

# Rural Bulletin

March 2009



# Rural Women

NEW ZEALAND

www.ruralwomen.org.nz

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# Consultation

## Government Agencies & Community Consultation

Your views are sought on a discussion paper called "It's More Than Talk". The paper comes from the Building Better Government Engagement (BBGE) reference group, which sees the single biggest issue with government/community engagement (consultation) as being a lack of commitment to, and skill in, collaborating with citizens and community organisations in order to jointly tackle societal problems.

The BBGE says that social, economic and environmental issues facing society today cannot be tackled by government alone: we need to see collaborative processes and partnerships between the government and the community sector, because citizens have a right to participate in defining the problems and decisions that affect them. Also, creating more participation through effective government consultation/engagement with communities can help build trust in government, strengthen civic capacity, and create better, more sustainable policies and programmes.

According to the BBGE effective engagement between government and communities happens when government agencies:

- have an organisational commitment to good practice;
- build and maintain active relationships with community stakeholders;
- ensure there is a clear reason for each engagement/consultation;
- choose ways of consulting that fit well with both the issue and the community group being consulted;
- recognise the need for consultation skills when recruiting and developing staff; and
- continuously check the quality of their engagement.

Submissions close on 31 March 2009. They go to Building Better Government Engagement, C/o Office for the Community and Voluntary Sector, PO Box 1556, Wellington 6140, email [ocvs@msd.govt.nz](mailto:ocvs@msd.govt.nz). You can also respond online by visiting [www.bangthetable.com/BBGE](http://www.bangthetable.com/BBGE). The discussion paper is at <http://www.ocvs.govt.nz/documents/work-programme/three-key-projects/bbge-discussion-doc.pdf>

## RMA Amendment Bill

The Government recently announced a package of proposed amendments to the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). The main ones are:

- removing frivolous, vexatious and anti-competitive objections;
- streamlining processes for projects of national significance;
- creating an Environmental Protection Authority;
- improving plan development and plan change processes;
- improving resource consent processes;
- streamlining decision making;
- improving workability and compliance; and
- improving national instruments.

The closing date for submissions is 3 April 2009. Two copies go to the Local Government and Environment Committee, Parliament House, Wellington. More information is at <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/rma/central/amendments/resource-management-simplify-and-streamline-amendment-bill-2009/index.html>

## Human Rights Goals: Have Your Say

NZers have a rare opportunity to shape the Government's human rights priorities, by commenting on NZ's first Universal Periodic Review (UPR). The review is a 20-page report on human rights that NZ, as a member of the United Nations, must make for consideration by the UN Human Rights Council.

The Government has identified six human rights priorities:

- improving the economic, social and cultural wellbeing of NZers;
- reducing violence within families and its impact on women and children;
- improving the opportunities and responsibilities of young NZers through the education and youth justice systems;
- strengthening the rights of victims of crime;
- realising Maori potential and continuing the momentum on achieving fair, just and practical settlements of historical claims under the Treaty of Waitangi; and
- the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the NZ Disability Strategy.

Submissions close 17 March 2009. The final report will be considered by the United Nations Human Rights Council on 7 May 2009. The report and the submissions form on the MFAT website are at: <http://www.mfat.govt.nz/Media-and-publications/Features/915-NZ-draft-human-rights-report.php>

## DNA Testing in Police Investigations

Public submissions are now being invited on the Criminal Investigations (Bodily Samples) Amendment Bill. This Bill would amend the Criminal Investigations (Bodily Samples) Act 1995 (the principal Act) to:

- allow Police (without prior judicial approval) to collect DNA from a person whom they intend to charge with an offence;
- expand the current range of offences for which it is possible to collect DNA; and
- allow, once a person is charged, that person's DNA profile to be matched against profiles from other samples from scenes of unsolved crimes before the person's conviction or acquittal for the original offence (rather than waiting until after the person is convicted, as currently).

Submissions close on 6 April 2009. Two copies go to the Justice and Electoral Committee, Parliament Buildings, Wellington. The Bill is at <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2009/0014-1/latest/whole.html#DLM1829219>

## Sentencing (Offender Levy) Bill

The Sentencing (Offender Levy) Bill aims to help victims deal with the financial and emotional costs that fall on victims of crime, particularly victims of serious crimes. It would impose a \$50 levy on all convicted offenders at the point of sentencing in court. This would be in addition to any sentence or court order. The levy would be collected after reparation and before fines and put into a special account administered by the Secretary for Justice, who would name "approved agencies" that would be paid for services for victims.

At present, victims receive compensation by way of court-ordered reparation, or they may be covered for some costs under ACC, or by discretionary grants from Victim Support.

Submissions close on 6 April 2009. Two copies go to the Justice and Electoral Committee, Parliament House, Wellington. The Bill is at <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2009/0012-1/latest/DLM1826706.html>

## Gangs and Organised Crime Bill

The Gangs and Organised Crime Bill would:

- double the penalty for participation in a criminal gang to a maximum of 10 years' imprisonment;
- make involvement in a criminal gang an aggravating factor in sentencing;
- give police authority to apply for interception warrants to investigate the offence of participation in a criminal gang, and lower the threshold for offences that can be used as the basis for warrants, from those attracting 10 years in prison to those attracting seven years or more; and
- enable removal orders to be sought from a court to remove gang forts.

Submissions close on 27 March 2009. Two copies go to the Justice Committee, Parliament House, Wellington. The Bill is at <http://legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2009/0010-1/latest/versions.aspx>

## Wind Farm Noise

Standards NZ invites public comment on draft Standard DZ 6808 Acoustics – Wind Farm Noise. The purpose of the standard is to provide suitable ways of predicting, measuring and assessing sound from wind turbines. It also provides guidance on acceptable wind farm sound levels in noise sensitive locations.

Submissions close on 30 April 2009. The draft and explanatory notes for providing comments are at <http://shop.standards.co.nz/goto?id=97> - or visit [www.standards.co.nz](http://www.standards.co.nz), click on the 'Public comment' tab and select DZ 6808

## Review of Fishing Regs

A Position Paper outlining the Ministry of Fisheries' (MFish) initial position on the fishing regulations being reviewed for 1 October 2009 is available for comment. It covers (among other subjects): catch documentation for southern blue fin tuna; amateur rock lobster harvest regulations; paua accumulation limits; amateur net minimum mesh sizes; management measures for the amateur paua fishery in Taranaki; a proposal to shorten the closed season for commercial fishing in the CRA7 Otago rock lobster fishery; Pukerua Bay – prohibition of all fishing methods except hand-held line fishing; Milford & Doubtful Sounds – proposal to extend the blue cod amateur fishery closures; offence and penalty provisions for breaches to reporting requirements; some corrections to central area

regulations; and amendments to support electronic provision of catch and effort returns.

Submissions close on 6 April 2009. They go to T Steel, Ministry of Fisheries, P O Box 1020, Wellington; fax 04 819 4208, email [tracey.steel@fish.govt.nz](mailto:tracey.steel@fish.govt.nz). More is at <http://www.fish.govt.nz/en-nz/Consultations/default.htm>

## Property Managers: Review Underway

A consultation paper aimed at gathering information and views on possible regulation of property managers has been released. Between 20 and 30 percent of residential property owners use property managers to find tenants, collect rent and manage their properties, and many commercial and rural property owners also employ property managers. The review follows concerns related to the security and protection of assets managed by property managers that were expressed last year during consideration of the Real Estate Agents Act 2008.

The paper seeks views on whether there are any gaps in the law relating to property managers that are causing problems for property owners. The public is also asked to comment on how property managers should be regulated should the review finds that regulation is a good idea.

Submissions close on 16 March 2009. They go to Ministry of Justice, PO Box 180, Wellington 6140, or emailed to [PropertyManagersReview@justice.govt.nz](mailto:PropertyManagersReview@justice.govt.nz). The public consultation document is available at [www.justice.govt.nz/property-managers-review](http://www.justice.govt.nz/property-managers-review)

## Early Childhood Education Consultation

A consultation paper covering a review of early childhood education regulations is now available. Your views are sought on: ways of assessing compliance with regulatory standards; six-yearly re-licensing; limited attendance centres; separate sleep rooms in all-day services; minimum age of carers in home-based services; written risk assessments for home-based services; Police vetting for home-based services; plumbed-in wash facilities; maximum centre size; and some other issues.

Submissions close on 16 March 2009. A consultation paper and online submission form are at <http://www.lead.ece.govt.nz/NR/rdonlyres/1742648C-1DE2-4A68-A371-9814099C50D9/0/ECE2008RegulationsReviewConsultation.pdf>

## Updating Lists of Threatened Species

Every three years the Department of Conservation (DoC) classifies the conservation status/risk of extinction of all organisms known to occur in a wild state in NZ in a system called the NZ Threat Classification System. DoC is currently calling for submissions on three categories of species so it can update this system: The three are:

- marine fish and mammals;
- threatened bryophytes (bryophytes are mosses, liverworts - moss-like plants growing on the water - and hornworts - plants growing under the water) and
- threatened bats.

DoC specifically wants to hear from people who consider that there has been a change in the status of any of these species.

Consultation closes on 22 June 2009 for marine fish and mammals, 22 March 2009 for marine invertebrates and algae, 10 April 2009 for bryophytes, and 10 April 2009 for bats. You can make a submission online or email, post or fax it to R Hitchmough, Scientific Officer (Species), Terrestrial Conservation Unit, Department of Conservation, P O Box 10-420, Wellington 6143, email: [threatstatus@doc.govt.nz](mailto:threatstatus@doc.govt.nz), tel 04 471 3249, fax 40 381 3057. More is at <http://www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/consultations/current/>

## Retirement Village Payments & GST

Your views are sought on an Inland Revenue Department (IRD) draft public ruling on the GST treatment of payments made to the owners or operators of retirement villages, and their entitlement to input tax credits on supplies received for the purpose of a retirement village.

Submissions close on 4 April 2009. Email them to [public.consultation@ird.govt.nz](mailto:public.consultation@ird.govt.nz) including reference no IS3571. The draft is at <http://www.ird.govt.nz/public-consultation/>

## Maori Commercial Aquaculture Settlement

The consultation period for the plan on the Maori Commercial Aquaculture Settlement (MCAS) has been extended because of the good progress of the early settlement in the South Island and Coromandel areas (where most aquaculture is located).

The MCAS will provide a full and final settlement of all Maori claims to commercial aquaculture space since 21 September 1992. The consultation relates to the provision to iwi of the equivalent of 20% of existing aquaculture space (space created between 21 September 1992 and 1 January 2005 – the pre-commencement space obligation).

The consultation period for the Plan is extended until the Minister provides a 60 days notice that consultation will close. Written submissions go to N Manukau, Aquaculture Settlement Advisor, Ministry of Fisheries, PO Box 19747, Avondale, Auckland, email [aquaculture.settlement@fish.govt.nz](mailto:aquaculture.settlement@fish.govt.nz). The plan is at <http://www.fish.govt.nz/NR/rdonlyres/F0B4C1C7-6F78-494B-ABD1-C47B941F64C9/0/MaoriAquaPlanWeb.pdf>

## Effects of the Economic Downturn?

The Families Commission's latest poll asks NZers whether the economic downturn has affected them and their family, and if so what action they are taking to deal with it. The poll follows one called "Checking the family pulse" which showed that many people are concerned about the recent changes in NZ's economy.

The poll closes on 25 March 2009. To complete it go to <http://www.thecouch.org.nz/member/login>. More is at <http://www.thecouch.org.nz/member/home/> or email [enquiries@thecouch.org.nz](mailto:enquiries@thecouch.org.nz)

## NZ Standard Geographic Classification

Classifications and Standards (C&S) is currently carrying out a review of the NZ Standard Geographic classification system. The aim of the review is to revise/update the criteria related to area units, their boundaries and names, and the criteria defining "urban" and "rural". Statistics NZ (SNZ) says that this will provide a more up-to-date and comprehensive geographic system for analysing and publishing a wide range of statistics.

Submissions close on 30 April 2009. People wishing to provide feedback should contact SNZ by emailing [geography@stats.govt.nz](mailto:geography@stats.govt.nz)

## ETS Submissions Extended

There has been an extension to the closing date for submissions on the draft forestry allocation plan under the NZ Emissions Trading Scheme.

Submissions now close on 30 April 2009. People unsure of their obligations and entitlements under the Emissions Trading Scheme can visit [www.maf.govt.nz/sustainable-forestry/](http://www.maf.govt.nz/sustainable-forestry/) or call 0800 CLIMATE (0800 254 628).

## Rural

### Townies and Cockies: How We View Each Other

A recently released UMR research report takes a look at how rural and urban NZers view each other, and also at what NZers think about the agricultural, food and forestry sectors. Commissioned by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) it indicates that:

- the views of rural NZ are generally positive - and they seem to be improving, with nearly a third saying their view had become more positive over the past five years. Urban NZers were generally supportive of rural NZ, and a significant proportion of urbanites were willing to subsidise services to rural NZ;
- when asked to nominate positives and negatives about urban and rural NZ both urban and rural people noted similar positives (although there were higher scores on aspects of rural life such as the landscape among urban respondents). However, there were more differences when it came to the negatives raised;
- although the importance of the rural sector was acknowledged by the majority of urban respondents, only a small proportion of rural respondents acknowledged the importance of the urban sector;
- there were reasonable levels of connection between urban and rural NZ, with nearly a third of respondents having moved after growing up in either a rural or urban environment. There were also around 40% of urban respondents who knew people who worked rurally or regularly visited people in rural NZ;
- the farming, horticulture and forestry sectors were viewed positively. Farming was clearly viewed most positively and was a sector where NZ was viewed as a world leader. However, there were some areas of concern, mainly in the area of environmental management;
- there were some indications that sustainability is a growing issue for NZers. Most NZers felt that expansion of the farming, horticulture and forestry sector was good for NZ. However, younger NZers were less convinced. Issues relating to sustainable practices were also raised and there was also some support for more regulations/greater enforcement of regulations to protect the environment;
- the respondents were not totally convinced that NZers recognise the importance of water, with only half of them believing that we do. There was also uncertainty over whether the agriculture and horticulture sector make good use of water;

- a number questioned the cause of climate change, with nearly half of respondents believing natural weather cycles are more important in determining climate change than anything people do;
- there was reasonable support for NZ taking an international lead on climate change, with the main causes of domestic climate change seen to be industry, vehicles and farm animals;
- there was reasonable support for buying NZ-made goods. However, around a third of respondents stated a preference for having the full range and choice of food regardless of its origin;
- respondents were polarised on whether locally produced food sold in NZ is as good as food that is exported; and
- a majority believed farmers treat their animals well. However, respondents were more divided over whether most farmers would put caring for animals ahead of making money. Animals seen to be most poorly treated were poultry and pigs.

