

Rural Bulletin

May 2008



Rural Women
NEW ZEALAND

<http://www.ruralwomen.org>

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Consultation

Public Feedback Sought on NZ Digital Strategy

The Draft Digital Strategy 2.0 has been released for public comment. The strategy is NZ's five-year action plan to make sure that we make the most of the opportunities that information and communications technologies (ICT) bring. It is based on the 2005 Strategy, which focused on three ways of enabling NZers to get the best from ICT, and four goals have been developed which relate to "connection", "confidence", "content", and "collaboration":

- connection is about "the widespread availability of fast and affordable broadband meeting the needs of NZers";
- confidence refers to "digitally capable and confident NZers transforming our economy, strengthening our national identity and enhancing sustainability";
- the content goal is for "NZers to be world-class at creating, discovering and using digital content to create value, improve lives and communities, and enable sustainable development"; and
- collaboration means that for NZ to reach its digital potential Maori, communities, business, the ICT sector, local and central government, and researchers and academia need to be better connected, with their interests better matched when it comes to digital matters.

The draft strategy sets out three main outcomes that can be achieved by being digital and working together. These centre on productivity, community and sustainability.

The feedback gained during the consultation process will help determine how the four "Cs" can contribute to "NZ achieving its digital potential and transforming our economy and society".

Consultation on the Draft Digital Strategy closes 12 May 2008; however, late submissions from Rural Bulletin readers will be welcomed up to 20 May. There are opportunities for feedback via new tools, such as a wiki and online dialogue boxes, on the digital strategy website at www.digitalstrategy.govt.nz.

Walking Access Bill: Submissions Sought

Public submissions are now being invited on the Walking Access Bill. This Bill would establish a NZ Walking Access Commission to lead and co-ordinate the provision of public access to the outdoors especially around the coast, lakes, and along rivers. The Commission's responsibilities would include:

- providing information about the location of existing public access;
- providing a code of responsible conduct for the guidance of the public and landholders in respect of recreational access to the outdoors; and
- facilitating and funding negotiations for new public access across private land.

Submissions close on 21 May 2008. Two copies go to the Local Government and Environment Committee, Parliament House, Wellington. The Bill is at http://www.parliament.nz/en-NZ/PB/Legislation/Bills/0/9/3/00DBHOH_BILL8481_1-Walking-Access-Bill.htm

Telecom's Structural Separation Proposal

The Minister of Communications is inviting further comments on Telecom's structural separation proposal. Telecom's proposal was submitted in response to the Government's consultation document on the operational separation of Telecom.

More consultation is sought because Telecom has proposed the voluntary structural separation of its network business, rather than the operational separation called for in the Telecommunications Amendment Act. This is an extra consultation, sought by stakeholders/other people with an interest in the matter.

The main requirements of operational separation are:

- establishment of a separately branded, stand-alone and arms-length fixed network business unit that will control all present and future access network assets, including fibre and fixed wireless access assets (Chorus was launched by Telecom on Separation Day);
- establishment of an arms-length wholesale division that will provide access to key fixed network regulated services, including advanced bitstream services, to all service providers (including Telecom);
- establishment of one or more arms-length business units that provide one or more other functions (for example, retail services);
- formal oversight of Telecom's implementation of the separation plan and internal compliance by an Independent Oversight Group (IOG) backed up by Commerce Commission enforcement - the IOG will be established by 1 July 2008; and
- transparency and equivalence of supply of relevant services and access to Telecom's network, including a requirement that any future commercial fibre-to-the-premises and access to the next generation network core be provided on a non-discriminatory basis.

Written submissions close on 15 May 2008. They go to Manager, Information Technology and Telecommunications Policy, Ministry of Economic Development, PO Box 1473, Wellington, email operationalseparation@med.govt.nz. More is at http://www.med.govt.nz/templates/MultipageDocumentTOC___26557.aspx

Skills Strategy Discussion Paper

A NZ skills strategy discussion paper has been developed for public comment by the Government, the Council of Trade Unions, Business NZ and the Industry Training Federation.

In it they say for NZ's workforce to remain competitive in a global environment we need a coordinated approach so that:

- the skills development of NZers is focused on the needs of industry and the economy;

- formal qualifications reflect the skills needed in the jobs for which they are designed; and
- managers are able to support workers to work to the best of their ability and potential.

