants.

Maori land has both been taken under the Public Works Act 1981 for a specific purpose and/or purchased by the Crown for a specific purpose: in most instances land sold to the Crown for a specific purpose is only sold by Maori for that purpose and for no other. It is with that principle in mind that the Bill proposes land sold to the Crown should be offered back to the original owners and/or their descendants.

Submissions close on 14 August 2009. Two copies go to the Local Government and Environment Committee, Parliament Buildings, Wellington. The Bill is at <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/bill/member/2007/0139-1/latest/versions.aspx>

...& Public Works/Treaty Settlement Land

Your views are sought on new standards and a guideline relating to the disposal of Public Works land, gifted land, Treaty settlement land and road stopping activity. They cover:

- matters of compliance for Land Information NZ (LINZ) -related activity when public works land is disposed of by a Crown agency;
- matters relating to treaty settlements and the disposal of Crown-owned land; and
- matters relating to the stopping and resumption of road.

The new set replaces 13 existing documents: operational requirements in the earlier ones have been removed, and the standards cover what needs to be done, not how it should be done.

Submissions close on 10 July 2009. More information on making a submission and on the standards and the guideline are at: <http://www.linz.govt.nz/about/linz/news-publications-and-consultations/news-and-notice/corporate/2009/0612-public-works-docs-consultation/index.aspx>

Rules for Financial Advisers

The Ministry of Economic Development (MED) has published a discussion paper on disclosure regulations for financial advisers. "The Financial Advisers Act 2008: Disclosure Regulations" cover information that financial advisers will be required to disclose to clients, and how they will do it.

Financial advisers may advise on: insurance for travel, personal effects, health, vehicles, homes, etc; investments or different credit options; taking out mortgages or credit for consumer goods; and depositing money in term deposits, investment shares, and/or debentures.

Your comments are also sought on three other related papers. In the first, the Securities Commission is seeking feedback on regulating and supervising financial advisers. The other two papers – from Consumer Affairs – cover plans for setting up a financial service provider disputes resolution scheme.

All the discussion papers are available through http://www.med.govt.nz/templates/MultipageDocumentTOC_41042.aspx. Submissions on the MED paper close on 12 August 2009. They go to W McCahon, Competition, Trade, and Investment Branch, MED, PO Box 1743, Wellington, email financialadvisers@med.govt.nz, fax 04 499 1791. Submissions on the Securities Commission paper close on 30 July 2009. They go to Securities Commission, PO Box 1179, Wellington 6011, email seccom@seccom.govt.nz. Submissions on the Consumers Affairs papers close on 31 July 2009. Email them to fsp.schemes@mca.govt.nz, with "Submission on Approval of Financial Sector Consumer Dispute Resolution Schemes" as a subject heading, or send them to Consumer Policy Ministry of Consumer Affairs, PO Box 1473 Wellington, fax 64 4 470 2533

Draft Climate Change Regulations

Draft regulations for stationary energy and industrial processes (SEIP) organisations' involvement in the NZ Emissions Trading Scheme - the draft Climate Change (Stationary Energy and Industrial Processes) Regulations 2008 - have been released for consultation alongside four other draft climate change regulations. These cover stationary energy/industrial processes, unique emissions factors, other removals activities, and liquid fossil fuels.

Submissions close on 13 July 2009. Email them to emissionstrading@climatechange.govt.nz or post them to Ministry for the Environment, PO Box 10362, Wellington 6143, NZ. The draft Climate Change (Stationary Energy and Industrial Processes) Regulations 2008 are at <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/climate/emissions-trading-bulletin-10/index.html>. The four sets of regulations above are at <http://www.climatechange.govt.nz/consultation/draft-regulations-seip/index.html>. More information about stationary energy and industrial process participants under the NZ ETS is at www.climatechange.govt.nz or call 0800 CLIMATE (0800 254 628)

Drinking Water: NES Guide

The Ministry for the Environment (MfE) has published a Plain English Guide to the National Environmental Standard (NES) for drinking water to assist local councils as they put in place the new standard (which came into force in June 2008).

Submissions on the NES Drinking Water guide close on 1 September 2009. Email them to amanda.hunt@mfe.govt.nz. The guide is at <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/rma/nas-draft-sources-human-drinking-water/index.html>

Heavier Loads for Trucks?

Your views are sought on Land Transport Rule - Vehicle Dimensions and Mass Amendment proposals to allow road transport operators to apply for permits to carry heavier loads and in some cases operate longer vehicles. The Rule amendment proposes increasing the maximum vehicle load from 44 tonnes to around 50 tonnes on routes approved by the NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) and local councils. Recent trials of some road transport companies carrying loads greater than the current limits showed productivity could increase 10 to 20 percent, trip numbers could reduce by 16%, and fuel use could reduce by 20%.

Submissions close on 24 July 2009. Information on the Rule and on making online submission is at <http://www.nzta.govt.nz/consultation/vehicle-dimensions-and-mass-amendment/index.html>. Submissions can also go to: Vehicle Dimensions and Mass Amendment, Rules Team, NZTA, PO Box 5084, Wellington 6145

Keeping a Check on NZ Fisheries

The Ministry of Fisheries (Mfish) is proposing changes to sustainability measures and deemed values for a range of deep water, middle depth and inshore fish stocks. Any changes approved would come into effect on 1 October 2009.

Submissions close on 7 August 2009. They go to T Steel, Ministry of Fisheries, PO Box 1020, Wellington, email tracey.steel@fish.govt.nz. More, (including details of the fish stocks under review) is at http://www.fish.govt.nz/en-nz/Consultations/default.htm?wbc_purpose=Basic&WBCMODE=PresentationUnpublished

Commercial Aquaculture: Claims Settlement

The objective of a new Maori Commercial Aquaculture Claims Settlement (Regional Agreements) Amendment Bill is to allow the Crown to meet its Treaty of Waitangi commercial aquaculture obligations by providing a solution to the limited prospects for generating settlement assets for iwi by 2014. Under the amendments Crown would be able to enter into a regional agreement to comply with its obligations under the Maori Commercial Aquaculture Claims Settlement Act 2004. The amendments in the Bill would also give effect to an agreement between the Crown and iwi of the South Island and Hauraki for an early settlement of the Crown's pre-commencement space obligation in those regions.

Submissions close on 31 July 2009. They go to the Maori Affairs Committee, Parliament buildings, Wellington. The Bill is at <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2009/0031-1/latest/versions.aspx>

Regulatory Framework Bill

This is a "catch-all" Bill that makes amendments to legislation in order to improve the way NZ's regulations are structured and reduce the amount of work businesses have to do to comply with them.

It mainly deals with double-ups of regulations, gaps, administrative errors, and inconsistencies between different pieces of legislation that create unnecessary compliance costs and uncertainty for business.

Submissions close on 16 July 2009. Two copies go to the Commerce Committee, Parliament Buildings, Wellington. The Bill is at <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2008/0298-1/latest/whole.html#DLM1594712>

Radio NZ: New Charter?

Public submissions are now being invited on the Radio NZ Amendment Bill. This Bill, which amends the Radio NZ Act 1995, contains a new Radio NZ Charter. This states the purpose of Radio NZ as a public broadcaster, and includes provisions stating how it achieves that purpose through delivery of its services.

Submissions close on 13 August 2009. Two copies go to the Commerce Committee, Parliament Buildings, Wellington. The Bill is at <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2009/0030-1/latest/versions.aspx>

Traffic Control Manual Consultations

The NZ Transport Authority is currently consulting on:

- *Draft Part 2 - direction, service and general guidance signs*: this draft offers advice and provides best practice guidelines on the use of the traffic signs that guide road users around the road network; and
- *Draft Part 3 - advertising signs*: this one offers advice on the use of advertising signs to the transport industry, territorial authorities, practitioners, and private operators. It considers both the safety and environmental or urban design issues concerning territorial authorities or road controlling authorities when dealing with the effects of advertising signs.

Submissions on both consultations close on 17 July 2009. Email submissions to: info@nzta.govt.nz, or send them to B Gibson, NZ Transport Agency, Private Bag 6995, Wellington 6141. Both drafts are at <http://www.nzta.govt.nz/consultation/index.html>

Taxation of Profit Distribution Plans

The taxation of distributions from profit distribution plans (PDPs) is covered in a recently released Inland Revenue (IRD) issues paper. This aims to clarify the law to make sure that bonus issues of shares distributed under PDPs are taxed in the same way as shares issued under other dividend reinvestment plans.

Submissions close on 7 August. They go to The Taxation of Profit Distribution Plans, C/- Deputy Commissioner, Policy, Policy Advice Division, IRD, PO Box 2198, Wellington 6140, email policy.webmaster@ird.govt.nz with "PDPs" in the subject line. More is at <http://www.taxpolicy.ird.govt.nz/publications/index.php?catid=2>.

Higher Power Control Channels

The Ministry of Economic Development (MED) has released a discussion paper dealing with issues, and possible licensing options for higher power control channels. These are used in Television Outside Broadcast (TVOB) operations involving longer range (up to about a kilometre) outdoor communication and control of wireless cameras.

Submissions close on 23 July 2009. Email them to radiospectrum@med.govt.nz (preferred option) or send them to Spectrum Options for Control Channels in Wireless Cameras, Radio Spectrum Policy and Planning, Ministry of Economic Development, PO Box 1473, Wellington 6140. More, including a link to the paper, is at <http://news.business.govt.nz/news/info/rsm/article/9501>

Commerce Commission Consultations

Part 4 of the Commerce Act regulates electricity lines companies (including the national grid operator, Transpower), gas pipeline services and various services supplied at the Auckland, Wellington, and Christchurch airports. Three discussion papers covering the regulation of providers of these services were recently released by the Commerce Commission, along with some draft guidelines.

The papers are:

- an "input methodologies" discussion paper, which outlines the Commission's initial views on the cost of capital, the valuation of assets, the allocation of common costs and the treatment of taxation (there is also a technical report) (*submissions on this close on 31 July 2009*);
- a discussion paper for electricity lines services suppliers (other than Transpower), which sets out the Commission's initial views on how these regulations should be reset. Two technical papers are also available. The reset will apply from 1 April 2010 (*submissions close on 17 July 2009*); and
- a Transpower process and recommendation discussion paper, which outlines the Commission's preliminary views on the options for price-quality regulation of Transpower (*submissions close on 31 July 2009*).
- draft guidelines on the Commission's proposed approach to estimating the cost of capital. The cost of capital is the expected rate of return that businesses require on their investments in order to compensate them for the risks that they bear (*submissions on these close on 31 July 2009*).

More information about each consultation is at <http://www.comcom.govt.nz/IndustryRegulation/Overview.aspx>

MAF Biosecurity Consultations

MAF Biosecurity NZ is consulting on the following (consultation closing dates are in brackets):

- *Importing Onions from China*: the biosecurity risks of importing onions from China are examined in "Onions (Allium cepa Liliaceae) Fresh Bulbs for Consumption from China" (17 July 2009). Submissions go to MAF Biosecurity NZ, Attn. Risk Analysis Team Support Officer, PO Box 2526, Wellington 6140, email risk.analysis@maf.govt.nz. More is at <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/biosec/consult/draft-ra-onions-china>
- *Importing Cats & Dogs (from anywhere)*: a draft Import Risk Analysis deals with the effective management of biosecurity risks posed by importing cats (Felis catus), dogs (Canis familiaris) and canine semen from all countries (17 July 2009). Submissions go to MAF Biosecurity NZ, Attn. Risk Analysis Team Support Officer, PO Box 2526, Wellington 6140, email risk.analysis@maf.govt.nz. More is at <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/biosec/consult/draft-ira-cats-dogs-canine-semen>

- **Importing Fish food & Fish Bait:** a revised import health standard for fish food and fish bait from all countries has now been drafted (3 August 2009). Email submissions to richard.soons@maf.govt.nz, or post them to R Soons, Border Standards Directorate, MAF Biosecurity NZ, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, PO BOX 2526 Wellington, fax 04 894 0733. More is at <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/biosec/consult/ihs-amendment-fish-food-bait>
- **Harvesting Undaria Seaweed:** MAFBiosecurity NZ is asking for feedback on three options for allowing greater commercial use of the seaweed undaria without increasing its adverse impacts on the environment (31 July 2009). Submissions go to M Cassidy, Policy and Risk, MAF Biosecurity NZ, PO Box 2526, Wellington, 6140, email maria.cassidy@maf.govt.nz, fax 04 894 0730. "Review of the Undaria Commercial Harvest Policy" is at <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/biosec/consult/undaria-commercial-harvest-policy>

Standards NZ Consultations

New draft standards from Standards NZ include:

- two new standards: for the specification for Portland and blended cements, and for the specification for pozzolan for use with Portland and blended cement. Submissions close on 12 August 2009.