The report is at <http://www.maf.govt.nz/mafnet/rural-nz/people-and-their-issues/social-research-and-welfare/beliefs-and-values/beliefs-and-values-research-report-08.pdf>. More information: Rural Affairs Coordinator, MAF Policy, PO Box 2526, Wellington, tel 04 894 0675, fax 04 894 0745

## Farming 2008: A Snapshot

Statistics NZ (SNZ) has published the provisional results of the 2008 Agricultural Production Survey, which offers the following snapshot of what's happening in rural NZ:

- the national sheep flock, at 34 million in 2008, was 12% lower than in 2007, and less than half the 70 million recorded in 1982 when sheep numbers peaked;
- dairy cattle numbers have continued to increase, reaching 5.6 million in 2008. Numbers in the national dairy herd were 6% higher than in 2007;
- beef cattle numbers, at 4.1 million, were 6% lower than in 2007 when there were 4.4 million head of cattle;
- there were 1.2 million deer in 2008. Total deer numbers have fallen in recent years, and in 2008 were back to the level recorded in 1994;
- there were 67,000 hectares of barley harvested during the year to 30 June 2008, a 30% increase on the area harvested the previous year; and
- the area of wheat harvested increased by 5%, to 42,500 hectares.

## Vet Bonding Scheme

A new vet bonding scheme targets new vet graduates who choose to work in understaffed rural areas. The scheme is targeted at rural vet practices working with farmed animals, and in the first year will be geographically targeted at: Gisborne (excluding the urban area of Gisborne city), Wairoa, Central Hawke's Bay, Taranaki, Buller (Grey and Westland), Southland, and Gore.

The voluntary scheme encourages new graduates to stay in an eligible practice by providing a taxable payment of \$11,000 for every year, up to five years, that they are working in an understaffed area. Payment for the first three years will be made as a lump sum at the end of three years, with an annual payment for the fourth and fifth years.

Applications for the scheme began 1 March 2009. Further information and application forms are available on MAF's website, at <http://www.maf.govt.nz/mafnet/rural-nz/voluntary-bonding-scheme.htm>

## Towards Safer Rural Communities

It's a startling fact that that every day, 11 farmers or growers are seriously injured and on average one farmer or grower is killed every two – three weeks. Each month in Rural Bulletin, FarmSafe will highlight recent injury and fatality incidents that occurred in the rural community and provide health and safety tips that will help prevent similar events from occurring on your farm or property.

January and February incidents:

- a Taranaki woman broke her ankle during haymaking;
- a man sustained arm and shoulder injuries while breaking in a horse;
- an Otago farmer was airlifted with a suspected broken hip;
- a Canterbury husband and wife were electrocuted when towed machinery hit overhead powerlines;
- an Owaka man laying possum bait in a steep area was crushed by a boulder and killed;
- a 21 year old man sustained head injuries after he lost control of his bike and crashed into a fence;
- a three year old Taranaki girl drowned in an effluent pond;
- a Rotorua farm worker suffered spinal injuries, leg and arm fractures when two hay bales weighing 700 kg fell off the truck he was loading;
- a Hawke's Bay farm worker crawled 200 meters for help with a suspected broken leg and arm after his tractor rolled;
- a 28 year old Reporoa man broke his leg after falling from a farm bike;
- a 9 year old boy was thrown partially through a 4WD window and killed when the vehicle rolled on its side; and
- a Rangitikei farmer visiting rural friends fell down a gorge and required advanced Search and Rescue personnel to retrieve him.

FarmSafe offers a range of training workshops including "Awareness", a one day upskilling experience that covers the identification and management of hazards and the financial and personal costs of injury events. A serious injury can effect up to 10 people in the community and cost up to 10 times the actual cost of an ACC claim. In this workshop there is an emphasis on the identification of hazards and the importance of the process of eliminating, isolating or minimising the hazard to control potential risk.

For more information visit [www.farmsafe.co.nz](http://www.farmsafe.co.nz)

## New Rural Mentor Programme

AgFirst have launched a Rural Mentor programme in Canterbury, Southland and Waikato/King Country. The programme is designed to offer mentees (people who receive mentoring services) advice, support, encouragement and personal development through a confidential partnership with a mentor. In turn, the mentor can hone their leadership skills and get personal satisfaction from supporting others in the industry.

A one day training course for both mentors and mentees is planned for early April.

Currently both mentors and mentees in the sheep, beef and dairy industries are being sought. Applications are available on-line [www.ruralmentor.co.nz](http://www.ruralmentor.co.nz) or by contacting the Programme Co-ordinator [atinfo@ruralmentor.co.nz](mailto:atinfo@ruralmentor.co.nz) or tel 0800 787 256)

## Land Use Capability Workshops

Do you work the land? Do you advise someone that works the land? If you answered yes to either of the above, then a free workshop introducing the revised Land Use Capability (LUC) classification might well be useful to you. The LUC classification is a tool that's used to assess land's capability for sustained production, and the physical limitations of the land. It's likely to be increasingly used by councils, central government and farm advisors.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF), with support from regional councils, is funding a series of awareness workshops around the country. The workshops are as follows:

Gore, Mon 16 March, 9.45am - 4.00pm

Christchurch, Tue 17 March, 9.45am - 4.00pm

Dannevirke, Wed 1 April, 9.45am - 4.00pm

Marion, Thurs 2 April, 9.45am - 4.00pm

Stratford, Fri 3 April, 9.45am - 4.00pm

Whangarei, Thurs 16 April, 9.45am - 4.00pm

Rotorua, Fri 17 April, 9.45am - 4.00pm

For more information please contact R Knutson, Senior Policy Analyst, MAF, Ph: 07 957 8325, Cell: 029 957 8325, email [russell.knutson@maf.govt.nz](mailto:russell.knutson@maf.govt.nz) or John Greer, Regional Team Leader, MAF, Ph: 03 943 1706, Cell: 029 943 1706, email [john.greer@maf.govt.nz](mailto:john.greer@maf.govt.nz)

## Climate Change: Business Opportunities...

A recent report identifying a range of potential business opportunities for the land-based primary sector is now available. The opportunities arise as a result of indirect impacts of climate change. These relate to the way the private and public sectors respond to climate change (they are not directly associated with physical climate changes). One example of an indirect impact of climate change is changing consumer demand for low greenhouse gas footprint products.

The report is at <http://www.maf.govt.nz/climatechange/reports/business-oppsexecsum.htm>

## ...& Lots of Enterprising Rural Women!

Rural Women NZ has received 46 entries for the RWNZ Enterprising Rural Woman Award 2009, with the women representing a wide variety of business interests across the country. The award is being judged by Theresa Gattung of Wool Partners International, Amber Quinnell of sponsor BNZ, and Rural Women NZ's National President, Margaret Chapman. Three finalists will be selected and the winner will be announced at the Rural Women NZ Enterprising Rural Woman Award 2009 to be held at the Grand Hall of Parliament on Friday 15 May, as part of Rural Women NZ's national conference. Sponsors for the award are BNZ, Access Homehealth, Rural News Group, Precise Print & Design and TGM Design.

# Environment

## Climate Outlook: March - May 2009...

The outlook for Autumn (March-May) is mostly mild. NIWA's National Climate Centre says that, taking the next 3-month period as a whole, there is an 80% chance of average or above average temperatures in the North Island. Average temperatures are considered the most likely outcome throughout the South Island.

In addition to average or above average temperatures, normal or above normal rainfall is likely over the north of the North Island. Normal or below normal rainfall is likely in the west and south of the South Island, while near normal rainfall is the most likely outcome elsewhere.

Soil moisture levels improved over much of the country in February. Normal or above normal soil moisture levels are likely in the north and west of the North Island. Normal or below normal soil moisture levels and streamflows are likely in the west and south of the South Island. Elsewhere, normal conditions are likely.

Regional predictions for the next three months are:

- *Northland, Auckland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty:* average or above average temperatures are likely. Rainfall and soil moisture levels are likely to be normal or above normal, with stream flows likely to be normal for the season as a whole.
- *Central North Island, Taranaki, Wanganui, Manawatu and Wellington:* average or above average temperatures are likely. Normal rainfall and stream flows are likely for the three-month period, with normal or above normal soil moisture levels.
- *Gisborne, Hawke's Bay, Wairarapa:* average or above average temperatures are likely for the three months. Normal rainfall, soil moisture levels and stream flows are likely overall.
- *Nelson, Marlborough, Buller:* average temperatures are likely. Rainfall is likely to be near normal, and soil moisture levels and stream flows are also likely to be near normal.
- *West Coast, Alps and Foothills, Inland Otago, Southland:* near average temperatures are likely. Rainfall is likely to be normal or below normal, as are soil moisture levels and stream flows.
- *Coastal Canterbury, East Otago:* average temperatures are likely for March-May. Rainfall, soil moisture levels and stream flows are likely to be near normal.

## ...& February's Weather; Wow!

Temperatures flip-flopped from above average over the first 12 days of February (which included record high temperatures at several locations) to below average for the remainder of the month. Heatwave conditions were experienced over the country from 7 to 12 February when temperatures of 34°C or more occurred in many locations on each day. Averaged over the whole month, February temperatures were above average (by between 0.5 and 1.5°C) north of a line extending from Wanganui to Hastings while much of Canterbury, Otago and Southland experienced below or well below average temperatures (temperature departures from normal of between -

0.5 and -2.0°C). Temperatures in the remainder of the country were near normal for February. The national average temperature of 17.5°C was 0.3°C below the long-term average for February.

Rainfall was more than double (greater than 200% of normal) in Northland, Coromandel, Bay of Plenty, Hawke's Bay, Manawatu, Wellington, Marlborough, Canterbury and Otago. Most of the remainder of the North Island received normal or above normal (120-150% or normal) rainfall for the month – the majority coming in three storms on the 10th, 20th and 27-28th. Soil moisture levels for most of the country have returned to near-normal levels as at the end of February. Rainfall was below normal in Fiordland and parts of Southland.

Most of NZ received below normal (between 75 and 90% or normal) sunshine for the month, particularly eastern Northland and Auckland, Marlborough, Canterbury and Otago. Parts of the Bay of Plenty, northern Taranaki and West Coast received near normal sunshine hours.

## Managing Water Resources: Report

A new report called "Innovative Governance and Regulatory Design: Managing Water Resources", which looks at water resource governance in Canterbury highlights ever-increasing difficulties in managing water resources and creating effective solutions for future generations.

The report finds that neither of the principal options through which water can be allocated under the Resource Management Act (RMA) - regional plans and consents - can effectively stop water being taken or make sure it is allocated for the highest-value use.

It also suggests that neither command and control regulation, nor markets (water trading and incentives) offer anything like complete solutions.

The author says serious attention needs to be given to a third approach called "collaborative environmental governance", which involves private, public and non-government stakeholders, all of whom aim to achieve far more collectively than individually, acting together to reach commonly agreed goals. The author also argues that in designing policies we need "smart regulation", that is, we need to use a range of management systems to bring a broader range of people and groups together to be "surrogate regulators".

The full report is available at:  
[www.landcareresearch.co.nz/research/programme\\_pubs.asp?Proj\\_Collab\\_ID=94](http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/research/programme_pubs.asp?Proj_Collab_ID=94)

## Politics of Plants: It Makes You Think

A number of commentators are saying that "green is the new gold" - and an article in the first issue of a new journal called "Food Security" says this belief makes plants the perfect focal point for government thinking on food security, health, industry and climate change.

The authors note a growing focus on plants as a source of innovative solutions to complex problems including food security, energy security, climate change and global environmental health. From food to fuel, industrial feedstocks to carbon sinks, there is growing talk of plants replacing oil as the cornerstone of the global economy.

However, the authors also note that plants are a renewable but finite resource, and propose that renewed enthusiasm for plants is resulting in an increasingly complicated "politics of plants," as competition for limited land and biomass resources intensifies -

the clash between food security and energy security over biofuels being an obvious example.

The use of plants is a common thread across many areas of policy including agriculture, energy, environment, health, and industry; consequently, says the paper, some of the world's major economic, political, environmental and scientific institutions will have to be realigned (and co-operate more) if society is to tackle these pressing problems.

The full-text article on "The Politics of Plants" is freely available online at <http://www.springerlink.com/content/3x901ul3g7630314/?p=4e2edf697b424ed689f94dbc75b998f3&pi=4>

## Global Seed Bank Anniversary

The Global Seed Vault on a remote Norwegian island has marked its first anniversary. After being in operation for one year, the seed bank has now amassed a collection of more than 400,000 unique seed samples making up some 200 million seeds. The vault was opened last year to ensure that one day all of humanity's existing food crop varieties would be safely protected from any threat to agricultural production, natural or man made.