The paper outlines four areas for action over the next year:

- improving literacy, language and numeracy skills;
- supporting firms to attract, retain, develop and use skills across their whole workplace;
- making sure the tertiary education system skill supply matches the needs of industry; and
- ensuring young people in work are supported to continue to develop their skills'

Submissions close 6 June 2008. More information about the NZ Skills Strategy, including consultation meetings throughout the country and an electronic response form, is at <http://www.skillsstrategy.govt.nz/consultation/>, or email skills@dol.govt.nz, or tel 04 913 8012. You can also send submissions to Unified Skills Strategy Programme Office, c/o Department of Labour, PO Box 3705, Wellington

Submissions close on 16 May 2008. They go to the Finance and Expenditure Select Committee, Parliament House, Wellington. The Bill is at <http://www.parliament.nz/NR/rdonlyres/6D1E7D87-0E15-435B-9667-D4C1D73808CC/82573/FinancialAdvisersBillConsultationonPolicyProposals.pdf>

Tax: Splitting Incomes of Families with Children?

A government discussion paper seeks people's views on the idea of allowing families with children to split their income for tax purposes, to reduce the amount of income tax they pay. The discussion paper looks at the advantages and disadvantages of income splitting and asks readers whether they think it would be the best way of providing additional support to families with children.

New Zealand's income tax system works on an individual basis, meaning that individuals are taxed on the income they earn. Income splitting, on the other hand, would treat the family as the taxable unit. Those who would gain most from this proposal would be families in which one parent earned \$120,000 or more a year and the other had no income. If its income were split on a 50/50 basis, that family could reduce its annual income tax by nearly \$9000.

When one parent had an income of \$60,000 a year and the other had none, the tax saving to the family would be just over \$3,000, assuming the same 50/50 split. Similarly, if one parent earned \$60,000 and the other parent earned \$30,000 the family would have a tax saving of about \$960.

Submissions close on 30 June 2008. The discussion document, "Income splitting for families with children", is available at www.taxpolicy.ird.govt.nz

Asthma Study: Rural Families Needed

Massey University Researchers are inviting rural families having a baby to take part in a major study of asthma and allergies in NZ infants. This study follows on from earlier research that indicated that children of mothers who work on farms are less likely to have allergies and asthma.

Asthma and allergies are becoming increasingly common both in NZ and internationally and the study looks at whether some aspects of farm life may affect the appearance of these conditions.

For the study families fill out questionnaires and keep a diary relating to the baby's diet and health.

For more information/to express an interest in participating email H.G.Duckett@massey.ac.nz, or tel 0800 000 544

Review of Raw Milk Regulations: Part 2

These regulations require Fonterra to sell a certain quantity of raw milk to other dairy processors at a set price, up to the 2008/09 season. They are among the measures in the Dairy Industry Re-

Inquiry into the Department of Corrections

Public submissions are now being invited on the Inquiry into the Department of Corrections. The committee's terms of reference focus on:

- work in prisons;
- drug and alcohol rehabilitation in prisons, rehabilitation in prisons in general, and provision of mental and other health services to prisoners;
- head office and its relationship with prisons;
- employment of new prison officers and issues of recruitment, retention, and training of prison staff;
- the role and effectiveness of the Parole Board and Probation Service;
- a review of prison security; and
- pre- and post-release programmes and funding (including work readiness).

Submissions close on 30 May 2008. They go to the Law and Order Committee, Parliament House, Wellington.

Financial Advisers Bill

Parliament's Finance and Expenditure Committee is calling again for submissions on the Financial Advisers Bill. This is because there is now a revised definition of "financial adviser", which is narrower, and would refer only to people whose primary business is providing financial advice or people who regularly provide this kind of advice in the course of their business.

The Committee is also calling for submissions on a proposal to provide for the Securities Commission to oversee the functions and powers of the new system, rather than it being overseen by industry-led approved professional bodies.

structuring Act 2001 (DIRA) which include requirements for "open entry and exit" of suppliers to and from the Fonterra Cooperative Group.

This is the second stage of the review. In this stage The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) is investigating industry concerns about the way the regulations currently work, so they can be assessed against what was intended.

