

Rural Bulletin

November 2006



Rural
Women
NEW ZEALAND

<http://www.ruralwomen.org>

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Consultation

Revisiting the 1080 Decision

The Environmental Risk Management Authority (ERMA) is inviting public submissions on an application from the Animal Health Board (AHB) and the Department of Conservation (DoC) to have 1080 reassessed.

1080 has been used to control opossums, stoats, rats and other predators of NZ's native flora and fauna, and its use has been opposed by some groups. The AHB and DoC say there has been a significant change in quantity of the 1080 imported and that a reassessment of 1080 could address issues of public concern.

In the paper, DoC says that 1080 is by far the best control method for opossums and other pests. The AHB says it relies on 1080 to maintain the TB-free status of farm animals, which can contract TB from contacts with opossums.

Submissions are expected to close in mid-December. A summary of the AHB/DoC application is at <http://www.ahb.org.nz/NR/rdonlyres/C0D0ABCF-1000-4FBB-B42C-AC66218FA39E/463/AHB1080ReassessmentOCT06.pdf> More information is at <http://www.ermanz.govt.nz>

Homestays/Farmstays: New GST Rules?

A draft interpretation of the law relating to GST on holiday homes, home-stays, farm-stays and serviced apartments has been released by the Inland Revenue Department (IRD) for public comment.

The draft confirms that holiday homes, home-stays, farm-stays and serviced apartments will not, in most cases, be classified as commercial dwellings and will therefore fall within the exemption from GST for accommodation.

If the final interpretation is along the same lines, the Government will introduce a law change that preserves the status quo for owners who had registered for GST, and claimed GST for expenses associated with the accommodation, before the new interpretation is finalised. This means they will be able to de-register in the future in accordance with current interpretations of the law and thus postpone any financial consequences that might otherwise arise from the new interpretation.

Submissions close on 22 December. For a copy of the discussion document go to <http://www.ird.govt.nz/resources/file/eb717d45946a261/IS0049.pdf>

Religious Diversity Statement: Feedback Sought

The Race Relations Commissioner has invited public feedback on a statement setting out the rights and responsibilities relating to religion and belief in NZ.

The statement aims to promote religious tolerance; improve communication between government and faith communities; affirm the right to freedom of religion; and provide a framework for the development and maintenance of harmonious relationships within communities.

It is hoped that it will form the basis for interfaith and community discussion at a local level, and provide a framework in which to discuss issues of religious diversity as they arise.

Local government, interfaith groups, faith communities, Members of Parliament, and other community groups have been invited to discuss the draft and provide comment.

After submissions have been analysed, a revised statement will be presented to the National Interfaith Forum in Hamilton in February for endorsement.

Submissions close on 15 December. The draft statement, feedback forms and background information can be found on the Commission's website at www.hrc.co.nz/religiousdiversity More information: Human Rights Commission on 09 375 8616 or 0274 313 239, or Professor Paul Morris at Victoria University on 04 463 5037.

Pastoral Leases: Valuing Landscapes?

A government report, "High Country Pastoral Leases Review", now released for consultation, looks at valuation methods and the impact on pastoral lands. It identifies some important differences between the approach taken by valuers when valuing pastoral leases and the legal requirements of the 1948 Land Act. This Act requires the market value of such factors as landscapes and view to be taken into account in the lease calculation, but this has not generally been the case with pastoral leases. The result could be that pastoral leases have been under-valued and that leaseholders could face substantial lease increases.

The Government says the Land Act is the appropriate law where lease values are established, but it also notes that "given the current market demand for land with high amenity values, in some cases rentals may exceed what is affordable based on income generated from pastoral use alone".

Representatives of Land Information NZ, the Department of Conservation and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry are to meet with leaseholders over the coming nine weeks to "consider options for addressing affordability that recognise the value of sustainable and economically viable high country farming". They are to report back to Cabinet in March.

Submissions close on 15 December. For more information go to: valuation-review@linz.govt.nz

Consultation on Flexible Work Arrangements

The Department of Labour (DoL) is seeking views on flexible work arrangements. Flexible work is about people having the opportunity to make changes to the hours or times they work, and where they work. It is also about how careers are organised, how transitions in and out of work are managed, and how flexible work is managed in the workplace so that employees and businesses benefit.

New Zealand's current economic situation means that there are more people in the workforce now, and employers are finding it more difficult to attract skilled workers. Some employers are already offering flexible work arrangements (such as flexible start and finish times) to attract and retain employees, and give them the opportunity to balance their work with other things (e.g. family time with children/older parents, sport, voluntary work, etc).

Internationally, a number of countries have legislated for the right of the employee to request flexible working arrangements. Others have relied on education and promotion to increase the availability of flexible work arrangements.

DoL has been working with the business sector, unions and workplace leaders on practical ways to introduce and manage flexible work in workplaces. Your views on what works, what doesn't and the reasons why will also help guide its decisions on flexible work arrangements.

Submissions close on 15 December. The discussion paper is at <http://www.dol.govt.nz/consultation/qualityflexiblework/flexible-work-discussion-document.pdf>. You can complete a submission on line, or send one by post or fax to: C. Edmondson, Workplace Practices, Department of Labour, PO Box 3805, Wellington 6140, tel 04 915 4692, fax 04 915 4710

Towards More Energy Efficient Buildings

A proposed new package of work aimed at improving the energy efficiency of NZ homes and commercial buildings through insulation, solar, lighting and other technologies was announced recently. The work programme consists of four main initiatives:

- higher thermal insulation performance requirements for new homes;
- making it easier to install solar water heating systems;
- improving lighting in commercial buildings; and
- improving heating, ventilation and air systems in commercial buildings.

The proposed measures would involve changes to the Building Code and/or new Department of Building and Housing (DBH) compliance documents. The main benefits of the proposals are said to include:

- savings in energy bills;
- reduction in environmental impacts and in carbon emissions;
- warmer, drier, healthier homes and workplaces;
- easier access to new and more efficient technologies.

People will be offered a chance to voice their opinions on the suggested ways of lifting the energy efficiency of residential and commercial buildings. A public discussion paper is planned for this month. The Department of Housing will consider the submissions and report back to the Government by the end of April 2007. The DBH website is at <http://www.dbh.govt.nz/>

Management of Shared Fisheries: Discussion Paper

The fisheries around NZ are fished by three distinct fisher groups: recreational fishers, customary fishers, and commercial fishers. Sometimes they are all fishing in the same place. This can put pressure on our fisheries and it can also create conflict among users competing for scarce resources (several species close to the hearts of NZers like snapper, blue cod, kahawai, paua and rock lobster are becoming particularly scarce).

A discussion paper from the Ministry of Fisheries (MFish) puts forward a series of proposals to improve the management of these shared fisheries. The proposals include:

- increased effort to be put into surveys and better information gathering from amateur fishers;
- separation of recreational and customary fishers from commercial activity;
- new criteria for setting total allowable catch limits that will enable non-commercial values to be better recognised;

- increased representation of the amateur fishing sector in planning and decision-making processes; and
- new options for managing local fisheries through the establishment of a new amateur fishing trust.

Consultation on the proposals will continue until 28 February 2007. MFish will be holding both public meetings and individual discussions with sector organisations and iwi groups. Public meetings will be held in Whangarei, Auckland, Tauranga, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin during late November early December. Copies of the discussion document can be downloaded from the MFish website at www.fish.govt.nz For more information contact shared.fisheries@fish.govt.nz or tel freephone 0800 666 675

Draft Code of Welfare for Dairy Cattle

The National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC) has drafted a code of welfare for dairy cattle, and you are invited to have your say. Anyone can make submissions on the draft in writing to NAWAC at the following address:

Submissions close 19 December 2006. The draft code is available on the website www.biosecurity.govt.nz/animal-welfare, or you can see it at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) office in Pastoral House, 25 The Terrace, Wellington. Send submissions to: Animal Welfare Group, Biosecurity NZ, MAF, PO Box 2526, Wellington, or email them to: animalwelfare@maf.govt.nz

Conservation Plan for Rakiura/ Stewart Island

The conservation management of one of the most pristine parts of NZ - Stewart Island/Rakiura - is under review. The first management plan for the Rakiura National Park since it was established in 2002 is also being developed. The park covers 85% of the island.

The Department of Conservation has published a discussion paper covering both processes - "Stewart Island/Rakiura Conservation Management Strategy review and Rakiura National Park Management Plan". The review includes the island of Whenua Hoa, where DoC has its breeding recovery programme for the kakapo of which there fewer than 90 surviving.

Submissions close on 19 January 2007. The review document can be downloaded, as a pdf file, from: <http://www.doc.govt.nz/pdfs/CMS-Rakiura-review.pdf>

Insolvency Practitioners Discussion Paper

The Government proposes to regulate insolvency practitioners, company liquidators and administrators. The move follows submissions on insolvency law reform which overwhelmingly supported the establishment of regulations. A discussion paper called "Insolvency Practitioner Regulation: Options for Change", proposes a licensing system, which would mean that anyone carrying out corporate insolvency processes would be a member of a professional organisation, approved by an "approval body". The Ministry of Economic Development (MED) proposes that the Registrar of Companies would be the "approval body" and suggests that professional organisations which might be approved include the NZ Institute of Chartered Accountants and the NZ Law Society.

Submissions close on 2 February 2007. Contact:
insolvencyreview@med.govt.nz.

Clarifying the Tax Rules: Discussion Paper

The IRD has released a discussion paper which is aimed at liberalising a range of tax penalties. The idea behind the proposal is that people will comply with the law more willingly when they see it as reasonable. Tax penalties currently vary according to the level of offence. Penalties for having a tax shortfall, for example, can range from 20% for not taking reasonable care, to 150% for evasion.