Find out more at <http://www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/lmd/campain/svalbard-global-seed-vault.html?id=462220>

## Household Sustainability Survey 2008

This survey (completed in September 2008) investigated NZers' attitudes and behaviours towards acting sustainably. The findings include:

- the general public's levels of perceived knowledge of environmental issues are mixed, however, almost everyone agrees that kiwi households generate too much waste;
- although one-half believe it is very urgent that steps be taken to protect the environment, nearly all agree that it is everyone's responsibility to care for the environment;
- most people say they are doing quite a few things (or more than a few ) to care for the environment, but the majority also claim they would like to do more to care for it;
- only 15% feel very informed about the things they could do to help, with most respondents saying they want to learn more about ways they could care for the environment; and
- most people get information about how to care for the environment from the general media.

You can download the report (almost 90 pages) from <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/sus-dev/household-sustainability-survey-11-2008/household-sustainability-survey-2008.pdf>

## Earth Hour 2009

Thirty seven cities, towns and regional bodies across NZ have committed to WWF's Earth Hour 2009. Earth Hour is a lights-out initiative which began in Sydney in 2007 as a one-city environmental statement. In 2008, 28 partner cities across 35 countries turned their lights out in a united call for action on climate change. In 2009, almost 500 cities across 74 countries, including London, Paris, Rio De Janeiro, Athens and New York, have already committed to taking part in the event.

For more information go to [www.earthhour.org](http://www.earthhour.org)

## Electric Cars Trialled

Mitsubishi Motors and Hyundai are both trialling electric cars costing about a third less than a petrol car to run. Hyundai has the "Blade Electron", and Mitsubishi (working with Meridian Energy) has one called the "Innovative Electric Vehicle" (iMiEV).

The first Hyundai car has already been sold, with delivery timetabled for November.

## Immortal Jellyfish? Urrrh!

A jellyfish called *Turritopsis Nutricula* may be the world's only "immortal" creature. Jellyfish usually die after propagating but *Turritopsis* reverts to a sexually immature stage after reaching adulthood and is capable of rejuvenating itself. The 4-5mm diameter creature, technically known as a hydrozoan, is the only known animal that is capable of reverting to its juvenile polyp state. Theoretically, this cycle can repeat indefinitely, rendering it potentially immortal. Found in warm tropical waters *Turritopsis* is believed to be spreading across the world as ships' ballast water is discharged in ports. The jellyfish and its reversal of the ageing process is now the focus of research by marine biologists and geneticists. It is thought to achieve the feat through the cell development process of "transdifferentiation", in which cells transform from one type to another. The switching of cell roles is usually seen only when parts of an organ regenerate. However, it appears to occur normally in the *Turritopsis* life cycle.

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## Tourism

### International Travel/Migration: Dec 2008

Statistics NZ reports that December 2008 visitor arrivals (322,200) were up 2% from December 2007 (317,300). There were more visitors from Australia (up 7,100) but fewer from Korea (down 2,700), the United Kingdom (down 1,900) and Japan (down 1,600).

NZ resident departures (187,300) were down 6% from December 2007 (199,700). NZ residents departed on fewer trips to Fiji (down 1,400), China (down 1,300) and the United States (down 1,100).

Permanent and long-term arrivals exceeded departures by 300 on a seasonally adjusted basis.

### International Tourist Spend Down

Spending by international visitors fell by 3.2% to \$5.9 billion in the year to December 2008 according to data released by the Ministry of Tourism. Spending patterns for our key markets include: Australia (down 1.2%), Germany (down 2.7%), China (down 2.8%), UK (down 6.8%), US (down 7.5%), Canada (up 21%), Japan (up 0.1%), South Korea (down 22.3%), and Taiwan (down 34.1%). The other main indicators for 2008 are: international visitor arrivals (down 0.3%), NZ outbound travel (down 0.7%), and commercial accommodation nights (down 0.05%).

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## Health and Welfare

### Health's Voluntary Bonding Scheme

A new health bonding scheme aims to attract doctors and nurses to hard to staff areas. The scheme is designed for NZ graduates, but this year is open to any NZ-trained doctor, nurse or midwife who has graduated since 2005.

Doctors who graduated in 2008 will need to be willing to work in a hard-to-staff hospital for their first two work years, then commit to a hard to staff specialty. Nursing graduates will need to be willing to work in a hard to staff specialty irrespective of location, and midwifery graduates will need to be willing to work in a hard to staff location for three to five years.

For 2005 to 2008 graduates doctors will receive \$15,873 a year; midwives \$5,224 a year; and nurses \$4,229 a year (before tax).

More is at <http://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/Microsoft%20Word%20-%20Voluntary%20Bonding.%20Health%20Voluntary%20Bonding%20Health%20ackground%2023.02.09.pdf>

### Monitoring Detention Centres: Report

The five organisations responsible for monitoring places of detention in NZ under the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT) have produced their first report. The Ombudsmen, Children's Commissioner, Independent Police Conduct Authority, Inspector of Service Penal Establishments and the Human Rights Commission took on this monitoring role after NZ ratified the United Nation's Optional Protocol Against Torture treaty in March 2007.

OPCAT responsibilities extend to all people deprived of their liberty, whether they are in prisons, police cells, military detention, immigration centres, health facilities, or child and youth residences. The five organisations (called "National Preventive Mechanisms") arrange to visit detention facilities regularly and work with detaining authorities to ensure that all places of detention are safe and humane environments that meet international standards.

This first annual report, which will go to the UN Subcommittee responsible for OPCAT, notes some emerging issues, including:

- ensuring that all facilities are suitable for the purpose;
- the need for adequate staffing levels, training and specialist staff; and
- the need for attention to the rights of particular groups such as children and young people, asylum seekers and disabled people.

There are also some resourcing issues to be addressed.

To download the report: "Monitoring Places of Detention" go to [www.hrc.co.nz](http://www.hrc.co.nz)

### New Maori Mental Health Collective

A core Crown secondary mental health service recently handed over to a Maori non-governmental health provider is the first of its kind in the country. The Oranga Hinengaro o te Matau kaupapa Maori community adult mental health clinical service for the Hawkes Bay is made up of six Maori providers who are

already delivering a range of mental health services to whanau, hapu and iwi. They are: the Kahungunu Executive (Wairoa); Te Whatuiapiti Trust (central Hawkes Bay); Te Taiwhenua o te Whanganui a Orotu (Napier); Te Taiwhenua o Heretaunga (Hastings); Hauora o te Wheke a Nuku (Rongomaiwahine); and Manaaki House (Wairoa Society for Drug and Alcohol).

## Crime & Safety Survey Underway

Around 5,400 people throughout the country are to be randomly selected to take part in the NZ Crime and Safety Survey 2009, which gathers information on people's experience of crime and their views on public safety. Interviews will be held over the next four months. The information gathered will be used to identify those most at risk of becoming victims of crime, the type of crimes being committed but not reported, and the services that victims are using to create safer neighbourhoods and communities.

Results from the last survey carried out in 2006 showed only a third of offences recorded in the survey were reported to police.

## More Sleep Improves Immunity: Study

A good night's sleep protects against parasites and improves immunity, an international study has found. The study, published in the open-access journal BMC Evolutionary Biology, concludes that animal species that sleep for longer do not suffer as much from parasite infestation and have a greater concentration of immune cells in their blood.

The researchers suggest that sleep fuels the immune system. While awake, animals must be ready to meet multiple demands on a limited energy supply, including the need to search for food, acquire mates, and provide parental care. When asleep, animals largely avoid these costly activities, and can thus allocate resources to the body's natural defences.

If true, the researchers say these findings may have implications for human health, especially given the declines in human sleep durations that have occurred over the past few decades.

Find out more at <http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmcevolbiol/>

## Survey: Oral Health of NZers

About 2000 adults and 1000 children are expected to take part in the 2009 NZ Oral Health Survey that is being carried out between March and November. The Ministry of Health is commissioning the survey to gather up-to-date information about the oral health of kiwi children and adults, and the oral health services they use. The survey consists of a face-to-face interview and a dental examination. During the interview, survey participants will be asked questions such as what problems they may have with their teeth and mouth, how often they brush their teeth and the main reason for their last visit to a dentist. Results are expected to be published in mid-2010.

## Study to Help with Depression Extended

A Massey University study to understand how cognitive behaviour therapy (CBT) works in treating depression (the NZ part of an international project) is being extended, so more people can benefit. CBT enables people how to "become their

own therapists" by teaching them skills so they can deal better with difficult situations and the painful emotions they trigger. It has become a mainstream therapy in the USA, UK and Europe since it was developed by American-born psychiatrist Dr Aaron Beck in the 1960s, but is still relatively new to NZ.

About 121 million people worldwide suffer from depression but fewer than 25% have access to effective treatment, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO). Depression is the fourth-highest contributor to the global burden of disease, and is expected to become the second highest by 2020.

More is at <http://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/about-us/news/article.cfm?mnarticle=study-to-help-depression-sufferers-extended-17-01-2009>

## RWNZ: Leptospirosis Research Fundraising

Rural Women NZ (RWNZ) has raised \$107,500 from its Leptospirosis fundraising campaign for researchers at Massey University's EpiCentre. The money will be used to fund a three-year PhD for a Swiss researcher researching the disease.

Leptospirosis, a bacterial infection of humans and animals, is NZ's most common, occupationally-acquired, infectious disease. Sufferers report severe flu like symptoms which, if not treated promptly, may lead to long term health effects, and, rarely, death. Farmers, their families, meat workers, vets and AI technicians (who provide animal breeding services) are among those most exposed to the leptospira bacteria. These bacteria are shed in the urine of infected animals, such as rats, deer, pigs, cattle, sheep and dogs, as well as wild animals, and passed on to humans through cuts in the skin or through the membranes of the eyes, nose or mouth.

## Rape Prevention & Respectful Sexuality

Sexual violence prevention workers are currently tending to focus more on promoting respectful relationships, rather than on what is illegal/not okay. Sector spokespeople say that many young people don't understand what is healthy and okay in a sexual relationship. They believe that if these people access information about respectful relationships they will adopt a respectful sexuality approach, and that illegal, coercive or damaging sexual experiences will then decline.

At the core of the approach is respect for the self and respect for others. Healthy sexuality is found in people who are:

- experiencing physical, emotional, social, and cultural wellbeing;
- able to express their sexuality responsibly and voluntarily;
- free from fear, shame, guilt, and the coercion that impairs sexual relationships; and
- able to enjoy and control their sexual and reproductive behaviour in accordance with personal and social ethics.

A publication on the subject called "Moving Up Stream" is at: [www.vsdvalliance.org/secPublications/newsletters.html](http://www.vsdvalliance.org/secPublications/newsletters.html)

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# Education

## Teacher Bonding Scheme Introduced

A teacher bonding scheme aims to attract teachers to schools that have had problems finding and keeping staff, and to boost teacher numbers in subjects where there have been shortages. The scheme covers teachers in hard to staff schools such as decile 1 and severely isolated schools, and teachers of chemistry, home economics, mathematics and statistics, physics, technology and te reo Maori.

New teachers will be eligible for an extra \$3,500 annual payment (before tax) for every year up to five years that they are working in hard to staff areas - and for this year, teachers who graduated since 2005 will also be eligible.

More is at <http://www.minedu.govt.nz/educationSectors/Schools/Initiatives/VoluntaryBondingScheme/FrequentlyAskedQuestions.aspx>

## School Bus Tenders: OAG Enquiry

The Auditor-General (OAG) is to inquire into how the Ministry of Education managed its national school bus transport tender process last year. The inquiry will examine:

- how the Ministry developed the Request for Proposal (RFP) and overall procurement strategy, including the extent to which the RFP reflected the Ministry's earlier consultation with stakeholders, and the clarity with which any key changes to the RFP were communicated to stakeholders;
- the extent to which the RFP rules were applied consistently by Ministry staff, contractors, and the Tender Evaluation Panel during the tender process; and
- the extent to which the Ministry responded promptly and effectively when concerns began to be expressed about aspects of the tender process.

More information is at <http://www.oag.govt.nz/whats-new/2009/bus-tender/>

## Educating Maori Learners: Report

The recently-released 2007/08 report on Maori Education "Nga Haeata Matauranga" outlines how well the education system has accommodated Maori learners over the past year.

Its introduction notes that the experiences of many Maori over the years and recent research demonstrate that education system performance has been "persistently inequitable for Maori learners", and it says that the reasons for this are becoming clearer.

The 1997 "Chapple Report" concluded there was nothing significant about "being Maori" that affected education success. However, a new analysis of the same 1997 data has concluded that ethnicity is a significant factor in achievement over and above socio-economic status, and that identity, language and culture are essential ingredients of success. The data confirms that educational success follows high-quality teaching and sound relationships between schools, teachers and students.

The report highlights the latest evidence of what is working for and with Maori learners, and it includes examples and stories that highlight successes with Maori learners. These are based on research and on the personal and professional observations and experience of whanau, hapu, iwi, Maori communities and educators.

The report is at [http://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/publications/series/nga\\_haeata\\_matauranga/35307/35312/3](http://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/publications/series/nga_haeata_matauranga/35307/35312/3)

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## Schools and Food

The Government has decided to remove the clause in National Administration Guideline (5) which states "where food and beverages are sold on schools' premises, to make only healthy options available". However, it should be noted that clause (ii) in the National Administration Guideline (5) requires schools to promote healthy food and drink to students remains in place.

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# Employment

## 90-Day Employee Trial Period

As of 1 March businesses employing fewer than 20 employees can hire a new employee on a trial period of up to 90 calendar days. The trial period must be agreed to by the employee and written into the employment agreement. An employee cannot pursue a personal grievance for unjustified dismissal if he or she is dismissed during the trial period. However, the employee can raise a personal grievance if issues such as discrimination arise.

