

Rural Bulletin

August 2007



Rural Women
NEW ZEALAND

<http://www.ruralwomen.org>

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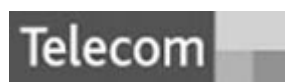
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Consultation

A New Carers' Strategy for Comment

The Government has partnered with more than 40 national non-profits (that together comprise the Carers Alliance) to seek feedback from NZers who care for ill, elderly, and disabled family members. Historically most health services have focused on the needs of individual patients, without considering the impact of illness or disability on the whole family. The Government's Carers' Strategy aims to redress this imbalance, looking at the kinds of help families need when someone has an accident, is diagnosed with an illness, or requires support due to disability.

The Carers Alliance was established in late 2004 by national charity Carers NZ, which supports family carers across age groups and health conditions. According to Census 2006, more than 400,000 NZers care for someone ill or disabled who may be living with them, or live in another location.

Most carers are of workforce age and juggle their caring role with holding down a job. More than 8% of all carers are aged 15-24, a substantial but previously unrecognised community of young people whose extra responsibilities can impact on their social, educational, and employment opportunities.

Submissions on the Carers' Strategy close on 14 September. The Government's Strategy submission document can be downloaded from www.msd.govt.nz/work-areas/cross-sectoral-work/carers-strategy or send an email with comments to carersstrategy@msd.govt.nz

Health & Disability Sector Standards: Consultation

Standards which will affect the entire health and disability sector have been published for consultation by Standards NZ.

The largest is the Health and Disability Services (Core) Standard which affects public and private hospitals, inpatient and outpatient services, mental health and addiction services, aged residential care and community residential disability services.

The Health and Disability Service (Restraint) Standard is to be revised to reduce the use of restraint and encourage the establishment of restraint-free organisations. The Health and Disability Services (Infection Control) Standard is aimed at "safe, quality health and disability service delivery by identifying principles designed to reduce the rate of infections in the health and disability sector".

Submissions on all three close on 21 August. The Standards are at <http://www.standards.co.nz/draft-standards/new-zealand-standards/?action=browseDrafts&draftType=1&mod=drafts> You can comment online or you can download and complete a comment form and send it to: jackelyn.cooper@standards.co.nz

Care of Youth Sex Offenders: Have Your Say

Parliament's Social Services Select Committee has opened an inquiry into the care and rehabilitation of youth sex offenders, and your views are sought.

The terms of reference for the inquiry are to examine and evaluate the arrangements between 1 July 1997 and 30 June 2007 for:

- the placement, supervision and custody of youth sex offenders who are in the custody of Child, Youth and Family Services;
- the various support arrangements and programmes available for responding to and rehabilitating youth sex offenders;
- the reintegration of youth sex offenders into communities;
- the support mechanisms for youth sex offenders in transition into adulthood; and
- the processes for selecting, approving, and monitoring caregivers, providers, and other people involved in the management of youth sex offenders.

The closing date for submissions is Friday 7 September 2007. They go to the Social Services Committee, Parliament House, Wellington (no stamp required). The committee requires two copies of each submission if made in writing. People wishing to include any information of a private or personal nature in a submission should first discuss this with the clerk of the committee, as submissions are usually released to the public by the committee. People wishing to appear before the committee to speak to their submissions should state this clearly and provide a daytime telephone contact number. To assist with administration please supply your postcode and an email address if you have one

Draft Civil Defence in NZ Strategy

A draft National Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Strategy has been published following initial consultation with CDEM groups and government departments, and you are invited to have your say on it. The strategy lists goals and objectives for civil defence in NZ.

Goals are:

- Goal One: to increase community awareness, understanding, preparedness and participation in civil defence emergency management;
- Goal Two: to reduce the risks to NZ from hazards;
- Goal Three: to enhance NZ's capability to manage civil defence emergencies; and
- Goal Four: to enhance NZ's capability to recover from civil defence emergencies.

Submissions close 21 September 2007. Information about making a submission is at www.civildefence.govt.nz The paper is at [http://www.civildefence.govt.nz/memwebsite.nsf/Files/New_on_This_Site_Graphics/\\$file/NatCDEMStrat07_public%20consultation.pdf](http://www.civildefence.govt.nz/memwebsite.nsf/Files/New_on_This_Site_Graphics/$file/NatCDEMStrat07_public%20consultation.pdf) Hard copies can be requested from/email submissions sent to NationalCDEM.Strategy@dia.govt.nz. Send written submissions to: National CDEM Strategy 2007, CDEM Policy, Department of Internal Affairs, PO Box 805, Wellington

"Bioprospecting" Activities: Discussion Paper

The Ministry of Economic Development, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Te Puni Kokiri want to gather information about bioprospecting activity in NZ. They also want to find out if

a framework for managing bioprospecting activities is needed and, if so, how it might be structured.

Bioprospecting involves the search for, and gathering of, biological material for the purpose of developing a commercial product. Bioprospecting activities have led to the development of many products and applications. Examples include medicines, cosmetics, industrial lubricants, adhesives, and the use of micro-organisms to make industrial processes cleaner and more efficient. However, bioprospecting touches on a number of areas, including protection of intellectual property, traditional knowledge and mātāwhiri Maori, and the international framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Bioprospectors are likely to want legal certainty over their right to develop commercial products from any successful bioprospecting activity, so they are likely to seek intellectual property rights. They may also want to access traditional knowledge from indigenous and local communities to help them in their search for useful biological material.

It is argued that a coordinated framework is more likely to generate and identify opportunities for NZ to share in the benefits of bioprospecting activity, and also that it would help protect the use of associated traditional knowledge like Maori knowledge/mātāwhiri Maori.

A discussion paper called "Bioprospecting: Harnessing Benefits for NZ" has been released, and the Government is interested in hearing from anyone who is involved in, or affected by, bioprospecting activities.

Submissions close on 12 October. The discussion paper is at http://www.med.govt.nz/templates/MultipageDocumentTOC___28013.aspx More information is at www.med.govt.nz/bioprospecting An online response form is at http://www.med.govt.nz/templates/StandardSummary___46.aspx or email responses to bioprospecting@med.govt.nz. Written submissions go to: Bioprospecting Review, Ministry of Economic Development, PO Box 1473, Wellington

Assisted Reproduction Techniques: Consultation

The Advisory Committee on Assisted Reproductive Technology (ACART) has released a consultation paper called "Advice on Aspects of Assisted Reproductive Technology: a consultation paper on policy issues".

The views of NZers are wanted on the use of: clinic-assisted surrogacy, embryo donation, donation of gametes (reproductive cells) between family members, pre-implantation genetic diagnosis, donated eggs with donated sperm, and gametes from deceased people.

It also seeks feedback on the import into, or export from, NZ of in-vitro donated human gametes or in-vitro donated human embryos, and on requirements for informed consent.

Submissions close on 17 August 2007. A submission form which includes specific questions is at the back of the consultation paper. Further information about ACART and the consultation paper is available at: www.acart.health.govt.nz

Asthma Research: Can You Help?

Scientists from Massey University's Centre for Public Health Research are studying what prevents people from developing asthma and allergies.

These conditions are becoming more common in NZ, but living on a farm may protect children against developing them. Children whose mothers had been frequently exposed to farm animals during pregnancy had a 50% reduction in risk of having asthma, hay fever or eczema. The research team is now investigating which aspects of animal contact during pregnancy are protective. They also want to find out more about how these factors affect the child's immune system.

They already have 200 participants, but need more, and they are hoping that pregnant women in the lower half of the North Island from both farming and non-farming backgrounds will be able to help them. The research involves questionnaires, a home visit to collect dust, and tests to find out about allergies in the babies.

Pregnant women who are interested can contact Massey's research nurse Heather Duckett on free phone 0800 000 544, or e-mail H.G.Duckett@massey.ac.nz

Reminder: Local Government and DHB Nominations Still Open

Anyone interested in standing for this year's District Health Board (DHB) elections should start thinking about it now. Nominations for the October DHB close midday Friday 24 August. More information, including a candidate information handbook, is available on www.yourdhb.org.nz and the Ministry of Health has information about standing for a DHB at www.moh.govt.nz

The next local government elections are also in October (at the same time as the elections for DHBs). If you are considering standing for election in 2007, you should contact the electoral officer at your local council. They will be able to provide you with the information and forms you need. You can also download a 2007 candidate information booklet from: http://www.lgnz.co.nz/projects/2007LocalElections/Booklet_WEB.pdf.

Rural

Free Sustainable Farming Fund (SFF) Workshops

The Sustainable Farming Fund (SFF) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) invests \$9.5 million per year in projects that support applied research and extension for NZ's primary sector. Grants are available to "communities of interest" to solve problems and take up opportunities that arise from the needs of farmers, growers or foresters.

To support this work SFF is currently running a series of free workshops entitled "Understanding the SFF" and "Communicating about your project".

"Understanding the SFF"

Morning session 10:00am-12 noon

This is an introduction and overview session for new SFF project teams that received funding in 2007, as well as for groups wanting to apply in next year's funding round starting in February 2008. It aims to:

- outline how the SFF works;
- provide advice on clear writing applications and milestones;
- explain SFF's progress and financial reporting requirements; and
- offer tips on how to run a successful project.

"Communicating about your Project"

Afternoon session: 12:45-4:00pm

This workshop is open to all current and new SFF project teams. Others are welcome but please register as spaces are limited. This interactive workshop will cover things like: building a basic communications plan, branding, dealing with media, and experiential learning.