The discussion paper examines these rules and identifies several areas where they could be clearer, more consistent and better targeted at promoting voluntary compliance. It looks at options for relaxing penalties when people have genuinely tried to do the right thing but failed, while using the full force of the law on people who have made no attempt to comply. Given the importance of tax agents in upholding voluntary compliance, the paper also proposes updating the definition of "tax agent" to exclude people who do not meet defined standards of behaviour - such as people who have been convicted of a crime of dishonesty.

The penalty for having an unacceptable tax position would apply only to income tax, thus excluding GST and withholding taxes from its scope. As an incentive to comply, the law would be amended to require Inland Revenue to alert late payers if it is their first offence, rather than automatically penalising them for being late.

As a further incentive, shortfall penalties for not taking reasonable care or for taking an unacceptable tax position would not be imposed if the taxpayer concerned made a voluntary disclosure of the shortfall before being notified of a pending tax audit or investigation. That would have to occur within two years of the taxpayer taking the position. The shortfall penalty for underpayments of PAYE would be graduated for employers who filed an employer monthly schedule but did not pay the associated PAYE on time.

Other proposed changes include replacing automatic default assessments with a potential \$250 penalty on GST returns that are filed late, repeal of the threshold for having an abusive tax position, and a number of clarifications of the law.

Submissions close on 30 November 2006. The discussion paper "Tax penalties, tax agents and disclosures", is available at www.taxpolicy.ird.govt.nz.

Legislation: Have Your Say

Succession (Homicide) Bill

The Justice and Electoral Committee has called for submissions on this bill. Copies can be purchased at Bennetts Government Bookshops.

This bill seeks to codify the law that precludes a person (a killer) who unlawfully kills another person (a victim) from benefiting as a result of the death, whether from the victim's estate, or from other property arrangements.

Arbitration Amendment Bill

The Justice and Electoral Committee has called for submissions on this bill, the purpose of which is to improve the operation of the Arbitration Amendment Act 1996 by encouraging the use of arbitration as a means of resolving disputes privately in NZ.

Building (Late Consent is a Free Consent) Amendment Bill

The Local Government and Environment Committee has called for submissions on this bill, which provides for a late consent being without charge if a territorial authority breaches a timeframe set out in the Act when considering building consents.

Wills Bill

The Justice and Electoral Committee has called for submissions on this bill, which restates the existing law, which is set out in several enactments, in a single statute in plain, modern language. It implements some reforms to enhance and modernise the substantive law and remove certain anomalies, but does not constitute a wide-ranging reform of the current law.

Copies of bills can be purchased at Bennetts Government Bookshops. Submissions on these four bills close on 27 November. Send them to Clerk of the Committee, [name of the select committee], Select Committee Office, Parliament Buildings, Wellington. (Select committees generally require 2 copies of each submission.) If you have any problems meeting the submission closing date telephone the clerk of the committee considering the bill to make alternative arrangements (note that a late submission will not necessarily be accepted). If you wish to appear before the committee to speak to your submission, state this clearly with the submission, and provide a contact name and daytime phone number. Submissions to select committees generally become public. Please contact the committee secretariat before sending information of a private or personal nature.

Rural

The "Future of Farming" Roadshow Hits the Road

A high-tech vision of the future of NZ agriculture was launched at Parliament recently by Young Farmer of the Year John McCaw. The Future Farming Roadshow is a cutting-edge interactive exhibition that will be touring the country from November until March next year, then again in October and November 2007. It comes from the Ministry of Research, Science and Technology (MoRST).

When visitors enter the exhibition, they will step into the year 2017. Inside, large, state-of-the-art plasma screens display how advances in biotechnology and other factors may have changed

NZ agriculture. Visitors can watch and listen to broadcasts of rural news from the future, and inspect virtual farms or digital supermarket shelves. When touched, the farms and the products in the supermarket "open up" to reveal more information.

The displays will highlight some of the opportunities and challenges NZ agriculture may face during the next decade. There are also case studies of exciting developments in current agricultural research that show just how realistic this peek into the future may be.

MoRST has a page on its website giving more information on the roadshow, including a touring schedule: <http://www.morst.govt.nz/current-work/biotechnology/future-farming/>

Rural Safety Resources

ACC has a wide range of rural safety resources available on line, which include, among other titles:

- How to design better cattle yards (ACC389) (PDF 264K)
- Reducing injuries in the rural environment - Instructor's Resource (ACC393) (PDF 583K)
- Reducing injuries in the rural environment - Trainee's Resource (ACC394) (PDF 541K)
- Prevent manual handling injuries (ACC400)(PDF 97K)
- Managing and driving tractors (ACC401) (PDF 912K)
- Riding farm bikes (ACC402) (PDF 984K)
- Preventing OOS conditions for farmers (ACC403) (PDF 78K)
- Managing fatigue (ACC404) (PDF 85K)
- Preventing slips, trips and falls(ACC405) (PDF 85K)
- Working with chemicals, confined spaces and respirators (ACC406) (PDF 918K)
- Rural Safety Days - Guidelines for planning effective rural safety days for rural children (ACC549) (PDF 792K)
- Reducing risks for children on farms (ACC1571)(PDF 201K).

There is also a series of resources on equine health and safety, together with a range of DVDs and posters. An order form is at the bottom of the page. Go to: http://www.acc.co.nz/wcm001/idcplg?IdcService=SS_GET_PAGE&ssDocName=WCM1_025501&ssSourceNodId=4029, click on "injury prevention", then click on "rural safety"

"Approved Handler" Certification: Agrichemicals

From 1 January 2007, people will need a full approved handler test certificate to buy certain hazardous agrichemicals. The Environmental Risk Management Authority's (ERMA NZ) has forms online that enable an assessment of an applicant's ability to handle these agrichemicals to be made.

The forms are at <http://www.ernaNZ.govt.nz/resources/publications/pdfs/ER-AF-HSC-AHpack.pdf> For more information call the hazardous substances freephone information line on 0800 376 234

Environment

Dealing with Climate Change

The Minister Responsible for Climate Change recently outlined the Government's principles and guidelines for action on climate change in NZ.

Principles

The Government will:

- be long-term and strategic about climate change;
- make every effort to reduce emissions while also preparing for the impacts of a more variable climate;
- talk to the wider public, to industry and to business people to gain support for effective, long-term involvement; and
- keep a strong focus on international matters that that advance NZ's national interest.

Guidelines

The following guidelines released by the Government at the same time act as a framework for the more general principles expressed immediately above. These guidelines are:

- the Government must act to address the risks for NZ's vulnerable environment, economy and way of life;
- while action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions over the long term will have a moderate cost, the predicted costs and risks of inaction are expected to be unacceptably high;
- effective international action is needed to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions;
- New Zealand's response should focus on the economic advantages of using energy and resources more efficiently: NZ should be involved in the development or adaptation of low-emissions technologies relevant to our needs;
- we should start with the most achievable options and seek solutions that cost the least and it is likely to need to work with specific sector groups and also take economy-wide actions (these include voluntary, price-based and regulatory actions);
- all sectors of the economy should take their fair share of responsibility for NZ's response to climate change;
- the wider benefits of climate change action should be emphasised (i.e. improved sustainable land and water management, enhanced public health, reduced energy wastage, enhanced energy security, improved air quality and the conservation of biodiversity); and
- any response to climate change must include ways of helping NZ adapt effectively to the impacts of climate change.

Current Action

Current actions on climate change include:

- an adaptation programme to prepare for the impacts of the changing climate, especially on our coastal areas and in the farming sector;

- ways to improve the energy efficiency of buildings;
- consultation on an obligation to sell minimum amounts of biofuels (see October Bulletin);
- a commitment to increase the uptake of solar water heating;
- options to create links with the Asia Pacific Partnership for Clean Development and Climate; and
- introducing the Permanent Forest Sinks Initiative (also see October Rural Bulletin).

Ways of discouraging deforestation and encouraging forest planting, and looking at how the agricultural sector can contribute to a climate change response, are currently being considered.

New Zealand is not alone in taking steps to reduce its growing emissions. One hundred and sixty three other nations have also committed to action by ratifying the Kyoto Protocol. Others, including the United States and Australia, have signed up to action under the Asia Pacific Partnership agreement.

More information is at: <http://www.beehive.govt.nz/ViewDocument.aspx?DocumentID=27314>

Government Department Environmental Performance

A newly-released Cabinet paper called "Government Leadership in Energy Efficiency and Climate Change Through the Govt3 Programme" will require government departments, Offices of Parliament, crown entities and companies and state owned enterprises agencies to lift their environmental performance. The paper notes that, internationally, governments are working to mitigate - or lessen - greenhouse gas emissions, and improve energy efficiency by setting targets for their departments and looking for best practice. Closer to home it is proposed that:

- appropriate ways of measuring standards for government buildings be prepared by the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) and ready for Cabinet consideration by April next year;
- information on best practice in development of sustainable building be developed by the Ministry and ready for agencies also by April;
- government agencies (responsible for 16% of commercial construction each year), consider a range of actions to accelerate the adoption of sustainable building practices;
- the Ministry for the Environment and the Ministry of Transport provides agencies with information on best practice in the development of sustainable vehicles and of travel planning by next April; and
- agencies consider a range actions to speed up the adoption of sustainable transport practices.

Further down the track the programme could be extended to include all Crown Agents, including the 21 District Health Boards and School Boards and Trustees.

The paper also proposes that NZ establish links with the Asia Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate (APPCDC). Current members - China, India, Japan, South Korea, Australia and the United States - represent half of the world's economy and population and account for half of its energy use. The APPCDC was formed as an alternative to the Kyoto Protocol which the US rejected in 2000.

The Cabinet paper is at <http://www.climatechange.govt.nz/resources/cabinet/cab-govt3-climate-change.html>

Cleaner Air

Environment Canterbury (Ecan) is reporting success with its campaign to reduce air pollution in Christchurch. Close to 7,000 Christchurch households have used Ecan's "Clean Heat Project" to install insulation and switch from a polluting and inefficient open fire or older-style burner since the project began three years ago. The most popular forms of cleaner heating are heat pumps (60%), followed by low emission wood burners (21%) and pellet fires (17%).