More information on the new law is at [www.dol.govt.nz](http://www.dol.govt.nz)

## Minimum Wage Increase

The Government has moved to increase the minimum wage from \$12 to \$12.50 in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The new minimum wage rate comes into effect on 1 April.

## Age, Gender & Motivation

Employers should expect striking differences in what motivates different employees, according to SHL, a US provider of talent assessment solutions. For example, according to the SHL research, men are much more likely to be de-motivated by poor senior management (38%) and poor line management (29%). Women, on the other hand, are more affected by criticism (17%) and poor relationships with colleagues (19%) than their male counterparts.

Age also can have an impact on motivation, with young employees (aged 18 to 34) more likely to be de-motivated by uninteresting work (37%) than those over age 35 (26%). Young workers also are more motivated by company culture and their work environment than older colleagues.

Almost one-third (31%) of those surveyed said they rarely or never find their manager motivational. Managers in the legal, financial and banking industries fare the worst (39%), with those in media, marketing and advertising faring the best (19%).

Source: <http://hr.cch.com/news/hrm/020209a.asp>

## Young Women & Trade Occupations

Although women have entered many jobs that were once dominated by men, such as law or medicine, many jobs remain dominated by either men or women. For example, 99% of builders, electricians, and motor mechanics are men. Women make up over 90% of people working as caregivers, registered nurses and secretaries.

New research released by the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MWA) indicates that young women can feel limited in their options when choosing a career and that those limits are reinforced by factors such as peer pressure, parental opposition, media portrayal of some jobs, and school systems.

The research was carried out to find out more about what influences young people when they are deciding on a career, and why so few young women enter the trades (where there are good career opportunities and you can also earn-while-you-learn).

Trading Choices\* is on the MWA website at [www.mwa.govt.nz/news-and-pubs/publications/trading-choices](http://www.mwa.govt.nz/news-and-pubs/publications/trading-choices)

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## Housing

### Review of Residential Tenancies Bill

Aspects of the Residential Tenancies Amendment Bill (No 2 - introduced last year) are being reviewed. This Bill clarifies the rights and responsibilities of tenants and landlords with the aim of encouraging stable tenancies.

The review will cover: action that can be taken to deal with assaults, or threats of assault, by tenants' guests or associates; situations where landlords have to cover the costs of damages done by tenants and those they invite into their homes; the role of advocates at the Tenancy Tribunal; the legal status of a tenancy once the original tenant passes on (inherited tenancies); and provisions in the Bill that stop real estate agents from charging letting fees.

More is on the Department of Building and Housing's website at [www.dbh.govt.nz/rta-review](http://www.dbh.govt.nz/rta-review) or freephone 0800 836262

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## Energy

### How are Our Energy Supplies?

This information comes from the latest Energy Quarterly round-up, published at the end of 2008.

#### Oil

NZ's crude oil and condensate production is down on the record levels seen over the last three quarters. Production was 11% down on the previous quarter, but it remains well above levels recorded since the September quarter 2007 when the Tui field came into production.

The total national crude oil and condensate production/exports for the 12 months to September 2008 were the highest ever seen. This is because the Tui and Pohokura fields have been in full production over this period.

Total petrol and diesel available for consumption was down 8% for the September quarter 2008 compared with the September quarter 2007. This probably reflects lower domestic demand for petrol and diesel in response to record high prices.

[Ed's Note: NZ's biggest oil field, the Maari field, estimated at 50 million barrels, has just starting pumping oil, with production due to build to 30,000 barrels a day.]

#### Gas

Gas production followed its normal seasonal variation of relatively high production in the June and September quarters to cater for the higher gas demand for electricity generation over the winter months. However, when compared with the same quarter in 2007, gas production was down by some 11% from what was a four-year quarterly peak.

It is expected that the Pohokura field will continue performing strongly and the development of the Kupe field (expected to begin production from the third quarter) suggest a buoyant outlook for gas supply in NZ, at least in the short term. Pohokura is currently NZ's most productive gas field and also contains the greatest known reserves. Although the remaining reserves of the Maui field are only a third of those remaining in the Pohokura field, the total size of the Maui field was over three times that of Pohokura before either field was tapped.

In the latest quarter the amount of gas flared was slightly lower than that observed in the preceding three quarters but remained significantly above historical levels. This higher level of flaring is a consequence of oil production from the Tui field, which is NZ's first stand-alone offshore oil development.

In October, methanol producer Methanex reported that it had restarted one of the 900,000 tonne per year trains at its Motunui facility and shut down its Waitara Valley plant. According to Methanex this will increase production to nearly double that of the Waitara Valley plant alone.

#### Coal

NZ's coal production was 21% lower in the September quarter 2008 compared with the previous quarter. The 1.2 million tonnes produced, however, is 8% higher than for the corresponding quarter in 2007.

Total coal production is sitting close to the record levels recorded in the years 2002 to 2005.

The Pike River coal mine is expected to start production early next year and from mid-2009 onwards aims to produce around one million tonnes a year for 18 years. Much of this production will be exported, primarily to Asia, where advance sales have been made.

Imports of coal increased nearly 50% in the September quarter when compared with the previous quarter. It is likely that much of this coal was purchased to replenish stockpiles for electricity generation that were depleted over winter (coal-fired electricity generation in winter 2008 was around 70% higher than in winter 2007).

Coal exports remained high this quarter, increasing by approximately 50% compared with the September quarter 2007. As previously noted, coal exports are expected to continue growing in 2009 with commencement of production at the Pike River coal mine.

## Electricity Generation

With lake storage levels stabilising in the last quarter of 2008, hydro generation increased by nearly 30% compared with the previous quarter. As a result, non-renewable generation eased significantly. This quarter's level of hydro generation is typical for recent September quarters, being within 1% of the generation seen in the September quarters of 2006 and 2007.

The Crown-owned, diesel oil-fired Whirinaki reserve generator hardly ran during the September quarter 2008, in contrast to its record high generation in the previous quarter.

With the commissioning of Mighty River Power's 100 MW Kawerau plant, quarterly generation from geothermal sources topped 1,000 GWh for the first time in NZ's history, representing a 26% increase over the previous quarter. Geothermal energy is expected to continue to increase its contribution with a number of large-scale projects announced. These include Mighty River Power's 132 MW Nga Awa Purua plant, which is in the early stages of construction, and Contact Energy's consented 220 MW Te Mihi project to replace the ageing 180 MW Wairakei plant.

Non-renewable sources of generation contributed 3,701 GWh in the September quarter 2008, down 6% from the same quarter last year. Coal-fired generation represented a larger than usual share of total non-renewable generation, up 75% compared with the September quarter 2007, while gas generation dropped by some 22%. This shift reflects fuel use at the Huntly power station over the 2008 winter period

## Electricity Generation Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Electricity generation greenhouse gas emissions come from the burning of fuels in thermal generation plants and the escape of "fugitive" greenhouse gases from geothermal fields. In 2007, electricity generation emissions accounted for approximately 20% of NZ's total energy-related greenhouse gas emissions.

Greenhouse gas emissions from electricity generation can vary significantly from quarter to quarter due to seasonal patterns in hydro generation, varying electricity demand, plant outages and the type of thermal fuel used. In NZ, more electricity is usually generated from thermal plants in the winter months when hydro storage inflows can be low and electricity demand is high, resulting in higher emissions.

During the last quarter of 2008 electricity generation produced a total of 2,050 kt of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>-e) emissions. This is up 16% from the previous September quarter due to the significant increase in electricity generation from coal. During this quarter coal and gas each represented around half of total emissions from electricity generation, with the remainder predominately from geothermal and a small amount from oil and biogas.

The implied emissions factor shows how much greenhouse gas is produced per unit of electricity generated. (This is essentially an average CO<sub>2</sub>-e intensity figure for electricity generation.) NZ's emissions intensity for electricity generation is very low by international standards because of our high percentage of renewable electricity generation.

More information: the Energy Information and Modelling Group Energy and Communications Branch Ministry of Economic Development PO Box 1473, Wellington, NZ Telephone: +64 4 472 0030 Email: [energyinfo@med.govt.nz](mailto:energyinfo@med.govt.nz) Website: [www.med.govt.nz/energy/info/](http://www.med.govt.nz/energy/info/)

## State Sector

### Briefings to Incoming Ministers: Part Two

Here is the second lot of Briefings to Incoming Ministers (BIMs) we promised you last issue. These briefings provide a very useful snapshot of the particular government organisation, describe how it fits within its particular sector, and identify current and emerging issues:

*National Library of NZ:* <http://www.natlib.govt.nz/catalogues/library-documents/briefing-to-minister-2008?searchterm=Briefing>

*NZ Trade and Enterprise (NZTE):*  
<http://www.nzte.govt.nz/section/14709/20947.aspx>

*NZ Transport Agency (NZTA - link from Beehive website):*  
[http://beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/NZTA\\_BIM\\_0.doc](http://beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/NZTA_BIM_0.doc)

*Office of Film and Literature Classification* (link from Beehive website): <http://beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/OFLC%20-%20BIM%20NOV%2008%20sml.pdf>

*Office of the Children's Commissioner* (link from Beehive website): [http://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/OCC\\_Briefing.pdf](http://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/OCC_Briefing.pdf)

*Office of the Privacy Commissioner* (link from Beehive website): [http://beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/Privacy\\_Commissioner\\_BIM.pdf](http://beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/Privacy_Commissioner_BIM.pdf)

*Pacific Island Affairs; Ministry of* (link from Beehive website): [http://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/Pacific\\_Island\\_Affairs\\_BIM.pdf](http://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/Pacific_Island_Affairs_BIM.pdf)

*Parliamentary Counsel Office* (link from Beehive website): <http://beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/PCO.pdf>

*Police* (link from Beehive website): [http://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/Police\\_BIM.pdf](http://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/Police_BIM.pdf)

*Qualifications Authority; NZ (NZQA - link from Beehive website):*  
[http://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/NZQA\\_BIM.pdf](http://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/NZQA_BIM.pdf)

*Racing; Minister for* (link from Beehive website): [http://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/Racing\\_BIM.pdf](http://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/Racing_BIM.pdf)

*Research Science & Technology; Foundation of:*  
<http://www.frst.govt.nz/library/corporate-reports/other-publications/briefing2008>

*Research Science & Technology; Ministry of:*  
<http://www.morst.govt.nz/publications/a-z/b/bim/>

*Reserve Bank of NZ:* <http://www.rbnz.govt.nz/about/whatwedo/3509054.pdf>

*Rugby World Cup; Briefing Papers: the Ministry of Economic Development's Briefing to the Incoming Minister for the 2011 Rugby World Cup -*  
[http://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/Rugby\\_World\\_Cup\\_BIM.pdf](http://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/Rugby_World_Cup_BIM.pdf); [the Ministry's briefing on the Eden Park consent process - http://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/RNZ\\_2011\\_Rugby\\_World\\_Cup\\_Briefing.pdf](http://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/RNZ_2011_Rugby_World_Cup_Briefing.pdf); and [the 2011 Board appointments, and a briefing from Rugby World Cup Ltd - http://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/MED\\_Eden\\_Park\\_Briefing.pdf](http://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/MED_Eden_Park_Briefing.pdf)

*Senior Citizens; Minister of* (from the Office for Senior Citizens, administered by MSD - link from Beehive website): [http://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/Senior\\_Citizens\\_BIM.pdf](http://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/Senior_Citizens_BIM.pdf)

*Serious Fraud Office* (link from Beehive website): <http://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/SFO.pdf>

*Small Business; Minister of* (link from Beehive website): [http://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/Small\\_Business\\_BIM.pdf](http://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/Small_Business_BIM.pdf)

*Social Development; Ministry of* (organisation briefing - link from Beehive website): [http://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/MSD\\_Organisation\\_Briefing.pdf](http://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/MSD_Organisation_Briefing.pdf)

*Social Development; Ministry of* (policy and practice briefing - link from Beehive website): [http://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/MSD\\_Policy\\_and\\_Practice\\_Briefing.pdf](http://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/MSD_Policy_and_Practice_Briefing.pdf)

*Social Development*; Ministry of (social outcomes briefing - link from Beehive website):

[http://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/MSD\\_Social\\_Outcomes\\_Briefing.pdf](http://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/MSD_Social_Outcomes_Briefing.pdf)

*Social Development*; Ministry of (supporting vulnerable children briefing - link from Beehive website):

[http://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/MSD\\_Supporting\\_Vulnerable\\_Children\\_Briefing.pdf](http://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/MSD_Supporting_Vulnerable_Children_Briefing.pdf)

*Social Workers Registration Board* (link from Beehive website):

[http://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/SWRB\\_Briefing.pdf](http://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/SWRB_Briefing.pdf)

*Sport & Recreation NZ* (links from Beehive website):

[http://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/SPARC\\_BIM.pdf](http://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/SPARC_BIM.pdf) and

[http://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/SPARC\\_ARTS\\_BIM.pdf](http://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/SPARC_ARTS_BIM.pdf) (the first briefing is from SPARC, the second from the Ministry of Culture & Heritage)

*Standards NZ* (link from Beehive website):

[http://beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/Standards\\_New\\_Zealand\\_BIM.PDF](http://beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/Standards_New_Zealand_BIM.PDF)

*State Owned Enterprises*; Minister of (link from Beehive website):

[http://beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/CCMAU\\_VSOE\\_BIM\\_0.pdf](http://beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/CCMAU_VSOE_BIM_0.pdf)

*Statistics NZ* (link from Beehive website):

[http://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/statistics\\_BIM\\_1.pdf](http://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/statistics_BIM_1.pdf) and

[http://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/statistics\\_BIM\\_2.pdf](http://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/statistics_BIM_2.pdf)

*Takeovers Panel* (link from Beehive website):