More is at <http://shop.standards.co.nz/drafts/DZ3122-P3122PCpdf.pdf> and <http://shop.standards.co.nz/drafts/DZ3123-P3123PC.pdf>; and

- a draft standard for fire sprinkler systems for life safety in sleeping occupancies (domestic dwellings). Submissions close on 7 August 2009.

More is at <http://shop.standards.co.nz/drafts/DZ4515-DZ4515.pdf.pdf>

ERMA Consultations

The Environmental Risk Management Authority (ERMA) is consulting on the following (submission closing dates are in brackets):

HSR09013: to import or manufacture microencapsulated zinc phosphide (20 July 2009); *ERMA200010:* to import or manufacture Acres G470 as a herbicide for the control of most annual and perennial grasses and broadleaf weeds (28 July 2009); *ERMA200011:* to import or manufacture BEPO1621RH, BEPO1989RH & BEL1529RH as veterinary medicines for use in cattle (27 July 2009); *ERMA200014:* to import or manufacture Antiga as a plant growth regulator for the reduction of lodging in cereals and ryegrass (27 July 2009) and *HSR09050:* to import or manufacture LMCIL-25 as a topical veterinary medicine for the treatment and prevention of parasites in livestock (22 July 2009).

To make a submission go to <http://www.ermanz.govt.nz/consultations/consult-apps.html>

Airways Corporation: Increased Charges?

The Airways Corporation of NZ is proposing to increase its aerodrome, approach, en-route domestic and en-route oceanic charges for aircraft five tonnes and under by 4.15%; increase the ADR (aerodrome) service ticket price for all weight classes by one unit; and introduce a \$35 overdue SARWATCH charge (SARWATCH is a form of abbreviated flight plan).

Submissions close on 31 July 2009. They go to Price Change, Airways Corporation of NZ, PO Box 294, Wellington, 6140, email submissions@airways.co.nz, tel 04 471 4766

GE Consultation: Auckland/Nth Auckland

An Inter-council Working Party on Genetically Modified Organisms Risk Evaluation and Management Options is holding a community consultation this month. The aim is to gauge public opinion on the release of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) to the environment. A telephone poll will ask people if they prefer the status quo - regulation by central government under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO) Act - or additional regulation of GMOs at a local or regional level by local authorities under the Resource Management Act. People will also be asked how they think the Auckland and Northland councils should deal with field trials and/or commercial releases of GMOs.

Councils involved with the Working Party include Far North, Whangarei, Kaipara, and Rodney District Councils, Waitakere City Council, and Auckland and Northland Regional Councils.

For more information email kerryg@wdc.govt.nz or call freephone 0800 WDC INFO/09 430 4200

Spiritual Stuff for Kiwi Kids

Stories are sought for an anthology of "spiritual stuff" for Kiwi kids. The editors say they hope to include stories about both the natural dimension (humans' inner life, inspiration, vision, well-being), and the transcendent dimension. Contributions are sought from NZers of all faiths and philosophies, who are able to share ideas, skills, favourite practices, karakia and blessings, customs and rituals, advice and skills, songs, stories and teachings, mottos, habits, jokes and illustrations.

For more information email spiritual.stuff.for.kiwi.kids@gmail.com

Rural

Sheep & Beef Industry: MAF Report

A report called "Opportunities and challenges for the NZ sheep meat and beef sector over the next 10-15 years" is based on a survey of farmers, processors, stakeholder groups, researchers, observers, government, and international contacts and customers. The survey aimed to find out where they disagreed about the way forward for these industries.

Collectively, the opportunities identified in the report describe a vibrant sector that places NZ at the forefront of high-quality, sustainably-produced meat, and rewards farmers for meeting consumer expectations in both traditional and new markets. The report also identifies a set of challenges that, if met, will strengthen the industry's position globally, but if not acted on, might well lead to a lack of profitability across the sector.

Despite the obvious challenges that the sector faces over the next 10 to 15 years, the study identified a general positive slant to people's perception of the industry's future.

The report is at <http://www.maf.govt.nz/mafnet/publications/meat-the-future/mss-report-09-execsum.pdf>

Farm Emissions: Temporary ETS Exclusion?

A new joint report, by Infometrics and the NZ Institute for Economic Research (NZIER), recommends that agriculture be excluded from an Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) in the "short run" if it proves too costly to measure farm emissions, but that other sectors at risk from competitors not exposed to the price of carbon still join the scheme, with the help of free allocations.

You can access this report at <http://www.climatechange.govt.nz/> by going to the "What's Hot" section and clicking on "Report on the economic modelling of climate change policy"

Farming for 9 Billion People

How will the world meet the growing energy and food demands of a population reckoned to be nearly nine billion in 2050? And how can it do so in a sustainable manner, despite the prospect of climate change?

Two frequently cited solutions - raising productivity through large investment in fertilisers, irrigation, and mechanisation, and extending farming to degraded, abandoned or pasture lands - would still leave food and energy supplies falling short of demand. This is according to a study released by the climate change advice division of Deutsche Bank. The report also notes that such measures are also likely to make existing water constraints even worse and increase carbon emissions.

To overcome these constraints, the bankers say that it will be necessary to explore alternative approaches to present-day agribusiness practices. Such alternatives would include radical shifts in land use, genetically modified crops, and organic farming.

Download the study at http://www.dbcca.com/dbcca/EN/investment-research/investment_research_1735.jsp

Recognised Seasonal Employers: Changes

Recent changes to the Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) policy are designed so that the horticulture and viticulture industries, in particular, can meet labour demands during the peak harvest season. The main measures are:

- a new type of work permit, the Supplementary Seasonal Employment (SSE) Permit;
- amending RSE policy to ensure that the rules for deductions from RSE workers' wages are the same as those for NZers; and
- a requirement for employers to arrange health insurance for their workers and for RSE workers to pay for health insurance while in NZ.

The SSE work permit will provide extra labour at peak harvest times. Like RSE, SSE will be labour market tested to ensure that kiwis are first in line for jobs. To apply for a SSE work permit, the workers would need to be already in NZ lawfully. SSE permits will be valid for six months and will allow workers to move from one approved SSE employer to another.

Bill Delays Forestry ETS

A Bill delaying reporting requirements under the ETS while the Emissions Trading Scheme Review Committee process is being completed is expected to become law by 30 June. The Bill also delays publication of a government allocation plan. Current law under the Climate Change Response Act requires foresters to have reported any deforestation during 2008 by 31 January 2009 and to apply for exemptions for small forest blocks by 30 June 2009. The government's allocation plan was also due on 30 June. The Bill has the support of all political parties.

Greenhouse Gas Footprints: Research

The first two of 12 studies into the greenhouse gas (GHG) footprint of major NZ exporters have been released.

ZESPRI, the kiwifruit marketer, found that 41% of emissions generated by the production, export and consumption of kiwifruit came from transport. A further 17% were generated through orchard operations.

Milk producer Fonterra found that 85% of emissions from farm to export port were generated on the farm, thanks largely to the amount of methane produced by all dairy cows.

The other 10 GHG studies for exporters, which include pipfruit, lamb and forestry products, will be released during 2009/10.

All the studies have been part-funded by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF).

MAF's GHG Footprinting strategy is at <http://www.maf.govt.nz/climatechange/slm/ghg-strategy/>.

Support Migrant Workers in Rural Areas

Rural Women NZ (RWNZ) is reminding people in rural areas that migrant workers face issues that communities need to be aware of so they can better help them settle into their new lifestyle. These include:

- feelings of isolation and loneliness when trying to establish themselves in an environment that can be so different from their homeland;
- finding medical, dental, educational, and other service providers;
- finding the local supermarket and where to purchase clothing and furniture; and
- details about where to register a vehicle or how to call emergency services.

Immigration NZ has issued 1644 work visas and permits over the past year (1 July 2008-30 June 2009) to individuals to work on beef and dairy farms. The previous year the figure was 992.

Experiences of New Migrants

The Department of Labour's International Migration, Settlement and Employment Dynamics (IMSED) recently launched a new research report entitled "New Faces, New Futures: NZ". IMSED Research has the lead role within the government for immigration-related research and evaluation.

Highlights of "New Faces, New Futures: NZ" include:

- the median age of migrants is 34 years; most migrants are under 45, with 36% aged 25–34; the median age of respondents is 34; and, overall, 52% of migrants are female and 48% were male;
- the four main ethnic groups of migrants are European (42%), Chinese (15%), South African (9%), and Indian (8%);
- half of all migrants live in the Auckland region, followed by 13% in the Canterbury region, 11% in Wellington, and 6% in the Waikato;
- fifty-eight percent of migrants are approved through skilled migration categories;
- the main region of origin of migrants is the United Kingdom/ Republic of Ireland (32%), followed by North Asia (18%), and the Pacific (12%);
- of all the skilled migrants, 42% are from the UK/ Republic of Ireland, followed by North Asia (13%) and South Africa (12%), and business migrants are predominantly from North Asia (63%);
- many migrants from the UK/ Republic of Ireland (18%) and the rest of Europe (18%) settled in Canterbury, and a high proportion of North American migrants (21%) settled in Wellington;
- fifty-nine percent of migrants speak English as their main language or as a language they speak best, while a further 27% report having good or very good English language skills (after English, the most common languages spoken best by new migrants were Chinese languages followed by Hindi); and
- the most important reasons for migrants to choose NZ are the relaxed pace of life or lifestyle (44%), the climate or clean green environment (40%), and the opportunity to provide a better future for their children (39%).

The report is at <http://www.immigration.govt.nz/migrant/general/generalinformation/research/lisnz/newfacesnewfuturesnz.htm>

A Free-Range Egg? No?

A researcher at the Geological and Nuclear Sciences (GNS) National Isotope Centre has been able to identify the difference between eggs from caged hens and those from free-range and organically raised hens. She compared different brands of off-the-shelf eggs from cage, barn, free range and organic farming systems, and found that almost all eggs could be attributed to specific farming systems by relating the carbon and nitrogen found in the egg to the hen's diet.

The discovery has potential within the egg industry to avoid mislabelling.

More is at <http://www.gns.cri.nz/news/release/20090615eggs.html>

Environment

New Start for Fresh Water?

A publication called "New Start for Fresh Water" outlines the Government's new direction for water management in NZ. It also sets out some of the choices NZers face and the implications of those choices.

Many NZers don't understand the limits of water resources – information about how much water we use is poor. In some parts of NZ, water resource limits are being approached, and this leads to water quality deteriorating, water demand outstripping supply, and economic opportunities being affected.

The Government aims to:

- make sure that water contributes to NZ's economic growth and to the environment;
- provide stronger central government direction and leadership;
- set some resource limits to shape the actions taken on managing water quality and allocation;
- develop an allocation system that provides for ecological and public purposes (including Treaty considerations), and then gets the best return from the remaining water available for consumption;
- identify the contribution water systems (including storage) could make to improve water use, and find ways to set them up;
- deal with some of the scientific, technical, information and capability gaps that are holding us back from managing water better;
- address the impacts of land use intensification on water quality, and manage urban and rural demand; and
- maintain Treaty-based engagement with Maori on water management options.

It will be seeking public comments before making any policy decisions.

More is at <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/issues/water/freshwater/new-start-fresh-water.html>

Drinking Water: Compliance Delayed

The Government has delayed requirements for communities to meet new drinking water legislation by three years, and will be reviewing the costs and benefits of the relevant legislation.

Compliance with sections of the Health (Drinking Water) Amendment Act 2007 is staggered depending on the size of the community. The first group, for communities bigger than 10,000 people, was due to have plans in place by 1 July this year, but now has until 1 July 2012. Smaller communities have up until 2016 to comply.

Wherever there is a significant risk to health such as contamination, the existing legal requirement remains for suppliers to take remedial action.