Ecan is providing a range of subsidies and incentives aimed switching 26,000 homes to less polluting heating systems by 2013 out of a total of 46,000 homes in the city. The authority believes the remainder will make the switch without subsidies.

For more information or to apply for the Clean Heat Project, phone 353 WARM (03 353-9276) or visit www.cleanheat.org.nz

Bird of the Year 2006

The votes are all in and the fantail/piwakawaka is officially NZ's favourite Bird of the Year, according to Forest & Bird's second annual Bird of the Year poll. The fantail/piwakawaka came first with 458 votes - just a beak ahead of last year's winner, the tui, which had 453 votes. New to the top 10 this year were the takahe and kiwi, while the stitchbird/hihi and grey warbler/rirorio dropped off the top 10.

The full Bird of the Year top 10 is: Fantail/piwakawaka (458 votes), Tui (453), Kereru (348), Kakapo (229), Takahe (180), Kea (172), Kokako (168), Bellbird/korimako (116), Kiwi (109), Pukeko (81).

Tourism

What Lonely Planet Says About Us

Lonely Planet recently published its latest guide to NZ. Some of its comments include:

- **Coromandel Region.** "It's a great, quintessential getaway spot, with an old-fashioned holiday feel and plenty of opportunities to get back to basics. After all, some of the more remote communities in these parts are still accessed by gravel roads, and an aura of rugged individualism hangs like mist over this compact and special region NZ."
- **Dunedin.** "Dunedin is becoming increasingly popular as a mellow city nurturing a strong artsy side. If you can unglue yourself from the city's café scene, the ruggedly shaped Otago Peninsula lies practically in Dunedin's backyard and is teeming with wildlife and outdoor activities."
- **Hastings.** "Hastings is a utilitarian agricultural town with tractors on the streets and little of the chutzpah Napier manifests so readily. A random scene: a shirtless young renegade drives his ember-red utility around and around Hastings' main block, The Doors' Light My Fire stuck on repeat, blaring from open windows, an unlit cigarette dangling from his lip... The question is, will Hastings light your fire?"
- **Havelock North.** "Five kilometres southeast of Hastings' rural toil, Havelock North is a different kettle of fish (or vat of wine) altogether. Range Rovers and BMWs cruise the streets

as bleached-blond 50-something wine wives sip lattes in a prosperous village atmosphere. The towering backdrop of Te Mata Peak keeps egos in check".

- **Kauri Coast.** "Unless you're a passionate fan of the kumara (sweet potato), which is the dominant vegetable of the rolling farmland, your main reason for coming here will be to marvel at the magnificent kauri forests - one of the great natural highlights of NZ."
- **Martinborough.** "Martinborough, with its many vineyards, is a prime 'minibreak' destination and the centre for tourism in the Wairarapa. At weekends, Gucci replaces gumboots as gourmands dine in the excellent restaurants, sniff the pinot, and lap up the luxurious boutique accommodation."
- **Napier.** "A dignified, sunny, composed city, there's the air of an affluent English seaside resort about the place. The focus rests squarely on Napier's urban virtues: its much-vaunted Art Deco architecture is milked for every tourist dollar, while good-looking middle-agers who've had too much sun glide between cool cafés."
- **Oamaru.** "At first glance, it might not look like there's a lot going on in Oamaru. Tourists saunter, locals languish and even the traffic seems mellow. But with countless penguins, gorgeous public gardens, a historic precinct and an excellent gallery - as well as some slightly less conventional sights such as a rustic jazz bar, upmarket cheese factory and penny-farthing races - this slightly eccentric, wonderfully friendly town will keep you engaged."
- **Ohakune.** "Ohakune leads a double life as the North Island's top ski destination and, strangely, NZ's Carrot Capital. Expect the orange vegetable to creep into burgers and appear on pizzas, especially during July's annual Carrot Festival."
- **Otorohanga.** "Otorohanga (often called 'Oto' by locals) is a friendly, easy-going farming community and the perfect example of the Kiwi icon that is the one-street town ... decorated with murals and displays of other kiwiana, including the All-Blacks, sheep, Maori carvings, gumboots, Anchor butter and pavlova."
- **Palmerston North.** "Palmerston North, Manawatu's main city, is a town of two peoples: laid-back country fast-foodies and caffeinated Massey University literati coexisting, with none of [U.K.]Cambridge's 'Town versus Gown' sabre-rattling. Easy-going and unaffected, 'Palmy' people walk around whistling and go barefoot on the grass."
- **Raglan.** "On the coast, 48km west of Hamilton, is the small, delightful community of Raglan ... It's the sort of charming place that sees you inevitably shuffle your itinerary as you make plans to extend your stay and the time spent in your jandals."
- **Russell.** "In its early days Russell was a magnet for rough elements such as fleeing convicts, whalers, prostitutes and drunk sailors. Charles Darwin described it in 1835 as full of 'the refuse of society' and it also picked up the chirpy nickname 'hellhole of the Pacific'. Sadly, all good things must come to an end, and the town is now a bastion of cafés, gift shops and B&Bs."
- **Takaka.** "One of the most relaxed towns in NZ, Takaka is the centre for the Golden Bay area and the last town of any size as you head towards the northwestern corner of the South Island. It's a bustling place in summer, with a local community of 'Woodstock children' and artistic types."
- **Taranaki.** "... people in the 'naki (as locals call it) are proudly independent, with healthy dairy industries and off-shore mining creating enough prosperity for their own locally funded bank."

- **The West Coast.** "Solitude is easy to find here. Turn off the highway and you're alone beneath a rainforest canopy or standing on a tumultuous shore - your face reflected in a mirror lake - or your feet kicking through the rusted waste of century-old mining abandon. This is a place where people aren't particularly important; where dreams aren't easily realised."
- **Wanganui.** "With rafts of casual Huck Finn sensibility, Wanganui is a come-as-you-are, raggedy historic town ... Old port buildings are being restored and the town centre rejuvenated."
- **Whangamomona.** "A stop at Whangamomona is compulsory, mostly because of the border guard. This quirky village became an independent republic after disagreements with local councils."

Health

Food Industry: Changes to Food Act

The Government is amending the Food Act to make food businesses responsible for the quality of the food they offer to the public.

The change means that instead of the responsibility for food safety being placed on inspectors to find any problems, the responsibility for safe and suitable food for customers will lie with the person in charge of the food operation, who will have a Food Control Plan (FCP). Small business owners such as café owners and dairy owners (i.e. most businesses that are currently covered by the Food Hygiene regulations) will be able to obtain a free "off-the-peg" FCP, but more complex businesses will need to develop their own plan.

Local authorities will provide a "one stop shop" for all new businesses and will also provide advice on the kind of FCP required. Public Health Units will also be involved with developing food safety management plans and, in addition, will assess the custom-made FCPs, investigate complaints and assist with enforcement action.

Everyone who sells food in NZ will be affected by the change, but it is hoped that it will make little difference financially to food businesses.

For more information and a series of questions and answers covering the changes go to <http://www.nzfsa.govt.nz/publications/media-releases/2006-11-01.html>

More Training Places for General Practitioners

The Government is spending \$2 million to increase the number of GP training places by 15 extra places per year, bringing the total number of GP Registrars to 69 per annum. The 15 extra registrars will be targeted for placements in rural practices.

Fruit in School Programme Extended

The "Fruit in Schools" project, launched last year, is a programme in which participating schools receive free fruit for three

years as an incentive for schools to commit to policies encouraging healthy eating and physical activity. The project is to be extended to a further 154 schools: school children at 268 schools (including all decile 1 schools) will be eating apples and other export-quality fruits delivered to schools daily. Initial evaluation of the Fruit in Schools initiative early this year showed that it is well supported by participating schools, and is an effective way of increasing children's awareness of healthy living.

The extension is being implemented alongside the Government's recently announced Mission On package to promote nutrition and increased physical activity. Mission On includes initiatives to:

- improve the quality of food served in schools;
- reduce children's exposure to advertising of unhealthy food; and
- promote physical activity.

Fruit in Schools is also part of the Government's Cancer Control Strategy. The strategy identifies four health promotion areas - physical activity, food and nutrition, sun protection and smoke free as key areas to focus on in the prevention of cancer in NZ.

A government press release on Fruit in Schools is at <http://www.beehive.govt.nz/ViewDocument.aspx?DocumentID=26556> and more information about the cancer control programme is on the Ministry of Health's website at <http://www.moh.govt.nz/cancercontrol>

when compared to OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) countries. The research shows:

- New Zealand school children perform significantly better than international averages in reading, mathematics and science;
- the number of teachers has continued to increase and teachers have continued to become more qualified;
- the percentage of students leaving school with at least university entrance qualifications has continued to increase, while the percentage leaving with no qualifications has continued to decrease;
- New Zealand participation in tertiary education is at one of the highest rates in the OECD;
- more than 75% of NZers aged between 25 and 64 have secondary or tertiary qualifications;
- enrolment in doctoral degrees has increased by 33% since 1988 and completion has increased by 37% over the same period; and
- inequalities in participation and achievement by ethnicity and socio-economic status exist, but continue to reduce.

MA press release with links to the report is at: http://mediacentre.minedu.govt.nz/media-releases/2006/2006_012_1910.html

Tobacco Retail Outlet Survey Findings

A recent NZ survey shows that most stores and retail outlets sell tobacco in breach of current cigarette display regulations. This breach was worst in areas with a higher proportion of children. The survey, carried out by Otago University's Wellington School of Medicine and Health Sciences, is the first of its kind. It covered almost 300 stores and retail outlets in the greater Wellington region.