Submissions close on 18 May 2008. A discussion paper is at <http://www.maf.govt.nz/mafnet/publications/dairy-restructuring-review/dirr-options-april-2008/index.htm>, and a submission form is at <http://www.maf.govt.nz/mafnet/publications/dairy-restructuring-review/index.htm>. Send submissions to Review of Raw Milk Regulations, MAF Policy, PO Box 2526, Wellington

Employment Relations (Breaks and Infant Feeding) Amendment Bill

Public submissions are now being invited on the Employment Relations (Breaks and Infant Feeding) Amendment Bill. This amends the Employment Relations Act to require employers to provide facilities and breaks for employees who want to breastfeed their child, and to provide employees with rest and meal breaks.

Submissions close on 19 May 2008. Two copies go to the Transport and Industrial Relations Committee, Parliament House, Wellington. The Bill is at http://www.parliament.nz/en-NZ/PB/Legislation/Bills/7/d/2/00DBHOH_BILL8472_1-Employment-Relations-Breaks-and-Infant-Feeding.htm

Health & Safety in the Mining Industry

The Department of Labour (DoL) is seeking feedback on effective ways to improve the identification and management of hazards in the underground mining industry. It has published a discussion paper outlining some of the approaches that could be used to achieve this. DoL is also interested in any general thoughts people may have on issues related to health and safety currently facing the underground mining industry

Submissions close on 6 June 2008. An electronic submission form is on the DoL website at www.dol.govt.nz. Submissions go to undergroundmining@dol.govt.nz, or: Review of Underground Mining, Workplace Policy Group, Department of Labour, PO Box 3705, Wellington. The discussion paper is at <http://www.dol.govt.nz/consultation/underground-mining/underground-mining-consultation.pdf>

Horizons "One Plan" Hearings: Date Changes

Horizons Regional Council is working on a new regional plan to guide the management of natural resources in its region called the One Plan (because it brings together the existing six separate plans and Regional Policy Statement into one document). The One Plan aims to direct how the region's resources are managed for the next 10 years.

Details of the land hearing for the proposed One Plan have changed as follows:

- Ohakune: 14-16 July 2008 at Maungarongo Marae, 36 Burns Street, Ohakune. The 14 July meeting starts at 9.30am, and the meetings on 15 and 16 July start at 9.00am; and
- Palmerston North: 18 July 2008 at Tararua Room, Horizons Regional Council, 11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North. This is a new meeting and it starts at 9.00 am.

To find out more about the One Plan go to <http://www.horizons.govt.nz/default.aspx?pageid=33>

"Ultra Wide Band Communication Devices"

The Ministry of Economic Development has released a public discussion paper on spectrum allocations for "ultra wide band (UWB) Communication Devices". These are used for high-speed wireless networking in the workplace or at home, for high-precision location of moving or stationary items in sports, agriculture and warehousing industries, and for applications in multimedia and entertainment.

This paper is seeking the opinions of UWB vendors, potential UWB users, existing spectrum users, and other stakeholders about the best way to license UWB communications devices in NZ.

Submissions close on 15 May 2008. The discussion paper, with a feedback link, is at <http://www.rsm.govt.nz/cms/policy-and-planning/current-projects/radiocommunications/spectrum-allocation-for-ultra-wide-band-devices/discussion-paper/>

Wanganui District Council: Gang Insignia Bill

Public submissions are now being invited on this Bill, the aim of which would provide power for the Wanganui District Council to outlaw the wearing of "gang insignia" in certain public places

Submissions close on 6 June 2008. They go to the Law and Order Committee, Parliament House, Wellington. The Bill is at http://www.parliament.nz/en-NZ/PB/Legislation/Bills/9/e/2/00DBHOH_BILL8350_1-Wanganui-District-Council-Prohibition-of-Gang-Insignia.htm

RWNZ Consultation: Mammogram Appointments

Information is sought from rural women on mammogram appointment changes in rural areas.

Please contact noeline.holt@ruralwomen.org.nz

Rural

The National Drought: Contacts/ Resources

A Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) report estimates the impact of recent extreme dry weather across NZ as removing \$1.24 billion from farms. This comes from falls in production and increases in unexpected costs such as feed supplements (neither the cost to the country, nor the impact on GDP are included in these estimates).

The list of contacts/resources for rural people who have been affected by the national drought includes MAF regional contacts, information on the Ministry of Social Development's (MSD) Working for Families Package - which could apply to many farming families - and contact details for MSD drought managers.