RMA Survey

The Ministry for the Environment's (MfE) 2007/2008 Resource Management Act (RMA) survey provides information about local authority implementation of the RMA and a measure of comparative performance. Some of the key findings:

- most consent applications were non-notified applications (93%), similar to past years, but the proportion of consent applications notified in some way (i.e., notified or limited notified) was the highest in 10 years;
- less than 1% of all consent applications were declined, a similar result to past years;
- the proportion of consent decisions appealed (1.4%) and objected to (2%) increased compared to the last survey in 2005/06;
- changes to consent conditions continued to grow, with 45% more changes processed in 2007/08 than in the last survey, and three times more than in 1999/2000;
- in 2007/08, 69% of consent applications were processed on time, a decrease from the previous survey (73%) and the lowest result for the past 10 years;
- In 2007/08, 28% of consent applications processed had their time limits extended by section 37 of the RMA, an increase from the previous survey (17%): this continues an increasing trend (nine-fold over the past 10 years);
- average charges by regional councils and unitary authorities increased for non-notified consent applications, dropped for limited notified consent applications, and were variable for notified consent applications;
- average charges by territorial authorities increased for notified and limited notified consent applications, but dropped for non-notified consent applications;
- seventy-nine percent of the resource consents that required monitoring were monitored. This is an increase of 35% from the last survey and is the highest result over the past five surveys. Of the monitored resource consents, 84% were compliant with their conditions – the highest result over the past five surveys; and
- complaints about alleged breaches of the RMA continued to increase, with 47% more complaints received in 2007/08 than in the last survey.

The survey is available at www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/rma/annual-survey/2007-2008/index.html

Plain English Waste Regulations

Also newly published by MfE is a guide to help waste disposal facility operators meet their obligations under Part 3 of the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 and the Waste Minimisation (Calculation and Payment of Waste Disposal Levy) Regulations 2009. It includes examples of how to calculate the tonnage of waste the levy must be paid on, submit the returns, and make payments to the levy collector.

The guide for waste facility operators from <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/waste/calculation-payment-of-waste-disposal-levy/index.html>

Air Quality Standards Review

This country's air quality standards are being reviewed by the Ministry for the Environment (MfE). These standards help protect public health and the environment, by setting limits on the concentration of certain air pollutants, with restrictions on industry after 2013 if they aren't met by then. The particular issues under review are whether the disallowing of industry consents is appropriate when industry contributes a small proportion of pollutants, whether the air quality standard has the right cost/benefit balance, and whether the 2013 timeline is reliable.

A five-member technical advisory group is to make recommendations to the Minister in October.

The terms of reference for the review are at

<http://www.mfe.govt.nz/laws/standards/terms-of-reference-air-quality.html>

Too Much Packaging on Food?

NZ Trade and Enterprise (NZTE) reports that the British consumer magazine "Which" says 94% of its readers feel that there is too much food packaging and are concerned about the amount that is recyclable - especially plastic. A third of them said they had refused to buy an item because of the amount of packaging it included. Their research showed that only about 40% of plastic packaging is recyclable.

The magazine purchased the same items from different supermarkets and found some variation in the amount of packaging used: The most plastic and carton used by a supermarket for the 14 items was 415g, while the least was 369g. The magazine did not detail which supermarkets used more or less packaging.

Green Ribbon Award Winners

The 2009 winners of this environmental award are:

- The Travis Wetland Trust in Christchurch for its successful restoration;
- Hawke's Bay's Garth Eyles for his work on land use capability and soil conservation;
- Ashburton District Council for its work on an eco-friendly subdivision;
- Tommy Long from Botany Downs Secondary College in Auckland, who established the first environmental awards at his college;
- Rueben Porter for initiating projects on environmental guardianship in Kaitaia;
- Ports of Auckland for its environmental monitoring and management;
- Ngati Whatua o Orakei for providing greater awareness of zero waste management at a free public concert at Okahu Bay;
- Horizons Regional Council for its WaterMatters website which enables the council to measure the amount of water being abstracted from river catchments; and
- MAD4CO (Making a Difference for Central Otago) for organising a huge project to clean up the Clutha River as part of World Environment Day 2008.

For more details go to <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/withyou/awards/green-ribbon-winners-past.html#09>

Tourism

1 Million+ Visitors from Oz

According to Statistics NZ, annual visitor arrivals from Australia exceeded 1 million for the first time in the May 2009 year. The 1.002 million visitor arrivals were up 35,500 (4%) compared with the May 2008 year, and are double the figure of 10 years ago. In contrast, the 2.419 million visitor arrivals from all source countries during the May 2009 year were down 64,200 (3%) from the May 2008 year. In May 2009, arrivals of short-term overseas visitors to NZ numbered 141,900. This was up 1,400 (1%) from May 2008 (140,500) and was the highest ever recorded for a May month. There were more visitor arrivals from Australia (up 9,200), but fewer visitor arrivals from Korea (down 3,400), China (down 2,700) and Japan (down 2,500)*.

NZ residents departed on 163,700 short-term overseas trips in May 2009, down 10,300 (6%) from the 174,000 departures in May 2008. There were fewer trips to Australia (down 5,900), the United Kingdom (down 900) and Fiji (down 800). For the May 2009 year, short-term departures of NZ residents numbered 1.930 million, down 70,100 (4%) from the May 2008 year. Permanent and long-term (PLT) departures decreased by 2,100 in May 2009, including 1,500 fewer departures to Australia and 500 fewer to the United Kingdom. PLT arrivals decreased by 100 compared with May 2008.

PLT arrivals exceeded PLT departures by 2,700 in May 2009, up from 2,200 in April 2009 and 1,700 in March 2009. The figure for net PLT migration in May 2009 is the highest since July 2003 (2,800).

NZ's annual net PLT migration balance was a gain of 11,200 in the May 2009 year, up from 4,900 in the May 2008 year. The net PLT outflow to Australia was 30,500 in the May 2009 year, down from the record net outflows of 35,400 in both the December 2008 and January 2009 years. PLT arrivals of NZ citizens numbered 24,600 in the May 2009 year, just above the average of 23,400 for the 1979–2008 December years. Arrivals of NZ citizens tend to show little variation year-to-year.

* NZ's tourism industry is continuing to feel the effects of Influenza A (H1N1), with arrivals from Asia expected to be down till at least August. The May visitor arrival statistics show marked decreases in visitors from China (-32.8%), Japan (-41.8%) and Korea (-54.4%).

Accommodation Survey: April 2009

Compared with April 2008:

- total guest nights were 4% higher;
- nine of the 12 regions recorded more guest nights;
- caravan parks/camping grounds recorded the largest increase of all the accommodation types;
- international guest nights were 2% lower; and
- domestic guest nights were 9% higher.

Note: Easter falling in March in 2008, but in April in 2009 made a difference.

Health and Welfare

Managing H1N1 Flu

The spread of Influenza A (H1N1) "swine flu" virus in NZ communities means the focus of health services has moved from a "contain it" to a "manage it" phase. While many NZers are likely to become ill with this virus over the coming months, for the vast majority it will feel, and be treated, like seasonal flu. The difference between Influenza A (H1N1) and seasonal influenza isn't what it feels like for people who get sick, but rather the numbers of people getting sick. This is because it is new and people have not developed any immunity to it. The high number of cases will stretch NZ's health system, and the high infection rates will also mean that a lot of people will be off work sick or looking after sick family members.

Mild to moderate cases

During the "manage it" phase, people who become unwell with any type of influenza will be expected to stay home and look after themselves instead of being assessed by the public health services. Most will not need medical help. Most people will get advice and information from a doctor or practice nurse, via the media and the web, and, in some areas, from flu centres (to manage high numbers).

Stay in home isolation if you are sick so you don't spread the virus. If you are a contact but well, you are not expected to put yourself in quarantine.

Serious and more severe cases

People should call their GP if they develop more serious illness or if they have serious chronic conditions which put them at risk of a more serious illness. Treatment with antivirals – Tamiflu and Relenza – will be prescribed for people with more severe influenza or those at higher risk of complications.

The aim of all of this is to make sure hospitals can look after those who develop a more severe illness, get complications or, have other medical needs.

Tel freephone 0800 611 116 for free 24-hour health advice

Free ACC Physio to End

The Physiotherapists' Association has been advised that current arrangements for free physiotherapy treatment for accident victims will end on 1 November, when some form of co-payment is likely to be set up.

DHBs: Public-Private Partnerships

Protocols for district health boards (DHBs) have been amended to enable them to work more with the private sector, provided the long term viability of their resource and delivery is not undermined. DHBs can now contract with a private provider to deliver a set number of procedures over several years to complement their own delivery, and negotiate a better price and more operations for patients.

A new protocol has been included to make it clear there can be no cross-subsidy from public to private.

Blood Pressure/Stroke Awareness Campaign

St John is joining forces with the Stroke Foundation to run a national blood pressure awareness campaign, aimed at reducing the risk of stroke. The two charities will offer free blood pressure checks to the public on Saturday 12 September 2009 at around 150 community venues nationwide. Reducing blood pressure can greatly reduce the risk of stroke - the second largest single killer in this country and a major cause of adult disability. Although it is largely preventable, 8,000 NZers a year suffer a stroke, a third of which are fatal. One in five NZers have high blood pressure and a third of these do not know it.

For more information tel 027 211 2159

Ethnic Disparities in Hospital Care

International research shows that there is substantial evidence of ethnic disparities* in health care quality for minorities, particularly in the USA. This study by the University of Otago, Christchurch was done to assess the evidence for similar disparities in this country.

A review of 11 studies examining the issue of quality of care and ethnicity in relation to specific conditions and procedures was carried out, which indicates there may be disparities in the quality of public hospital care for Maori inpatients in some clinical areas.

Four of the studies looked at obstetric interventions in hospitals and the review concluded that, collectively, these studies show disparities in quality of care for Maori women compared to non-Maori. Other clinical areas examined included adverse events, cardiac intervention, end-stage renal disease, and care of patients with mental illness. Each of these studies noted differences (which did not meet the definition of "disparity" below) in the quality of in-hospital care for Maori compared to non-Maori. In most, the differences meant poorer treatment according to current standards or clinical need.

* A difference in the rates of quality measures between ethnic groups is considered a "disparity" if it is associated with poorer health outcomes (or is inconsistent with clinical need), and is present despite consideration for patient factors, like socioeconomic position or severity of condition.

This study has been published in the NZ Medical Journal and was funded by the Health Research Council of NZ. A related press release is at http://www.chmeds.ac.nz/newsevents/media_release/2009/disparities.htm

Report: Senior Doctors in NZ

A report from the Director-General of Health's Commission on senior medical and dental officers (SMO) employed by district health boards (DHBs) has been released. The commissioners have made 13 recommendations, all of which have been accepted by the Ministry of Health. Amongst them:

- that DHBs and the Ministry of Health jointly develop clinical leadership and participation through clinician-management partnerships;
- that the Ministry of Health speed up development of a process for regional and national service planning that enables aligned SMO workforce planning; and

- that the Medical Training Board (or any successor) reviews and recommends medical student intakes every three years to align intakes with future service needs.

The report is at <http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/indexmh/senior-doctors-nz-securing-the-future>

Abortions Decrease

According to Statistics NZ, 17,940 induced abortions were performed in the year ending December 2008, down 440 (2.4%) from the 2007 year. The decrease followed increases of 2.5% between 2006 and 2007 and 2.3% between 2005 and 2006.

The number of abortions of women aged between 15 and 44 decreased from 20.1 per 1000 in 2007 to 19.7 per 1000 in 2008. The peak rate was 20.8 per 1000 in 2003.

Women aged 20 to 24 years had more abortions than any other age group last year, with a rate of 37 abortions per 1000 women. The median age of the women was 24.3 years. Most abortions performed last year (63%) were the women's first.

Anti-Smoking/Cancer Drugs Funded

PHARMAC is now funding the smoking cessation drug bupropion (Zyban), providing another subsidised option for people seeking to give up smoking. The Government currently funds nicotine replacement therapy for smoking cessation through the Ministry of Health's Quitline programme.

PHARMAC is also now fully funding MabThera® (rituximab), for the first line treatment of indolent (low grade) non Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL). Before this decision, funding for MabThera was restricted to patients who had already been treated with chemotherapy and whose cancer had returned (relapsed).

Milk Pricing/Morning Milk Drinks

Researchers at the University of Otago Wellington say that the high price of milk and other dairy products over recent years is bad for the health of children and has contributed to greater health inequalities in NZ. In a case study published in Globalisation and Health, researchers examined the health impacts of deregulation of the market for milk since the 1980s, and the impact on the nation's health.