[http://beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/Takeovers\\_Panel\\_s\\_BIM.pdf](http://beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/Takeovers_Panel_s_BIM.pdf)

*Te Papa* (Museum of NZ):

[http://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/Te\\_Papa.pdf](http://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/Te_Papa.pdf)

*Teachers Council* (link from Beehive website):

<http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/education+bims+holding+space>

*Tertiary Education Board (TEC)*:

<http://www.tec.govt.nz/templates/StandardSummary.aspx?id=1199>

*Transport*; Ministry of (link from Beehive website):

[http://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/Ministry\\_of\\_Transport\\_BIM%20\\_0.pdf](http://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/Ministry_of_Transport_BIM%20_0.pdf)

*Treaty Negotiations*; Minister of (link from Beehive website):

[http://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/Treaty\\_Negotiations.pdf](http://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/Treaty_Negotiations.pdf)

*Veterans Affairs*; Minister of (link from Beehive website):

[http://beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/Veterans\\_BIM.pdf](http://beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/Veterans_BIM.pdf)

*Victim Support* (link from Beehive website):

[http://beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/Victim\\_Support\\_BIM.pdf](http://beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/Victim_Support_BIM.pdf)

*Women's Affairs*; Ministry of (Part of DIA - link from Beehive website):

[http://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/Womens\\_Affairs\\_BIM\\_0.pdf](http://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/Womens_Affairs_BIM_0.pdf)

*Youth Affairs*; Ministry of (part of MSD - link from Beehive website):

[http://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/Youth\\_Affairs\\_Briefing.pdf](http://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/Youth_Affairs_Briefing.pdf)

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## Justice/the Law

### Disputes Tribunal Jurisdiction Expands

The Disputes Tribunal jurisdiction is to be expanded in an effort to reduce the amount of time small businesses are tied up in district court battles. Currently, the maximum claim level of the Disputes Tribunal is \$7,500, or \$12,000 with the consent of both parties; those levels are now being lifted to \$15,000 and \$20,000. This change will reduce costs in up to 3,600 cases a year which will now be able to be held in the Disputes Tribunal. Previously these cases would have been held in the district court and many would not have been pursued due to the costs involved.

## Offending Against Children Bill Passed

The Sentencing (Offences against Children) Amendment Bill makes offending against a child a specific aggravating factor when sentencing offenders where violence or neglect of a child is involved. It lists the factors the court must take into account when sentencing. Those factors will make sentences more severe than would otherwise be the case.

It requires the court to:

- take into account the defencelessness of children;
- consider the serious or long-term harm that can result from offending against children; and
- take into account any threats made to the victim to prevent him or her reporting to the authorities, or any attempts to conceal the offending from the authorities.

## Managing Offenders on Parole: Report

The Auditor-General's report on the Department of Corrections: "Managing offenders on parole" has been presented to Parliament. The report contains 20 recommendations, most of which urge the Department to always follow its own procedures. Five of the recommendations are that the Department make sure that:

- the proposed accommodation of offenders will not be problematic for victims;
- probation officers regularly visit offenders in their homes;
- senior staff oversee how probation officers manage high-risk offenders;
- enforcement action is consistent and prompt; and
- victims are notified promptly about certain enforcement actions relating to an offender's parole.

Corrections operates 20 prisons and about 150 Community Probation and Psychological Services centres nationwide. On any given day, its staff manage about 8000 prisoners and about 35,000 people serving community-based sentences and orders. This includes about 1800 offenders who have been released from prison early on parole.

The report is at <http://www.oag.govt.nz/2009/parole>

## Community Law Centres: Funding Cut

Community Law Centres (CLC) have been advised by the Legal Services Agency that their annual funding will be cut by 44% in the upcoming year. CLC rely almost entirely on lawyers' trust account interest for their day to day operations, the rapid fall in interest rates and the stagnant real estate market have directly contributed to the decline in centre funding.

Community Law Centres support and assist clients with free advice on issues such as family, ACC, WINZ, employment, housing, debt, consumer rights and immigration.

## "Third Strike and You're Out" Bill Introduced

Under a recently introduced Sentencing and Parole Reform Bill offenders sentenced to five years or more for a violent or sex offence would not be eligible for parole if they have previously

received a sentence of five years or more for this type of offending. If they are convicted of murder and sentenced to life imprisonment, they would serve the sentence in full and will not be eligible for parole.

Offenders who re-offend for a third time and who would otherwise receive a sentence of imprisonment of at least five years would automatically receive a sentence of life imprisonment with 25 years non-parole.

Under existing legislation, when an offender is sentenced to life imprisonment for murder, the court must impose a minimum term of at least 10 years. The Sentencing and Parole Reform Bill will also give courts the option of sentencing the worst murderers to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole - if no minimum term would be sufficient to mark the seriousness of the case.

## New Powers for Youth Court?

New legislation introduced to Parliament would give the Youth Court a range of new powers, including the power to issue a new range of compulsory orders. It would also extend the court's jurisdiction to include 12 or 13 year olds accused of serious offences.

The Children, Young Persons and Their Families (Youth Courts Jurisdiction and Orders) Amendment Bill has been introduced to Parliament. Under this, initially up to 40 of the most serious young offenders would be required to take part in military-style activity programmes run by the army, consisting of up to three months residential training, using army-type facilities or training methods. There would also be up to 175 places available for army-type training and discipline for young people under Supervision with Activity orders.

Repeat offenders and those who breach community orders could be subject to judicial monitoring, with the court able to "spotlight" certain elements of their sentence, and a small number of youth could be monitored electronically.

Serious and repeat young offenders could also be ordered to attend drug and alcohol rehabilitation, parenting education courses and mentoring programmes.

## Guide to NZ Law

This book is about every-day law, covering such things as who makes the law in NZ, owning real estate, ACC, consumer rights, who can vote, the status of children, the use of hire-purchase, who can own land, banking, company law, retirement, care of children and young people, crime and punishment, who can have a claim on an estate, etc. It is written in plain English with references to where you can go to get more information. It will be particularly useful for people writing submissions and dealing with current affairs, and for young people getting to grips with the ins and outs of the law.

Available in bookshops (\$35.00). You can also order a copy on-line at [www.handyguide.co.nz](http://www.handyguide.co.nz), a site set up to advise about changes in the law

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## Not-for-Profits

### Social Issues in NZ: Report

The Salvation Army's latest annual state of the nation report "Into Troubled Waters" offers a "progress report card" on a range of social issues including housing, work and incomes,

crime and punishment, and social hazards such as gambling, alcohol and drug addiction.

The report notes that rising employment in recent years and job growth-based policies, like the Working for Families tax credits, helped make significant gains in reducing child poverty. However, little has been done to address the inadequacy of benefit levels when about two-thirds (2007 figure) of children living in poverty are part of benefit-dependent households compared to 49% in 2004.

The authors say that this issue is becoming critical, with Treasury estimating an additional 75,000 people could be out of work by 2010, so action to reduce poverty and material hardship for a growing number of children is now a matter of urgency.

The report shows the number of children living in benefit-dependent households steadily fell to 206,600 (19% of all NZ children) by 2007, but last year rose 0.2% to 209,000 as the economy began to shrink.

A text version of the report is at <http://www.salvationarmy.org.nz/uploads/IntoTroubledWaters.pdf>

## Positive Outcomes in Adverse Times?

An article on how the current economic downturn might affect the community sector comes from the Office of the Community and Voluntary Sector (OCVS), which notes that there are conflicting reports about what the impact on the sector might be. Two quotes:

"Some data and historical evidence indicates that the community sector may fare better than the private sector, as people and organisations continue to support 'good work' or focus on 'what really matters', rather than luxury items or frivolous things. However, in reality many philanthropic trusts, corporates, and local and central government may have less money to distribute due to lower returns on investments. Although all investment income will be reduced, trusts and foundations with heavy exposure to international financial markets are more seriously affected"; and

"Adversity could lead to positive outcomes as communities band together, and agencies co-operate and collaborate more or actively share resources to get more 'bang for their buck'. Those individuals, businesses and corporate supporters who can't afford to give money, may offer time or other resources in order to continue to support services and causes they believe in."

The article is at <http://www.ocvs.govt.nz/publications/newsletter/index.html#01Howmighttheeconomicdownturnimpactonthecommunitysector?>

## Promoting Generosity

A Generosity Project developed by Philanthropy NZ, Volunteering NZ and the Office of the Community and Voluntary Sector (OCVS) is exploring ways to encourage individuals and businesses to participate in their communities and local community organisations by giving time, money or in-kind donations.

Their vision is a society where:

- giving is the norm – "It's what we do";
- everybody is recognising and celebrating generosity in all its forms;

- giving behaviours are understood, taught and promoted – “Make it magic”;
- volunteering and giving are supported by government, business and the community; and
- inclusive and engaged communities are built and sustained.

A series of four Focus on Generosity discussion papers is currently being developed to stimulate discussion between members, advisors and others in order to guide the work of the Hub/advisory group. These papers will be available over the next few months.

For more go to: [www.ocvs.govt.nz/work-programme/promoting-generosity.html#Discussionpaperseriesunderdevelopment2](http://www.ocvs.govt.nz/work-programme/promoting-generosity.html#Discussionpaperseriesunderdevelopment2), or email [promotinggenerosity@msd.govt.nz](mailto:promotinggenerosity@msd.govt.nz)

## Contact Management Database Available

CiviCRM is a contact management manager that is Open Source (i.e. no purchase or licensing costs). The database enables groups to manage contacts, donations, memberships, mass emailing, events registration, volunteer information, etc.

More is at [www.community.net.nz/communitycentre/news/national/contactmgmt.htm](http://www.community.net.nz/communitycentre/news/national/contactmgmt.htm)

## Just One Disability Organisation?

An Interim Management Group from the NZ Federation of Vocational Support Services (VASS), National Residential Intellectual Disability Providers (NRID), SLNZ and the Association for Supported Employment in NZ (ASENZ) - with support from the CEOs of IHC and CCS Disability Action - has been formed to carry out a project which looks at having a single umbrella body for the disability sector.

More is at [www.community.net.nz/communitycentre/news/national/disabilitysector.htm](http://www.community.net.nz/communitycentre/news/national/disabilitysector.htm)

# Parliament

## Current Membership of Select Committees

Select committees consider Bills and Inquiries on behalf of the House, and then report their conclusions back to the House. There are up to 13 subject-area select committees, plus any number of ad hoc committees set up from time to time for particular purposes. Select committees often ask the public for input when they are considering a bill or inquiry. Members of the current select committees are:

**Commerce:** John Boscawen, Charles Chauvel, Clare Curran, Hon Lianne Dalziel (*Chairperson*), Te Ururoa Flavell, Jo Goodhew, Melissa Lee, Peseta Sam Lotu-iga (*Deputy Chairperson*), and Katrina Shanks.

**Education and Science:** Hon Chris Carter (*Deputy Chairperson*), Catherine Delahunty, Hon Sir Roger Douglas, Aaron Gilmore, Nikki Kaye, Colin King, Sue Moroney, Allan Peachey (*Chairperson*), and Hon Maryan Street.

**Emissions Trading Scheme Review:** Charles Chauvel, Hon Peter Dunne (*Chairperson*), Jeanette Fitzsimons, Craig Foss, Hon Rodney Hide, Dr Paul Hutchison, Rahui Katene, Moana Mackey, Hekia Parata, Hon David Parker, and Nicky Wagner.

**Finance and Expenditure:** Amy Adams, David Bennett, John Boscawen, Brendon Burns, Hon David Cunliffe, Craig Foss (*Chairperson*), Raymond Huo, Rahui Katene, Peseta Sam Lotu-iga, Stuart Nash, Dr Russel Norman, and Chris Tremain (*Deputy Chairperson*).

**Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade:** Rt Hon Helen Clark, Jacqui Dean (*Deputy Chairperson*), John Hayes (*Chairperson*), Hon Pete Hodgson, Dr Paul Hutchison, Keith Locke, Todd McClay, and Phil Twyford.

**Government Administration:** Kanwaljit Singh Bakshi, Jacqui Dean (*Deputy Chairperson*), John Hayes, Chris Hipkins, Hon David Parker (*Chairperson*), Grant Robertson, and Louise Upston.

**Health:** Dr Jackie Blue, Hon John Carter, Hon Ruth Dyson (*Deputy Chairperson*), Kevin Hague, Dr Paul Hutchison (*Chairperson*), Hon Luamanuvao Winnie Laban, Iain Lees-Galloway, Nicky Wagner, and Michael Woodhouse.

**Justice and Electoral:** Jacinda Ardern, Kanwaljit Singh Bakshi, Chester Borrows (*Chairperson*), Simon Bridges (*Deputy Chairperson*), Dr Kennedy Graham, Hon David Parker, Lynne Pillay, Paul Quinn, and Hon Dr Richard Worth.

**Law and Order:** Shane Ardern, Hon Rick Barker, Simon Bridges, Hon Clayton Cosgrove (*Deputy Chairperson*), David Garrett, Sandra Goudie (*Chairperson*), Melissa Lee, Carmel Sepuloni, Metiria Turei, and Jonathan Young.

**Local Government and Environment:** Chris Auchinvole (*Chairperson*), Hon Steve Chadwick, David Garrett, Hon Shane Jones, Rahui Katene, Nikki Kaye, Sue Kedgley, Hon Nanaia Mahuta, Louise Upston, Nicky Wagner (*Deputy Chairperson*), and Jonathan Young.

**Maori Affairs:** Kelvin Davis, Hone Harawira (*Deputy Chairperson*), Hon Tau Henare (*Chairperson*), Hon Parekura Horomia, Hekia Parata, Paul Quinn, and Hon Mita Rinui.