Over 60% of outlets do not comply with the Smoke-free Environments Amendment Act. Dairies (76%) and convenience stores (82%) were the most likely to break at least one or more of the regulations for retail tobacco displays. The three most common violations were:

- having tobacco products closer than one metre to children's products such as sweets (24% of all stores);
- failing to display a "Smoking Kills" sign within two metres of the display (30%); and
- having tobacco displays which were visible from outside the shop (25%).

Over half (55%) of dairies and convenience stores in areas with the highest proportion of children displayed cigarettes within a metre of children's products.

The original press release from which this information was sourced can be found at: <http://www.otago.ac.nz/news/news/2006/16-10->

School Board Elections: Keep Up the Good Work!

Elections for Boards of Trustees of schools around the country are to be held early next year. The theme of the elections is "make a difference for our schools".

All of NZ's state and state-integrated schools have a board of trustees. The board of trustees is the Crown entity - or body - which sets the school policies and governs the school. Boards are responsible for setting the strategic direction of the school in consultation with parents, staff and students, and for ensuring that their school provides a safe environment and quality education for the school's students. Boards are also responsible for overseeing the management of personnel, property, finance and administration. The trustees are elected by the parent community, staff members and, in the case of schools with students in year 9 and above, the students. The school principal is a member of the board.

There are five types of elections that NZ schools can take part in:

- triennial (three yearly) parent representative elections (these ones);
- triennial staff representative elections (these take place at the same time as the parent representative elections);
- mid-term parent representative elections (where boards have elected to have mid-terms they are held half way between each triennial election);
- annual student elections (at schools with students in year 9 and above); and
- by-elections to fill a casual vacancy.

Research shows that the two things that make the biggest difference to student achievement are effectiveness of teaching, and the engagement of families and communities. A school board needs to reflect the diversity of its school community if it is to provide a clear demonstration of strong community links.

Education

New Zealand Schools: A Good Report

According to the Ministry of Education's Annual Report 2006, released this month, NZ's education system is performing well

New Zealand's schools need about 13,000 people with a range of skills and experiences to keep up the good work (see article above). Board nominations open on 1 March 2007, and close on 15 March. Voting papers are to be issued by 20 March, and polls close on 29 March 2007. The results will be declared on 4 April, with the new boards taking office on 5 April 2007.

For more information go to: <http://www.trustee-election.co.nz/RexDefault.aspx> or call ELECTION (0800 353 284). The website has information, resources, ideas and news, and it also includes information on funding for the elections

Big Increase in Tertiary Qualifications

The 2006 annual report on the Student Loan Scheme offers the following information:

- the number of tertiary students (including domestic and international students) has nearly doubled to 504,400 - up from 254,100;
- the percentage of NZers aged 15 and over who have participated in tertiary education has increased to 14.2% - up from 8.9%;
- enrolments by women in public tertiary education providers have increased by 84%;
- enrolments in public providers by Maori and Pasifika peoples have increased by 177%;
- the number of people with a bachelor's degree or higher qualification has increased by 142% - from 195,000 to 471,000;
- student loan borrowing was \$971 million in 2005. This is down from \$975 million in 2004, and below \$997 million in 2003;
- the average amount borrowed increased by 2.4% (\$150) having fallen by \$58 million in 2004;
- 154,411 students (representing 40% of all those eligible) took out a student loan in 2005. This is the first year in which there has been a decrease in the number of borrowers from the previous year (2004: 157,032);
- 16,287 student loans were fully repaid in 2005/06. A total of 195,393 loans have been completely repaid since the loan scheme started;
- on 30 June 2006, the median student loan balance was \$10,652. The average balance was \$15,568;
- nearly 40% of all student loans were less than \$8,000;
- fewer than 900 borrowers (0.2%) had loans of \$100,000 or more;
- borrowers are paying their loans off slightly faster. The forecast average loan repayment time is nine years, compared with nearly 10 years in 2002;
- of those who left study having used the loan scheme in 1992, three quarters had repaid in full after 10 years. Men and women were equally likely to have repaid in full; and
- some \$1,282 million has been written off in interest charges since the loan scheme started in 1992.

The full 2006 report on the student loan scheme is at <http://educationcounts.edcentre.govt.nz/publications/tertiary/sls-report-2006.html>

Secondary Learning in 2026: Report

A report called "Students First" was released recently. It was prepared by "Secondary Futures - Hoenga Auaha Taiohi", a project

set up to encourage discussion and debate about the role and purpose of secondary education in NZ, twenty years from now.

The report is based on the views of many NZers, research, and consultation with representatives of businesses, unions, local authorities, community groups, and the education and rural sectors.

The main message coming from the report is that NZers want secondary education in the future to be personalised to meet the needs of students, a move away from a "one-size-fits-all" approach to education.

Personalising learning means meeting each student's needs and building on their interests, aptitudes, and prior experience, so every student, has the chance to reach their full potential. The potential for this to happen has been helped by the advent of new technologies, such as ICT, that provide opportunities to think differently about how people learn and to make learning more flexible.

The report says NZers have a clear preference for secondary education in 20 years to include:

- students agreeing what they will learn, how and by when with their teachers;
- students not necessarily attending one school full time but learning in a number of places with one being their social hub;
- students working with teachers and classmates, other adults and on their own to achieve; and
- linking the education system so students can access the teaching and resources they need to succeed.

The Chair of Secondary Futures, Professor Mason Durie, said that the possibilities outlined in Students First would mean students and their families, teachers, schools and the wider community all playing new roles in secondary education.

"What it could mean is a student agreeing a plan with her teacher and taking several subjects at her school, studying advanced chemistry via a science college and working part time in research laboratory. Her brother attending the same school could learn film making via the internet from an overseas film school and Te Reo Maori from a wananga," Professor Durie said.

The report is available at www.secondaryfutures.co.nz

Childcare: More Families Get Help with Costs

More than 5,000 families will benefit from increases to childcare and OSCAR subsidies. The changes, in place from 2 October, mean that 60 percent of all couples with children and 96 percent of sole parents will potentially qualify for help with childcare costs.

Income limits for eligibility increased by around \$5,000, making around 1,250 families eligible for Childcare Assistance for the first time. In addition, around 3,900 families who are already getting Childcare Assistance will automatically receive a higher rate. The increase comes as part of the "Working for Families" package.

You can find out more details at: <http://www.workingforfamilies.govt.nz/>

Employment

Improving Employment Relations

Courses to help businesses attract and keep skilled staff are among projects to be funded by the Government's Employment Relations Education Contestable Fund (ERE Fund). Just over \$2 million has been allocated from the fund to 20 projects for 2006/07. The funding will go to:

- Business NZ (\$550,000) for courses to help small enterprises attract and retain skilled staff and improve workplace relationships, and to provide employers with health and safety start-up knowledge;
- the Registered Master Builders Federation (\$54,000) to teach industry employers about minimum employment conditions;
- the Otago Southland Employers' Association and Amalgamated Workers' Union Southern (jointly -\$52,000) to train employers in employment relations to attract and keep staff;
- Land Based Training (\$48,500) for health and safety courses for small businesses and workplaces with minimal union involvement including the farming, forestry cultivation (silviculture), road construction and transport sectors;
- the financial sector union Finsec (\$57,000) for a range of education projects including organising, collective bargaining, good faith and advocacy;
- the Amalgamated Workers Union Southern (\$22,000) to develop skills in negotiating and dealing with workplace discrimination; and
- projects which increase the involvement of Maori and Pacific Island groups in employment relations and advocacy work. This includes \$115,000 to the Council of Trade Unions (CTU) to develop resources to improve the skill levels of Maori in the workforce.

For the full list of 2006/07 fund recipients, go to the Department of Labour website at www.dol.ers.govt.nz Applications for funding from the 2007/08 ERE Fund will be invited early in 2007. For more information on the Fund go to: http://www.ers.govt.nz/ere/fund_applicant_guidelines.html or contact ERE, Workplace Policy, Department of Labour, PO Box 3705, Wellington; ere@ers.dol.govt.nz; Phone (04) 915 4552 Fax: 04 915 4710

New "Recognised Seasonal Employer" Scheme

A new seasonal work scheme will let Pacific workers fill horticulture and viticulture jobs when no NZers are available. Low unemployment means that the horticulture and viticulture industries face pressure recruiting staff. However, employers will need to show Work and Income (WINZ) that they have made every effort to recruit workers locally and that they are good employers before being able to recruit migrant workers.

The scheme will start to transition in from April 2007 - existing policies will initially remain available so employers can recruit workers while the new policy is fully in place.

It is hoped that the policy, which is part of the Government's Pacific Development programme, will lead to the upskilling of Pacific workers.

Background material is at <http://www.beehive.govt.nz/ViewDocument.aspx?DocumentID=27496>

Industry Training Numbers Continue to Grow

As at 30 June 2006, there were 9,171 Modern Apprentices, almost 13% more than in June 2005. Total Industry Trainees numbered 123,202, just over 11% up on June 2005. Almost 2,300 Modern Apprenticeships have been completed since the establishment of the programme in 2000.

Further information on Industry Training and Modern Apprenticeships is available at: http://www.tec.govt.nz/education_and_training/industry_

Business/The Economy

Economic Transformation - the Kiwi Way

A plan for securing NZ's future prosperity and forging a unique NZ national economic identity was recently released. It outlines a cross-government approach with the public sector working on:

- establishing globally competitive firms;
- developing world-class communications networks;
- developing innovative and productive workplaces;
- making Auckland an internationally competitive city; and
- enhancing environmental sustainability.

The main areas of work include:

- improving the business environment and national innovation system;
- internationalising business through exports and investment offshore;
- reviewing business tax and regulatory frameworks;
- improving linkages between firms, Crown Research Institutes and Tertiary Education Institutes;
- improving capital markets, savings and investment;
- developing affordable, high-speed ICT infrastructure;
- securing the supply of the country's gas and electricity;
- investing in transport infrastructure;
- increasing foundation skills, workplace management and leadership skills;
- up-skilling the workforce and supporting top talent;
- developing an agreed vision and plan for Auckland, including creating a legacy from the Rugby World Cup 2011;
- investing in Auckland's infrastructure, labour market and environment; and
- addressing climate change, sustainable water and sustainable land management issues.