The researchers say it is clear from a series of legislative changes that deregulation of the milk market since the 1980s has significantly reduced accessibility and affordability of milk products for many low-income families. Now only 38% of children drink milk daily, and 34% weekly, with 17% not drinking it at all.

At the same time the removal of tariff barriers and the emphasis on international trade has resulted in a rapid increase in supply and consumption of unhealthy sugar-sweetened carbonated beverages (SSCBs) or "fizzy drinks" from the early 1990's. Some reports indicate that milk consumption dropped by a third during the 1980s and 1990s.

In a separate study new Australian research has found that drinking fat free milk instead of a fruit drink at breakfast helps you feel fuller and eat less at lunchtime. The new study (to be published in the July issue of the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition) found that drinking fat-free milk in the morning helped increase satiety (in other words a feeling of fullness) and led to a reduced calorie intake at the next meal, as compared with a fruit drink. The milk drinkers ate about 50

fewer calories (or nearly 9 percent less food) at lunch.

The researchers suspect that milk's protein content (providing 16 percent of the daily value per cup), the lactose (the natural sugar in milk), or simply the thickness of the beverage may play a role in bringing on that feeling of fullness.

More on the implications of milk pricing is at http://www.otago.ac.nz/news/news/2009/19-06-09_press_release.html

Mental Health Services: Recovery Research

Research is being carried out into the way recovery-oriented mental health service organisations in NZ monitor their recovery practices. The researcher is interested in answers to the following questions: Where do mental health services report about how well they promote recovery of service users? What information is reported? What gets omitted? How can we measure how well organisations promote recovery of their service users?

People interested in participating in this research can email lola.ianovski@gmail.com for an information pack

Nuclear Tests: Impact on Veterans

The Expert Panel on Veterans' Health is to look at research into the health effects of NZ veterans who were present at nuclear tests in the Pacific. Research by Massey University in 2005 showed a significant, though small, level of genetic damage to the chromosomes of veterans who were exposed to nuclear explosions during Operation Grapple in 1957 and 1958. The Panel was set up in April 2009 to help with better understanding of issues relating to veterans' service-related health.

Education

Financial Literacy in Schools

NZ school students will have more opportunity to become financially literate, with the Ministry of Education integrating personal financial education into the curriculum in language, social studies, mathematics and technology. Students will be able to learn practical skills to do with bank accounts and saving at the same time as learning about addition and multiplication.

More Apprentices/Industry Trainees

There was a rise 151 in the number of industry trainee and modern apprenticeship numbers between December 2008 and March 2009, with the total numbers in training now 133,454. There were increases in the road transport, hospitality, boating and electricity supply sectors. However, the numbers of trainees in the forestry, building and construction, retail and real estate sectors has reduced.

Early Childhood Regulations: Changes

Recent changes to regulations covering early childhood education services include "in perpetuity" licences for early childhood education services, a new minimum age for home-based educators of 17 years, a new Police vetting requirement for people aged 17 and over living in a home-based educator's home, and a new licensing fee (for new services only). Sleep rooms and plumbed wash facilities are no longer required, though services will need to have a procedure for how they will ensure hygiene and meet sleep requirements. There are also changes to the risk procedures and role of persons responsible for outings.

The changes, which follow a review of the Education (Early Childhood Services) Regulations 2008, are likely to take effect this August.

Employment

The Labour Market in 2008

In the March 2008 year:

- the number of filled jobs increased 2.1% to reach 1,816,220, the smallest annual increase for a March year since the series began in June 1999;
- filled jobs in the manufacturing industry decreased for the third consecutive March year, down 0.7% (1,550 filled jobs); a total decrease of 2.9% (6,780 filled jobs) since the March 2005 year;
- average quarterly earnings increased 5.3% to \$11,320, the largest annual increase for a March year since the series began; and
- the Taranaki region had the largest percentage increase in quarterly earnings, at 6.3%.

We're More Positive about Hiring

Hiring expectations among NZ employers have risen for the first time in 2 years, according to the latest Hudson Report. After moving deeply into the negative last quarter, national employer sentiment is now positive with a net 0.5% of employers intending to increase permanent staff levels during July to September 2009.

The report shows a shift away from employers reducing headcount towards holding current staff levels steady. Employers intending to reduce their permanent staff levels decreased to 15.3% this quarter (from 23.7% in the previous quarter). Employers intending to hold current staff levels steady increased 4.8% to 68.8%. Meanwhile, the proportion of employers looking to increase headcount increased from 12.4% to 15.9%.

Download the full report at <http://nz.hudson.com/documents/nz-hudson-report-jul09-part1.pdf>

Holidays Act Review Underway

A working group has been appointed to begin the review of the Holidays Act 2003, aimed at making the Act easier for businesses and employees to understand and apply, while maintaining fairness in the employment relationship. The terms of reference include:

- the calculation of relevant daily pay;
- trading annual leave for cash at the employee's request; and
- transferring the observance of public holidays.

The working group is to submit its report by December 2009.

Gender Pay Gap Research

The Ministry of Women's Affairs has received a 12% funding increase (\$2 million over four years) to do more research and policy work on the gender pay gap (its causes and what measures could be used to reduce it). The pay gap between men and women has been at about 12 percent for the past decade.

NZ-Spain Working Holiday Scheme

Up to 200 young NZers will be able to live in Spain for a year and work for up to six months under a new reciprocal working holiday scheme signed by NZ and Spain. The scheme will enter into force when both countries have completed the necessary legal procedures.

Transport

June Car Sales

New car sales in June were up 8% over May, but continue to run below last year's figures, according to the NZ Transport Agency. A total of 4306 new cars were sold in June, bringing the total for the first half-year to 25782, down 32% on the same period in 2008.

No RUC for Electric Vehicles

The government is to exempt light electric vehicles from paying road user charges (RUC) for four years, as a first step towards encouraging their uptake. At present light electric vehicles (weighing up to 3.5 tonnes) are classed as diesel vehicles for the purpose of road-user charges. This results in a cost of approximately 3.6-4 cents per kilometre: with the money mainly used to develop and maintain the roading system.

The RUC exemption will come in effect on 1 October 2009 and will apply until 2013.

Use of Road Transport: 2007

We rely on road transport to facilitate our daily routine: we use it to get to and from work and we use it for educational, social and recreational activities. Road transport also supports our economic prosperity by enabling the movement of people and goods. While road transport provides many economic and social benefits, it also has environmental and health impacts.

A "report card" on vehicle kilometres travelled by road provides information on the total distance travelled on NZ roads for 2007. It also reports on the type, age and fuel type of the vehicles travelling.

It shows similar findings to earlier reports: our use of road transport is intensifying. On average, NZers are driving further, we own more cars, they are getting older, and their engines are gradually getting bigger.

The report card on vehicle kilometres travelled by road is at www.mfe.govt.nz/environmental-reporting/report-cards/transport/2009/transport-report-card-2009.pdf.

Motor Vehicle Disputes Tribunal: Proposals

Amongst proposed changes in a the Motor Vehicle Sales Amendment Bill 2009 are proposals to increase the financial limit at which cases may be heard by the Motor Vehicle Disputes Tribunal from \$50,000-\$100,000, and allow the Tribunal to award costs for non-attendance of either party to the dispute and publish its decisions.

Housing

Building Consents

Statistics NZ says that the value of non-residential consents for May 2009 is \$479 million, the second highest monthly value recorded (the tally was boosted by consents for sports stadiums around the country).

For May 2009, the trend for the number of new housing units authorised, excluding apartment units, continues at a low level, although the decline in the trend is showing signs of easing.

Including apartments, the trend for new housing units has increased for the last four months. Apartment numbers can vary considerably from month to month. The seasonally adjusted number of new housing units authorised, excluding apartments, fell 3.1% in May 2009. Including apartments, the seasonally adjusted number of new housing units authorised rose 3.5% in the same period.

Home Loan Affordability Improves

The BNZ Home Loan Affordability measure improved in May from April, which was the first monthly improvement in 2009. A slight fall in the median (midpoint) house price and flat interest rates helped reduce the proportion of after-tax pay needed to service a mortgage on such a home to 55.9% in May from 56.4% in April. This is sharply better than the 80.6% seen a year ago and the record worst level of 83.4% in March last year.

Affordability remains somewhat out of reach for most individual home buyers. The threshold proportion of after tax income considered prudent to sustainably own a house is around 40 percent. Anything above that is starting to become unaffordable.

Find out more at <http://www.interest.co.nz/HLA/HLA-NZ-June2009.asp>

Buy Your Own State House

From mid-September longstanding state house tenants will have the opportunity to buy the homes they're living in if the house meets certain criteria. Replacement properties will be purchased so the Housing Corporation can house more applicants currently on the waiting list.

The average value of a state house is currently \$220,000.

If you are a tenant and would like to find out if your house is one you can buy, you can register your interest by calling 0800 801 601, or email your name, address, and phone number to saleofstatehouses@hnzc.co.nz. The Corporation will contact you once the initiative has been launched.

<http://www.hnzc.co.nz/hnzc/web/home.htm>

Home Insulation Scheme

You can now get Energywise funding to help insulate your house, and install clean and efficient heating under the Warm up NZ: Heat Smart programme which began on 1 July.

Homeowners with houses built before 2000 are eligible for funding to install:

- ceiling and underfloor insulation, up to a required standard;
- a clean, efficient heating device in the primary living space, if the primary living space does not already have a heating device that meets current standards; and
- other energy efficiency measures where necessary: a hot water cylinder wrap, pipe lagging, draught-stopping, and a ground moisture barrier.

Funding levels:

- insulation of homes owned by community services card holders: 60% of total cost;
- clean heating of homes owned by community services card holders: \$1200;
- insulation of landlords' homes where tenants have community services cards: 60% of total cost: \$500;
- insulation of all eligible houses: 22% of total cost; and
- clean heating for all eligible houses: \$500.

In the first year, 27,000 homes are to be retrofitted, building to more than 60,000 in the fourth year.

All main trading banks have agreed to join the insulation and heating scheme, and all have agreed to waive their fees for top-up loans homeowners get as part of insulation retrofits.

More is at <http://www.energywise.govt.nz/funding-available/insulation-and-clean-heating>

Property Managers: Review Results

A review by the Ministry of Justice has found that additional regulation of property managers is not justified. The review arose following comments to the Select Committee considering the Real Estate Agents Bill about the exclusion of residential letting services from the Bill. Generally, property owner disputes with property managers, involve a loss of less than \$15,000, and can be taken to Disputes Tribunals (which deal with disputes of up to \$15,000).

Commercial Property letting services will continue to be restricted to lawyers, conveyancers, and real estate agents.

Energy

Energy Production: March Quarter

The latest data from the NZ Energy Quarterly for the March quarter shows total electricity generation down 5% compared with the same quarter last year. This is the lowest figure in over five years and is attributed to the economic downturn dampening electricity consumption, and the reduced usage at the Tiwai Point aluminium smelter.

Some 73% of the electricity generated was from renewable generation – the highest level for a March quarter since 2005.

Wind and geothermal generation is continuing to grow, and if the current trend continues this year it's likely geothermal generation will supply over 10% of NZ's annual electricity generation for the first time on record. Wind generation continues to grow and be a small but important source of electricity generation, providing just over 3% of electricity generation in the quarter.

The data also shows a drop in greenhouse gas emissions, down 31% from the previous March quarter and the lowest quarter of CO2 emissions from electricity generation since March 2004.

The Energy Quarterly data also shows a drop in the production of oil: 4.27 million barrels of oil were produced, 27% lower than the previous March quarter. The figure will be offset by the Maari field which began producing in February of this year and is expected to be producing 35,000 barrels of oil per day by August.

The NZ Energy Quarterly is one of the energy publications produced by the Ministry of Economic Development.

Justice/the Law

Policing: Compulsory Impairment Tests

Under the recently-enacted Land Transport Amendment Bill (No. 4) a police officer who suspects a driver of being impaired can require them to carry out a compulsory impairment test. A driver who does not satisfactorily complete this test will be required to provide a blood specimen. If the blood specimen shows the presence of a controlled drug or prescription medicine, the person may be charged with the new offence of driving while impaired. The provisions will come into force no later than 1 December 2009.

Money Laundering/Terrorism: New Bill

An Anti-Money Laundering and Countering Financing of Terrorism Bill aims to tackle financial and drug-related crime by detecting, tracing, and seizing profits of domestic organised crime groups. It sets out changes enabling NZ to comply with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) - an inter-

governmental body that sets international standards for combating money laundering and terrorist financing. One section will cover financial institutions and casinos, and a second will include other industries. Businesses will be required to make more robust checks on customer identity and verification, and have better systems in place to identify and track suspicious activity.