Dates and venues:

- Canterbury - Wednesday 29 August 2007 Oak Room, Student Union Building, Lincoln University;
- Palmerston North - Thursday 30 August 2007 Rydges Hotel (Safari Room, Level 1), 140 Fitzherbert Avenue, Palmerston North;
- Hamilton - Friday 31 August 2007 McMeekan Centre, Ruakura Research Centre, Hamilton; and
- Southland - Wednesday 24 October 2007 Scenic Circle Croydon, Gore.

Light lunch and tea/coffee are provided.

Registration is essential. Email amanda.hall@maf.govt.nz (phone 0800 100 087) by Friday 24 August for the Canterbury, Palmerston North and Hamilton workshops, and by Friday 19 October for the Gore workshop. When registering please indicate if you are attending the morning or afternoon session, or both, and whether you require lunch.

More Funding for Rebuilding Rural Roads?

New rules for regionally distributed funding for road transport mean that this funding can now be used to help with rebuilding or replacing existing roads.

Land Transport NZ will also consider providing additional financial assistance from these funds to help councils pay their local share for renewal activities.

The changes should help rural districts with large roading networks and limited rating bases with road renewal projects. It also means that some districts which have small populations can apply for more central government assistance. In exceptional cases where ability to pay is a clear problem, the Government will pay for up to half the ratepayers' share of a road renewal project.

Until now, regionally distributed funding (which is based on population) was aimed at new capital improvement projects which did not have sufficient national priority to receive nationally distributed funding.

Medical Students: 5th Year Rurally Based

In a programme run by University's Dunedin School of Medicine, six Otago University students are spending their entire fifth year of study working in rural communities in Queenstown and the West Coast. The programme is aimed at:

- encouraging the next generation of doctors to spend time working in rural NZ ; and
- strengthening rural practice by having rural faculty teaching in rural communities.

Students from around the country typically spend only two to six weeks working in rural practices.

Mentoring in the Rural Sector

Three pilot mentoring programmes currently underway in the rural sector have been producing good results for the participants. They are the AgFirst "Farmers Mentoring Farmers" project, the NZ Young Farmers Programme for new arrivals into the district, and the Meat & Wool New Zealand supported programme for urban based secondary school students who want to experience life on the farm with a view to a possible future farming career.

Farmers Mentoring Farmers

AgFirst, a farm consultancy, runs a farm mentoring programme in the Waikato/King Country (with a parallel project supported by Dairy Insight running in the same area for the dairy industry).

Sponsored by the Sustainable Farming Fund, Meat and Wool New Zealand and ANZ, the programme links experienced farmers with other farmers in the area who may be seeking support in their working environment or business.

The project is a first for the sheep and beef sector, and it was set up because:

- often there is no support person around outside the immediate family or work environment;
- farmers can get bogged down in the day to day activities without standing back and taking a look at the bigger picture; and
- farming can be lonely in an isolated environment.

Mentors receive training and the programme offers a mutually beneficial partnership, with coaching and support to aid learning from everyday experiences.

New Arrivals: Settling into the District

New Zealand Young Farmers (NZYF) is a social development organisation that has the aim of facilitating networks, building confidence, and increasing the personal and practical skills of its members. Its mentoring project in Canterbury aims to support young farm staff coming to work in a new location, who may not know many local people, and may be finishing work on their own each day to sit at home alone.

The NZYF programme is aimed at enabling these people to get to know other people in the community so they feel they "belong". The programme offers a three-step plan, which includes:

- a social/motivational event (run in conjunction with Dexcel) where there are motivational guest speakers (e.g. Eric Rush, Mark Inglis) and where farmers also tell their story. Here names and contact details are collected;

- a second, more serious session, which is held two to three weeks later to meet the needs of the participants. At this meeting goal setting, budgeting or other subjects are explored; and
- a third meeting, where participants are introduced to other people in the community that they can telephone/talk to.

Students: Farming as a Career?

This Meat & Wool New Zealand supported mentoring programme in Canterbury involves 5th and 6th form students who have had little or no farm experience. The programme matches students who are interested in finding out more about farming as a career option with local farmer mentors.

The farmers volunteer for the role and, following a police check, attend an initial training day (with more training to follow).

The programme involves an initial interview with the student (who may come from either an urban or a rural area) and their family. Student and farmer then both have input into the matching process.

Students spend time staying overnight and undertaking farm work as well as getting involved in district rural activities so they can understand more about farming and the rural environment. The amount of time students spend there varies according to individual requirements and needs. This programme runs independently of the student's school programmes. However, participating schools have a teacher designated to liaise with the facilitator and school principals sign off the agreement for students to participate in it.

Reviews involve parents, students, teachers and farmers. These have shown it to be successful in motivating students to seriously consider an agricultural based career.

What Makes These Three Programmes Work?

Facilitators of these programmes suggest that successful mentoring programmes depend on:

- a good programme facilitator;
- the service being free;
- the participants volunteering to participate;
- mentors receiving appropriate training;
- a good match of the people in the mentoring relationship;
- an agreement between the mentor and person being mentored being signed at the beginning (this sets out the expectations of both parties);
- all information offered being treated as confidential to the relationship;
- the participants making a commitment to the programme;
- the time commitment to the relationship including travel and phone as well as meeting time;
- the person being mentored "driving" the mentoring relationship (which is tailored to their needs);
- the mentor demonstrating good time management skills;
- the mentor not "over-helping";
- issues within the programme being identified and managed in a timely way;
- the success of the programmes being measured from the start;
- other people involved in the programme (employers of workers/parents/teachers) supporting it;
- annual reviews being carried out; and
- someone involved "championing" the programme.

Information on the AgFirst project is at <http://www.agfirst.co.nz/ps-ag-mentoring-scheme.php>. Information about the NZ Young Farmers programme: Ben Allomes, President, email: ballomes@inspire.net.nz. Information about the Meat & Wool New Zealand programme for secondary school students: Judy Frazer: frazer.lindlea@xtra.co.nz

The Mentoring Relationship

Mentoring relationships support people who are facing new work challenges and want to:

- create a learning partnership;
- find their own answers to challenges;
- find new ways of looking at things
- gain clarity and confidence;
- strategise and take action while alleviating stress; and
- enhance leadership potential.

The mentoring relationship allows the person being mentored to reflect on:

- the best work practices;
- ways to identify skill gaps;
- what the organisation wants;
- the best use of time/resources/skills;
- their personal direction and career path; and
- their relationships and the networks they have/want.

The mentor encourages, challenges and facilitates the learning of the person being mentored by:

- identifying skills and strategies for a more effective work role;
- providing space to offload and express personal responses and feelings that arise as a result of employment situations;
- providing a way to check decisions; and
- facilitating the development of self-management skills.

The Government is to provide \$2 million to fund a new pipfruit project spanning Hawkes Bay, Nelson and Otago aimed at growing export fruit that has no detectable pesticide residues. The Apple Futures project is a partnership between the Hawkes Bay, Nelson and Otago regions, Pipfruit NZ Inc and NZ Trade and Enterprise (NZTE).

The funding will be used to employ a national project manager and three technical staff to roll out a programme of orchard management techniques in Hawkes Bay, Nelson and Otago. These include more intensive plantings to make it easier to grow fruit that complies with international pest and disease regulations, wider use of biological controls, and education about how to reduce pesticide use.

The pipfruit industry generated about \$367 million in exports in 2006, and it accounts for about one-fifth of gross domestic product from the country's horticultural sector, and almost a quarter of horticultural commodity exports by value.

Vegetable Exports: \$37 Million Boost

The Government is spending \$37 million on increasing NZ's vegetable exports. The eight-year research agreement between Crop and Food Research, the Foundation for Research Science and Technology (FRST) and the vegetable sector plans to extend the shelf life of vegetables and make them even healthier.

The research could, for instance, enable crisps and french fries of the future to have a reduced fat content and more dietary fibre, while retaining their taste. Peas would be sweeter, contain more fibre and be source of minerals promoting health. Onions could offer more minerals associated with disease prevention.

Total vegetable exports last year were \$496 million. The vegetables went to 76 countries, with Japan being the big market (39%) for fresh vegetables. Australia has 48% of the market for processed vegetables. Onions are NZ's most valuable vegetable, selling \$77.7 million worth. Fresh and processed potatoes were last year worth \$70.8 million to the market.

Changing Trade Patterns and Agriculture

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation & Development (OECD) and the United Nation's Food & Agriculture Organisation recently released their "Agricultural Outlook 2007-2016" study. The report forecasts that both production and trade are expected to grow faster in developing countries than rich nations, especially when it comes to beef, pork, sugar and some milk products.

The study describes export growth in Brazil and Argentina as "staggering". Russia, the Ukraine, Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, India and China are also growing agricultural exports. It predicts that trade in beef, pork and whole milk powder is expected to grow by more than 50% over the next 10 years, coarse grains trade by 13%, wheat by 17% and trade in vegetable oils is projected to increase by nearly 70%.

Guide to Land Eligible for Carbon Credits...

"PFSI A Guide to Eligible Land" is a short guide from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry that provides examples of what land is, and is not, eligible to earn Kyoto Protocol compliant emission units (carbon credits) under the Permanent Forest Sink Initiative. In its simplest form, land that was pasture at 31 December 1989 and is still pasture will qualify to earn units. However, there are many instances where land was not exclusively pasture in 1989 (or now), but may still be eligible to earn units.