**Primary Production:** Hon Jim Anderton, Shane Ardern (*Chairperson*), Dr Ashraf Choudhary, Sandra Goudie, Hon George Hawkins, Colin King (*Deputy Chairperson*), Moana Mackey, and Eric Roy.

**Regulations Review:** Jacinda Ardern, Dr Jackie Blue, Charles Chauvel (*Chairperson*), Aaron Gilmore, Rahui Katene, Tim Macindoe, and H V Ross Robertson.

**Social Services:** Chester Borrows, Sue Bradford, Jo Goodhew (*Chairperson*), Hon Annette King, Tim Macindoe, Todd McClay, Dr Rajen Prasad, Katrina Shanks (*Deputy Chairperson*), and Su'a William Sio.

**Transport and Industrial Relations:** Amy Adams, Carol Beaumont, David Bennett (*Chairperson*), Darien Fenton, Jeanette Fitzsimons, Hon Tau Henare, Hon Trevor Mallard, Allan Peachey, and Michael Woodhouse.

## Electoral Amendment Act 2009

The recently introduced Electoral Amendment Act 2009 would repeal the Electoral Finance Act 2007 (EFA) and:

- reinstate the election expense and campaign advertising provisions of the Electoral Act 1993 (the Act preceding the EFA);
- retain the compliance and enforcement regime that was a feature of the EFA, including increased penalties for corrupt and illegal practices and serious electoral finance offences,

and an extended time over which electoral finance offences can be prosecuted;

- remove the "regulated period" that started on 1 January in an election year for expenditure of political parties and candidates, and returns it to the three-month period prior to polling day;
- alter the regulation of "third parties"; and
- remove the concept of "financial agents".

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## Business

### NZ Wine Exports Exceed \$900 Million

Wine exports from NZ reached a new record level in 2008 rising 19% to \$904 million according to NZ Winegrowers. This is an increase of \$143 million over 2007 and is \$106 million above the value of wine exports for the June year end 2008. Growth in the past year has been powered by strong sales in key markets, led by Australia, and increased availability of wines from Vintage 2008. Also, in recent months the industry seen some benefit from the lower value of the NZ dollar against the US dollar. Average per litre value of exports in was \$9.15 in 2008 up from \$9.04 in 2007.

It's also believed that the strong performance in the past year now makes it increasingly likely that annual NZ wine exports will reach \$1 billion some time in calendar year 2009, one year earlier than previously forecast.

### ASEAN Free Trade Agreement

NZ and Australia have signed a free trade agreement (FTA) with the ten members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) - Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia. ASEAN is NZ's third-largest export market, growing 121% since 2000 and worth \$4.6 billion in 2008.

Under the agreement, tariffs will be eliminated in 2010 on NZ exports worth \$429 million a year, including in some markets butter, milk powder, wool, kiwifruit, apples and some manufactured products. Tariffs on a further \$435 million worth of exports to Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam and Philippines will be eliminated between 2011 and 2020. Within 12 years 99% of tariffs will have been eliminated in the key markets of Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Vietnam.

ASEAN's side of the agreement means that by 2010, 85% of their exports will enter NZ duty free, and all NZ tariffs on ASEAN goods will be phased out by 2020.

### Imports Down, Exports Rising Steadily

January 2009 figures from Statistics NZ show that the value of merchandise imports fell 0.9% (\$32 million) in January 2009 compared with January 2008. This fall is the first decrease in imports since August 2007. The value of merchandise exports increased 3.0% (\$92 million) during the same period.

The month's fall in imports was led by a \$105 million decrease in the value of passenger motor cars, with significantly fewer cars being imported. Over half of this decrease came from reduced values of used cars with petrol engine capacities between 1500 and 3000cc. The largest increase in imports was

from a \$91 million rise in petroleum and products, led by an increase in crude oil quantities.

The increase in exports was led by rises in the value of preparations of cereals, flour and starch (up \$52 million); and casein and caseinates (up \$50 million). The largest offsetting decrease was from a \$214 million fall in crude oil, resulting from both decreased prices and quantities.

In January 2009, the monthly trade balance was a deficit of \$187 million, or 5.9% of exports. This is the smallest deficit for a January month since 2001.

## Advice/Support for Small Business

The Government has come up with a series of measures designed to give assistance to NZ firms, including:

- an 0800 hotline (0800 42 49 46, operating 24/7);
- free business health checks: this online tool - [www.bizhealth.co.nz](http://www.bizhealth.co.nz) - enables a business to get an independent, confidential assessment of the actual position of their firm. Once the business identifies where help is needed they can submit a request for specific information, or they can ring 0800 42 49 46 and talk to the trained adviser who can assist them; and
- free seminars on managing in an economic downturn: to help established small and medium sized businesses understand what best business practice is, how to mitigate risk and, when the difficult times are over, how they can emerge as better and stronger businesses. The new seminars started running at different times around the country from the end of February.

A fact sheet that gives more details about these measures is at <http://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/browniefactsheetfinal.pdf>

## Trade Credit Insurance for Exporters

Exporters potentially facing cancelled orders because of a lack of trade credit insurance may get some relief from recently announced changes. Under these, the NZ Export Credit Office (NZECO) will provide exporters with short-term trade credit insurance. Short-term trade credit insurance is used as a guarantee to banks that an exporter will be paid in accordance with a supply contract. The guarantee will be provided for a period of up to two-and-a-half years.

Information about the new short-term trade credit insurance and reinsurance guarantee is available on the NZ Export Credit Office's website at [www.nzeco.govt.nz](http://www.nzeco.govt.nz)

## Trade Talks with Hong Kong Resuming

After a break of several years trade talks with Hong Kong have been resumed. The two nations began Closer Economic Partnership (CEP) negotiations in 2001 but after five rounds of talks, the negotiations were suspended in 2002. Officials will meet in Hong Kong in early March for preparatory discussions with the first full round of negotiations planned for late April/early May in NZ.

Businesses and stakeholders with an interest in Hong Kong are encouraged to provide feedback. For more information on how to do this visit [www.mfat.govt.nz](http://www.mfat.govt.nz)

## NZ and India to Start FTA Negotiations...

The two countries are expected to begin bilateral Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations later this year. NZ has enjoyed strong ties with India for many years (through cricket, Sir Edmund Hillary and our Commonwealth connections), but has yet to realise the full potential in trade and economic relationships.

### ...& Perceptions of NZ in India

The main objectives of this research (which was commissioned by NZ Trade and Enterprise – NZTE) were to:

- test awareness of NZ, including icons and values associated with NZ, among businesses/companies interested in trading or investing in NZ;
- test perceptions of NZ business practices and approach and the awareness of NZ companies; and
- establish, if possible, any differences between sectors.

Twenty face-face interviews with key decision-makers were used to gather the research. The focus of these interviews was on the following sectors: food and beverage, wood and building/construction, specialised manufacturing, and ICT (five interviews for each of the four sectors). The findings of the research can be essentially summed up in one phrase: "Good Ethics but No Business Appetite". Overall impressions of NZ were as follows:

- *People*: innovative, straight-forward, relaxed lifestyle focused, genuine, courteous, humble.
- *Economy*: High standard of living, self-sustained, "content", good education infrastructure.
- *Values*: Essentially British, not racist, ecologically conscious, true to their word.
- *Imagery*: Holiday destination, sheep farming, isolated, pollution-free, pristine nature, calm and quiet.
- *Produce*: Dairy, kiwifruit, apples, lamb, wine.
- *Known for*: Cricket team, scenic beauty, tourism, Lord of the Rings.

You can download this publication off the NZTE website at <http://www.nzte.govt.nz/common/files/Perceptions-of-NZ-in-India-2008.pdf>

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## Money Matters

### Budget Date Announced

The Minister of Finance has announced that Budget 2009 will be delivered on 28 May.

### Half-yearly Economic Review

Credit information provider Veda Advantage recently released its biannual snapshot of the NZ economy. Details (a comparison between July-Dec 2008 and July-Dec 2007 unless otherwise stated) include:

- *Hire Purchase and Personal Loan Applications*: total consumer credit enquiries were down 12% on July-December 2007, although there was little change in the overall number of credit applications from Jan-June to July-

Dec 2008. Personal loan applications suffered a decline, with 15% fewer applications for personal loans in July-Dec 2008 compared with July-Dec 2007. Hire purchase applications for the same period dropped by 11%, and also 11% on Jan-June 2008;

- *Credit Card Inquiries*: applications for credit cards have remained consistent over the last 18 months, with applications for July-Dec 2008 up slightly (1%) on Jan-June 2008, and down by the same margin on July-Dec 2007;
- *Mortgage Inquiries*. The property market saw July-Dec 2008 mortgage applications fall by 20% on 2007, and by 8% on Jan-June 2008;
- *Consumer Defaults*: the total number of consumer defaults rose 11% compared with the first six months of the year. Interestingly, the greatest generational increase of defaulters was amongst Baby Boomers, with a 20% increase in defaults from Jan-June to July-Dec. Generation X saw an 8% increase while Generation Y, which had the biggest rise in defaults in the last report, went up 2%; and
- *Commercial Defaults and Inquiries*: there is cause for concern in the commercial sector, with defaults for July to December 2008 up 50% on the last 6 months of 2007. Defaults in the latter half of the year increased by 32% on January to June, an indication of the growing impact the global recession is having on NZ business. Commercial credit applications were down 14%, and comparison between January 2008 and January 2009 points to an increasing trend downwards, with a 24% drop.

## Securities Disclosure & Financial Advisers Bill

A Securities Disclosure and Financial Advisers Amendment Bill has been introduced into Parliament. Under it, businesses listed on the Stock Exchange would be able to offer certain debt and equity securities without having to duplicate information that is already publicly available under the continuous disclosure obligations. The idea is to help reduce the costs and time for companies raising capital. It also includes changes to the list of people who are exempt from disclosure requirements. Existing rules for investor protection would continue to apply.

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## Internet/ICT

### Broadband v Dial Up: User Differences

NZ broadband users perceive the Internet as more important in their daily life compared with those who use a dialup service according to the latest findings from the World Internet Project. Researchers at AUT University's Institute of Culture, Discourse & Communication found that compared with their dialup counterparts, broadband users:

- perceive the Internet as more important to daily life;
- rate their ability to use the Internet more highly;
- rate the Internet more highly as an important source of entertainment or information;
- buy things online more frequently;
- are less concerned about security of credit information;
- are slightly more likely to access government information;

- download/watch/listen to videos and music more frequently; and
- are more likely to do other things (watch TV, use the telephone) while online.

These differences persist even when other differences between dialup and broadband users such as age, income and location are taken into account.

Broadband users:

- are on average six years younger than dialup users;
- have on average higher incomes than dialup users; and
- are more likely to live in urban centres than dialup users.

However, there is little difference between dialup and broadband users when other things like gender, employment status, ethnicity or level of education are considered.

The World Internet Project (WIP is a longitudinal study which aims to track the trends of the Internet and its impact around the world by surveying both users and non-users) The World Internet Project NZ has been tracking these trends in NZ since 2007.

You can download more information at [http://www.aut.ac.nz/research/research\\_institutes/icdc/projects/world\\_internet\\_project.htm](http://www.aut.ac.nz/research/research_institutes/icdc/projects/world_internet_project.htm)

## Mobile Phones & Spectrum: Update

Vodafone and the Crown have completed a settlement process for Vodafone to renew rights to spectrum it uses to provide cellular services. As well, in January the Crown also swapped two 4-MHz portions of spectrum with the anticipated new entrant to the mobile market, NZ Communications.

The moves mean that some spectrum can now be amalgamated, and more will become available for non-cellular uses.

### Websites

*The NZ Wind Energy Association has launched a new website at <http://www.windenergy.org.nz/>. This has information about the wind energy industry and about the potential for wind energy in NZ, and a discussion of issues relating to surrounding wind farm developments is also included. There are also profiles of NZ windfarms, teacher resources and a number of fact sheets on wind energy, including one entitled "Considering a Wind Farm on Your Land?"*

*The "Thai Grocer" is at <http://www.thaigrocer.com>. If you can't get to Thailand to experience its unique and interesting culinary offerings, this comprehensive website will appeal for anyone interested in cooking authentic Thai food and learning about the culture. It offers everything from Asian cookware and Thai spices to easy-to-follow recipes. There are even video links to see first-hand how the Thai people prepare their delectable dishes.*

*A list of container and low-growing plants, trees, shrubs and climbers that provide food and shelter for wildlife is at <http://www.doc.govt.nz/conservation/native-animals/birds/attracting-birds-to-your-garden/what-to-plant/>*

*The Department of Building and Housing (DBH) now has a new website aimed at students and first time renters called [www.flattening101.co.nz](http://www.flattening101.co.nz) which is a step-by-step, online guide to renting a home. The site offers advice and information on how to find, and set up, a flat for the first time. It also includes information about the rights and responsibilities of tenants and*

landlords, signing a tenancy agreement, resolving problems, the rules renters are expected to follow and legal advice. As well as English, the brochure is available in the following seven languages: Maori, Samoan, Tongan, Korean, Arabic, Simplified Chinese and Traditional Chinese.