Corrections Staff: More Training/Equipment

Around 3500 Department of Corrections custodial staff are to receive more training in tactical communications and skills to de-escalate volatile incidents. Personal protective equipment such as stab resistant body armour, spit hoods, batons and pepper spray will also be made available to staff in specific situations. The move follows a Corrections study that analysed past assaults on staff and looked at what steps could be taken to make staff safer.

NZ Statute Drafting Reviewed

The Law Commission has reviewed the Statute Drafting And Compilation Act 1920. This Act governs the work of the Parliamentary Counsel Office (PCO), where NZ's statute laws are written.

It says the NZ statute governing these matters is old and needs to be brought up to date, and it considers issues such as how drafters should be appointed, how the independence of the PCO should be preserved and who should do tax drafting.

More is at <http://www.lawcom.govt.nz/ProjectReport.aspx?ProjectID=141>

Language Line in Courts

Language Line offers assistance to more than 70 departments and agencies in 40 different languages. It will now be available for use by High Court, District Courts, Collections, Special Jurisdictions and National Office staff to help them to assist people with limited English access services.

A 2007 Colmar Brunton survey conducted at Auckland's courts showed that one in every 20 people at court did not speak English as their first language.

Queen's Counsel Restored

Legislation will be introduced later this year amending the Lawyers and Conveyancers Act to restore the title of Queen's Counsel to recognise outstanding members of the independent bar. Eligibility will be restricted in most cases to barristers sole, rather than lawyers in partnerships or firms.

The office of Senior Counsel, which replaced Queen's Counsel in 2008, and which was open to lawyers in firms as well as barristers, will be disestablished. The seven Senior Counsel appointed last year will have the option of using the title of Queen's Counsel or remaining Senior Counsel.

Public Sector

Government Spending Under Spotlight

The way that state sector purchases are made is being overhauled. Government is a big spender - its purchases cost around \$30 billion a year. Amongst proposals are establishment of "Centres of Expertise" within lead government agencies to negotiate all-of-government contracts in common-spend areas. The idea is that by contracting in volume, the government can give industry enough of a market to justify investment in labour, equipment, and research and development. In turn this could lead to innovative products being produced and greater opportunities in export markets.

Information on government procurement is available at www.procurement.govt.nz.

Public Sector Excellence Awards

The IPANZ Gen-i Public Sector Excellence Awards 2009 winners were announced recently. The public sector awards programme, which was launched in 2008 by the Institute of Public Administration NZ (IPANZ) and ICT leader Gen-i, acknowledges and celebrates excellence across public sector agencies from central and local government. Categories were designed to highlight significant public sector initiatives making a positive difference to communities.

This year's winners are:

- The Prime Minister's Award for Public Sector Excellence: NZ Police and the Porirua City Council, for "Safer Porirua";
- The State Services Commission Award for Excellence in Improving Performance through People: Hawkes Bay District Health Board, for "Programme Incubator";
- The Leadership Development Centre Award for Excellence in Managerial Leadership: Career Services, for "Project Aspire - The Leadership Capability Programme";
- The Te Puni Kokiri Award for Excellence in Crown-Maori Relationships: Department of Labour, for "Manaakitanga I O Tatou Marae (Taking care of our marae)";
- The Microsoft Award for Excellence in Networked Government: Ministry of Economic Development, for the "Insolvency Law Reform Implementation Project"; and
- The Russell McVeagh Award for Excellence in Working Together for Better Services (two winners): Ministry of Social Development, for "Linwood Community Link", and NZ Police and the Porirua City Council, for "Safer Porirua".

Find out more information at <http://www.ipanz.org.nz/>

Not-for-Profits

Trustees Matter

In a recent report New Philanthropy Capital (NPC), UK says that 95% of people in the UK are unaware that they can support a charity by becoming a trustee, and that this helps explain why nearly half of charities have vacancies on their boards. The organisation highlights a number of improvements that could help to strengthen trusteeship, including:

- more action on recruitment from charities, funders and government, to build people's interest in trusteeship as a way of supporting charities and to increase the diversity of boards;
- better support once boards are established, such as more thorough inductions for new trustees and increased opportunities for trustees to learn from each other;
- setting up a body responsible for trusteeship, which could co-ordinate efforts to improve standards, put information about charity governance in one accessible place, and encourage networking; and
- a stronger focus on boards evaluating their own performance (particularly those of large organisations).

The report is at www.philanthropycapital.org/download/default.aspx?id=994

How do NZers Give?

Key findings in "How do NZers give? Ethnicity and income research supplement" show:

- no matter their ethnicity or income level, 75.4% of people 10 years and over supported the community and voluntary sector in 2007;
- however, the types of organisations NZers support, and whether they give to or volunteer for these organisations, varies significantly by ethnicity and income;
- Maori have high rates of volunteering for marae, and are more likely than average to give to preschool education;
- Pacific peoples have higher than average rates of both volunteering and giving to religious organisations such as churches;
- middle income people are slightly more likely to volunteer than those on low or high incomes;
- the percentage of people making ad hoc donations is relatively consistent across personal and household incomes, apart from in the lowest income brackets; and
- people with high personal or household incomes are more likely to make committed donations.

More is at <http://www.ocvs.govt.nz/work-programme/three-key-projects/how-nzers-give-supp-ethnicity-and-income.html>

Volunteering? Check the Charities Register

If you are thinking of volunteering you can check the Charities Register for information about charities you might want to support. If a charity is one of the 22,000 on the Register, it has met all the Charities Act's criteria, and it will have access to guidance and support to ensure it is well managed and governed, and that its operations are transparent. You can see

each registered charity's contact details, their rules, their application for registration, and their Officers' certifications.

It is estimated that one million NZers already volunteer.

To check the register go to the public Charities Register search page at <http://www.register.charities.govt.nz/CharitiesRegister/Search.aspx> and search by selecting from the drop down menus on the page

Maori Trustee Now "Stand-Alone"

The Maori Trustee has been set up separately from Te Puni Kokiri as a "stand-alone" organisation, and its funding has been increased to around \$12.6 million.

The Maori Trustee is responsible for over 105,000 hectares of Maori land. The Trustee is charged with protecting/enhancing the interests of Maori clients and their resources, managing the adverse effects of fragmented/multiple ownership of Maori land, and providing fair, proper and prudent administration and management of clients' assets within the principles and obligations of trusteeship.

More about the Maori Trustee is at <http://www.tpk.govt.nz/en/about/mto/>

Trust Board Members: Applications Sought

The Frozen Fund Charitable Trust, which provides grants for projects run by and for people who use mental health or intellectual disability services, has opened applications for new board members.

Applications close on 31 July. The expression of interest fact sheet and application form is on the front page of www.frozenfunds.co.nz. Expressions of interest go to C Mennie, Public Trust Special Business, PO Box 5067, Wellington, freephone 0800 371 471, email cheryl.mennie@publictrust.co.nz

Business

Annual GDP Figures

According to Statistics NZ, economic activity, as measured by Gross Domestic Product (GDP), was down 1.0% in the March 2009 quarter. On an annual basis*, GDP decreased 1.0% for the year ended March 2009, the first annual decline in economic activity since the year ended June 1992. The largest contributors to the decline were construction (down 8.9%) and manufacturing (down 5.4%).

* Note: The annual GDP movement compares total activity in the year ended March 2009 with total activity in the year ended March 2008.

Trade Balance Surplus: May

The trade balance for May 2009 recorded the largest surplus since June 1993, according to Statistics NZ (SNZ). The surplus of \$858 million, or 21.7% of exports, resulted from a large drop in imports combined with a moderate rise in exports.

Compared with May 2008, the total value of merchandise imports for May 2009 was down by 20.7% (\$809 million). This month's decrease is the largest since February 1993. Petroleum and petroleum products, and passenger motor cars

led the decrease, accounting for more than 60% of the fall. The value of passenger motor car imports for May 2009 was less than half of that recorded for May 2008 and this fall was led by petrol cars with engine capacities above 1500cc.

The value of merchandise exports rose 5.8% (\$218 million) in May 2009 compared with May 2008.

Exports to China accounted for 80% of this month's increase, with milk powder, butter, and cheese, and logs, wood, and wood articles making the largest contributions.

Exporters: \$100 million Trade Credit

The Government is to extend its short-term trade credit insurance guarantee for exporters by \$100 million.

The temporary facility provides a guarantee to exporters or insurers against defaults on contracts with payment terms of less than 360 days. The only cost to the Crown is in the event of an unrecoverable default. This cost is offset by premiums. The facility is being provided for up to two-and-a-half years.

More Information on the guarantee is available at <http://www.nzeco.govt.nz>

Service Sector Performance: May 2009 ...

The service sector remains in the shadows, but activity doesn't appear to be getting any darker, according to the BNZ Capital - Business NZ Performance of Services Index (PSI).

A PSI reading above 50.0 indicates that the service sector is generally expanding; below 50.0 that it is declining.

The PSI for May stood at 46.2, which was 2.5 points up from April, and almost identical to the February 2009 result. In comparison with previous years, the May result was 2.9 points down from May 2008, and 12.3 points down from 2007. The average PSI value for 2007 was 58.1, while for 2008 it was 49.1. For the first five months of 2009, the average score has been 45.2.

Business NZ said that the May result reinforced views that the level of damage seen in the services sector in NZ has not been as bad as many other parts of the world. Many areas abroad (including Australia and the Eurozone) have been experiencing recent PSI results below 40.

... & Manufacturing Performance: May 2009

Although manufacturing activity experienced a slightly larger decrease in activity in May, it generally remains in a tight band of performance since the start of the year, according to the BNZ Capital - Business NZ Performance of Manufacturing Index (PMI).

A PMI reading above 50.0 indicates that manufacturing is generally expanding; below 50.0 that it is declining.

The PMI for May stood at 42.7, down 1 point from April, and 6.0 points lower than May 2008. However, apart from the February result, the sector has seen little change in activity levels, with values only ranging by 1.7 points since December 2008.

PMI values for May in the years 2003-2008 ranged from 48.7 and 57.0, with an average score for the previous May results of 53.3.

Women on Boards: Good for Business...

The Ministry of Women's Affairs says that there is evidence that women directors can help companies gain competitive advantage and increase profits, and that companies that have women on their boards outperform those that do not. Its recently released report offers the following statistics:

- 8.6% of private sector company directors in NZ are women - 45 women holding 54 directorships out of a total of 624 positions;
- 11.8% of FTSE company directors in the United Kingdom are women;
- 14.8% of Fortune 500 company directors in the United States are women; and
- evidence from one international study showed that the Fortune 500 companies (the 500 largest companies in America) with the most women board members were around 50% more profitable than those with the least.

The report, which was developed with the support of Business NZ and the Institute of Directors in NZ, is at www.mwa.govt.nz/women-on-boards

...& Global Women Project

The aim of the recently-formed Global Women Project is support senior women business leaders so they have access international best practice as well as national and international networks.

The organisers are keen to contact senior NZ businesswomen in NZ or offshore, who have experience with international women's networks and who would be happy to share their insights. Email justine.munro@maiaconsulting.co.nz

NZ – Malaysia Free Trade Agreement

NZ now has a free trade agreement (FTA) with Malaysia, our seventh largest trading partner. Last year we exported nearly a billion dollars worth of goods to Malaysia with two-way trade worth nearly three billion.

Following legal/technical verification of the texts of the agreement and domestic approval processes the final agreement will be put forward for signature.

NZ joins Oz Business Group

NZ has taken up the invitation of the Australian Government to join the Business Regulation and Competition Working Group (BRCWG). This group was established by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) to accelerate COAG's regulatory reforms. BRCWG's objectives are:

- to accelerate and broaden the regulation reduction agenda to reduce the regulatory burden on business;
- to accelerate and deliver the agreed COAG regulatory hot spots agenda;
- to further improve processes for regulation making and review, including exploring a national approach to processes to ensure no net increase in the regulatory burden, and common start dates for legislation; and

- to deliver significant improvements in Australia's competition, productivity and international competitiveness.