MSD's "Working for Families Package"

The Ministry of Social Development's "Working for Families" package may be applicable to farmers affected by the drought (as well as to other NZers). The scheme pays extra money to: almost all families with children, earning under \$70,000 a year; many families with children, earning up to \$100,000 a year; and some larger families earning more. The support comes via:

- Working for Families Tax Credits (administered by Inland Revenue) which are made up of four types of payments: a family tax credit; an in-work tax credit; a minimum family tax credit; and a parental tax credit. People can qualify for one or more, depending on their personal situation. You can work out how much you might get by using an Inland Revenue calculator at <http://www.ird.govt.nz/calculators/keyword/wff-tax-credits/calculator-wfftc-estimate-2009.html>
- MSD's Accommodation Supplement, available to working families and also to many people without children.
- Subsidies for pre-school and out-of-school care, available to many parents, including those earning higher incomes.

MAF Regional Contacts

MAF Policy Office	Name	Phone	Mobile
Hamilton	Phil Journeaux	07 957 8314	029 957 8313
Rotorua	John Vaney	07 921 3400	029 921 3407
Hastings	Gillian Mangin	06 974 8814	029 974 8811
Wellington	Rebecca Williams	04 894 0100	029 894 0680
Nelson	Chas Perry	03 543 9182	029 943 1025
Christchurch	John Greer	03 943 1703	029 943 1706
Dunedin	Trish Burborough	03 951 4700	029 951 4716

MSD: Drought Case Managers

Region	Office	Name	Phone	Mobile
Waikato	Glenview	Lance Taylor	07 957 6748	029 237 9057
Waikato	Hamilton East	Vicki Dance	07 957 6683	
Bay of Plenty	Rotorua	Helen Rastrick	07 921 8087	
Bay of Plenty	Tokoroa	Lyn Savage-Morris	07 901 8564	
Bay of Plenty	Tokoroa	Bev Norton	07 901 8552	029 273 6575
Bay of Plenty	Regional	Gerry Brons	07 921 8187	029 200 6220
Bay of Plenty	Regional	Julie Hill	07 921 8005	029 257 8385
Bay of Plenty	Opotiki	Marie Rolls	07 922 9401	029 275 0221
Bay of Plenty	Whakatane	Roberta Ripaki	07 922 6320	029 242 6701
East Coast	Waipukurau	Sally Araipu	06 904 5522	
East Coast	Waipukurau	Mary Collins	06 904 5526	
Taranaki	Regional	Terry Curran	06 968 6640	029 249 5341
Taranaki	Regional	Linda Paterson	06 968 6703	029 650 0105
Taranaki	Regional	Malcolm Carson	06 965 8014	029 281 8376
Central	Masterton	Graeme Roberts	06 946 9129	029 251 7754
Central	Masterton	Lisa Kerr	06 946 9151	029 200 3405
Central	Masterton	Tina Hemi	06 946 9132	
Central	Feilding	Dave Wilson	06 952 9014	029 287 7176
Central	Horowhenua	Kevin Salmons	06 949 8723	029 650 0541
Central	Horowhenua	Lynn Currie	06 949 8738	029 274 6048
Central	Dannevirke	Marie Streeter	06 901 4082	
Central	Palmerston North	James Etuale	06 952 0316	029 284 2779
Nelson	Regional	Mark Berthelsen	03 989 7070	029 200 6235
Canterbury	Rangiora	Michael Friel	03 909 0479	
Southern	Alexandra, Queenstown	Annette Harris	03 901 6911	
Southern	Timaru	Kerry Lundy	03 956 7807	029 238 4553
Southern	Balclutha	Karen Bird	03 904 0883	
Southern	Gore	Sue Moseby	03 902 0656	
Southern	Southland	Glyn Emmerson	03 948 7754	

For more information contact either your local drought case manager, or the regional contact person.