*Landcorp is at [www.landcorp.co.nz](http://www.landcorp.co.nz). With 112 farms and a total farmed area of 346,500 ha, Landcorp is a big player in the industry. It produces a six-monthly newsletter. The Autumn newsletter, amongst other things, includes information about their regional bull walks for Sires of Proven Value: Deep Creek, Angus (21 April, Broadlands Rd, Reporoa); Waikate, Simmental (21 April, Earthquake Flat Rd, Waikite Valley); and Kapiro, Angus (23 April, Takou Bay Rd). Contact person: C Neill, mob, 027 249 1186.*

*New resources for victims/survivors are at [www.victimsinfo.govt.nz](http://www.victimsinfo.govt.nz). They are a victims' charter, a victims of crime information line, and a victims of crime information website. The charter is a statement of the standard of service "people affected by crime" can expect from government agencies. The information line and the information website are new contact points for people affected by crime that will provide information about their rights and the justice system, and assist them to access support services.*

*The first edition of a new international electronic newsletter on violence against women is at [www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/vaw/index.htm](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/vaw/index.htm). It is published by the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women and is called "Words to Action".*

*A Radio Stations Online Resource called Radiopaq is at <http://radiopaq.com>. Its a site where you will find literally thousands of stations and a good spattering of podcasts for your listening pleasure. You can listen for free but just remember your bandwidth will be sucked up by the feed. If you choose to register you can get additional features, such as a place to store your favourite podcasts so the latest editions will always be waiting for you when you log in.*

*You can manipulate images free-of-charge at Gimp, which is at [www.gimp.org](http://www.gimp.org). The programme, which is distributed under the GNU General Public License, allows you to make complex or simple changes to the images you are working with in a matter of minutes. Various guides will take you through the features of the programme, from basic touching-up and resizing of photographs, to creating your own icons and 3D floating logos.*

*NZ's first national professional community in gifted and talented education is at [www.giftednz.org.nz](http://www.giftednz.org.nz). The aim of giftEDnz is to support gifted and talented students by: networking, supporting and learning, sharing best practices, advocating for diverse needs, helping increase understanding, making links with international and national organisations, and providing a shared voice to government and other groups.*

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## Treaty Matters

### Three Major Settlement Agreements Signed

Three groupings of iwi with interests in the Northern South Island and Southern North Island recently counter-signed letters of agreement with the Crown. They are the Kurahaupo Ki Te Waipounamu Trust, Tainui Taranaki ki te Tonga and Ngati Toa Rangatira, together representing eight iwi. The groups have more than 12,000 members between them, and together lost more than two million hectares of land through their dealings with the Crown.

Brief details:

- *Kurahaupo Ki Te Waipounamu Trust* (comprises Ngati Apa Ki Te Ra To, Ngati Kuia and Rangitane o Wairau): the historical claims of the Kurahaupo iwi primarily relate to the failure of the Crown to adequately recognise the customary rights of Ngati Apa Ki Te Ra To, Ngati Kuia and Rangitane o Wairau in pre-1865 purchases of land. Their claims also relate to the Crown's failure to set aside adequate reserves and to ensure that the Kurahaupo iwi retained sufficient lands for their future needs. Kurahaupo will receive a total of \$42.41 million in redress and a further \$37.2 million in lieu of redress over licensed Crown forest land;
- *Tainui Taranaki ki Te Tonga* (comprises Te Atiawa ki Te Tau Ihu, Ngati Tama ki Te Tau Ihu, Ngati Rarua, Ngati Koata and the Wakatu Incorporation on behalf of the Wai 56 claimants): the claims of Tainui Taranaki ki Te Tonga relate to the Crown's failure to ensure that the iwi retained sufficient land for their future needs, as well as claims relating to the Crown's land purchasing techniques. Tainui Taranaki will receive \$53.69 million in redress and a further \$45.6 million in accumulated Crown forest rentals and emission credits; and
- *Ngati Toa Rangatira*: the claims of Ngati Toa Rangatira relate primarily to the loss of land and resources in both the South and North Islands and their exclusion from the Tenth estates in both islands. Their longstanding grievances include the Crown's deliberate undermining of Ngati Toa's authority and the kidnapping and detention of their chief Te Rauparaha. Ngati Toa will receive a total of \$75.35 million in redress and a further \$45.6 million in accumulated Crown forest rentals and emission credits.

## New Cultural Accord

The first Waikato-Tainui – Crown Relationship Forum in Hopuhopu has ended with the signing of a cultural accord under agreements related to the Waikato River deed of settlement. The forum was established to foster high level relationships and dialogue between the Crown and iwi. The accord sets out processes for the Crown to interact with Waikato-Tainui in matters relating to the Projected Objects Act, such as the custody and ownership of local cultural artefacts, and their export from NZ. It also provides a process for Waikato-Tainui to interact with the Crown over matters such as relevant board appointments.

## Treaty Issues Update...

The following information summarises the Treaty of Waitangi chapter of the Human Rights Commission's annual review of race relations for 2008:

- since 1975 the Waitangi Tribunal has registered over 1500 claims, and another 1800 claims were received prior to the September 2008 cut-off date;
- the Tribunal has reported on 15 of its 37 inquiry districts, covering 71 % of the nation's land area (adding those under or in preparation for inquiry, 73% of districts and 89% of the land area have been or are currently subject to tribunal inquiry);
- Treaty settlement agreements in 2008 resulted in the transfer of over \$400 million to Maori claimant groups, as well as an innovative form of redress over one of the country's major waterways;
- to date \$1,018,697 million has been committed to final and comprehensive settlements and several part settlements (this includes \$19.846 million paid as claimant funding separate from the negotiated settlement redress);

- since 1990, 26 Treaty settlements have been completed, of which 14 are comprehensive;
- Treaty settlements cover 61% of the total land area of NZ, but only 21% of the land area of the North Island to date;
- over 20 groups are currently in active negotiations with the Crown;
- there are 57 iwi recognised in the Maori Fisheries Act 2004, of which 49 have been mandated to receive fisheries assets (of these, 41 have also been approved as Iwi Aquaculture Organisations);
- Te Ohu Kaimoana has transferred a total of \$435.7 million in cash and fisheries assets to mandated iwi organisations;
- since 1996, eight taiapure-local fisheries have been established, including one in 2008; and
- since 1998, 10 Mataitai reserves have been established, including four in 2008.

Source: The report can be found on the Human Rights Commission website at <http://www.hrc.co.nz/home>

## ... & How NZers View the Treaty

According to polling conducted by UMR late last year for the Human Rights Commission, around three in every five NZers agree that the Treaty of Waitangi is our founding document and that the Treaty is for all NZers. These are the highest results since polling on attitudes to the Treaty began.

A total of 59% of respondents agreed that "The Treaty is NZ's founding document" (73% of Maori) and 57% agreed that "The Treaty is for all NZers" (63% of Maori). The first result is the highest since the question was first posed in 2005. The second the highest since the Commission's Treaty attitudes polling began in 2002.

The polling also revealed that the level of declared knowledge about the Treaty of Waitangi has fallen to the lowest level since 2002, with only one in three (34%) of respondents saying they knew a lot about the Treaty (this decline in declared knowledge could be a result of the Treaty and Treaty issues no longer being seen as "hot button" media issues).

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## Arts & Culture

### NZers' Views on Culture

A report called "How Important is Culture: NZers' Views in 2008" was recently released. It follows on from research commissioned in 1994 and 1997, examining NZers' attitudes towards arts and culture. The 2008 update includes some extra questions on attitudes towards the role of cultural activities in the community and on the importance of culture in perceptions of NZ's identity. Some of the findings:

- most NZers have a strong sense of national identity with culture, landscape and diversity defining NZ for the majority, with sport also making a recognised contribution;
- NZers have a stronger sense of who they are as a nation, than in their local communities;
- NZers appreciate the contributions of Maori culture to national identity and also the contributions of other cultures;
- they see plenty of opportunities to access culture and cultural activities;

- youth are less interested in culture generally;
- NZers see government and local councils as key supporters of culture in NZ for funding and support;
- there is more coverage of culture in the media than before but NZers would prefer even more; and
- culture and cultural activities are an important and valued part of life. NZers are proud of their culture and want to share the best of it with the rest of the world. They generally accept that culture delivers real benefits, brings communities closer together and improves quality of life.

While most attitudes towards culture have remained steady, in 2008 there are now more people who strongly agree that:

- Maori culture and activities are an important part of NZ's national identity (up from 45% in 1997 to 62% in 2008);
- cultural activities enable people to express themselves and be creative (up from 53% to 68%);
- culture and cultural activities have a high profile in NZ (up from 23% to 38%);
- cultural activities should receive some funding from Government (up from 37% to 49%); and
- information about culture and cultural activities is readily available (up from 23% to 33%)

The report is at <http://www.mch.govt.nz/pr/HowImportantIsCulture.pdf>

## Emploment in the Cultural Sector

Another report, this one called "Employment in the Cultural Sector" shows there has been a 21% increase in paid cultural employment in the five years to 2006, with 126,531 people in paid cultural employment in 2006 compared to 88,000 people in 1996. Seven percent of the entire workforce is employed in the cultural sector. The report provides information on employment and incomes in a wide range of cultural occupations and activities including heritage, visual and performing arts, film and broadcasting.

This report is at <http://www.mch.govt.nz/pr/EmploymentInTheCulturalSector.pdf>

## NZ Language Statistics

The 2006 census figures show that after English, Maori is the most commonly spoken language in this country, followed by Samoan, French, Hindi, Yue (Cantonese) and Northern Chinese (Mandarin). The numbers of speakers are: English 3,673,626; Maori 157,110; Samoan 85,428; French 53,757; Hindi 44,589; Yue 44,154; Northern Chinese 41,391; and Other 509,358. Census data also show that the majority of us continue to be monolingual, with 76.6% speaking only one language.

## Young NZ Debaters Rock!

The NZ Schools Debating Team has been voted "best in the world" in the Athens world championships, defeating 39 other national teams. The team is Holly Jenkins, Jen Savage, Tom Chen, Ben Kornfeld and Maria English (captain).

## Gobbledegook to U and Meh

Today, dictionary editors will consider any word — even politically incorrect words — and anyone can contribute to the dictionary. *Meh*, defined as "an expression of utter boredom or

an indication of how little you care for an idea", as uttered by Bart and Lisa Simpson from the US cartoon series *The Simpsons*, was chosen as the public's entry for the 30th anniversary edition of the Collins English Dictionary.

*Jargonaut* (a person who uses an excessive number of jargon terms when speaking or writing), *freneemy* (an enemy disguised as a friend) and *huggles* (a hug and a cuddle combined into one) were among the other words suggested to the Word of Mouth campaign run by Collins.

Meanwhile, that other dictionary, the Oxford, added *sub prime*, and also *big whoop* - meaning "a colourful and ironic expression of dismissiveness in the face of the unimpressive or ordinary".

If you can't beat them, join them. Here is Skip Shelton's list of new words for consideration.

*Alphalfemale*: term for rake-thin, high-powered businesswomen coined by Sly of the Underworld on 3AW's breakfast show. Typical accessories include big bags, bling and a baby.

*Aggresivity*: first mumbled during a 2008 media conference by former number one tennis star Serena Williams when describing what she needs to add to her game to win.

*Beratings*: the game commercial television networks play when publicity departments send out their daily ratings reports digging the boots into another network.

*Breakfeast*: when the old yogi philosophy "Eat like a king at breakfast" is over-enthusiastically applied.

*Cankle*: with 65% of Australians overweight or obese, the ankle has merged with the calf.

*Cheaple*: a new class of workforce. Evidenced when companies employ people overseas to work long hours for small money as telephone consultants and on help desks.

*Constabulary*: those in the police force who have conned and stabbed their way into powerful places.

*Cychology*: see seven-times Tour de France winner American Lance Armstrong - the ability to push through pain barriers without the use of synthetic strength.

*Droning*: driving and phoning at the same time. Can result in death and injury.

*Drxtg*: driving and texting at the same time. Can also result in death and injury.

*HAlarious*: the fake laugh track that accompanies US comedies. Should be banned.

*Liferal*: pronounced "life for all". An organised event to celebrate love, friendship and the delight of living. The opposite of funeral.

*Mad cow disease*: young, impressionable girls who idolise those mad cows in Hollywood.

*Mandate*: the relationship between James Spader's character, Alan Shore, and William Shatner's Denny Crane in Boston Legal.

*Moobs*: man boobs, a result of an ever-fattening society.

*Principalls*: real principles, not the latest fad or fashionable cause.

*Reputation managers*: the new self-styled agents to celebrities.

*Sellebrity*: those who sell their story to newspapers, magazines and TV shows to gain notoriety. Reality shows such as Big Brother and From Ladette to Lady have contributed to this phenomenon.

*Sheeple*: those who believe they have their own unique fashion sense but simply follow everyone around them, a la "sheep".

*Stupor market:* those airless, timeless places with fluorescent lights and countless aisles that cause a state of confusion and disorientation.

*Spiritual anorexics:* those who have no meaning in their lives. They seek out external validation and recognition on the red carpet or in the media, through infamy or by living vicariously through the lives of celebrities.

*Unaccountability:* when you blame your accountant for the millions that have mysteriously disappeared.

*Youthoria:* a feeling of over-confidence and entitlement as displayed by young people when drinking and/or driving.

So what would Samuel Johnson think? If he were still alive, perhaps the word he'd look for would be *Doh* — the first word from *The Simpsons* that got into the Oxford English Dictionary in 2001. "Doh" is defined as "expressing frustration at the realisation that things have turned out badly".

Skip Shelton's item is at a Melbourne writer and TV presenter. The item is at <http://www.theage.com.au/opinion/when-its-all-gobbledegook-to-u-and-meh-20090125-7p61.html>

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## Fishing

### Value of NZ's Commercial Fisheries

Statistics NZ says NZ's commercial fish stocks in 2008 were worth around \$3.97 billion – an increase in value of 45% over our 1996 figures of \$2.74 billion. In 2008 20 of the 96 species of fish managed under the QMS contributed 90% of the total value of the fish stocks. Eighteen of those 20 species have been managed under the QMS since 1996 (when 32 types of fish were managed under the QMS).

The 2008 asset value is 2.6% higher than the previous high of \$3.87 billion in 2004. Economic conditions, such as a declining exchange rate for the NZ dollar later in 2008, combined with rising world food prices, resulted in higher export earnings for fish products - affecting the value of the commercial fish stock.