More information is contained in a speech at www.beehive.govt.nz/mallard The two economic transformation Cabinet papers are available on www.med.govt.nz/economic-transformation/overview/

Review of Business Assistance Programmes

A review of the Government's business assistance programmes has indicated they are helping firms to be competitive at home and abroad, but need to be streamlined to target the assistance better. Among the changes coming up:

- the Ministry of Economic Development (MED), the Ministry of Research, Science and Technology (MoRST) and the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) will review funding for programmes supporting innovation, education and business partnerships between firms, Crown Research Institutes and tertiary education institutes; and
- government departments will work on ways of jointly assessing their priorities for business assistance (MED will report back on this work by the end of April 2007);
- there will be a shift of focus towards support for international connections, innovation and investment.

Programme Changes

At the same time as the bigger review, seven individual business assistance programmes have been evaluated:

- the Escalator and Sector Projects programmes, together with the GIF (Growth and Innovation Framework) Industry Governed Body Fund and the GIF Sector Project Fund, will continue largely in their current forms;
- the Information Services Programme and the World Class New Zealanders Programme will also continue, but with altered budgets;
- the part of the World Class New Zealand budget used mainly to bring international business experts to NZ will be redirected into NZTE's budget; and
- the Enterprise Network Fund will be disestablished as a stand-alone programme.

The business assistance review report, a Cabinet paper, questions and answers and submissions to the review are available on www.med.govt.nz/business-assistance-review/ The evaluations on individual programmes are available on www.med.govt.nz/evaluations/

Average Incomes Increase: June 2006 Quarter

In the June 2006 quarter, the average weekly income for all people from all sources was \$610, Statistics NZ said recently. This was an increase of 4.0% from the June 2005 quarter average of \$586 and was mainly due to a rise in average weekly income from wages and salaries, coupled with a rise in the numbers of people in paid employment. Other findings include:

- Average weekly income from all sources increased to \$754 for males and \$473 for females from the June 2005 quarter.
- For those receiving wage and salary income, the average weekly wage and salary income increased more for females (up 6.7%) than for males (up 0.4%). The average number of hours worked was unchanged from the June 2005 quarter, while average hourly earnings for wage and salary earners increased by 3.9% (\$0.74) to \$20.04.
- Driving this increase were average hourly earnings for females, which increased by 6.9% (\$1.19) to \$18.55, and average hourly earnings for males increased by 1.4% (\$0.29) to \$21.46.

More details and a wealth of related information can be found at: www.stats.govt.nz

Fiordland Worth \$228 Million to NZ Economy In 2005

Fiordland National Park costs almost \$9 million a year to run but in 2005 it added an estimated \$228 million to the national economy, a new study has found. The study, "Regional Economic Impacts of Fiordland National Park", was commissioned by the Department of Conservation as part of a series of studies into the economic contribution of major conservation areas. The studies are designed to fill a gap in economic research in NZ.

At 1.26 million hectares Fiordland National Park makes up 15% of all public conservation land in NZ. The park receives 560,000 day visitors, and 33,000 overnight visitors a year, 80% of whom are from abroad. The study has found that on average, day visitors to the park say they spend 1.3 nights more in the Queenstown Lakes District /Southland region than they would in the absence of the park. Overnight visitors to the park spend an additional 3.8 nights in the region.

As a result of the park, an extra \$196 million was spent in the surrounding region in 2005. Associated with this was \$55 million in household income, and 1,600 jobs.

Copies of the study can be obtained from www.doc.govt.nz

Entrepreneur of the Year

The title of Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year has been awarded to Richard Taylor of Weta Workshop & Digital. A winner in the "Service, including Financial Services, Property and Arts" category, Richard Taylor was named the overall winner from five category winners who were each recognised as top entrepreneurs in their fields. Richard Taylor will go on to represent NZ and compete with 40 other country winners at the Ernst & Young World Entrepreneur of the Year in Monte Carlo in 2007.

Category winners are:

- Retail, Consumer and Industrial Products: Chris Paulsen of House of Travel;
- Services, including Financial Services, Property and Arts: Richard Taylor of Weta Workshop & Digital;
- Technology, Communication and Biotechnology: Doug Bartlett of Cabco Group;
- Master Entrepreneur (for leaders of well-established businesses which have a significant commitment to entrepreneurship): Bob Robertson of Infinity Investment Group; and
- Young Entrepreneur (aged 30 or under at the time of close of applications): Mike McDonald of Mactec Aerospace International.

More information about the awards can be found at www.ey.com/nz

Insolvency Law Reform: Bill Offers a Breather

A new bill called the Insolvency Law Reform Bill sets out some changes to the law relating to companies with financial problems. One of the main features of the bill is the adoption of a voluntary

administration system for companies in financial distress, as a possible alternative to going into liquidation.

The new process will provide a "breathing space" for administrators to check out the company's ability to continue trading, before deciding whether to rehabilitate the company, by entering a deed of company arrangement with the creditors, or put the company into liquidation.

Other provisions in the bill restrict the abuse of "phoenix company" structures by directors of failed companies who intend to defeat the legitimate interests of creditors, and improve systems for dealing with cross-border insolvencies. The Bill repeals and replaces the Insolvency Act 1967, amends insolvency provisions of the Companies Act 1993 and creates new legislation on cross-border insolvency. The legislation will be in place later on next year, once the regulations have been drafted.

More information is at http://www.med.govt.nz/templates/StandardSummary___10816.aspx

Fraud Strikes at 50% of NZ Businesses

According to the latest findings of the 2006 KPMG Fraud Survey (combined for Australia and NZ), 47% of the 465 organisations surveyed had experienced at least one fraud during the survey period with the average value of fraud reaching \$714,000 per organisation. Fifty-three% of NZ organisations had experienced at least one fraud with an average loss of \$479,000.

Sixty-three respondents reported single frauds with a value greater than \$200,000 and there were eight cases where the value exceeded \$4 million. In 42% of major frauds, none of the money or goods stolen was recovered.

A KPMG spokesperson said the number one motive for fraud was greed and to finance lifestyle. Second was personal financial pressures. Gambling represented 22% of the motive for the overall survey, was significantly lower in NZ (8%), but still showed an increase from the 2004 survey.

The typical fraudster in the survey period exhibited the following characteristics:

- a non-management employee of the victim organisation with no known history of dishonesty;
- a male aged 38 years, acting alone;
- employed by the organisation for a period of five years and had held his current position for three years at the time of detection;
- motivated by greed, misappropriating funds to an average value of \$220,000; and
- detected by the organisation's internal controls 12 months after the commencement of the fraud, leading to the organisation recovering 36% of the proceeds of the fraud.

The KPMG Fraud Survey has been running since 1993 and it is updated biennially. You can download it from: <http://www.kpmg.co.nz/download/103095/110864/KPMG%20Fraud%20Survey%202006.pdf>

Treaty Negotiations and Settlements

Treaty Claims: Process and Progress Overview

The Office of Treaty Settlements (OTS) is responsible for the negotiation on behalf of the Crown of historical Treaty of Waitangi settlements, which are generally made with larger groups of claimants, rather than one individual claimant group. Settlements cover all the historical claims of the larger group (e.g. all the claims of a large tribe, or all the claims of a cluster of smaller tribes), as well as any claims that have not been specifically registered. The progress of each claim will depend on internal agreement amongst the people, as well as on discussions held with OTS staff.

Here are the stages through which each claim proceeds, together with a list of claimant groups whose negotiations are currently at that stage:

- **Pre-negotiations:** claimant groups who have had their mandate to negotiate recognised by the Crown, and who are discussing the terms under which negotiations will take place are at this stage, following which the Terms of Negotiation are signed. Claimant groups currently in this group are: Ngati Toa Rangitira; Ngai Tamanuhiri; Te Pou a Haokai; Rongowhakaata and Ngati Tuwharetoa.
- **Negotiations:** claimant groups in this stage have signed Terms of Negotiation and are negotiating with the Crown the basic elements of a settlement (such as the nature of the historical account, and cultural and commercial redress). Negotiations towards Agreements-in-Principle are currently proceeding with: Kurahaupo; Waikato-Tainui (river claims); Ngati Apa ki Rangitikei; Ngati Kahu ki Whangaroa; Moriori; Ngati Manawa; Ngati Whare; Wellington (Taranaki Whanui); Te Rarawa; Whanganui Iwi - Whanganui River and Ngati Kahu.
- **Detailed Negotiations:** Once a Heads of Agreement or Agreement-in-Principle has been reached, the Crown and the claimants work on the fine detail of the settlement to agree a draft Deed of Settlement that can be put to the claimant community for approval. Heads of Agreements or Agreements-in-Principle have been reached for: Ngati Whatua o Orakei (\$10 million); Te Aupouri (\$12 million); Te Ati Awa \$34 million) and Rangitaane o Manawatu (\$8.5 million).
- **Deeds of Settlement:** The draft Deed of Settlement containing the fine detail of a settlement is then initialled by the Crown and the claimant negotiators. The initialled Deed is then put to all members of the claimant group for approval. If it is approved, a final Deed of Settlement will be drawn up and signed by the parties. At this point, the settlement becomes binding. Further work is still required to make the Deed unconditional, such as establishing a governance body to receive the settlement assets, and passing any legislation required to implement the settlement. Settlement assets are not transferred until the Deed is unconditional, but the Crown pays interest on the settlement quantum in the meantime. The following groups have reached Deeds of Settlement and are

now awaiting settlement legislation for the deeds to become unconditional: Affiliate Te Arawa Iwi and Hapu (\$36 million); Te Roroa (\$9.5 million) and Ngati Mutunga (\$14.9 million).