Federated Farmers of NZ Feed Information Online

A list of feed suppliers can now be accessed from Federated Farmers website at http://www.fedfarm.org.nz/Feedlist_Disclaimer.html

IRD: Emergency Helpline/Special Measures

Special measures are in place to help ease the pressure on drought-affected farmers, and Inland Revenue (IRD) advises farmers to get in touch with a tax professional or IRD. There is an emergency IRD helpline 0800 473 566 (open Monday to Friday 8am-8pm, Saturday 9am-1pm). The special measures include allowing farmers to send a late estimate, or re-estimate, of provisional tax, if their circumstances have changed due to the

drought. Early provisional tax refunds can also be arranged if tax has been overpaid. IRD has also relaxed the rules of the income equalisation scheme, allowing late deposits and early refunds. Other help available could include remission of late payment and non-filing penalties, and extensions of time for filing returns and the Working for Families Package (see below). Contact a tax professional or IRD to find out more.

Government helpline

Freephone 0800 779 997 for information and access to services such as financial assistance, stress counselling and off-farm employment. The helpline can link callers to non-government agencies like the Rural Support Trusts, Rural Women NZ and Federated Farmers.

Rural Support Trust Contacts

Northland	Trust in the process of forming	Helen Moodie helen.moodie@landcare.org.nz	09 435 3863
Waikato/Hauraki/ Coromandel	Waikato/Hauraki/Coromandel Rural Relief Trust	Neil Bateup bateupn@xtra.co.nz	0800 787 254
Bay of Plenty	Bay of Plenty Rural Support Trust	Derek Spratt spratty@netsmart.net.nz	07 533 3764
Gisborne	East Coast Rural Support Trust (Gisborne)	David Scott treescapfarm@xtra.co.nz	06 868 4840
Hawkes Bay	East Coast Rural Support Trust (Hawke's Bay)	Hugh McPhail info@hughmcphail.co	06 858 4361
	Hawke's Bay Primary Producers Adverse Event Trust	Mike Adye mike@hbrc.govt.nz	06 835 9203
Manawatu/Rangitikei	Manawatu/Rangitikei Family Support Trust	Margaret Millard millard@manawatu.gen.nz	06 329 6860
	East Coast Rural Support Trust (Dannevirke)	Chris Southgate cwsouthgate@xtra.co.nz	06 374 9862
Taranaki	Taranaki Rural Support Trust	Neville Hagenson n.c.hagenson@xtra.co.nz	027 273 7588
		Peter Adamski p.k.adamski@xtra.co.nz	06 751 4217
Wairarapa	East Coast Rural Support Trust (Masterton)	Bruce Watkins hmebw@xtra.co.nz	06 378 6895
Marlborough/Nelson/ Tasman	Top of the South Trust	Ian Blair ieblair@xtra.co.nz	03 578 9923
West Coast	Westland Rural Trust (Dobson)	Dianne Milne bobmilne@xtra.co.nz	03 738 0038
		Ross Bishop rossbishop@clear.net.nz	03 768 9000
Canterbury	(North) Canterbury Rural Support Trust	Dorothy Oakley spudfarm@clear.net.nz	03 318 1742
	Mid-Canterbury Emergency Relief Trust	Alan Baird Allan.baird@xtra.co.nz	03 308 7594
	Mid-Canterbury Rural Support Trust	Kevin Geddes kgeddes@fedfarm.org.nz	03 307 8148
	South Canterbury Adverse Event Trust	David Hewson hewson@farmside.co.nz	03 612 6367
		David Williams williams_tepuni@slingshot.co.nz	027 297 4454
Otago	Otago Adverse Events Trust	Irene Scurr curbiko@xtra.co.nz	03 454 6198
		Bev McCaw beverleymccaw@slingshot.co.nz	03 434 0459
Southland	Southland Rural Support Trust	Russell Falconer Russell.f@sld.quik.co.nz	027 431 8173

Rural Women NZ "Droughtspeak" Blog

Share information by clicking on RWNZ's "Droughtspeak". The site also lists the National Drought Management Committee's members and terms of reference, and other useful information. Add comments by clicking the "comment" link at the bottom of any post. The URL is <http://www.droughtspeak.blogspot.com/>

Predicting Greenhouses Gases in Farming/Forestry

Landcare Research scientists are heading a new international network that will predict greenhouse gas emissions from farming and forestry practices. The DNDC (denitrification-decomposition) network is designed to estimate nitrous oxide and methane emissions from cropping, pasture and forestry. It will use data on climate, soils, and management practices, modified and adapted by Landcare Research for NZ grazed pastoral systems.

The research will help countries to efficiently account for their greenhouse gas emissions and plan how to reduce them: an adapted version has already been used to simulate nitrous oxide emissions from dairy and sheep-grazed pastures.