The Permanent Forest Sink Initiative (PFSI) is a Government programme promoting the establishment of new, permanent forests on previously unforested land. It gives landowners the opportunity to generate income through "carbon farming" - removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and storing it in the form of new forests. Participants will be able to claim Kyoto Protocol compliant emission units (carbon credits) based on the increase in carbon stored in their forest. They will then be able to sell these units.

The guide is at <http://www.maf.govt.nz/forestry/pfsi/guidelines/index.htm>

...& Forestry Production: December 2006

MAF's latest Statistical Release shows that roundwood removals, an indicator of export and domestic processing levels in the forestry industry, decreased in the December 2006 quarter after increasing for two consecutive quarters.

Printed copies of MAF's publications are available free of charge by emailing policy.publications@maf.govt.nz or by writing to Policy Publications, MAF Policy, PO Box 2526, Wellington

Animal Welfare: NAWAC Report Released

The National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee's (NAWAC) 2006 Annual Report was recently released. It covers the development and release of two codes of welfare - one for deer, the other for companion cats, a stakeholder workshop to discuss the future of pain relief, and establishment of an advisory committee to plan the research needed for reviews of the broiler and layer hen codes of welfare.

Codes of welfare currently under development include commercial slaughter, dairy cattle, sheep and beef cattle, dogs and transport of animals within NZ.

The report is available at www.biosecurity.govt.nz/animal-welfare/nawac or by request from animalwelfare@maf.govt.nz

Environment

Climate Change: Developing Countries More Concerned

Climate change may be a global issue, but a survey carried out by one of the largest banking and financial services organisations in the world has found that reactions to it vary strongly from country to country. The HSBC Climate Confidence Index shows that people in developing economies exhibit the greatest concern, commitment and optimism towards the problem of climate change and in developed economies the greatest indifference, reluctance and fatalism.

Survey results showed 45% of Indians surveyed and 39% of Chinese were optimistic that climate change could be stopped. In the United States the figure was 18%, in Britain 6% and in France 5%.

The findings were so striking that the bank is considering offering a range of "green" financial services in countries like India and Brazil first, rather than in Europe as originally planned.

The survey was based on a sample of 9,000 people in nine countries. Bank officials said it reflected a cross section of consumers in countries like Britain and the United States, while in developing countries like India the survey was based on responses from affluent city dwellers.

The HSBC Climate Confidence Index is at <http://www.hsbc.com/1/2/newsroom/news/news-archive-2007/hsbc-launches-international-survey-of-public-attitudes-towards-climate-change>

NZ Response to Climate Change: Shop? Recycle? Replant?

It appears that NZers most want to shop, recycle and plant their way through the climate change problem. According to the latest ShapeNZ nationwide poll covering the views of 1378 respondents between 15 and 20 June, Kiwis favour buying energy efficient appliances, light bulbs and cars ahead of alternatives like walking, cycling or taking public transport.

The respondents were asked to select from a list of 19 activities they would personally consider engaging in the future to reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions and help manage climate change. Out of a total of 8684 activity choices the most popular ones (each gaining 10% popular support) were to shop for the right appliances and light bulbs.

Next most popular were buying a fuel efficient, low emission car, recycling household waste and conserving water (each 9%), followed by planting trees to offset emissions (8%).

The least favoured activities were buying carbon offsets (2%) and alternatives to driving. Walking instead of driving attracted 6% of responses, cycling instead of driving 4% and using public transport or choosing an alternative everyday travel option rather than using a vehicle 5%.

Choosing to live or work in an energy efficient, sustainable building in the future and choosing to rent or purchase a more energy efficient home attracted 5% of total responses.

On average each respondent said they'd engage in six out of the 19 activity choices - no-one says they'll do nothing.

The poll gives the Government and business some helpful pointers on where people will start to engage on climate change. Moving small percentages of the market in each area of activity can have immense commercial and other outcomes. If 6% or more gave up their cars or moved to public transport, the sector might have trouble coping. But it's easy to accommodate a 9% shift to buying fuel efficient, low emissions vehicles, which also have health benefits because they pollute less. It's also a possibly big influence on the housing and rental market if 5% of the market wants to shift to an energy efficient home or work in a sustainable building.

The poll is ongoing at www.shapenz.org.nz Other results, including NZers' detailed responses to proposals to bring in two new waste-related taxes, to mass-insulate homes for health and climate change management benefits, and on the general direction favoured to manage climate change are at www.nzbcscd.org.nz

Commercial Biofuel Now Available

The first commercially available biofuel for NZ motorists is now available at Gull Service stations in Auckland. Gull's FORCE 10 fuel is a blend of 10% bioethanol, which is produced at Anchor Ethanol (a Fonterra subsidiary company) and comes from their Reporoa distillery. The fuel is then blended at Gull's Mount Manganui terminal. In NZ, bioethanol is made as a by-product of the dairy industry and in future could be made here from crops such as maize.

The biofuel is suitable for most new vehicles, but not for used Japanese imports. Check if you are unsure whether the fuel is appropriate for your car

New "Food Miles" Report

A second "Food Miles" report called "Comparative Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions of NZ's and the UK's Dairy Industry" has been released by Lincoln University's agribusiness and economics research unit and the Agribusiness Group.

"Food miles" expresses the idea that the mileage of food before it reaches the consumer (or the plate) is a potential indicator for the environmental impact of the food.

The report indicates that British dairy farmers produce 31% more greenhouse gases per hectare than NZ dairy farmers. The greenhouse gas emissions measured for the report - carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide - included those for transport of the product to Britain, and were in each case produced at lower levels than in the British dairy system.

The first Food Miles report published in July last year examined energy use and carbon dioxide emissions associated with the production of four products - milk solids, lamb, apples and onions. It indicated there was greater energy efficiency in NZ for the production of dairy product, lamb and apples. This latest report was specifically for the dairy sector and added in greenhouse gas emissions.

"High-sugar" Ryegrasses Being Trialled

New Zealand scientists are trialling "high sugar" ryegrasses bred in Britain. The grasses contain more water-soluble carbohydrates than standard perennial ryegrasses. The scientists say the grass can boost dairy production in autumn and reduce the amount of nitrogen leached from cow urine.

The trials have shown promising results in reducing the nitrogen excretion by cows. This is potentially significant as nitrogen loss to waterways as nitrates and to the atmosphere as nitrous oxide are key environmental issues for the dairy industry. Further trials will be undertaken by the AgResearch Crown Research Institute (CRI) at Palmerston North.

Didymo Impact: Less Than First Feared?

The latest findings from MAF Biosecurity NZ's science programme into the ecological impact of didymo indicate the effect on aquatic invertebrates (on which trout and other fish feed) may be less severe than first thought.

The studies have found increased numbers of bottom-dwelling invertebrates living in association with didymo algal mats. This is meaningful for our native fish, most of which feed on these types of invertebrates. Secondly, the studies have found the highest densities and biomass of drift invertebrates near the river sites with medium to high didymo biomass. The main sources of food for trout are invertebrates which emerge from the river bottom and drift downstream.

However, it's stressed that these findings are preliminary, and the potential long-term ecological impacts of didymo are still unclear, also that the findings don't diminish the impact didymo has on aesthetics, recreation and irrigation activities.

FRST Grants Announced

The latest Foundation for Research Science and Technology's (FRST) funding round includes \$150 million investigating how to promote sustainability and respond to climate change, and \$311 million to boost primary sector research. Primary sector projects funded include work by HortResearch using fruit to develop natural ways of fighting asthma and eczema, rather than using steroids. Victoria University has been granted \$1.5 million over four years to carry out research in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean to help predict the impact of climate change. Funding for climate change research also goes to Landcare, the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) and the Institute of Geological & Nuclear Sciences (GNS). More than 30 organisations received funding in the round.

Health

Food in School: What's Good, What's Not

A new Food and Beverage Classification System for schools and Early Childhood Education Services (ECE) groups foods into three main categories: food and drinks for consumption every day (the healthiest choices, which should be promoted), those which should be eaten sometimes, and those that should only be eaten occasionally.

The system is aimed at improving the diets and physical activity levels of young NZers to combat diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

More information is available at <http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/indexmh/heha-foodclassification>

Air Pollution and Premature Death: New Report

Air pollution from home heating, transport and industry causes almost 1,100 premature deaths in NZ each year and costs around \$1.1 billion a year, according to a Government-funded study released recently. The Health and Air Pollution in NZ (HAPiNZ) study shows that the highest cost of air pollution is premature death caused by long-term exposure to air pollutants. The main source of air pollution nationally is home heating, with transport being the primary source in Auckland.

The HAPiNZ study attributes an overall cost of \$1.1 billion to the number of premature deaths from air pollution each year as well as other less obvious public health implications such as days spent in bed, days missed from work, and restricted activities due to illness.

The report is at www.hapinz.org.nz

Sexuality & Drink/Drug Use

Researchers from Massey University have found that 42.7% of gay, lesbian and bisexual groups had regularly smoked cigarettes in the last year compared to 27.7% of heterosexuals. Over the last year they were also more than twice as likely to have used marijuana, nearly four times as likely to have used amphetamines on a regular basis, more than four times as likely to have used LSD and more than three times as likely to have regularly used Ecstasy. They were only slightly more likely to use alcohol.

The project's lead researcher said the public health policy on substance use needed to address the issue by including gay, lesbian and bisexual communities as priority populations. Also, there is a need for health promotion initiatives and substance use interventions targeted specifically at gay, lesbian and bisexual populations to be established.

These results are consistent with other research, which has already established that gay, lesbian and bisexual people's substance use is related to their exposure to personal, institutional and societal discrimination, and to social stress arising from this experience of marginalisation.