Note: the figures do not take into account recreational and customary catch, species reared under aquaculture conditions, and commercial species not currently managed under the QMS.

The figures come from the Fish Monetary Stock Account: 1996–2008, which is at <http://www.stats.govt.nz/analytical-reports/fish-monetary-stock-account-1996-2008.htm>

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## General

### How Many of Us Are There...

According to Statistics NZ the estimated population of NZ was 4,291,900 at 31 December 2008. Our numbers increased by 39,300 (0.9%) in the December 2008 year, compared with 41,200 (1%) in the December 2007 year.

The main contribution to population growth during the December 2008 year came from natural increase (excess of births over deaths) of 35,500, down 200 on the previous December year. 2008 population growth was lower than the previous year, mainly because of a fall in migration. Permanent

and long-term arrivals exceeded departures by 3,800 in the latest year, down from 5,500 in the December 2007 year.

At 31 December 2008, the median age for males was 35.5 years (half are younger, and half older, than this). The median age for the female population was 37.3 years. The median age has increased 2.5 years for males and 2.8 years for females between the 1998 and 2008 December years.

In the December 2008 year, the population growth rate was highest for the 65 years and over age group (at 2.3%), followed by an increase for the 15–64-year age group (at 0.9%). The number of children (aged 0–14 years) increased 0.1% in the same period. In the 10 years ended December 2008, the number of children increased 1.5 %, compared with respective increases of 14.0% and 22.5% for the 15–64-year and 65 years and over age groups.

## ... & Overall Population Projections

The Women's Affairs BIM (see hyperlink elsewhere in this issue) notes that in terms of the overall population structure there are likely to be significant changes in the ethnic composition of the NZ population over the next two decades. While the total population is projected to increase by 18% between 2006 and 2026:

- the Asian population is projected to nearly double over this period – from 400,000 (9.7%) in 2006, to 790,000 (16.0%) in 2026;
- the proportion of the population that is Maori is projected to increase from 14.9% in 2006, to 16.6% in 2026; and
- the proportion of the population that is Pacific is projected to increase from 7.2% in 2006, to 9.8% in 2026.

## Gender Equality: NZ's Ranking

NZ is ranked fifth out of 130 countries for gender equality. The annual Global Gender Index report measures the gap between men and women in economic participation and opportunity, educational attainment, political empowerment, and health and survival. Norway was ranked first, followed by Finland, Sweden, and Iceland.

## 2009 Prime Minister's Sport Scholarships

Twenty-eight coaches, 380 athletes, 23 officials, and 41 support team members will receive Prime Minister's Sport Scholarships worth total of \$4.25 million this year. Athletes receive up to \$10,000 for tertiary fees and a living allowance of up to \$6000 for an academic year, while other recipients can undertake projects worth up to \$50,000 each year for three years.

This year's recipients include Silver Ferns coach Ruth Aitken; Kirsten Hellier, who coaches Olympic gold medallist Valerie Vili; boardsailing gold medallist Tom Ashley; rowing bronze medallist Nathan Twaddle; and swimmer Moss Burmester.

A full list of scholarship recipients is on the SPARC website at [www.sparc.org.nz](http://www.sparc.org.nz)

## 21 March is Race Relations Day

For Race Relations Day schools and communities are encouraged to undertake activities in support of the theme "People in Your Neighbourhood" over the preceding week. The idea is to promote the diversity of languages in the neighbourhood as well.

Race Relations Day posters are available free by emailing [nzdiversity@hrc.co.nz](mailto:nzdiversity@hrc.co.nz) with your address. More information about events around the country is at <http://www.hrc.co.nz/home/hrc/racerelations/racerelationsday2009/racerelationsday2009.php>

## NZers' Perceptions of Asia: Report

A recent Asia NZ Foundation survey called "The 2008 Perceptions of Asia" indicates that NZers are increasingly aware of Asia's significance to this country. Survey findings include:

- 75% of NZers see the Asia region as "important" to NZ's future, up from 71% in 2007;
- the Asia region is rated as "more important" than Europe (67% rated this region as "important") and North America (55% rated this region as "important"); and
- only the South Pacific region (including Australia) is rated as "more important" to NZ's future than Asia (86% of NZers rate the South Pacific region as "important" to NZ's future).

Overall, NZers:

- see Asia as an important export market (91% of NZers see a positive future impact);
- think that Asia's economic growth will have a positive impact on NZ (80% of NZers see a positive impact);
- see the benefits of free trade agreements between NZ and Asian countries (73% of NZers see a positive impact);
- see future benefits from Asian tourism to NZ, with 89% indicating that Asian tourism will have a positive impact; and
- see benefits of tourism to Asia with 78% indicating this will have a positive impact on NZ's future.

The report also shows that more NZers have an increasing amount of personal involvement with Asian people in 2008 than they did in 2007 (58% compared to 48%).

For a copy of the report, go to: <http://www.asianz.org.nz/our-work/knowledge-research/research-reports/social-research/perceptions-study>

## Some Conferences/Events

### Journey to Remember

A three day Inter-faith pilgrimage trail will be held over Easter Weekend on 10-12 April. The 40km walk, which is organised by Hibiscus Coast Hospice, passes through forest, farmland and backcountry roads between Riverhead and Puhoi just north of Auckland. It will start at the Hare Krishna Temple in Riverhead, and take in the Karma Choeling Buddhist Monastery, the Wainui Church, ending at the Church of Sts Peter & Paul in Puhoi.

More is at <http://hchospice.org.nz/Hospice-Events/Journey-to-Remember>

### 2009 Philanthropy NZ Conference

The 2009 Philanthropy NZ Conference is being held at Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington - March 18 & 19 with the theme: "Passion, Pragmatism, Possibilities; Whatumanawa, Tika, Pumanawa"

For more information go to <http://www.community.net.nz/communitycentre/events/national/philanthropyconference.htm?region=default>

### M/H & Addictions Support Work Summit

The 2009 National Mental Health and Addictions Support Work Summit is being held in The Longroom at the Basin Reserve, Wellington from 26-27 March. The theme is "Ideas Worth Sharing".

More information: email [admin@platform.org.nz](mailto:admin@platform.org.nz), website <http://www.platform.org.nz>

### NZ Coalition to End Homelessness Forum

The NZ Coalition to End Homelessness and Christchurch City Council are hosting a National Forum on 24 March 2009 at the Hotel Grand Chancellor, Christchurch. The theme is "Homelessness: Prevention/Early Intervention - Whose Choice?"

For more information email [Clare.Aspinal@huttvalleydwb.org.nz](mailto:Clare.Aspinal@huttvalleydwb.org.nz)

### Not-For Profit: GROW Conference

The National Not-for-Profit Sector Conference GROW Limited is being held from 19-20 March at the War Memorial Conference Centre, Marine Parade, Napier.

For more information visit: [www.nfpconference.co.nz](http://www.nfpconference.co.nz)

### Pacifica

The Pacifica Festival is being held on 14 March at Western Springs Stadium, Auckland. This festival celebrates the art, culture and lifestyle of the Pacific Islands communities of Auckland, and it is one of the largest community events in the South Pacific. The festival actually begins at 7.30pm on 13 March when groups from 10 Pacific communities perform using this year's theme - the frigate bird and the hibiscus flower. The main festival will feature entertainment on three main stages, with 10 cultural villages spread throughout the park. Each will feature traditional foods for sale, and have stalls selling traditional and contemporary wares, and entertainment on local stages.

More is at <http://www.hrc.co.nz/home/hrc/racerelations/racerelationsday2009/festivalsandevents/pasifikafestival.php>

### National Association of ESOL Home Tutors

The National Association of ESOL Home Tutors 2009 conference, Benefiting from Diversity: Reframing our Future, will be held in Auckland from 15-17 May 2009.

See the ESOL Home Tutors website at <http://www.esolht.org.nz> for more information

### National Care Management Conference 2009

The National Care Management Conference is being held from 18-20 March at the Duxton Hotel, Wellington. Its theme is "Sink or Swim the Future of Care in the Community".

To register online visit:

<https://secure.avenues.co.nz/ei/getdemo.ei?id=481&s= 3TKOMEY2Y, or email ncmc@avenues.co.nz for a registration brochure>. For more information visit [http://www.nursemaude.org.nz/conference\\_2009/default.aspx](http://www.nursemaude.org.nz/conference_2009/default.aspx)

## Funding/Awards

### Rural Innovation Fund

The Rural Innovation Fund (RIF) has been set up to support innovation in primary health care service delivery in rural NZ. It is one-off funding for 12 months only with a funding limit of \$50,000 (GST excl) for each application.

Applications close on 27 March 2009. The Rural Innovations Fund information is housed in the Rural Health site at

<http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/indexmh/ruralhealth-innovationsfund>

### 2009 Green Ribbon Awards

Nominations are being called for the 2009 Green Ribbon Awards. This year's categories include a new one: honouring an event or project which prompted action for the environment within the community on World Environment Day.

The nine categories this year are: community action for the environment - young people; urban sustainability; community action for the environment - volunteers and not-for-profit organisations; sustainable land use; businesses making a difference; making a difference to household sustainability; innovative solutions for the environment; environment in the spotlight; and Community action for World Environment Day.

Nominations close on 23 March 2009. For more information visit [www.mfe.govt.nz/withyou](http://www.mfe.govt.nz/withyou) or email [green.ribbon@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:green.ribbon@mfe.govt.nz)

### Racing Safety Development Fund

Applications for the next round of the Racing Safety Development Fund, which supports projects that enhance racecourse safety, are now open. Racecourse health and safety includes the safety of riders, spectators, officials and others involved in racing, and the health and safety of the animals.

There are over 120 racing clubs racing at nearly 70 racecourses around the country.

Applications close on 31 March 2009. For more information on how to apply go to [www.dia.govt.nz](http://www.dia.govt.nz), or tel 04 495 9391

### Save the Children NZ

The Small Grants Fund is targeted at local projects advancing the rights of New Zealand children. Save the Children would like to fund local initiatives that endeavour to make lasting benefits for children and young people by building their capacity to reach their full potential. The Committee will consider funding research, project development, start-up costs, training and appropriate resources, conferences and meetings. The maximum award per project is \$10,000.

The application closing date is 15 April 2009. More is at <http://savethechildren.org.nz/new-zealand/nz-programme/small-grants-fund/main.html>, or email [mercy.jumo@savethechildren.org.nz](mailto:mercy.jumo@savethechildren.org.nz)

### Statistics NZ Journalism Award: 2008/09

This year's Statistics NZ's (SNZ) annual award for the best news or feature story using statistics is for print, radio, television, or online stories that make the best use of official statistics.

Entries close on 10 April 2009. Email them to [communication@stats.govt.nz](mailto:communication@stats.govt.nz), or post to A Hannah, Communications Team, Statistics NZ, PO Box 2922, Wellington. More information is at <http://www.stats.govt.nz/NR/rdonlyres/E8417B87-4AFD-4739-91DD-3E5AF6CBC43E/38321/6045JournalismAwardffWEB.pdf>

### Community Action Fund

The focus of this fund is on changing the attitudes and behaviours that ignore, excuse, minimise or trivialise the effects of family violence. Projects that are collaborative and focus on making protecting children and older people everyone's business will be prioritised in this funding round. Applications are sought from not-for-profit community organisations, Maori organisations and networks. The maximum grant available is \$30,000 (excl GST).

Applications close on 31 March 2009. They go to Community Action Fund, Family and Community Services, Ministry of Social Development, PO Box 1556, Wellington 6001. More is at <http://www.familyservices.govt.nz/our-work/preventing-violence/community-action.html> or contact C Trewartha, tel 04 916 3922

## Appointments

Rob Osborne has been appointed as a *temporary Associate Judge of the High Court*, for a period of 12 months from 29 January 2009. Our next *Ambassador to Turkey* will be career diplomat Andrea Smith.

The Chief of Defence Force, Lieutenant General Jerry Mateparae, and the *Chief of Air Force*, Air Vice Marshal Graham Lintott, have been *reappointed for a year* from 1 May.

Jane Evelyn Borthwick has been appointed an *Environment Court Judge*. Jan McCartney and Christine Gordon have been appointed *Senior Counsel (formerly Queen's Counsel)*. Mavis Mullins has been elected the first woman *head of the Golden Shears International Shearing Championship Society*. Ripeka Evans has been appointed the first *chief executive of the Maori Medical Practitioners' Association*, Te ORA. Lynn McKenzie is the first NZer to be elected as *Zonta International's Vice President*. The new *National President of the Maori Women's Welfare League* is Meagan Joe and the new *National Vice President* is Jane duFeu. The new *National President of the National Council of Women* is Elizabeth Bang. Professor Peter Hunter has been appointed *chair of the Marsden Fund Council*. Kevin Simpkins has been appointed *chair of the Accounting Standards Review Board*. Charlie Pedersen has been appointed to the *Board of FarmSafe*.

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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**Craig Matthews/Paddy Twist**

Editors Rural Bulletin  
Tel: 04 473 5524  
Fax: 04 472 8946  
Email [ruralbulletin@ruralwomen.org.nz](mailto:ruralbulletin@ruralwomen.org.nz)

**Noeline Holt**

Executive Officer  
Rural Women New Zealand  
Tel: 04 473 5524  
Fax: 04 472 8946  
Email: [enquiries@ruralwomen.org.nz](mailto:enquiries@ruralwomen.org.nz)

**Jackie Edkins**

Communications Officer  
Rural Women New Zealand  
Tel: 04 473 5524  
Fax: 04 472 8946  
Email: [enquiries@ruralwomen.org.nz](mailto:enquiries@ruralwomen.org.nz)  
Website: [www.ruralwomen.org.nz](http://www.ruralwomen.org.nz)

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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](mailto:enquiries@ruralwomen.org.nz)