- **Completed Settlements:** Te Arawa (Lakes): \$2.7 million (plus \$7.3 million to capitalise the annuity Te Arawa received from the Crown and address any remaining annuity issues) year of deed: 2004, year of legislation 2006; Ngaa Rauru Kiitahi: \$31 million, year of deed 2003, year of legislation 2005; Tuwharetoa (Bay of Plenty): \$10.5 million, year of deed 2003, year of legislation 2005; Ngati Awa: \$42.39 million, year of deed 2003; year of legislation 2005; Ngati Tama: \$14.5 million, year of deed 2001, year of legislation 2003; Ngati Ruanui: \$41,000,000, year of deed 2001, year of legislation 2003; Te Uri o Hau: \$15,600,000, year of deed 2000, year of legislation 2002; Pouakani: \$2,650,000; year of deed 1999, year of legislation 2000; Ngati Turangitukua: \$5,000,000, year of deed 1998, year of legislation 1999; Ngai Tahu: \$170,000,000, year of deed 1997; year of legislation 1998; Te Maunga: \$129,032, year of deed 1996; Rotoma: \$43,931, year of deed 1996; Waimakuku: \$375,000, year of deed 1995; Waikato/Tainui raupatu: \$170,000,000, year of deed 1995, year of legislation 1995; Ngati Whakaue: \$5,210,000; year of deed 1994; Hauai: \$715,682, year of deed 1993; Ngati Rangiteaorere: \$760,000, year of deed 1993, Commercial Fisheries: \$170,000,000; year of deed 1992, year of legislation 1992: Waitomo: the Crown transferred land at the Waitomo Caves to the claimant group, subject to a lease, and provided a loan \$1,000,000, year of deed 1989.

Housing

The Condition of NZ Houses: 2005 Survey Results

The Building Research Association of NZ (BRANZ) has published a report summarising the results of on-site inspections of the physical condition of 565 randomly chosen houses during 2004 and 2005 from throughout the country. The report also includes the results of a telephone survey that recorded demographic, economic and maintenance information about the homeowners. This is the third such report produced by BRANZ (the first two came out in 1994 and 1999).

Main Findings

Overall condition. The 1994 and 1999 surveys found similar overall average conditions of surveyed houses, with some improvements in the condition of older houses. The 2005 survey indicates that the overall average condition of surveyed houses has improved, mainly due to increasing numbers of newer houses in the sample.

Condition for ages of houses. The first survey had indicated a general deterioration with increasing ages of houses, while the next survey showed a slight improvement in the condition of older houses in the Auckland and Wellington regions. This latest survey shows further signs of improvements resulting from renovation, this time over all regions. The average condition of the oldest group of houses is now similar to that of houses more than 50 years younger. The condition of interiors of older houses is still higher than exteriors, but the difference is reducing - allaying some of the concern that renovation efforts may be too focused on "cosmetic" changes.

Common defects. The defects found in the sample houses were generally similar to those found in past surveys. These included: poor sub-floor ventilation, inadequate clearance of wall claddings from the ground, poor or missing sub-floor fasteners, poor ventilation of bathrooms and kitchens, and lack of earthquake restraints on hot water cylinders and header-tanks.

New information was collected in this survey, which shows additional common issues - including too high or too low shower flow rates, hot water thermostats that deliver hot water at temperatures above or well below the recommended settings, decks with unsafe barriers, and stair pitches that do not comply with current requirements.

You can download this document, "Study Report No. 142 (2005), New Zealand 2005 House Condition Survey" as a 154-page pdf file from <http://www.branz.co.nz/branzltd/pdfs/SR142.pdf>

The Law

Judicial Complaints Body Statistics

The body set up to judge judges' behaviour (the Office of the Judicial Conduct Commissioner) has handled 106 complaints in its first year. Four were serious enough to be referred to the chief district court judge for further action, but details are not being divulged, as all complaints were dealt with in confidence. Other complaints alleged gender bias, delays, incompetence, lack of independence, incorrect decisions, unfairness, the making of inappropriate remarks and a failure to listen.

Eighty-nine complaints were dismissed outright - mostly because they called into question judges' rulings, rather than their actions. Eleven complaints are still being dealt with. No complaint was considered serious enough to spark an inquiry by a judicial conduct panel, which could lead to a judge being sacked.

District Court judges spurred 45 complaints, Family Court judges 34 and High Court judges seven. Seventeen complaints were made in relation to the Court of Appeal - though 16 were from one complainant.

You can find out more about the Office and about how you can make a complaint from the Judicial Conduct Commissioner's website at: <http://www.jcc.govt.nz/>

The Benefit System

"Working NZ: Work-Focused Support" Programme

The Government has announced a new programme: the Working NZ: Work-Focused Support programme, which aims to get people on benefits back into work.

First Phase of the Programme

This will involve:

- extending employment assistance to Independent Youth (IYB), Domestic Purposes (DPB), Sickness and Invalid's Benefit (IB) clients;
- setting stronger work expectations for clients in some circumstances;
- providing targeted employment initiatives to reduce the high Maori Unemployment Benefit (UB) rate;
- offering a Job Search Service for all work-ready clients; and
- continuing to align rules and criteria of different benefits.

Changes to WINZ Focus

Over the next year Work and Income (WINZ) will be:

- introducing planning and activity requirements so people have support to plan their return to work;
- providing more services and support, including access to employment and training assistance to help people into the labour market;
- developing case management and more targeted services for 2007;
- finding new ways to collect information about what people with ill health /disability are able to do, and about the barriers they face in getting to where they want to be; and
- introducing some new services for people with ill health or a disability.

Some people on IB will be exempt from planning and activity requirements and DPB Care of Sick or Infirm clients will also be exempt.

Changes to the Independent Youth Benefit

Over the next year the following IYB initiatives will be introduced:

- one-to-one case management (including, where appropriate, joint case management with other agencies);
- expanded services for the treatment of substance abuse problems;
- increased use of other community services like Youth Transition Services;
- a review of the assessment process for determining whether a family breakdown exists; and
- changes to the existing work-test with so people on IYB are involved in activities for 30 to 40 hours a week, or seeking full-time work).
- WINZ will also be introducing extended services for 18 and 19 year old UB recipients.

Other Changes to Benefits

These involve:

- simplifying and aligning the residency eligibility requirements across all benefits to two years (there are some exemptions);
- amending the eligibility criteria for DPB and WB to remove the requirement that the child be born in NZ;
- extending the eligibility for DPB to cover care of people who would otherwise need care in a residential service or rest home;

- reducing the current maximum income stand-down period to two weeks for all main benefits
- extending the current exemption from the stand-down people on DPB to include those who have had to go to a refuge;
- from July next year having all benefits covering a seven day period;
- weekly income assessments for all new benefit applicants; and
- a new Job Search Service: this is a 13 week programme for people on UB which involves attending a WRK4U Seminar and a planning and assessment session, then developing a job search plan, and intensively looking for work with support from WINZ staff.

Further Down the Track

In September 2007 WINZ will be changing some of the benefit rules, and:

- introducing a new pre-benefit activity requirement for applicants for UB;
- work testing people on UB aged 60 years and over, and partners of beneficiaries aged 55 years and over;
- introducing a part-time work test for partners of people on benefits who have a youngest child aged six years or over; and
- introducing planning and activity requirements for people on Sickness Benefit (SB) and IB.

In phase two the benefit system is to be simplified with the range of benefits being reduced. Final decisions about that part will be made in 2008.

More information is on the WINZ website at: <http://www.msd.govt.nz/media-information/press-releases/2006/pr-2006-10-26.html>

Internet

New Zealand Broadband Uptake Still Lags

New Zealand had 11.7 high speed internet connections per hundred inhabitants at the end of June, up from 8.1 in December 2005 (in other words, 479,000 connections, up from 331,000). But it still lags behind the OECD average of 15.5 connections per hundred inhabitants, and the country retains the 22nd ranking it has held for the past year.

Australia was also static in the rankings at 17th, increasing from 13.8 to 17.4 connections per hundred inhabitants. A growth spurt in the second half of 2005 made it one of the biggest movers in the last year, the OECD said. Denmark took over from Iceland as the top country for broadband uptake, with 29.3 connections per hundred inhabitants.

The United States, Britain and Canada are all well ahead of NZ, with 19.2, 19.4 and 22.4 connections per hundred inhabitants, respectively. In 2001 NZ was ahead of both Australia and Britain in the number of broadband connections.

You can find out a lot more information from the OECD survey that highlighted these results, by going to the following page: www.oecd.org/sti/ict/broadband

Some Internet Sites

Darwin's entire works are online at darwin-online.org.uk. The original notebook, which documents Charles Darwin's observations throughout his five-year voyage to the Amazon, Patagonia and the Pacific aboard HMS Beagle, is presumed stolen, but using a microfilm copy, Cambridge University scientists have made it available free online, along with the entire works of the scientist credited with the most important advance in science of the past 300 years. The collection brings Darwin's range of writing together for the first time, with 50,000 pages of searchable text, and tens of thousands of images, many from previously unpublished manuscripts, together with notebooks, diaries and original publications such as *The Origin of Species*, *The Voyage of the Beagle* (the *Journal of Researches*) and *The Descent of Man*. Audio versions of key works will be free to download at the project website.

Find out **where you can take your dog on conservation land** at <http://www.doc.govt.nz/Explore/Dogs.asp>: the site has North and South Island maps that show dog-approved areas on public conservation land where hunting dogs, guide/companion dogs, and doggie pets are permitted. In some dog-controlled areas dogs need to be on a leash, in others permits are needed.

For **advice on the Kiwisaver scheme** you have a range of choices: www.tower.co.nz/kiwisaver, and the Kiwisave site at www.ird.govt.nz are two sites with advice for employers, employees and providers.

For **NZ and Pacific Islands texts and heritage materials** go to www.nzetc.org. The NZ Electronic Text Centre developed by the Victoria University of Wellington offers a free online archive. All resources are fully searchable and delivered through an open source framework, and users can choose from multiple formats for download or online browsing.