Food Safety Authority: Maori Food Strategy

The NZ Food Safety Authority has launched a Strategy for Involving Maori in Food Safety and Consumer Protection Issues aimed at addressing food issues specific to the Maori community. The strategy aims to:

- raise the level of awareness concerning food safety and the risks of food-borne illness;
- raise awareness of food standards in relation to their development (especially those standards impacting singularly on Maori), application and promotion (such as additives, nutrition information labels etc);
- highlight the need to focus on consumer and food education/training policies for Maori; and
- maintain the sanctity of food from a tikanga Maori perspective.

The Strategy is at <http://www.nzfsa.govt.nz/policy-law/publications/papers/M?ori-food-strategy-final-18-apr-07-web-version.htm>

Problem Gambling Service Plan Published

The Ministry of Health has recently published "Preventing and Minimising Gambling Harm: Three Year Service Plan 2007-2010". The service plan outlines the Ministry of Health's plan to fund primary (public health), secondary and tertiary prevention services and activities (including research and workforce development) to minimise harm from problem gambling.

The plan is at www.community.net.nz/communitycentre/news/national/ProblemGamblingServicePlanPublished.htm

Education

Secondary Schools: Achievement Facts

The Secondary Student Achievement Fact Sheet 2004-2006 summarises key statistics on 2006 school leavers, and achievement by senior students in NCEA 2004-2006. It also shows that more students are getting qualifications each year.

The 2006 School Leavers Report shows that students are leaving school with more and higher qualifications across school years, NCEA levels and ethnicities. More students are achieving University Entrance and NCEA Level 3, fewer are leaving school with no qualification and more students are staying at school for longer. Some 60% of students left school with at least NCEA Level 2 in 2006, compared to 40% under the old system in the 1990s. Around one in ten students (11.1%) now leave school with little or no formal attainment, compared with nearly one in five in 1999 (17.2%).

Maori students show significant improvement, with more now achieving qualifications (56% than not getting any formal qualification (44%). However, the margin between Maori students and their European/Pakeha counterparts remains the same. Maori school leavers are under-represented in the group that has UE or a Level 3 qualification or higher, but have shown a similar level of improvement to the other ethnic groups. Some 15% of Maori leavers were at this level (compared to 36% of total school leavers). For Maori this is an increase of 3% from 2005.

The Fact Sheet is at <http://educationcounts.edcentre.govt.nz/themes/schooling/nat-qual-frame02-05.html> and the School Leavers Report is at <http://educationcounts.edcentre.govt.nz/statistics/downloads/2006%20School%20Leavers%20Statistics%20Report-final.pdf>

Surviving Disasters: What's the Plan, Stan?

An updated version of "What's the Plan Stan?" is now available. "What's the Plan Stan?" was launched in April last year and uses role-playing, quizzes, an inter-active CDROM, stories and colourful cartoons to deliver messages about how to prepare for and survive disasters.

In response to requests from teachers a story book and audio CD suitable for children aged five to eight have been added. The stories are about how the dog Stan and his friends cope with earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, floods and storms. Each story is followed by a checklist of what to do before, during and after a disaster. As well as the new stories, there's an updated map, the latest disaster pictures, a video of school earthquake drills, links to games and quizzes.

Vagahau Niue Launched

"Vagahau Niue in the NZ Curriculum" is a set of guidelines to support teachers to deliver vagahau Niue (Niuean language) programmes in early childhood services and schools. It joins guidelines for Samoan and Cook Island Maori already available. The guidelines "Tongan in the NZ Curriculum" will be launched later this month.

Employment

New Minimum Wage Bill

A new Minimum Wage (New Entrants) Amendment Bill would effectively abolish the lower minimum rate of pay for 16 and 17 year olds. The Bill would require that 16 and 17 year olds be paid a new job entrant minimum rate for their first 200 hours of work, before moving onto adult minimum wage rates. This minimum rate would be no less than 80% of the adult minimum wage, and the 200 hours of employment could be accumulated across several different employers. The lower rate would not apply to young people employed as supervisors, because they would have demonstrated higher capability and it would be unfair to be paid less than those they are supervising.

If passed, the Bill, which is before Parliament's Transport and Industrial Relations Select Committee, would mean thousands of young workers would get an increase to their wage after 200 hours of work.

Annual Work Stoppages Decrease

The March 2007 year saw forty work stoppages. This compares with 66 stoppages for the March 2006 year. Stoppages in the March 2007 year involved less than half the number of employees (8,698) as in the March 2006 year, but had similar losses of person-days of work (25,589) and wages and salaries (\$4.9 million).

In the March 2007 quarter, eight work stoppages ended - seven complete strikes and one partial strike. These involved 544 employees, and losses of 568 person-days of work and an estimated \$0.1 million in wages and salaries.

Employers: Dispute Resolution Practices

The Department of Labour has been conducting a research project to find out more about employers' concerns about dispute resolution. The research findings provide a "snapshot" of how employers are resolving disputes. They also show that the best outcomes for resolving a dispute are based on sound advice from a trusted advisor.

Some employers are unnecessarily paying costly settlements at an early stage rather than entering a dispute resolution process because they mistakenly perceive it to be expensive and protracted. The research snapshot of the Department of Labour's free mediation service and Authority determinations show settlements to employees are most likely to be lower when these methods are used, than the cost for settling in-house.

Employers can seek advice about dispute resolution through networks like employer organisations, and trade associations, and information is also available through the Department of Labour's website or contact centre. The research is available at http://www.ers.govt.nz/publications/era_info.html

Housing

NZ Housing Overvalued/Vulnerable?

A international credit rating agency report on the world house-price boom of the past decade from Fitch Ratings says that NZ's house market is the riskiest of 16 countries surveyed. The report rates NZ fourth in terms of housing overvaluation (behind France, the UK and Denmark) and second in terms of household debt vulnerability (behind Norway), with top ranking in overall risk. Second and third in the overall risk rankings were Denmark and the UK. Japan, Germany and Italy came in at least vulnerable.

The report also says that economies where housing looks overvalued, and households overstretched, will be more vulnerable from shocks to interest rates (going up), incomes and asset prices

Taking into account inflation, house prices have risen more than 50% in the past five or so years in NZ.

Building Industry Licensing Rules Announced

The new rules for licensing people in the building industry cover:

- who should apply and how to go about applying;
- how each application will be assessed;
- the minimum standards for staying licensed;
- how and when a licence can be suspended;
- the information that will be held on the Register of Licensed Building Practitioners; and
- how the annual contract with the Registrar will function.

People without licenses will still be able to work in the building industry, but from November 2010 some specific restricted work will need to be supervised or done by a licensed person. Home handy-men or -women in the Kiwi Do-It-Yourself (DIY) tradition will be protected under the licensing scheme, and still be able to do DIY work - including building a standard, straight-forward house from scratch or adding on a room.

A copy of the Licensed Building Practitioners Rules 2007 document is on the Department of Building and Housing website - www.dbh.govt.nz. Application packs will be available from 1 October and the processing of licences will begin on 1 November

New Building Amendment Bill

A Building Amendment Bill amends the Building Act 2004 by:

- clarifying and reorganising building consent exemptions. In particular this will ensure that weathertightness repairs are not made without a building consent;
- making minor adjustments to the future dam safety scheme; and giving dam owners an incentive to become accredited;
- helping to improve compliance with building accessibility requirements at the building design stage; and

- clarifying the language and rules relating to the licensing of building practitioners.

More information is at <http://www.beehive.govt.nz/ViewDocument.aspx?DocumentID=30078>

For more information visit www.solarsmarter.org.nz or phone 0800 SMARTER (762 7837)

Wooden Design Options for Buildings

A new programme will require all government-funded buildings to commission a design based on wood as the main structural material. The programme aims to highlight the benefits of wood as an environmentally sustainable building material. Recently commissioned research has revealed wood is both cheaper over the life of a project and has a smaller carbon footprint than concrete or steel buildings.

The programme is to run for at least three years and would require government-funded buildings like schools and hospitals to have at least one wood-based design plan. University engineering students will also be targeted about using wood as a structural material.

Sharing Home Ownership with a Trust

The Government is to give \$2 million to part-fund a pilot shared home ownership initiative for key workers in and around Queenstown. The Queenstown scheme will involve Housing NZ and the local Trust assisting eligible households to buy first homes by taking a share in the house at no cost to the household. The share will typically be about 30% of the purchase price of the house, but could vary between 20 and 40% depending on the property and the individual household.

The home buyer will obtain a regular mortgage for the remaining proportion of the purchase price of their home. The Trust will then operate as direct co-owner of the property, and will be legally registered as a tenant-in-common. If the property is later sold, the Trust will take its and the Corporation's share in the capital gain of the property. Profits will be channelled back into more affordable housing in the district.

The total pool of money available for the pilot will be \$4 million, half from the Corporation's Housing Innovation Fund and half from the Trust. It is expected the scheme will get underway within the next three months, and up to 35 households could be assisted into new or existing homes.

Solar Water Heating Grants for Builders

A recently launched grants scheme aims to encourage builders and developers to put solar water heating on more new homes. A \$3,000 grant is being offered to volume builders, who construct more than 20 houses a year, to install a solar water heating system on a show home. In addition, a \$500 grant per home is available for builders who commit to install solar water heating systems on at least 20 new homes within a year. Solar water heating systems installed under the scheme must meet certain energy performance, price and installation standards.

The Law

Criminal Justice Reform Bill Passed

The recent passing of this Act will result in changes to the Parole Act 2002.