Franchising Arrangements OK

The Review of Franchising Regulation has found that the current business law arrangements and the voluntary self-regulation of the sector by the Franchise Association of NZ (FANZ) is appropriate for NZ. It says that given the small size of our economy, there is not enough evidence to indicate that regulation of franchises would result in benefits that would outweigh additional compliance costs. A review of franchising was carried out last year after reports of alleged fraud involving franchises.

A related Cabinet paper is at http://www.med.govt.nz/templates/MultipageDocumentPage___40956.aspx

NZ's Most Trusted Brands

The latest results of Reader's Digest Most Trusted Brands survey are out. The main category winners are:

- *Overall Winner:* Cadbury;
- *Electronics:* Winner – Sony; Runner Up – Panasonic;
- *Health & Wellbeing:* Winner – Panadol; Runner Up – Colgate;
- *Whitegoods:* Winner - Fisher & Paykel; Runner Up – Westinghouse;
- *Retailers:* Winner – NZ Post; Runner Up - PAK'n'SAVE;
- *Mobile Phones:* Winner – Nokia; Runner Up – Samsung;
- *Beauty and Cosmetics:* Winner – Gillette; Runner Up – Palmolive;
- *Computers:* Winner – Sony; Runner Up - Hewlett-Packard;
- *Soft Drinks:* Winner - L&P; Runner Up – Schweppes;
- *Travel:* Winner - Air NZ; Runner Up – Emirates;
- *Fast Food:* Winner – Subway; Runner Up - Pizza Hut;
- *Credit Cards:* Winner – Visa; Runner Up – Mastercard;
- *Banks:* Winner – Kiwibank; Runner Up - ASB Bank;
- *Telecoms:* Winner – Vodafone; Runner Up – TelstraClear;
- *Vitamins and Supplements:* Winner – Healtheries; Runner Up – Blackmores;
- *Food:* Winner – Cadbury; Runner Up - Tip Top; and
- *Cars:* Winner – Toyota; Runner Up – BMW.

More is at <http://www.readersdigest.co.nz/content/new-zelands-most-trusted-brands-2009/>

Money Matters

Household Spending 2007-8...

Household spending on goods and services is a key factor in the NZ economy, accounting for around 60% of all spending on goods and services in NZ each year. Generally, as household spending increases, so too does the use of natural resources (e.g., land and water), energy and transport; the generation of waste and greenhouse gas emissions; and air, water and soil pollution. Household spending is therefore seen as a pressure on the environment.

A "report card" on household consumption expenditure provides information on the volume of spending on goods and services by NZ households for the March 2007 and 2008 years. It shows similar findings to earlier reports in that NZ's total household spending continued to increase, as did spending per household and per person. However, the increases were not as large as in previous years, and spending is expected to decline in the March 2009 year due to a number of factors including the global recession.

The household consumption expenditure report card is at www.mfe.govt.nz/environmental-reporting/report-cards/household-consumption/hce-report-card-2009.pdf

... & Recent Spending Patterns

The latest Nielsen global consumer confidence survey found 65% of NZers cut back on household expenses and treats in the past 12 months, slightly lower than the global average of 70%. The survey found not only are they staying home more, buying cheaper groceries, using the car less, cutting back power usage, eating fewer takeaways, and wearing fewer new clothes, but they like their new found prudence and say they'll maintain their new habits even when the economy improves.

Government Rate Falls

The rate used to calculate fringe benefit tax on low-interest, employment-related loans fell from 8.05% to 6.41% on 1 July.

Use-of-money interest rates on underpaid and overpaid tax have also been lowered (as of 28 June 2009 the rate charged by IRD on unpaid tax dropped from 9.73% to 8.91%, while the rate for overpayments of tax paid by IRD fell from 4.23% to 1.82%).

Parental Leave Payments Increase

On 1 July the maximum parental leave payment increased from \$407.36 per week to \$429.74 per week. The minimum payment for self-employed parents also increased from \$120 to \$125 per week. Parents eligible for the scheme are entitled to up to 14 weeks paid leave at a rate calculated on the basis of their average weekly earnings.

NZ Financial Reporting Standards: Paper

The Auditor-General has published a discussion paper on the way that financial reporting standards are set in NZ. He says the approach to setting financial reporting standards needs to change to make sure that appropriate standards apply to public sector bodies, so that their financial statements meet the needs of the people using them. This discussion paper is aimed at encouraging constructive debate.

The discussion paper is at <http://www.oag.govt.nz/2009/financial-reporting-standards/>

OAG: IRD & Tax Debt

The Office of the Auditor-General (OAG) has examined how Inland Revenue manages its tax debt collection role, and it has agreed with Inland Revenue that its overall approach to tax debt management is insufficient to control the growth in tax debt.

The OAG says that for Inland Revenue to effectively manage the growth of tax debt it will need better information about the effectiveness and efficiency of its debt collection techniques. The office has made five recommendations about how it could get this information.

More is at <http://www.oag.govt.nz/2009/managing-tax-debt/docs/managing-tax-debt.pdf>

IRD: New Compliance Paper

Inland Revenue (IRD) has released "Helping You Get it Right: Inland Revenue's compliance focus 2009 - 10." It says the current economic environment puts more pressure on people and businesses, and that IRD will provide them with assistance to get it right. A range of activities are identified in the report, including increased emphasis on online services, earlier interventions when customers are struggling, reducing the time for binding rulings, and supporting tax agents.

See the details at www.ird.govt.nz/aboutir/reports/compliance-focus/compliance-focus-2009-10

OZ-NZ Double Tax Agreement

An Australia-NZ double tax agreement was recently signed. Once in force it will mean lower withholding taxes on dividend and royalty payments between Australia and NZ. It will also mean that lump sum pension benefits will be taxed only in the country where the pension is sourced, not in the country to which the pensioner has retired. Other changes will help reduce compliance costs, provide certainty of tax treatment, and improve co-operation between the tax authorities of the two countries.

Internet/ICT

Broadband Quality: Report

Main findings in the Epiiro/IDC report on NZ broadband quality in the March 2009 quarter are:

- the gap in performance between the best and worst performing internet service providers (ISPs) continued to widen;
- the level of broadband reliability – the amount of time the service is available - is good, averaging 99.97% in March;
- new caching solutions, which store popular international and national content locally, appear to have only a marginal impact on national download speeds;
- international download speeds are usually less than half of national download speeds and national download speeds are significantly lower for Dunedin than the other main centres tested; and
- the peak pressure periods for broadband services are 4pm to 5pm and again at 8pm to 10pm, with some service providers struggling more than others to meet demand during these times.

The full report is available on the Commerce Commission's website www.comcom.govt.nz at Industry Regulation/Monitoring and Reporting

Third Mobile Network Coming

2degrees will be launching NZ's third nationwide mobile phone network in August. The company is building a 2G and 3G network which uses technology from Huawei, and is capable of running on 900MHZ, 1800MHZ, and 2100MHZ frequencies.

2degrees' shareholders include US-based mobile communications specialists, Trilogy International Partners, as well as Hautaki Trust, General Enterprise Management Services International and Communication Venture Partners.

More is at www.2degreesmobile.co.nz

Broadcasting Standards & Journalists...

Recently, the Broadcasting Standards Authority (BSA) released a new report entitled "Principles and Pragmatism". The report is an assessment of BSA decisions from a journalist's perspective. The report addresses the following questions:

Where is the tension between the "bottom-line standards" for the Authority and the "bottom-line standards" for journalists?

What is the Authority getting right from journalists' perspective - and what is it getting wrong?

The full report is available on the BSA website www.bsa.govt.nz

...& Maori Worldviews and Broadcasting

In its 20 years of existence, the Broadcasting Standards Authority (BSA) has dealt with few complaints that have required it to consider tikanga or Maori interests in order to reach a decision. It says there are several possible, overlapping reasons for this, including that Maori have tended not to complain to the BSA.

Recently the BSA released a paper entitled "Maori Worldviews and Broadcasting Standards: What Should be the Relationship?". The paper follows up some questions raised by the BSA's 2005 publication, "The Portrayal of Maori and Te Ao Maori in Broadcasting: the foreshore and seabed issue", including whether the broadcasting standards adequately reflect Maori realities, concerns and interests.

The paper can be download from the BSA website at www.bsa.govt.nz

“.nz” Awareness Campaign

InternetNZ (Internet NZ Inc) has launched an online awareness campaign highlighting NZ's domain name space. The campaign, titled ".nz is our home," emphasises the value that .nz domain names can deliver for NZers, and raises awareness of the systems the InternetNZ Group has in place to protect the rights of domain name holders. An online video series has been created, featuring people associated with a range of second level domains including .co.nz, .ac.nz, .org.nz, .school.nz, .net.nz, geek.nz, .maori.nz, .mil.nz and .govt.nz. The videos will be advertised on key websites over the next three months.

Find out more at <http://www.dnc.org.nz/content/campaign/index2.html>

13th Annual Webby Awards

With nearly 70 categories, Website entries make up the majority of Webby Awards Winners, Nominees, and Honorees. Some are beautiful to look at and interact with. Others are a testament to usability and functionality. Here's a partial list of the Webby Award winners from this year:

- *Activism*: Protect An Acre, <http://www.atmospherebbdo.com/work/ci/protect/>
- *Art*: Keith Tyson Website, <http://www.keithtyson.com/>
- *Associations*: Create an Effect, <http://www.justaddnewzealanders.com/#/interactive/>
- *Best Home/Welcome Page*: adidas.com homepage, <http://www.adidas.com>
- *Best Use of Animation or Motion Graphics*: Coraline Website, <http://coraline.com/>
- *Best use of Photography*: The Big Picture, <http://www.boston.com/bigpicture>
- *Blog – Business*: 5 Blogs Before Lunch, <http://www.5blogsbeforelunch.com>
- *Blog - Culture/Personal*: 1000 Awesome Things, <http://www.1000awesomethings.com>
- *Charitable Organizations Non-Profit*: The Nature Conservancy: Protecting Nature, Preserving Life, <http://www.nature.org/>
- *Cultural Institutions*: Guggenheim Museum, <http://www.guggenheim.org>

- *Education*: Smarthistory, <http://smarthistory.org>
- *Fashion*: Red Issue, <http://www.red-issue.com>
- *Games*: Club Penguin, <http://www.clubpenguin.com>
- *Guides/Ratings/Reviews*: Very Short List, <http://www.veryshortlist.com>
- *Humour*: The Onion, <http://www.theonion.com>
- *Magazine*: TheAtlantic.com, <http://www.theatlantic.com>
- *Movie and Film*: Sundance Channel, <http://www.sundancechannel.com>
- *Music*: NPR Music, <http://www.npr.org/music/>
- *News*: BBC's News website, <http://www.bbc.com/news>
- *Newspaper*: guardian.co.uk, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/>
- *Personal Web Site*: My Star Wars Collection - Joshua Budich, <http://www.joshuabudich.com/SWCollection>
- *Politics*: The Huffington Post, <http://huffingtonpost.com>
- *Science*: Cassini Mission Website, <http://saturn.jpl.nasa.gov>
- *Sports*: ESPN.com, <http://www.espn.com/>
- *Television*: Flight of the Conchords Lip Dub, <http://flightlipdub.com/>
- *Weird*: Jason Nelson's Digital Oddities, <http://www.secrettechnology.com/>

A list of all winners, nominees and honorees are at <http://www.webbyawards.com/webbys/current.php?season=13>

Video Relay Service for Hearing Impaired

A new government funded trial of a video relay service (VRS) for the Deaf and hearing impaired is underway, using NZ Relay (which provides a free telecommunications service 24/7 for people who are deaf, hearing-impaired, deaf-blind or speech-impaired).

A scholarship programme has also been established at the Auckland University of Technology (AUT) to encourage people to train as NZ Sign Language interpreters.

In August, the Ministry will release a discussion document for public consultation on different options for the future of the VRS.

You can access the VRS through NZ Relay at <http://www.nzrelay.co.nz/>. More on the scholarship programme is at http://www.aut.ac.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/26030/2009_nzsl_scholarship.pdf

A Handful of Websites

Many, many oxymorons are at <http://www.bored.com/oxymoronlist/>. Just a handful are: healthy tan, jumbo shrimp, work party, virtual reality, tax return, working vacation, head butt, pretty ugly, peace force, tight slacks, plastic glasses, taped live, same difference, living dead, silent scream, personal computer, alone together, and government organisation.