Arts and Culture

Te Papa's National Art Collection on Display

National museum Te Papa has established a separate art collection called: "Toi Te Papa Art of the Nation". In the collection 300 pieces of historical modern and contemporary artwork are on display. The exhibition has taken 15 months to assemble and is set to stay in place for five years.

New Zealand Music Awards 2006 Winners

- **PlayStation® 2 SingStar™ Album of the Year:** Bic Runga - Birds
- **The NZ Herald Single of the Year:** Pluto - Long White Cross
- **Kiwi FM Best Group:** Elemeno P - Trouble In Paradise
- **Best Male Solo Artist:** Dave Dobbyn - Available Light

- **Best Female Solo Artist:** Bic Runga - Birds
- **Breakthrough Artist of the Year:** Bleeders - As Sweet As Sin
- **C4 Best Music Video:** Mark Williams - Wandering Eye (Fat Freddy's Drop)
- **Best Rock Album:** Bleeders - As Sweet As Sin
- **Best Urban/Hip Hop Album:** Frontline - Borrowed Time
- **Best Dance/Electronica Album:** Concord Dawn - Chaos By Design
- **Best Aotearoa Roots Album:** Fly My Pretties - The Return of Fly My Pretties
- **Best Maori Album:** Te Reotakiwa Dunn - Te Reotakiwa Dunn
- **Best Gospel/Christian Album:** juliagrace - juliagrace
- **Best Classical Album:** Tower Voices of New Zealand - Spirit of the Land
- **People's Choice Award:** Fat Freddy's Drop
- **The Warehouse Highest Selling NZ Album:** Fat Freddy's Drop - Based On A True Story
- **Highest Selling NZ Single:** Rosita Vai - All I Ask
- **New Zealand on Air Radio Airplay Record of the Year:** The Feelers - Stand Up

The Six Pack: NZ Book Month Bestseller

After two weeks on sale, the NZ Book Month publication of "The Six Pack" became bestseller on the Booksellers NZ Bestsellers List for NZ Fiction. Some 30,000 copies of this anthology of new NZ writing, were published to celebrate the launch of NZ's first ever Book Month. Authors in the anthology are poet Brian Turner, playwright Briar Grace-Smith, author Kingi McKinnon, landscape architect and journalist Philippa Swan, young writer Henry Feltham, and 15-year-old high school student Phoebe Wright. A NZ Book Month competition led to the selection of the six winning pieces in the anthology. Each winner received \$5000 prize money, and three copies of "The Six Pack" were donated to every secondary school and public library in the country.

"The Six Pack" is available at bookstores for \$6.

Playmarket calls for Young Playwrights

Applications to the NZ Young Playwrights Competition are currently open to people aged 16 to 24 years interested in writing for the stage. Applicants need to submit a play of 30 minutes or more in English or te reo Maori to Playmarket (PO Box 9767, Te Aro Wellington). No previous experience is necessary.

The competition is organised by Playmarket, NZ's national script development organisation and playwrights agency. Six winners will be selected from around NZ: two from the South Island, and two from the lower and upper North Island, respectively. Winners get to spend a paid-for week in Auckland City in 2007, receiving a professional workshop and presentation of their winning script at leading national venue The Edge.

Entries close on 8 December 2006. More information is at <http://www.creativenz.govt.nz/news/opportunity.html?record=2182>

Fishing

"Poaching is Theft" Campaign

The Ministry of Fisheries, the seafood industry, and recreational fishers have launched a "Poaching is Theft" campaign, which aims to raise public awareness about the impact of the theft poaching of paua and rock lobster (crayfish). The campaign, initiative was initiated by paua and rock lobster industry leaders, and it aims to reduce millions of dollars worth of illegal fish that is taken from NZ's coastlines every year.

The first stage of the initiative involves providing information packs to recreational fishermen, workplaces, pubs, clubs, libraries and information centres about the importance of reporting suspicious and illegal activities.

A government press release is at <http://www.beehive.govt.nz/ViewDocument.aspx?DocumentID=27535>

New Aquaculture Industry Body

The Government is to provide a one-off grant of \$70,000 towards the setting up of NZ Aquaculture Limited (NZAL), a united industry body for the aquaculture sector. The Seafood Industry Council has also pledged \$50,000 to NZAL to cover administrative expenses during the initial set-up phase.

The new organisation will be formed by combining the NZ Aquaculture Council and the four major species groups: the Mussel Industry Council; the Salmon Farmers Association; the Oyster Farmers Association; and the Abalone Farmers Association. A permanent membership system will provide a unified structure representing all commercial aquaculture activity and participants. The ongoing operational funding for NZAL will be sourced from levies under the Commodities Levies Act.

General

NZ Post to Introduce Redirection Charges

NZ Post is now charging householders for redirecting their mail to reduce the cost of providing the service. At present, residential customers can have their mail sent to another address for free for the first two months, but from next month they will pay a \$20 fee. NZ Post says that redirecting mail involves sorting and readdressing a lot of items, which is an expensive process. The change is said to have been made in order to cut losses. NZ Post is also introducing a \$5/week charge for holding mail.

Senior citizens will not have to pay the new fees.

More information about NZ Post's changes - including a table of charges - is at <http://www.nzpost.co.nz/Cultures/en-NZ/AboutUs/MediaCentre/MediaReleases/ChangesToRedirectionAndHoldServices.htm>

025 Network Shutdown

The 025 network is due to shut down on 31 March 2007. At Telecom's full year result in early August there were around 83,000 customers on the 025 network compared with 478,000 12 months earlier. Telecom believes most of the customers still on 025 are prepaid and these are customers who tend to use their phones infrequently. The company also said it had been working with customers to migrate them from 025 to 027.

Customers are being offered a range of options including discounted upgrades to meet their specific needs. As well, customers who migrate before 31 March 2007 will be able to retain their number as the only change will be the prefix from 025 to 027. In addition they can have a free call diversion service for 12 months which will automatically transfer any calls from a customer's 025 number to their new 027 mobile. Telecom will continue to contact customers on 025 network to advise them of these options.

Defining NZ's Non-profit Sector...

Diversity and change have shaped an energetic, innovative and vocal non-profit sector say the NZ researchers of an international comparative study of non-profit organisations. Their working paper "Defining the Nonprofit Sector: NZ" has been launched recently.

The paper is part of an international research project that compares data on non-profit organisations in more than 40 countries, which will help measure the economic contribution of the community and voluntary sector in NZ. The first figures from the research project will become available in 2007-2008.

The key findings of the NZ paper include:

- the sector offers rich opportunities for citizen engagement, and is uniquely shaped by indigenous organisations;
- the closeness of government and the sector, especially in the social service area, stands out when compared internationally;
- organisations have generally operated within a positive legal and ideological climate;
- underpinning the sector's diversity are the special characteristics of Maori organisations; and
- interactions between government and organisations can be traced to the 19th century, and the notion of partnership was further elaborated during the primacy of the welfare state, especially in the social service sector.

The more recent rupturing of established, often comfortable relationships between government and some sections of the sector is a key theme of the researchers' report. They say the "contract culture" of the 1990s increased the ability of government agencies to increasingly shape and direct the activities of organisations, raising questions about the boundaries between government control and self-governance.

You can download the report at the OCVS website at <http://www.ocvs.govt.nz/work-programme/non-profit-study.html#comparative>

...and International Volunteer Day

International Volunteer Day celebrates the enormous amount of work carried out by volunteers all over the world.

Volunteer work is work that is "done of one's own free will, unpaid, for the common good", and people volunteer for all sorts of

reasons. Amongst them are: to put something back into the community, gain work experience, support something you passionately believe in, meet people in the community, have a balance in your life, learn a new language, have fun, help spread the load, make friends...

International Volunteer Day is 5 December. For more information about Volunteer Centres around NZ and to find out more about volunteering, go to www.volunteernow.org.nz

New Regional FM Stations Likely

Government decisions announced this week will provide for up to four new FM radio stations in each region, and strengthen the role of local broadcasters. The announcement follows a review of FM frequencies and promotes local broadcasting. In most regions there will be two non-commercial licenses and two community-based commercial licenses available, supporting local broadcasters in establishing stations that reflect the interests and diversity of their community.

More Mobile Phone Operators Wanted

The Commerce Commission is looking at ways to allow more players into the mobile phone market. It is concerned NZers are paying too much for mobile phone calls, and that usage is low compared to other countries in the OECD. The Telecommunications Commissioner said the average cost of making a cell phone call in NZ is 20% higher than other OECD countries. The commission will look at setting prices to allow other companies to access Vodafone and Telecom's mobile networks and allowing mobile companies to put their equipment on competitors' towers.

You can find out more details from: <http://www.comcom.govt.nz//MediaCentre/MediaReleases/200607/commercecommissiontoinvestigatmob.aspx>

Waitangi Tribunal Publication Available

The Waitangi Tribunal has released a new publication called "Waitangi Tribunal Bibliography, 1975-2005: Tribunal reports, research reports, and other publications", which covers all the Waitangi Tribunal inquiries into contemporary and historical Treaty claims.

All of the Tribunal's finding reports are there, and it also has lists of all of the research, educational, corporate, and instructional publications the Tribunal has released in the past 30 years.

Researchers have completed 1200 research reports for Tribunal inquiries, on a wide range of historical and contemporary subjects, and the Bibliography lists these by author, locality, and subject. It is seen as a major resource for students of NZ history and society, and for people working in the field of Treaty research and jurisprudence.

The Waitangi Tribunal Bibliography, 1975-2005 is available at RRP \$29.95 directly from the Waitangi Tribunal. For more information or to make an order contact the Waitangi Tribunal, PO Box 5022, Wellington, tel 04 914 3000, fax 04 914 3001

How Kiwis Make Purchase Decisions

Consumers around the globe may be increasingly using the Internet to finalise their purchase decisions, but Kiwis still trust prior experience and are influenced by TV and Print ads more than their global counterparts. This is according to a recent online survey in 41 countries (of around 23,000 people) by ACNielsen.