Offenders sentenced to 12 months imprisonment will serve their whole sentence and offenders sentenced to more than 12 months imprisonment will have to serve two-thirds of the sentence imposed before being eligible to be considered for parole.

A number of measures are included in the Bill are aimed at the work of the Parole Board:

- the Parole Act will be amended to make it clear that release on parole is a privilege and not a right;
- the Parole Board will be given the power to make confidentiality orders, which will help to ensure that the Board is in possession of all the relevant information when it is considering a case;
- the Commissioner of Police will be given the right to apply for the recall of a parolee to prison in limited circumstances; and
- the Parole Board will be given the power to summon witnesses.

The Bill also contains provisions that will give the courts more sentencing options. This recognises that for some offenders prison is not the answer. By giving judges a greater range of non-custodial sentences, it is believed this will better enable the judges to tailor the sentence to help an offender address the causes of their offending. New provisions include:

- home detention becomes a sentence in its own right rather than a way of serving a sentence of imprisonment as it is currently;
- two new community-based sentences are created - community detention and intensive supervision - that will provide a higher level of restriction and supervision of offenders than either of the existing community-based sentences. Community-based sentences will also have a greater emphasis on the acquisition of basic work and living skills, while ensuring the offender remains accountable to the community;
- a sentencing council is established to issue sentencing and parole guidelines to address issues of consistency and transparency in sentencing, particularly for less serious offending; and
- an Effective Interventions package, which the Bill gives effect to, funds two new drug and alcohol treatment units in prisons, and two special treatment units (a third drug and alcohol unit and a third special treatment unit will be funded separately). By the end of next year more than 500 six-month-long places will be available to prisoners.

The Bill also extends the Prisoners and Victims claims Act by restricting compensation for inmates to exceptional cases; and assisting victims of crime to pursue compensation from offenders in those cases for the harm and loss they have suffered.

"Real Time" Court Transcribing Launched

Over the next year, new or updated digital audio technology called "For the Record" is to be introduced in 82 courtrooms. This is already being used in 38 courtrooms in the District Court, but for the first time will soon be available for trials in the High Court and Maori Land Court.

The technology, being used by the new National Transcription Service, will enable evidence in courts to be transcribed and recorded in "real time". This means witnesses will be able to speak at a normal, uninterrupted speed. As well as providing a better experience for witnesses, it will also help reduce the length of trials. Transcripts of the evidence will be provided back to the court "in real time" - within thirty minutes - so there is an almost immediate record of proceedings.

Business

Latest Asia Megatrends Report

Social and demographic changes in Asia are opening the way for NZ companies to create value-added products as alternatives to primary exports, says a new AsiaNZ report. The latest Asia Megatrends report available from the Asia NZ Foundation looks at ways to enhance the business community's skills and confidence in engaging with Asian economies in light of the new trends emerging in Asia.

The report emphasises the importance of recognising the changing consumer needs of Asia and suggests NZ further develop the service industry sector to meet those growing needs. New opportunities for exporters can be found in specific parts of Asia due to the social and demographic trends that are identified in the report.

Japan and Australia are two of our largest export markets, but NZ needs to look across all of Asia for export opportunities in order to compete in this fast changing trading environment.

For a copy of Asia Megatrends: Opportunities for NZ Business to Prosper, email Leonie Hall at lhall@asianz.org.nz

USFDA Approves Manuka Honey Wound Dressing

Bee products company Comvita says its patented "advanced wound care dressing" has become the first using manuka honey for wounds and burns to receive marketing clearance from the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA).

The global advanced wound care market is worth more than US\$4 billion, of which the US makes up US\$2.3 billion. The main

drivers for this market are an ageing population and increase in diabetes.

Some biologically active manuka honey contains the compound methylglyoxal, which combats bacteria causing stomach ulcers and promotes wound healing. And wound-care products using the honey have also been effective against some antibiotic-resistant strains of bacteria.

Food and Beverage Export Programme

The Government's work programme for partnering with industry to increase NZ's high-value food and beverage exports was launched recently. It is the Government's response to last year's Food and Beverage Taskforce report "Smart Food, Cool Beverage".

The six projects that make up the Government response to the taskforce report are:

- \$19 million of additional funding to help NZ food and beverage firms to develop new markets;
- improving new product development systems for testing and developing new food products;
- increasing business skills of food and beverage exporters through an audit and mentoring programme;
- raising productivity and sustainability in pastoral industries;
- producing a Food and Beverage Research Roadmap that sets the directions for food innovation research; and
- setting in place the taskforce's Skills Action Plan through a joint government/industry body set up to oversee and support it.

Aviation Industry Export Strategy

A new organisation called Aviation NZ has been set up to create an export strategy for the aviation industry. The idea is for aviation manufacturers and service providers to collaborate and set up "one stop shops" to provide aviation services to other countries.

Areas where there is export potential in the NZ aviation industry include aviation engineering, airport technologies, infrastructure, ground support and aviation training and services.

It is estimated that 10,000 more passenger aircraft will be needed globally in the next 10 years, that maintenance, repair and overhaul expenditure will go up 45% in that time to around NZ\$75 billion per year, and that around 55,000 new pilots will be needed in China alone by 2025.

NZ Winegrowers: "Pure Discovery" Wine Brand...

New Zealand Winegrowers has launched a new brand called the "Pure Discovery" brand, with a logo featured a white fern with grapes on a black background. The move follows research in Australia, Britain and the US to find out how our wines are perceived (these three markets account for 80% of NZ's export sales). In all three places NZ wines are seen as being exceptionally high quality and value for money, and in US and Australia, an unspoilt environment and our growing conditions were considered to be behind our winemaker's production of excellent wines.

The research also showed that the wine drinker's profile is shifting with younger people, women and couples purchasing and taking an interest in NZ wine. Export forecasts of NZ wine are on-track to reach NZ\$1 billion by 2010 and trending to \$2 billion by 2015.

...& Kiwi Wine in Plastic?

A United Kingdom supermarket chain (Sainsbury's) has announced it will be selling a NZ wine in a plastic bottle. The chain will sell a NZ Sauvignon Blanc and an Australian Rose under its own label in a P.E.T bottle. The company says the bottles are safer, lighter, kinder to the environment and don't compromise the quality of the wine.

Registering Companies: Less Taxing?

Changes at the Companies Office and Inland Revenue have sped up the time it takes to start up a business in NZ. In a one-step process, businesses can now receive their company IRD number and GST registration online, within minutes of registering their company at the Companies Office Website.

The Companies Office website is at <http://www.companies.govt.nz/cms> and the Ease of Doing Business Survey is at <http://www.doingbusiness.org/ExploreEconomies/?economyid=140>

Guide to "Angel Investing"

The NZ Venture Investment Fund (NZVIF) recently launched "The Business of Angel Investing", a guide for people interested in becoming "angel investors" in early stage and high potential kiwi businesses. Apparently, there are many NZers who could potentially become angel investors, but who are not aware of the opportunities or how to go about it, hence this guide.

An angel investor is a person who provides capital and often expertise to early stage businesses. Angels typically invest their own capital; however, a small but increasing number of angel investors are forming angel networks to share research and pool their investment capital.

For more details on angel investing in NZ, or to request a copy of the Business of Angel Investing guide, go to www.nzvif.co.nz

Women in Business: The "Glass Cliff"

The term "glass cliff" was coined following a UK study which found that company performance leading up to the appointment of a director differed depending on the gender of the appointed person.

For British companies that appointed men to their boards of directors, share price performance was relatively stable both before and after the appointment. However, British companies that appointed a woman were more likely to have experienced consistently poor performance in the months preceding the appointment. This became known as the "glass cliff" phenomenon, where women's leadership positions are relatively risky or pre-

carious since they are more likely to involve management of organisational units in crisis.

The study, released in March this year by the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development, looked at why some British companies apparently seemed to experience poorer performance following the appointment of women to their boards.

International trends have showed that, in general, companies with women on boards tend to perform better. But the UK study showed that when provided with details of two equally qualified candidates for a leadership position - one a man and one a woman - respondents overwhelmingly favour the female candidate if the opening is described as difficult and involving a high risk of failure. Interviewees stated that women possess particular abilities that are especially valuable in times of crisis. However, some commentators believe that this finding has more to do with a perception that women have less to lose.

The UK study can be downloaded as a PDF from: http://www.cipd.co.uk/subjects/dvsequil/sexdisc/_wmnbrdmtmp.htm?IsSrchRes=1

More Kiwis Holidaying in NZ

New Ministry of Tourism data from the Domestic Travel Survey shows that domestic travellers within NZ spent \$7.6 billion in the year to March 2007, an increase of 9.1% compared to the same period the previous year. The strong NZ dollar has meant more Kiwis are travelling overseas, but it seems that rather than doing this at the expense of seeing more of their own country, they are doing both. Spending on overnight trips increased by 9.9% to \$4.9 billion. The number of overnight trips was 4.3% higher at 15 million. On their overnight trips NZers stayed 2.3% more nights away from home.

The Domestic Travel Survey is a telephone survey of 15,000 NZ residents undertaken throughout the year. A range of data and reports from the survey are available on the Ministry of Tourism's research website - www.tourismresearch.govt.nz

Transport

Changes to How Petrol Tax Spent

Cabinet has agreed that all the money collected as petrol tax will go to fund land transport activities from July next year. At the moment half the money taken in tax goes into transport while the other half goes into general government coffers. The change means that in the 2009-2010 year an extra \$35-million will be spent on transport activities.