A site for book lovers is at <http://www.shelfari.com/>. Shelfari.com hosts a global community of book lovers who are more than happy to share their reviews of good and bad reads with others. Once signed up, you can start adding the books you have already read, are currently reading, or plan to read in the future. The site offers a graphical representation of a bookshelf and organises your titles into helpful categories. Like other networking sites, you can join groups, start your own, and gradually expand your web of contacts.

Beautiful photos of ice formations are at <http://www.nickcobbing.co.uk/>, and...

...40 really fantastic sand sculptures are at <http://abduzeedo.com/40-fantastic-sand-sculptures>

Everyone interested in potato portraits should visit <http://ginou.mosaicglobe.com/gallery/11342>

If you want to know what Forrest Gump, Dirty Harry, Gordon Gekko, and Darth Vader have in common go to <http://www.filmsite.org/moments0.html>. (All of them have been misquoted repeatedly, for years on end - now this site is setting the record straight.)

The Download Squad's collection of online sound effects can be found at <http://www.downloadsquad.com/2009/03/08/top-four-instant-sound-effect-sites/>

The latest government business news and information is now at http://twitter.com/business_govtNZ and <http://www.facebook.com/pages/businessgovtNZ/74861368285?ref=ts> as well as www.business.govt.nz. Twitter is a free service that lets you keep in touch with people through the exchange of quick, frequent answers to the question: What are you doing?. It enables you to receive updates on your own page or mobile phone.

Lots more about Auckland is at <http://maps.auckland.govt.nz/Alggi/>, where Auckland's demographic facts and trends have been mapped using a new web-based reporting system developed by Statistics NZ. The changing geographical patterns of the city will be presented mainly through downloadable coloured maps which allow users to compare area trends over time. Topics include population density, ethnicity, education, and commuting.

Treaty Matters

Foreshore & Seabed Report

The report from the panel reviewing the Foreshore and Seabed Act (Taihakurei Edward Durie (chair), Richard Boast and Hana O'Regan) has now been released.

In the panel's view, the Act did not effectively recognise and provide for customary or aboriginal title because it took away the legal rights of Maori to have their interests determined by the Courts, and customary and public interests were not properly balanced. They recommend new legislation containing a set of principles to govern the resolution of foreshore and seabed issues and put forward two possible proposals:

A "National Policy Proposal" focuses on a one-off national settlement. It would establish a bicultural body with oversight of the whole coastal marine area, which would: develop proposals for a national settlement; develop proposals on the allocation of rights held by hapu and iwi in the foreshore and seabed, and the methods by which such rights might be implemented, recognised and enforced; and develop proposals

for co-management at a local level, taking account of co-management programmes implemented in NZ and overseas.

A "Regional Iwi Proposal" focuses on achieving regional and national negotiations directly between Crown and hapu and/or iwi. In these, the Crown represents the public interest. However, the responsible Minister might arrange for public responses, although the public might well respond in any event once enabling legislation is introduced to Parliament. In addition, it is proposed that the Minister may refer matters to the Maori Land Court for an opinion and to hear both Maori and the public.

A summary is at <http://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/24845%20A5%20Summary%20online.pdf>. The three volumes of the report are at <http://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/24845%20Vol-1%20online%5B6%5D%5B1%5D.pdf>; <http://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/24845%20Vol-2%20online%5B6%5D.pdf>; and <http://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/24845%20Vol-3%20online%5B6%5D.pdf>

Coastline Fisheries Assets Allocated

Ngapuhi and Waikato are the latest iwi to receive assets previously held in trust by Te Ohu Kaimoana, having completed coastline agreements with neighbouring iwi. Ngapuhi, which was the first iwi to form a mandated iwi organisation in 2005, received its allocation of \$2.5 million in quota and cash for completing all its coastline agreements, and Waikato received \$1.78 million for completion of agreements on its west coast.

Twenty-seven of the country's 57 iwi now have full or partial coastline agreements. Under the Maori Fisheries Act, the Fisheries Settlement is allocated on the basis of an iwi's size and the agreed length of its coastline.

Ngati Whare Agreement in Principle signed

The Crown and Te Runanga o Ngati Whare Iwi Trust have signed an Agreement in Principle to settle all the outstanding historical Treaty of Waitangi claims of Ngati Whare. Ngati Whare is a central North Island iwi whose rohe is based around Te Whaiti, Minginui and the Whirinaki Forest Park. It has a population of 3,400 registered members. The Agreement in Principle includes cultural redress recognising Ngati Whare's special relationship with the natural resources in the area, including the provision of a high-level governance role over the Whirinaki Forest Park with the Department of Conservation and support for Ngati Whare's goal to regenerate adjacent areas of exotic pine back to indigenous podocarp forest. It follows Ngati Whare's commercial interests being addressed through the Central North Island Forests Land Collective Settlement reached in 2008 between the Crown and the eight iwi groups who make up the Central North Island Collective.

Arts & Culture

Screen Industry Revenue Increases

According to Statistics NZ, the total revenue for the NZ screen industry (which includes funding, sales and royalties) increased 11% to \$2,743 million in the 2008 financial year. This was mainly due to an increase in funding received by screen production companies (NZ and overseas) totalling \$644 million, up from \$406 million in 2007. In 2008, the majority (55%) of funding was used to produce feature films. This contrasts with 2007, when over half of the funding was used to produce television programmes.

Indigenous TV Broadcasters' Network

A global alliance of indigenous television broadcasters has launched an international indigenous current affairs series, and a programme exchange scheme.

The World Indigenous Television Broadcasters Network (WITBN) aims to unify television broadcasters worldwide to retain and grow indigenous languages and cultures. The nine foundation Council members are National Indigenous Television (NITV), Australia; Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN), Canada; TG4, Ireland; Maori Television, NZ; NRK Sámi Radio, Norway; BBC ALBA, Scotland; South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC), South Africa; Taiwan Indigenous Television (TITV) / Public Television Service (PTS), Taiwan; and S4C, Wales.

A news sharing initiative, Indigenous Insight, is a weekly 30-minute current affairs programme to be produced by Maori Television. The series will showcase the best news stories from WITBN Council members. A pilot of 12 programmes will be recorded between July and September this year.

The programme exchange scheme has been developed by TG4 in Ireland and will see the "free" exchange between WITBN Council members of four programmes per year.

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

World's Top Accordionist is Kiwi

Kiwi accordionist Grayson Masefield has taken out the top prize, the Primus Ikaalinen International Accordion 2009 in the 5th Sata-Hame Soi International Accordion Festival recently held in Ikaalinen, Finland. The international accordion competition is run along the lines of the Eurovision Song Competition where selected accordion finalists perform popular entertainment style pieces accompanied by a professional backing band, to a live studio and television audience.

Chinese Media in NZ: Study

A study has found that Chinese newspapers in NZ help Chinese communities here maintain their cultural identity and adapt to a new environment. The study looks at the different types of Chinese newspapers and how they reflect the various voices of Auckland's Chinese community by reporting on the same issue differently. The study "Chinese Print Media in NZ present ideas of Chinese Cultural Identity" can be ordered from [Amazon books](http://www.amazon.com/) at <http://www.amazon.com/>

Fishing

Large-scale Oyster Nursery Opens

The country's first large-scale oyster nursery, which will produce up to 50 million single-seed Pacific Oyster spat each year, opened in Nelson recently. The nursery is expected to change the way the delicacy is farmed, and it could provide the way to treble annual export earnings within the next decade. Currently, most juvenile oysters farmed in NZ are gathered from wild stocks, which cluster on spawning sticks submerged in Northland's Kaipara Harbour. The new facility (established by the Cawthron Institute) can now guarantee a ready supply of healthy baby oysters to provide farmers with a reliable source of spat all year round. In addition these spat can be bred with specific attributes customers want, be that shape, size or colour.

OZ - NZ Whaling Expedition

The first Antarctic whale research expedition as part of the Southern Ocean Research Partnership, will involve six weeks of research in early 2010 aboard the NZ vessel R/V Tangaroa, in Antarctic waters south of Australia and NZ. The researchers aim to collect information on the population structure, abundance, trends, distribution, and ecological role of whales in the Southern Ocean. They will use state of the art non-lethal research techniques such as biopsy sampling, satellite tracking, and acoustic and hydrographic surveys.

Blue Cod Fishing Ban Extended

The Ministry of Fisheries and Fiordland Marine Guardians have advised the closures in Milford and Doubtful Sounds to amateur fishing for blue cod have been extended to allow fish stocks to rebuild. Both Milford and Doubtful Sounds have been closed to amateur blue cod fishing since 2005. The Ministry has a research monitoring project planned for the 2009 summer.

General

National Climate Summary – June 2009

According to the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA):

- temperatures were well below average over much of the country;
- there was above normal rainfall in the north and east of the North Island; near normal rainfall for the Wairarapa, Nelson and Marlborough; and below normal rainfall elsewhere, with record low June rainfall in central Otago;
- sunshine was well above normal over the north and west of the North Island, as well as Taupo, Bay of Plenty, parts of the Hawke's Bay, Fiordland and Westland; and
- of the six main centres, Dunedin was the coldest and driest, Auckland was the warmest, Tauranga was the wettest, and Hamilton was the sunniest.

NZ: Most Peaceful Nation

NZ has been named the world's most peaceful nation by an international think tank (in 2008 we were number 3). The Global Peace Index annually rates countries against a set of criteria including commitment to UN peace keeping, crime levels, political stability, and respect for human rights. The Global Peace Index is a project of the Institute for Economics and Peace.

Top 10 most peaceful nations: 1. NZ ; 2. Denmark; 3. Norway; 4. Iceland; 5. Austria; 6. Sweden; 7. Japan; 8. Canada; 9. Finland; 10. Slovenia.

Te Reo Maori: More Speakers

Te Puni Kokiri (TPK) has just completed a series of 13 reports on the health of te reo Maori in 2006. A national report provides national data. Four others cover broadcasting, education, the arts, and archives. Regional information is presented in eight reports that have also been summarised as fact sheets.

In 2001 the number of Maori speakers had stabilised at around of the Maori population. In 2006, 27% of Maori now say they can speak the language very well, well or fairly well, compared with 130,000, or 25% in 2001. Around 40% can understand or read it. Attitudes towards the Maori language amongst both Maori and non-Maori are said to be improving. The Attitudes, Values and Beliefs survey found that the Maori language currently enjoys a high status in Maori society, and also positive acceptance by the majority of non-Maori NZers.

The reports can be viewed and downloaded from <http://www.tpk.govt.nz/en/in-focus/te-reo/> (hard copies can also be requested online)

Deaf People and Human Rights

A report about the lives of deaf people around the world was recently released by the Swedish National Association of the Deaf and the World Federation of the Deaf. It highlights NZ as the only country out of 93 surveyed to have a sign language-specific law, the NZ Sign Language Act (2006), and as one of only two countries to offer full interpreting services in universities.

Overall, relatively few countries deny deaf people access to education, government services or equal citizenship on the basis of deafness alone. But, says the report, lack of recognition of sign language, lack of bilingual education, limited availability of sign-language interpreting services, and widespread lack of awareness and knowledge about the situation of deaf people deprive most deaf people of access to large sections of society. Thus, says the report, they are not able to truly enjoy even basic human rights.

Download the report from <http://www.wfdeaf.org/projects.html>

Is Your Moggy NZ's Top Cat?

Attention cat lovers! A new fundraiser for the SPCA and Lonely Miaow has been launched, called NZ's Next Top Cat Model, where cat lovers around the country can enter their feline friends into an online competition to compete for great prizes and the ultimate glory of being crowned NZ's Top Cat.

Entries close on 31 July 2009. To enter go to www.topcatmodel.co.nz

How Pigeons Navigate: Kiwi Research

Ground-breaking research at the University of Auckland showing how pigeons navigate precisely from unfamiliar locations has been published internationally in the Proceedings of the Royal Society.

The remarkable ability of trained homing pigeons to navigate home even after being released at distant unfamiliar locations has long defied scientific explanation. While it has been shown that the birds are sensitive to the earth's magnetic field, no-one has previously been able to determine precisely just how the birds might use the field to determine their position. The NZ scientists used graphical software to map the directions in which the birds were flying when they left release sites against magnetic field intensity. Researchers had previously been puzzled by a "release-site bias" phenomenon whereby pigeons often begin their flight by deviating from a direct line home. The NZ team have been able to show that the birds were responding to local variations, or ripples, in the surface of the area's magnetic field, later establishing courses towards home and updating these courses en route.

Some Conferences/Events

The Greatest Show on Snow?