The network is jointly funded by Landcare Research and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, and is open to all researchers, scientists, government and private agencies as well as to educational institutions interested in farm greenhouse gas emissions.

Leptospirosis Research Points to Sheep

Preliminary results from a recent study of leptospirosis, in the words of the study's main researcher, "add weight to the hypothesis that sheep are an important source of leptospiral infections for humans". The Massey University study was undertaken (with the co-operation of meat company PPCS) because of the changing profile of leptospirosis victims and the high number of cases amongst meat workers. In fact, meat workers made up 30% of total infections in 2006, which is one of the reasons why the work was undertaken at a meat plant.

In the past, a significant number of sufferers were associated with the dairy industry, and lots of work has been done to vaccinate dairy herds against the disease. The importance of these latest results lies in the evidence it provides that other animals may be important hosts for the disease.

Long term, the research team intends to build on the study to look at other occupationally-exposed groups including those working with cattle such as farmers, meat workers, technicians and veterinarians.

Note: On 19 May Rural Women NZ will present a cheque for leptospirosis research to Dr Benschop at its national conference in Blenheim, following a year-long leptospirosis fundraising campaign.

Some Leptospirosis Facts

In NZ meat workers are one of the occupations most at risk of contracting leptospirosis, comprising 30% of notifications in 2006.

Leptospirosis occurs more frequently in humans in NZ than in any other country where it is notifiable.

Infection can result in severe illness and, in some cases, death.

During 2003-2005 leptospirosis resulted in 207 hospitalisations.

The majority of cases of leptospirosis are relatively mild and may be misdiagnosed as influenza.

The true incidence of leptospirosis is probably many times the reported incidence.

Leptospira species have many animal hosts including the main livestock species, wildlife and rodents.

Fonterra Ups Its Payout

Fonterra has boosted its record payout for the 2007/08 milking season to \$7.30/kg milksolids (/kgMS). It lifted the payout prediction from the existing record forecast of \$6.90/kgMS.

The 2006/07 payout was \$4.46/kgMS, and Fonterra's previous record payout, \$5.33/kgMS in 2002, was worth \$6.14/kgMS in 2007 dollars.

However, analysis by agricultural economists of the cost of the 2007/08 drought says it will take \$894 million from expected dairy earnings.

Potential Effect of Emissions Trading on Farm Profits

A new Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) report gives an approximate idea of how farm profits might be affected by the emissions trading scheme (NZETS). The report, entitled "Projected impacts of the NZ emissions trading scheme at the farm level", plots various effects on profitability of combinations of product prices and carbon prices.

It is at <http://www.maf.govt.nz/climatechange/reports/Projected-Impacts-of-NZETS.pdf>

Environment

2006 NZ Greenhouse Gas Figures

The latest annual greenhouse gas inventory report (covering 1990-2006) shows NZ's emissions grew by under 1% between 2005 and 2006, improving on the previous year's increase of 3%.

Reported total greenhouse gas emissions in 2006 were 77.9 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (Mt CO₂-e). This is an increase of 15.9 Mt CO₂-e (26%) over the 1990 level of 61.9 Mt CO₂-e.

The report says the causes of increasing emissions include the expansion of dairy farming, more cars and trucks on the road, and an increase in demand for electricity.

The report has been submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change secretariat - countries are now required to submit their inventory in order to continue carbon-trading). NZ was among the first of a handful of countries granted trading rights late last year.

A summary of the inventory information is available on the MfE website: <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/climate/greenhouse-gas-inventory-overview-apr08/index.html>

Measuring Carbon in NZ Forests/ Soils...

The Ministry for the Environment has launched a LUCAS website explaining the NZ Land Use and Carbon Analysis System, which is part of the Government's climate change policy package. The system measures and monitors the amount of carbon held in NZ's forests and soils. This information is required for NZ's reporting requirements under the Kyoto Protocol and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

To be kept informed about LUCAS progress and receive the "Looking at LUCAS" e-newsletter go to <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/issues/climate/lucas/> to register.

...Kiwi Carbon Offset Company in World Top 30

A carbon offset company launched earlier this year by two Nelson women has been recognised as one of the top 30 carbon offset providers in the world. Offset the Rest is the only company in the Asia-Pacific region to be named in the Top 30 list published by UK-based Environmental Data Services. The company advises businesses and individuals on how to measure and reduce their emissions, and offset any remaining emissions. It sells carbon offset packages from its website for a wide range of emission-producing activities, including cars, houses, air travel, business emissions, and agricultural emissions.