Commercial Road Transport Rules Tightened

Rules governing NZ's commercial transport industry are to be tightened up. The changes will affect the passenger service,

goods service, vehicle recovery and rental vehicle industries. They include new processes for calculating and recording hours worked, steps to improve the identification of, and performance of, drivers and operators, and tougher requirements for people entering the industry. Many of the changes are aimed at strengthening the responsibilities for taxi companies and tightening requirements for taxi drivers.

Most of the changes will take effect on 1 October. Questions and answers on how passenger service, goods service, vehicle recovery service and rental vehicle service industries will be affected are at <http://www.landtransport.govt.nz/rules/q-and-a/transport-service-industry-2007.html>

Commercial Transport: Fee Hike Coming

The annual licensing fee for each vehicle operated under a Transport Service Licence (TSL) is to increase from \$24 to \$55 in October - a TSL is required by vehicles used to provide a goods service, passenger service, vehicle recovery (towing) service or a rental service.

The application fee for a new TSL will increase from \$30 to \$440, while the application fee to gain status as a new Approved Taxi Organisation (ATO) will increase from \$30 to \$3,678 (these are one-off fees paid by those entering the transport service industry).

More information on the new fees is at www.landtransport.govt.nz/commercial/law-changes-2007-fees-qas.html

"Crash Performance": Used Car Ratings

Thinking about trading in your gas-guzzling old 4WD or large car for something smaller and cheaper to run, but don't want to compromise on safety? Used car buyers have a lot of choice, and the new ratings released by Land Transport NZ and the AA show there are significant differences in crash performance between vehicles.

The ratings assess the relative safety of 289 popular used vehicles, ranging from light cars to large 4WDs and vans. Of the models assessed for driver protection, 86 vehicles were rated "better than average", with 35 of these "significantly better than average", while 77 were rated "worse than average", with 48 of these "significantly worse than average".

Of the vehicles surveyed, 260 were also rated on the amount of potential harm to other road users in the event of a crash, including other drivers, pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists, with 73 rated above average and 46 rated worse than average.

Many of the better performing vehicles are newer models, showing the benefits of modern safety technology such as airbags, side intrusion beams, seatbelt pre-tensioners and crumple zones. Many recent model European mid-size vehicles also received above average ratings. This suggests European cars are leading the way in safety design and specification of safety features.

Vehicle models scoring better than average on both occupant protection and protection for other road users included: VW Golf/Bora 99-04; Holden Astra 98-05; Toyota Corolla 98-01; Honda Accord 91-93; Mercedes C Class 95-00; Peugeot 405 89-97; Subaru Liberty 89-93; Toyota Cressida 89-93 and Subaru Forester 97-02.

The majority of the worst performing vehicles were pre-1990 models, demonstrating the gains made in occupant protection in newer vehicles.

Some models with worse than average ratings on both counts included: Mitsubishi Cordia 83-87; Ford Falcon 82-88; Mitsubishi Starwagon/L300 83-86 & 87-93; Toyota Tarago 83-89; and the Toyota Hiace/Liteace 82-86, 87-89, 90-95.

The ratings indicate that a driver is 26 times more likely to be killed or injured in a crash in the worst-rated vehicle than in the best-rated vehicle.

Check out the 2007 Used Car Safety Ratings at <http://www.ltsa.govt.nz/vehicles/used-cars/index.html>. Copies of the 2007 Used Car Safety Ratings booklet are available free at AA Centres nationwide. Booklets can also be ordered from any Land Transport office or by ringing 0800 699 000. Full results are also available on www.landtransport.govt.nz and www.aa.co.nz

China Now No 3 Carmaker

China has overtaken Germany as the world's third-largest automaker and is closing in on Japan, the global number two, a new study has found. Figures from the Worldwatch Institute in Washington DC show that China increased its vehicle output by 30% last year to more than 7 million, overtaking Germany's 5.8 million. Global production of cars last year was a record-breaking 67 million, led by the US with 10.8 million.

Internet

Open Source Awards; Nominations Sought

"Open source" software refers to software that people have openly collaborated to build, and improve.

The Open Source Awards are aimed at raising awareness of the open source advantage for NZ by publicising success stories based on real achievements that have made a difference already. You can nominate yourself, a team project you have been involved with, or your own organisation. Or you can nominate someone else or a project that you know has made a difference in one of the award categories, which are:

- Category G: open source use for community organisations;
- Category A: Open Source Ambassador;
- Category B: Open Source Contributor;
- Category C: Open Source Software Project;
- Category D: Open Source Use in Government;

- Category E: Open Source Use in Business; and
- Category F: Open Source Use in Education.

Nominations close on 17 August. More information is at <http://www.nzosa.org.nz> To nominate an individual or organisation for the NZ Open Source Awards, go to www.nzosa.org.nz/nominations

Government Information: New Search Tool

The State Services Commission has set up a new approach to searches on NZ's all-of-government web portal, newzealand.govt.nz, using "Vivisimo Velocity".

The new search will provide the more than two million people who visit the site every year with a wide variety of relevant search returns, from standard government web pages to news, images, etc. Vivisimo can also spotlight popular results and search government information not available on Google, Yahoo or Live Search.

Vivisimo has its own search engine, so, in addition to indexing web pages it can access web results from Microsoft's Live Search public index. It can also search documents within an agency's Intranet from sources such as file shares, databases, content management systems, email servers and archives.

Go to newzealand.govt.nz. More information about Vivisimo is at <http://www.e.govt.nz/resources/news/2007/20070717.html>

ICT Community Partnership Fund Grants

The 2007 round of the Digital Strategy Community Partnership Fund (CPF) has awarded \$10 million in funding to 64 information and communication technology (ICT) community projects. The CPF has the aim of connecting communities and building the confidence of people in the use of ICT, and this year's categories were sustainability, community impacts/benefits, new initiatives, and ICT development.

The successful applications fall into three broad groups:

- connection, using ICT in communities to meet community needs and skills;
- content, digitise and link relevant content for NZers to access; and
- confidence, to improve and build ICT capability and skills across the community.

Examples of funded projects include:

- the Royal NZ Foundation for the Blind's pilot study to convert school curricula texts into digital talking books;
- the Gisborne District Council's new Computers in Homes project;
- the Clutha Agricultural Development Board's programme of using existing ICT facilities at rural schools to run computer training courses for farmers; and
- Lee Wrangle Ltd's project which uses ICT to record and map noxious weeds.

Details of successful projects are available at www.digitalstrategy.govt.nz

To watch *live broadcasts from Parliament* go to <http://www.parliament.nz/en-NZ/Visiting/LiveBroadcast/>

Website with 10,000 legs! A free, easy-to-use, on-line invertebrate and host plant database will shortly open up the world of plant-feeding insects to all NZers. The database, at www.crop.cri.nz/home/plant-synz pulls together information that has traditionally been scattered in scientific literature, biological collections and scientific libraries, and makes it available to anyone around the world via the web. It currently includes names of 1386 plant species, 2482 insect and mite species and 6209 herbivore-host plant associations.

If you are concerned that the *rights and interests of a child or children* have been ignored go to http://www.occ.org.nz/childcomm/need_advice. This site has direct links which will get you directly to the agencies directly involved with the following issues: complaints about the department of Child Youth and Family; notifications of child abuse; suspensions, stand downs and exclusions; special needs support; bullying; text bullying; the Family Court; behaviour; and the media. If you follow the steps outlined there, but are not satisfied, you can send a written complaint to the Office of the Children's Commissioner.

The *Solar Smarter (EECA) site* at www.solarsmarter.org.nz has information for home owners, the building industry and the solar industry on solar water heating.

Local Authorities

Co-Management & Maori: LGNZ Case Studies

Local Government NZ (LGNZ) has published a series of case studies which have analysed the co-management of assets by territorial authorities and Maori. The studies arose from an earlier LGNZ report *Local Authority Engagement with Maori* which revealed that in 2004 over 24% of local authorities had at least one active co-management arrangement with Maori.

Analysed in the study are the co-management of various New Plymouth port assets, Te Whiti Park (Hutt City), the Ohiwa Harbour and catchment area in the eastern Bay of Plenty, Taharoa Domain (also known as Kai Iwi Lakes) in Northland and the Okahu Bay/Whenua Rangatira Reserve in Auckland.

A number of elements were identified as important to successful co-management arrangements:

- acknowledgement of iwi history and circumstances;
- common goals and objectives;
- strong leadership; and
- the importance of planning.

You can download the case studies from: http://www.lgnz.co.nz/library/files/store_016/Co-ManagementCaseStudiesInvolvingLocalAuthoritiesAndMaoriJanuary2007.pdf

Creative Councils

Five councils have been recognised in the Creative Places Awards 2007. Waitakere City Council won the Premier Creative Places Award 2007 for the integration of its Arts: Design collaboration policy in the development of a new city centre for Henderson. Auckland City Council, New Plymouth District Council, Grey District Council and Kaikoura District Council won category awards while Whangarei District Council and Porirua City Council were acknowledged with Judges' Citations.