The first of NZ's Winter Games (which will be the Southern Hemisphere's largest winter sports event) will be held at several venues around the Otago region from 21-30 August 2009. Venues include Coronet Peak, The Remarkables, Cardrona, Snow Farm, Naseby and Dunedin. Known as the 100% Pure NZ Winter Games, the event will feature alpine skiing, free skiing, cross country skiing, snowboarding, ice skating and demonstration sports.

More is at <http://www.wintergamesnz.com/>

NZ Diversity Forum

This is being held in Wellington from 23-24 August 2009, and this year's focus is on Asian communities in NZ.

For more information go to <http://www.hrc.co.nz/home/hrc/home.php> and click on "NZ Diversity Forum"

Horticulture NZ Conference

This one is being held at the Christchurch Convention Centre in Christchurch from 22-23 July 2009.

More information/registration is at <http://www.hortnz.co.nz/2009programme/index.html>

Pipfruit NZ Conference

This is on 29 July 2009. Venue is the War Memorial in Napier.

Programme/registration forms are available from <http://www.pipfruitnz.co.nz/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=d2moFlrSA08%3d&tabid=62>

Funding/Awards

New Years Honours List: Nominations

Under the NZ Royal Honours System awards are given for service to the community or nation, and on merit and achievement, in a variety of fields, to people who contribute beyond the normal requirements of duty or office. The system is made up of The NZ Order of Merit, and The Queen's Service Order and Medal, and a series of gallantry and bravery awards.

Nominations for the New Year Honours List close on 1 August 2009 (anyone can make a nomination). For more information go to <http://www.dpmc.govt.nz/honours/index.htm>

Community Organisation Grants Scheme

The Community Organisation Grants Scheme (COGS) is a community-driven, government-funded scheme that provides funding support to non-profit, voluntary and community organisations. Most grants are for \$3,000 or less, and contribute to ongoing running costs (such as rent, travel, volunteer and administration expenses), to hosting hui, fono or community workshops, or toward project development costs. Local Distribution Committees (LDCs) consider and make decisions on grant applications from groups within their local communities. Each LDC sets local priorities.

Applications for Community Organisation Grants Scheme (COGS) close on 31 July 2009. More about COGS funding and how to apply for it is at http://www.cdgo.govt.nz/available-grants/downloads.aspx#ApplicationType_5

Churchill Fellowships

Churchill Fellowships enable NZers to conduct intensive research overseas in a variety of fields and bring that international knowledge back to NZ. Fellows are granted up to 80% of their travel costs and can spend between three weeks to three months overseas. The average grant is from \$5000 to \$7000.

Applications close on 31 July 2009. More is at http://www.dia.govt.nz/diawebsite.nsf/wpg_URL/Services-Trust-&-Fellowship-Grants-Index?OpenDocument, or tel 0800 824 824

ASIA:NZ Museum/Gallery Award...

This award supports collaborative NZ museum / gallery projects with Asia It offers both a work placement for an education/public programmes specialist with the Asian Civilisations Museum of Singapore, and an award aimed at supporting collaborative NZ museum/art gallery projects with Asia or with Asian communities in NZ.

Applications for the work placement close on 17 July 2009. Applications for a collaborative project close on 31 July 2009. Both go to Executive Director, Museums Aotearoa, PO Box 10928, Wellington, email mail@museums-aotearoa.org.nz. More is at <http://www.museums-aotearoa.org.nz/includes/download.aspx?ID=102880>

...& Culture grants

These grants support NZ organisations/people running projects that educate NZers about Asian arts and culture.

Applications close on 31 July 2009. A PDF application form is at <http://www.asianz.org.nz/files/Culture%20grant%20form-Interactive%20PDF%20May09.pdf>. Applications go to M Turner, Project Officer, Culture, Asia NZ Foundation, PO Box 10 144, Wellington, 6143. For more information email culture@asianz.org.nz

Every Child Counts Awards

Every Child Counts - He Mana to ia Tamaiti is calling for nominations for their two annual awards - one for an institution that has made a significant difference to improve the status and wellbeing of children during 2008-09, the other for an individual who has made a difference by an action or role that improves the status and wellbeing of children in 2008-09.

Nominations close on 18 July 2009. More is at <http://www.community.net.nz/communitycentre/news/national/everychildcounts.htm>

Fulbright Graduate Awards

Fulbright awards are for NZers and Americans to study, research, teach, and present their work in each other's countries. The various awards in the Fulbright Scholar Programme close on different dates throughout the year.

Applications for next year's Fulbright NZ Graduate Awards close on 1 August 2009. More is at <http://www.fulbright.org.nz/>

Apprentice of the Year 2009

Entries are now open for the Registered Master Builders Apprentice of the Year 2009. The aims of the competition are to recognise excellence among young carpentry apprentices and raise awareness of career opportunities in the building and construction industry. Entrants will compete for thousands of dollars in prizes and be graded by a panel of judges.

Entries close on 31 July 2009. For more about the competition/to enter go to <http://www.dbh.govt.nz/aoy-2009>

Kathleen Grattan Award

This award is for poetry by a NZ or Pacific resident or citizen. The winner will receive \$16,000 and a year's subscription to Landfall.

Entries close on 31 July 2009. They go to The Kathleen Grattan Award, Otago University Press, PO Box 56, Dunedin, NZ, email landfall@otago.ac.nz, or tel Editor, Otago University Press at 03 479 5851

NZ Arts Pasifika Awards 2009

These awards, which celebrate excellence in the Pacific arts in NZ, include: Senior Pacific Artists' Award (\$10 000); Pacific Heritage Arts Award (\$5000); Pacific Contemporary Arts Award (\$5000); Iosefa Enari Memorial Award (\$4000); and the Emerging Pacific Artists' Award (\$4000).

Nominations close on 17 July 2009. Nomination forms are at <http://www.creativenz.govt.nz/Resources/Formsandguidelines/tabid/2374/language/en-NZ/Default.aspx>, or contact the Programme Adviser-Pacific Arts, Creative NZ, tel 09 373 3066

Marae Heritage and Facilities

The following marae facilities are eligible for funding for, amongst other things:

- the building of: wharenui, wharekai, wharepaku, whare taonga, and tangata whenua or manuhiri shelters, waka shelters; and
- conservation of: wharekarakia, urupa, pataka, tukutuku, whakairo, kowhaiwhai, photographs within the marae and memorials and flagpoles; and
- feasibility studies and conservation reports.

Priority is generally given to: projects that have at least one-third of their cost raised already.

Applications close on 14 August 2009. Register on the Grants Online website at www.cdgo.govt.nz. For more information email: grantsonline@dia.govt.nz, or tel freephone 0800 824 824

Pacific Provider Development Fund

The Pacific Provider Development Fund (PPDF) was established by the Lottery Grants Board to strengthen Pacific community groups' ability to operate in an effective and accountable way, and to improve their access to funds from other lottery committees.

Applications close on 7 August 2009. Register on the [Grants Online](http://www.grantsonline.govt.nz) website at www.cdgo.govt.nz. Complete the application form using a black pen, and return by mail to: Lottery Pacific Provider Development Fund, Local Government and Community Branch, Department of Internal Affairs, PO Box 805, Wellington. For more information email: grantsonline@dia.govt.nz, or tel freephone 0800 824 824

NZIER Economics Award

This annual prize was set up to encourage excellence in those areas of economics that relate to NZ's economic welfare. It is open to people practising applied economics, economic dissemination or economic policymaking in NZ. The winner of this year's award will receive a \$10,000 travel voucher, \$5,000 associated spending money and an award trophy. Anyone can nominate people for the prize.

Nominations close on 17 July 2009. Use the forms and guidelines at http://www.nzier.org.nz/Site/about/Economics_award.aspx. For more information on how to make a nomination please contact: Secretary to the Awarding Panel, tel 04 472 1880

Health Leadership Award

The Glenys Baldick Memorial Award for an emerging leader in health is open to managers from the Ministry of Health, ACC, District Health Boards, DHB-funded organisations, primary health organisations and health-related NGOs. The winner receives \$10,000 for educational and/or vocational development.

Applications close on 31 July 2009. Application details are at [http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/pages/mh/2817/\\$File/gbma-about-award.doc](http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/pages/mh/2817/$File/gbma-about-award.doc)

Appointments

Nathan Guy has been appointed a Minister outside Cabinet as *Minister of Internal Affairs*. He will also have responsibility for Archives NZ and the National Library, and be the *Associate Minister of Justice*, and the *Associate Minister of Transport*. Tariana Turia has been appointed *Minister of Disability Issues*. Junior Whip Chris Tremain is replacing Nathan Guy as *Senior Whip*, and Jo Goodhew will become *Junior Whip*. Metiria Turei

is the new *co-leader of the Green Party*. Dr Cam Calder a new National list MP. Jim McLay, will be NZ's *permanent representative at the UN in New York*. Career diplomat Heather Riddell is NZ's *next Ambassador to Viet Nam*.

Neil Plimmer and John Gilbert have been reappointed as *Temporary Safeguard Authorities* for three-year terms (Temporary Safeguard Authorities are independent bodies with certain powers of a Commission of Inquiry). Susan Begg and Patrick Duignan have been appointed to the *Commerce Commission*. Judy Kirk has been appointed to chair the *NZ Lotteries Commission Board*. Sarah Astor has been appointed *chair of MetService* and Polly Schaverien has been appointed *deputy chair*. Paula Rebstock has been appointed *deputy chair of NZ Railways Corporation*. Susan Sheldon has been appointed to the *board of the Reserve Bank of NZ*. Jane Huria, Ngai Tahu, has been appointed to the *ACC board*. Julie Christie has been appointed to the *NZ Trade and Enterprise Board*. Sam Knowles will be *acting CEO of NZ Post*. Trevor Janes and Rodger Finlay have been appointed to the *Public Trust Board*.

Kristy McDonald, QC, has been appointed *chair of the Real Estate Agents Authority*. Hon. Justice John Hansen has been appointed to the *Gas Rulings Panel*. NZ Trade and Enterprise (NZTE) has appointed *five new advisors* to its Beachheads programme. They are: *NZ Beachheads Advisory Board* - David Boyd and Adriana Tong; *North America Beachheads Advisory Board* - Craig Nevill-Manning and Tom Stephens; and *Southeast Asia Beachheads Advisory Board* - James Castle. Members of a *technical advisory group* supporting an Environment Ministry review of NZ's air quality standards regulations include Phil Barry (chair), Kevin Mahon, Deborah Read, Lawrence Yule, and Kevin Rolfe. Kevin Bryant is the *new chair of the Industry Training Federation*. Local Government NZ has advised that the following members have been elected to the *National Council Maori Advisory Committee*: Anne Candy - Tamaki Makaurau; Moera Rose Solomon - Hauraki-Waikato; Maureen Te Rangi Rere I Waho Waaka - Wairariki; Simon Rangiwahia - Te Tai Hauauru; Benita Cairns - Ikaroa-Rawhiti; Barbara Woods - Te Tai Tonga (the Te Tai Tokerau seat is currently vacant). Two new Tree Arbitrators have been appointed for three years under the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003: Terry Cochrane, Auckland and Bradley Cadwallader, Nelson.

A new Government-appointed three-person panel to recommend how to improve access to *high-cost, highly specialised medicines in NZ* comprises: Dr Paul McCormack (Chair), Joy Quigley, and Associate Professor Paul Hansen. Appointments to the Electrical Workers' Registration Board include Neil McLeod, Michael Macklin, David Bradshaw (lay member), and Eddie Eeles (re-appointed). *New honorary advisers to the Asia NZ Foundation* are Dr Ng Eng Hen (Singapore), Stanley Tan (Singapore), Madame Li Xiaolin (China) and Mr Soichiro Fukutake (Japan). Dr Richard Janes has been appointed to the *Lotteries Commission* for a period of three years. Paul Stanley and Graeme Reeves have been re-appointed to the *Gambling Commission* for three-year terms. *Members of the review team* reviewing the Holidays Act 2003 are Peter Kiely (chair), Helen Kelly, James Ritchie, Paul Mackay, and Philip Doak. *The working group* reviewing the Holidays Act is Helen Kelly, James Ritchie, Paul Mackay, Philip Doak, and Peter Kiely (chair).

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

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

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

Membership of Rural Women New Zealand is open to all people who are interested in issues affecting rural communities. To become a member, contact Belinda Hunt at enquiries@ruralwomen.org.nz