In the survey ACNielsen asked consumers what helped their final decision when it came to purchasing a variety of products. "Prior Experience with the Same Brand/Company" was the most popular decision-influence for around one in two Kiwis, particularly for purchasing Cars (47%), Loans (47%), Mobile Phones (50%) and choosing a Bank (59%), and "Searching the Internet" most preferred when it came to Holidays (61%) and MP3 players (40%). 'Window Shopping' was the primary decision influencer when purchasing Fashion (66%) and Jewellery/Watches (61%), and "Word of Mouth" for Weight Loss Products (41%).

"TV/Print Ads" are still key purchase influencers on Kiwis' decision-making, especially on categories such as Fashion (45%), Jewellery/Watches (35%), Weight loss products (34%), Mobile Phones (42%) and MP3 players (32%). On a global level, "TV/Print Ads" were much less of an influence across these categories - Fashion (32%), Jewellery/Watches (20%), Weight loss products (23%), Mobile Phones (30%) and MP3 players (22%).

Globally, "Searching the Internet" was the most popular decision-influence, particularly for purchasing Holidays (54%), MP3 players (42%), Mobile Phones (39%) and Loans (29%). New Zealand has similar figures for a couple of these categories, but Kiwis are still reluctant to make purchasing decisions based purely on online facts and information.

Ageism in the Workplace

A new international workplace survey by Kelly Services has found that almost half of all NZers believe they have been discriminated against in applying for a job with both young and older workers facing the greatest prejudice. The survey found that 43% of respondents in NZ say they have experienced discrimination of some type when applying for a job in the last five years.

Discrimination is changing its nature over time, the results show. Ageism has overtaken ethnicity and sexism in many areas as the greatest source of discrimination in employment. A Kelly spokesperson noted that at a time when we face an ageing population and skills shortages, many organisations are putting obstacles in the way of hiring older people.

Other findings include:

- those applying for jobs in the Auckland area reported higher rates of discrimination (46%) than those in Wellington (37%);
- males were the most discriminated against with 45% facing prejudice when applying for a job compared with 42% of females;
- the major sources of discrimination identified by respondents were age, cited by 19%, followed by race (10%), gender (6%), and disability (3%);
- people with a university degree reported higher rates of discrimination.

However, levels of discrimination in NZ are not adverse by global standards, with NZ ranking 19th on the list of 28 countries. Sweden, Thailand and Singapore were the countries that recorded the highest rates of discrimination in the worldwide study.

The Kelly Global Workforce Index sought the views of approximately 70,000 people in 28 countries including more than 1,200 in NZ. You can get more details at from the original press release at: http://www.kellyservices.co.nz/web/nz/services/en/pages/workplace_discrimination.html

Impacts of an Ageing Population for NZ...

Recent research findings about the impact of the ageing population shows that it will bring opportunities as well as challenges for NZ. The research found that encouraging people to work post-65 would have positive benefits for the workplace; demand for healthcare would outstrip supply; and friends, rather than families would play a bigger part in providing care for future older NZers.

Other research findings included:

- the "greying" of NZ means older voters will have much more influence on government spending than at present;
- younger generations of NZers may be less wealthy than their parents; and
- new government policies, for example easing our immigration policy, will be required to counteract the reduction in the labour force.

In comparing the profiles of those who are saving for their retirement against those who are not, the results showed that those not saving tended to be younger and on lower incomes while those who were saving were more likely to be middle-aged, on a higher income and, overall, be more affluent. Interestingly, only 19% of those not saving worked in environments where a workplace super scheme was offered, compared with 48% of those who were saving.

Of the group that responded that they were not currently saving, 26% believed that the current pension would be adequate to support them in retirement and 39% felt that a pension of a similar level would still be available on their retirement. In comparison, those respondents who are saving for their retirement are not as positive with 66% saying they are not confident that a similar level will be available when they retire.

...and Saving For Retirement Based On "Guesswork"?

Fifty-four percent of Kiwis are assessing the funds they will require in their later years based on "back of envelope" calculations and advice from (often unqualified) friends and family, according to the latest AMP SuperWatch survey results. Just 21% of Kiwis are seeking professional help solely from financial advisers, accountants or from need calculators such as the retirement calculator provided by www.sorted.org.nz. A further 20% of respondents said they relied on both professional and personal sources for their advice.

The data showed that those people who drew upon both professional and personal input for their calculations of retirement saving tended to have a more diversified portfolio (bank/ term deposits 62%, shares 40%, managed funds / unit trusts 57%, own business 36%, residential property 45%).

Of those who exclusively drew on professional advice for their retirement savings plan, this group was less confident about the availability of government pensions when they retire,

(just 12% compared with 30% overall), have lower expectations of what they can do in their retirement regarding holidays/travel (64% compared with 81% overall), fewer expectations of recreation/leisure pursuits upon retiring (59% versus 79%) or replacing household appliances (55% versus 76%).

The AMP SuperWatch survey again looked at expectations Kiwis have about the age they plan to retire. In the last survey, 52% of respondents expected to retire under 65. This survey showed that the number has dropped to just 33%.

Abortion Numbers: Latest Figures

The number of abortions in NZ dropped last year for only the second time since records started in 1980. Last year's figure of 17,531 induced abortions was down 680 on the 18,211 done in 2004, the Abortion Supervisory Committee said in its annual report.

The 2004 figure was lower than the 18,511 in 2003, and the committee said it was the first time there had been a drop in successive years. The committee also noted it did not expect it to continue and could not attribute it to any single reason (possible reasons suggested by the committee were reduced numbers of overseas students, the effects of school sex education programmes, and the increased availability of emergency contraception).

Other findings included:

- the highest abortion rate last year was in the 20 to 24 age category, followed by those aged 25 to 29 and 15 to 19;
- New Zealand's abortion rate of 19.7 per 1000 women was the same as Australia's figure in 2003, the latest available; and
- England and Wales had rates of 16.9 in 2004, and the United States had the highest abortion rate of 20.9 in 2002.

More information about the committee can be found at: <http://www.abortion.gen.nz/asc/index.html>

2006 New Zealand Official Yearbook

The 2006 edition of Statistics NZ's New Zealand Official Yearbook is now available.

The Yearbook (first published in 1893 as the Official Handbook of NZ documents government, business and social developments that have occurred in NZ since publication of the 2004 edition. It continues the tabular and graphic time series of previous yearbooks.

A feature of this edition is a focus on NZ's place in the world and how NZ measures up statistically against other OECD countries.

The New Zealand Official Yearbook 2006 (\$99.99) is available from major booksellers.

Appointments

Career diplomat David Payton has been appointed *Administrator of Tokelau*. New Zealand's next *High Commissioner to Papua New Guinea* will be career diplomat Niels Holm. Stephen Wainwright is the new *Chief Executive of Creative NZ*. John McKinnon, has been named as the new *Chief Executive and Secretary of Defence*. Air Vice-Marshal David Bamfield has had his

appointment as *Vice Chief of Defence Force (VCDF)* extended for a further 12 month period from February 2007. The current Dr Lesley McTurk has been appointed *Chief Executive of the Housing NZ Corporation*. Mayor of Masterton, Bob Francis, will be the new *Chair of the board of Wairarapa DHB*. Broadcaster Ani Waaka has been reappointed to the *Film and Literature Board of Review*. Chris de Boer has been appointed as the new *Chair of the NZ Venture Investment Fund (NZVIF)*.

A range of appointments have been made to *Crown Entities in the transport sector*. Current president of the NZ Institute of Directors Rick Bettle has been appointed the new *Chair of the Civil Aviation Authority*. *Transit NZ Chair* David Stubbs has been appointed for a further two years and current *board member* Mike Williams for a further three years. Four new members have been appointed to the *Transit Board*: Bryan Jackson (Deputy Chair), Grahame Hall, James Hill, and Ernesto Henriod. Gary McIver has been appointed to the *Land Transport NZ Board*. Three appointments have also been made to the *Board of Maritime NZ*: Deputy Chair Dave Morgan and member Ken Gilligan have both been reappointed, and a new appointee is Michael Ludbrook.

Mike Fox has been appointed to the *Board of Building Research*. Current Deputy Secretary for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mike Spedding has been appointed to the *Maori Heritage Council of the NZ Historic Places Trust*. *Building Research* has appointed Shane Brealey to their Board. Lorraine Kerr is the new *President of NZ School Trustees Association*. The *Post Primary Teachers' Association* has elected Robin Duff as its new *President*.

Thirty-two appointments to *Lottery distribution committees* have been announced: National: Duncan Taylor (reappointment) and Ken Laban; Northland: Colleen Urlich (reappointment), Heather Ayrton and Maxine Shortland; Auckland: Lynette Henry and Savaii Leutele (reappointments); Waikato: Angus McConnell and Judith Muru (reappointments); Bay of Plenty/Gisborne: Olive Isaacs, Mary Burdon (reappointments) and Beverley Adlam; Taranaki: Elizabeth McAllister (reappointment), Susan Hughes, Frank Gaze and Andrea Needham; Manawatu/Whanganui: Veronica Fitzmaurice and William (Bill) Greening (reappointments); Hawke's Bay: Rangi Manuel (reappointment) and Pat Magill; Wellington: Sir Ronald Scott, Margaret Lee, and Star Olsen (reappointments); West Coast/Nelson/Marborough: Butch Bradley, Sharon Pugh, Kathleen Reilly (reappointments) and Brent Maru; Canterbury/Kaikoura: Siale Faitotonu, Pamela Sharpe and Louise Tankersley (reappointments); and Otago/Southland: Dougal Soper and Trudi Sunitsch (reappointments).

Chris Simpson is the *National Party's new General Manager*.

Craig Matthews and Paddy Twist
Editors
Rural Bulletin

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

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