Arts

2007 Montana NZ Book Award Winners

- *Montana Medal for Fiction or Poetry*: Mister Pip by Lloyd Jones (Penguin Books);
- *Poetry*: The Goose Bath by Janet Frame (Vintage);
- *Montana Medal for Non-Fiction*: Eagle's Complete Trees and Shrubs of NZ by Audrey Eagle (Te Papa Press);
- *Biography*: Douglas Lilburn: His Life and Music by Philip Norman (Canterbury University Press);
- *History*: Vaka Moana: Voyages of the Ancestors Edited by K R Howe (David Bateman Ltd);
- *Reference and Anthology*: Furniture of the NZ Colonial Era: An Illustrated History 1830-1900 by William Cottrell (Reed Publishing);
- *Lifestyle & Contemporary Culture*: Stitch: Contemporary NZ Textile Artists by Ann Packer (Random House); and
- *Environment*: Ghosts of Gondwana: The History of Life in NZ by George Gibbs (Craig Potton Publishing).

NZ Society of Authors (NZSA) Best First Book Awards

- *Hubert Church Best First Book Award for Fiction*: The Sound of Butterflies by Rachael King (Black Swan);
- *Jessie Mackay Best First Book Award for Poetry*: Airini Beautrais for Secret Heart (Victoria University Press); and
- *E H McCormick Best First Book Award for Non-Fiction*: William Cottrell for Furniture of the NZ Colonial Era: An Illustrated History 1830-1900 (Reed Publishing).

NZers at War Art Collection: Online

Nearly 600 images from the National Collection of War Art held by Archives NZ have now been digitised and are now online. The collection as a whole holds about 1500 works, and there are plans to make most of them eventually available online.

Dating from World War One the National Collection of War Art comprises official pieces of war art, commissioned by the NZ Government, and other unofficial art works acquired by or donated to government departments. The collection includes portraits, battle scenes, landscapes and abstracts works, depicting the men and women who served NZ in times of war, and the arenas in which they served.

War Art Online is available through: www.archives.govt.nz or by going to www.warart.archives.govt.nz

Outstanding Individual Contribution Art Award

Creative NZ has presented Te Warihi Kokowai Hetaraka (Ngati Wai, Tainui, Ngapuhi) with the Outstanding Individual Contribution Award 2007 at the Local Government NZ Conference in Dunedin.

Treaty Settlements

Ngati Apa (North Island) Agreement in Principle Signed

The Crown and Te Runanga o Ngati Apa Society have signed an Agreement in Principle (AIP) to settle the historical Treaty claims of Ngati Apa (North Island).

Ngati Apa (North Island) have more than 3,200 members. The historical grievances of the iwi relate primarily to the Crown's purchase in 1849 of the 260,000 acre Rangitikei-Turakina Block, including the subsequent failure to adequately protect approximately 35,000 acres of reserves set aside from this transaction. Their claims also relate to the operation and impact of the native land laws, which contributed to the erosion of traditional tribal structures and resulted in the gradual alienation of nearly all their remaining land. Today Ngati Apa (North Island) own less than one percent of their traditional rohe.

The AIP contains redress designed to assist Ngati Apa to reach their objective of revitalising their tikanga (culture) and Te Reo (language). Redress also includes an agreed historical account, Crown acknowledgements and a formal Crown apology for its breaches of the Treaty of Waitangi, cultural redress including the transfer of 13 sites of traditional, cultural, spiritual and historical significance to Ngati Apa (North Island), and financial and commercial redress totalling \$14 million, including the return of licensed Crown forest land.

The Crown and Te Runanga o Ngati Apa Society will now work towards a full Deed of Settlement, which will be subject to ratification by all members of the iwi. The parties hope to reach this milestone by mid-2008.

The Agreement in Principle is available online at www.ots.govt.nz

General

National Climate Summary - July 2007

July was a month of extremes and contrasts - severe floods; numerous damaging tornadoes and destructive winds in the north; ice and severe frost in the south.

Temperature: Mean temperatures were more than 1.0 °C below average in north and Central Otago, and inland Southland,

and also below average in south Canterbury, and areas along the Otago-Southland coast. In contrast, mean temperatures were at least 1.0 °C above average in parts of Northland, Thames-Coromandel, Waikato, and Gisborne, and also above average throughout most other North Island regions. The national average temperature was 8.1 °C (0.2°C above normal).

Rainfall: Rainfall totals were at least 200% (twice) of normal in parts of Northland, Hawke's Bay, and coastal areas of South Canterbury and Otago, and also above normal throughout Thames-Coromandel. In contrast, rainfall was less than 50% (half) of normal in throughout much of the north and west of the South Island.

Sunshine: July sunshine hours and/or solar radiation were more than 120% of normal in north Westland, inland south Canterbury, and coastal Otago, and also above normal in other parts of Otago and Southland. In contrast, sunshine hours were below normal in the east from Gisborne to Marlborough.

Wind: Easterly gales in the north, but quieter in the south.

Main centres: Auckland was the warmest, and Christchurch was the coldest and driest. Dunedin was the sunniest of the main centres.

Fixed Electricity Charges Hard on Southerners

Changes are in the pipeline to the Low Fixed Charge Tariff option. They are designed to address an inequality currently being experienced by South Island electricity consumers. The tariff is available to people who do not use more than 8,000 kWh per year. However, at the moment, 52% of households in and north of Auckland are on the Low Fixed Charge Tariff, but only 9% of households in and south of Christchurch are.

One of the reasons some people in the lower South Island are missing out on the opportunity to take advantage of this rate, is the colder weather in these regions.

The change - included in recently introduced legislation - would will move the eligibility threshold from 8000 kWh per year to 9000 kWh per year for households in Southland, Otago and Canterbury (as far north as Christchurch). This is because 9,000 kWh is closer to the average consumption for this southern region than 8,000 kWh.

Southern Oil/Gas Quest: Permits Awarded

The economies of Southland and Otago are to get a major boost from oil and gas exploration, as international investors prepare to spend more than a billion dollars exploring the vast Great South Basin over the next five years. The Government announced recently that oil and gas exploration permits for four areas of the Great South Basin (in the southern oceans off Southland) have been awarded to two major groups of investors:

- a consortium led by ExxonMobil NZ (Exploration) Limited (USA) which includes local company Todd Exploration Limited (NZ); and
- a consortium led by OMV NZ Limited (Austria) which includes PTTEP Offshore Investment Company Ltd (Thailand), Mitsui Exploration and Production Australia Pty Ltd (Japan).

More information is at www.crownminerals.govt.nz

New Seven Wonders of the World Named

A poll of millions of voters worldwide has chosen a modern list of the seven wonders of the world. They are: the Great Wall of China, Petra in Jordan, Peru's Machu Picchu, Mayan ruins at Chichen Itza, Mexico, the Colosseum in Rome, Brazil's statue of Christ the Redeemer and the Taj Mahal in India.

Organisers say 100 million people voted online. The ancient seven wonders of the world, that existed more than 2,000 years ago, were all in the Mediterranean region. Only one remains standing today - the Pyramids of Giza.

More information about the seven winners can be found at www.new7wonders.com

American Goods Keep Selling

Last month's Rural Bulletin featured results from a 47-country survey released in late June by the Pew Global Attitudes Project. The results revealed anti-American sentiment since the survey was launched in 2002 and found those attitudes deepening this year.

However, this opinion hasn't done much to deter a ferocious appetite for American goods and services. Expected boycotts and backlashes have yet to materialize.

US global brands continue to be popular worldwide. In a recent ranking conducted by BrandZ, eight of the top 10 and 15 of the top 20 most valuable brands in the world were American. Among the top brands according to BrandZ are Web search leader Google, General Electric whose products range from jet engines to turbines, and software maker Microsoft.

It also seems as though this appetite for US products and services isn't likely to ease any time soon. In the first quarter of 2007, US earnings of multinationals soared 12% from the same period a year ago, rising to a quarterly record of \$75.7 billion.

Regional Snapshots Available Online

Nine regional snapshots developed for a series of regional funders' forums are now available online. They focus on Wellington, Upper South Island, Otago/Southland, Bay of Plenty, Waikato, Manawatu/Taranaki, Hawkes Bay, Mid/South Canterbury and Northland.

The regional snapshots were compiled by the Office for the Community and Voluntary Sector and they have information from sources such as The Social Report, Funding Information Service and the NZ Census. They also summarise Community Outcomes identified through various long term council planning processes.

The snapshots are publicly available free to anyone who has an interest in learning more about a specific region. See giving.org.nz/node/296 The Office for the Community and Voluntary Sector is at www.ocvs.govt.nz

NZ Women Formally Join the Frontline

An amendment to the Human Rights Act was recently passed to allow women to serve in frontline roles in the police and the mili-

tary. The forces have voluntarily allowed women full access to combat roles since 2000, so this change to the law was largely symbolic. The amendment changes the final legislative provision that enabled discrimination on the basis of sex in NZ. It features in NZ's report to United Nations Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (the CEDAW Committee) which was presented this month. The CEDAW Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women is commonly referred to as an international bill of rights for women.

The CEDAW Convention is at <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/>

Extra \$50m for Lottery Grants

The NZ Lottery Grants Board will distribute over \$171 million to the community and statutory bodies in the coming year - almost \$50 million more than last year.

Creative NZ, the NZ Film Commission (including funding for the NZ Film Archive), and Sport and Recreation NZ will together receive an extra one-off amount of \$15.75 million additional to their allocation of \$63.34 million for 2007-08.

Lottery distribution committees will receive \$84.16 million. \$43.34 million will go to the Lottery Community Committees for grants to community groups. An amount of \$40.81 million, an increase of \$16.20 million, is allocated to the specialist distribution committees (Lottery Environment and Heritage, Community Facilities Fund, Health Research, Marae Heritage and Facilities, Outdoor Safety and the Minister's Discretionary Fund). An additional one-off extra allocation of \$4.5 million has been made to the Lottery Outdoor Safety Committee. Further one-off funding totalling \$3.88 million is to be allocated to Lottery Health Research, Auckland Community and Wellington/Wairarapa Community Committees.

For more information on lottery grants visit www.dia.govt.nz, or call freephone 0800 824 824

Community Participation Toolkit

A new Community Participation Toolkit has been launched at the University of Otago's Department of Public Health. This workbook includes six key indicator areas including organisation structure, Maori responsiveness, and consultation and decision-making. Although it is designed for public health organisations, many of the ideas in it will be useful to any community organisation wanting to be sure that it is connected to and involves, the communities it works with.

To order a copy (for \$25) e-mail kerry.hurley@otago.ac.nz or visit www.wnmeds.ac.nz/academic/dph/index.html

Triangle Television Goes National...

Triangle Television is set to make broadcasting history with the advent of Triangle Stratos, which, for the first time ever, will make regional television available to the entire country. The new channel will broadcast on the Freeview platform.

Triangle Stratos will be a mix of local and global programming with a huge variety of viewing options. It will offer a wide variety of programmes from a number of sources: programmes provided by other regional stations around NZ; programmes provided by ethnic and minority groups around the country; and international news services and current affairs shows from global broadcasters including Germany's DW-TV, Voice of America and Al Jazeera. To add to the mix, not all programming will be in English.

...a Second Maori TV Channel...

A second channel for Maori Television is to be launched next year. It will screen 100% Te Reo programmes over three hours each night between 7.30 and 10.30pm (the prime time viewing hours), be free of advertising, and transmit via the Freeview platform. The channel is aimed at ensuring a continuing Maori language presence as the digital environment results in additional new TV channels, and also at better serving the needs of fluent Maori speakers.

... & Free World TV Chinese Channel

World TV has launched a free-to-air 24-hour Chinese language channel in Auckland (where the Chinese population is around 100,000). Chinese Television 8 (CTV8) began broadcasting on 1 August on UHF channel 62. CTV is capable of simulcasts in Mandarin and Cantonese, and its line-up will include popular drama series; news and current affairs from mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan; variety shows; documentaries as well as a range of "infotainment". The channel will also provide a platform for existing WTV advertisers and others seeking to target Chinese speaking audiences.

World TV has been broadcasting for eight years in Chinese, Korean and Japanese on a pay television cable platform. The broadcaster also has two radio stations broadcasting in Cantonese and Mandarin.

More information is at info@wtv.co.nz

AEN Online Journal: Ethnic Communities and Faith

The fourth issue of the AEN Journal, edited by Ruth DeSouza, a number of writers provide debate and critical comment on the role of faith in developing civil society. Essays include: Faith-wrestling - Larry Stillman; A Queer kind of faith: Religion and spirituality in Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual NZers - Mark Henrickson; Auckland City Interfaith Project - A case study of how a secular institution engages with faith: Abigail Vogt; Immigration, Integration and Islam - Bashy Quraishy; Kiwis on the straight path: Muslim conversion in NZ - Ruqayya Sulaiman-Hill; NZ as a multireligious society: Recent census figures and some relevant implications - Todd Nachowitz; Dancing with Others - Lance D Laird; Not a west side story: the Christian faith and migrant communities in NZ - Andrew Butcher; The Korean exorcist meets the NZ justice system - Heather Kavan; God's Men: The Red Mosque/Golden Temple - Fuad Khan Baloch; The Concept of Faith: From the Perspective of a Practicing Sikh - Verpal Singh; Atheism and religious diversity - Ken Perrott; and The 21st century spirituality revolution: Are there implications for migrants? - John Raeburn.

The AEN Journal is at <http://journal.aen.org.nz>

Vegetarian Pie Wins Supreme Award

You might think there is nothing like a good meat pie, but this year it was a vegetarian pie that won NZ's supreme pie award - and this vegetarian masterpiece was made by a former butcher, Neville Jackson of Havelock North. Chief judge Peter Grant says it was a well balanced pie that was as good to look at as it was to eat.

The Greenland Bakery and Cafe in Botany Town Centre (NZ's largest retail centre - 15 km southeast of Auckland) won eight awards. Other winning pies included fillings ranging from steak, tomato, onion and bacon to Cointreau-soaked plums and apricots with almond custard.

The NZ pie market is worth \$120 million annually.

Conference Brief

New Broadcasting Futures: Out of the Box

This conference is being held at Te Papa on 28 and 29 August. It will focus on important issues currently facing broadcasters, both here and abroad. Free-to-air digital television was recently launched by Freeview in NZ, and TVNZ announced recently the content of its first advertising free digital channel, TVNZ 6. Conference speakers include Barry Cox (chair, Digital UK), Lyn Maddock (Australian Communications and Media Authority) and Pierre Helsen (former chair, Swedish Digital TV Commission) as well as feature content creators, broadcasters and providers from a range of platforms, including interactive media.

To register visit www.newfuture.govt.nz

"Blown Away" Conference

"Blown Away" is the theme of the Social Service Providers Aotearoa Inc Annual Conference to be held on 13 and 14 September in Palmerston North. The conference will be exploring the synergy of social service agencies as they effect change in communities through their work with people.

Contact: Central Region NGO Network, Box 1887, Palmerston North, email: events.mssc@xtra.co.nz, tel 06-357 3277

Bananas NZ: Going Global

The third Going Bananas conference organised by the NZ Chinese Association's Auckland Branch will run from 18-19 August at Auckland University in Auckland. The conferences are seen as springboards for engaging all NZers in discussion about the country's evolving national identity. The focus of this year's one is global - the event looks at links between Chinese NZers and Asia. Singaporean humourist and blogger, Mr Brown (aka Kin Mun Lee) and Shanghai-based NZ documentary maker Li Tao will feature.

For more information, visit www.goingbananas.org.nz

Some Funding Opportunities

An Extra \$5 Million for Community Facilities

The Lottery Community Facilities Fund, which has risen from \$8 million to \$13 million, is now open for applications. Lottery Com-

munity Facilities supports a wide range of community facilities projects aimed at upgrading or building multi-purpose community facilities.

Applications close on 27 August. More information about this and other lottery grants is at www.dia.govt.nz, or call freephone 0800 824 824

Save the Children Small Grants Fund

Save the Children fund local projects that will bring lasting benefits for children and young people. The projects need to focus on child participation, child protection, and child poverty and where appropriate, and where possible, should be identified, developed and set up by or with children and young people. Children, young people, individuals, organisations, youth workers and communities interested in advancing children's rights in NZ are welcome to apply. The maximum Small Grants Fund award is \$5,000.

Applications close 15 September. More information is at http://savethechildren.org.nz/new_zealand/nz_programme/small_grants_fund/main.html

Nuffield Scholarships

Nuffield Scholarships scholarship is open to farmers from all sectors of agriculture. Applicants have the opportunity to travel overseas to study the latest agricultural developments, and meet leaders and decision makers. Scholarship applicants must have proven experience in farm management, and demonstrate an ability to participate in leadership in agriculture and the wider rural community.

Applications close 4pm on 31 August 2007. More information is at <http://www.nuffield.org.nz/> or email nuffield@fedfarm.org.nz for an application form

AGMARDT Innovation Grants

The Agricultural and Marketing Research and Development Trust (AGMARDT) offers Agribusiness Innovation Grants to provide seed funding for farmer/grower groups to develop new ideas to a stage where they can be applied or attract other funding for further development. The selection process involves two stages:

- the applicant submits a Project Inquiry.
- if the Project Inquiry is approved, the applicant may be contacted by an AGMARDT adviser before they submit a Grant Request.

Next project inquiry closing date is 31 August. Forms for these and other AGMARDT grant and scholarship applications are at <http://www.agmardt.org.nz/page.php?pageID=8>

Ngarimu Maori Scholarships

These scholarships are funded by the Government and from interest on Ngarimu VC and 28th (Maori) Battalion Memorial Scholarship Fund Board investments. The Fund Board, established by an Act of Parliament in 1945, aimed to recognise the bravery of

the 28th battalion and its Victoria Cross hero Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa Ngarimu, and to assist future generations of young Maori to achieve both academically and within their own communities as leaders of Maori. Applicants need to be able to whakapapa to a member of the 28th Maori Battalion. The scholarships are worth up to \$30,000 to successful applicants.

The scholarship forms are available on the Ministry of Education's website at www.minedu.govt.nz

Rear Admiral Jack Steer will become the next *Vice Chief of Defence Force (VCDF)*. Colonel Andrew Renton-Green has been re-appointed as the *Chair of the National War Memorial Advisory Council*, and Denny Morris has also been reappointed for a further one-year term. Ross Wilson has been appointed as the new **chair of the Accident Compensation Corporation Board**.

Tim Brown and Peter Sutton have both been re-elected to the *Board of Consumer* for a further 3 year term. Ema Tavola and Taniela Vao have been appointed to *Creative NZ's Pacific Arts Committee*.

Appointments

Dr Dave Morgan has been appointed to the *National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee*. Dr Nick Edgar is the *Landcare Trust's* new *Chief Executive Officer*. Donald Aubrey has joined the *national board of Federated Farmers of NZ*. Businessman Stephen Tindall has been appointed *chair of the Growth and Innovation Advisory Board (GIAB)*. Icebreaker chief executive Jeremy Moon, farming industry expert Sam Robinson and Business NZ chief executive Phil O'Reilly have been appointed as *members of GIAB*. Peter Diessl has been appointed to the *Board of the NZ Symphony Orchestra*.

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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