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

SFF Funding for Nationwide Environmental Projects

Examples of the seven national projects and 32 regional projects provisionally funded under the latest Sustainable Farming Fund round are:

- the Energy Efficiency Community Network's "Sustainable Energy Advice Centre Network" pilot, which has been approved for further funding of \$155,000 this year;
- the 2020 Communications Trust's "eDay 2008" project. Provisional funding of \$200,000 has been approved for the organisation to build local capacity and develop skills in handling e-waste;
- Sir Peter Blake Trust's "Care for our Coast" programme, which is set to receive \$51,500 to encourage communities to care for their local beach, estuary, lake or river;
- Genera Limited is set to receive funding for the first time (provisionally, \$122,500) for a project that aims to

demonstrate that Generated Phosphine is a safe, viable alternative to methyl bromide for removing quarantine pests on key exports;

- the Trees for Survival Charitable Trust's "Trees for Survival Expansion" project, which has been granted funding of \$40,000 to expand the Trees for Survival programme involving children growing trees on "at risk" land;
- the Dune Restoration Trust of NZ's "Empowering Coastal Communities to Adapt to Climate Change" project, which aims to provide local coastal communities with an adaptive approach to help mitigate the effects of sea level rise and increased storm activity, is set to receive \$67,500;
- the Youth Hostel Association of NZ's "Green Footprint" project, which has been approved for \$27,000 in funding to extend the existing successful Green Footprint project into four other NZ locations; and
- the Environmental Education for Resource Sustainability Trust will expand a "paper4trees" project in schools around the South Island. Provisional funding: \$231,000 over three years.

A list of all the projects is at <http://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/Sustainable%20Management%20Fund%20-%20approved%20applications.pdf> and more information about the Fund itself can be found at <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/withyou/funding/smf/>

World Environment Day: 5 June

More than 100 school and community projects around the country will mark NZ's hosting of World Environment Day on 5 June and receive government funding for their projects. The funding was made available to assist organisations, groups, schools and early childhood education centres who wished to undertake an event or activity during the week of World Environment Day (2 to 8 June 2008).

More details on World Environment Day including a calendar showing the build-up of events in NZ can be found at www.world.environment.govt.nz.

Wind Power for Scott Base

Antarctica NZ and Meridian Energy are about to embark on a project to build the southernmost wind farm in the world. The scheme will involve construction of three wind turbines linked to the electrical grids of both McMurdo Station and Scott Base. Site works will begin in November and the first stage of the wind farm is expected to start generating in late February 2010.

Pink Batts Maker Goes Sustainable

Tasman Insulation has commissioned a new, energy-efficient \$6 million furnace at its Pink Batts plant in Penrose, Auckland. It will process more than 6000 tonnes of waste window glass annually to make into Pink Batts insulation. The new furnace will reduce the plant's annual CO2 emissions by 1700 tonnes and use a third of the energy.

Sustainable Living Workshops

The Sustainable Living Programme is a partnership between 22 local and regional councils to provide practical ways of making small changes to limit environmental impacts at home. The programme includes community education courses covering energy

efficiency, waste reduction, shopping tips, travel, vegetable gardening and eco-building, as well as water use and impacts.

More information, including details of courses or one-off events coming up in your district or region, is at www.sustainableliving.org.nz, tel 03 960 2656, or email: rhys@sustainableliving.org.nz

Tourism

More Australians Hop Over Here

Visitor arrivals from Australia increased by 6,700 (8%) in March 2008, when compared with March 2007, according to Statistics NZ (SNZ). This was helped by the earlier timing of the Easter holidays. There were also more visitor arrivals from the United Kingdom (up 2,800 or 8%), China (up 1,800 or 20%) and the United States (up 1,400 or 6%), but fewer from Korea (down 3,000 or 31%) and Japan (down 1,300 or 10%). Total visitor arrivals numbered 250,800 in March 2008, up 11,600 (5%) from March 2007.

Visitor arrivals reached 2.497 million in the year ended March 2008, up 51,900 (2%) from the previous year. There were more visitors from Australia and China, but fewer visitors from Korea, Japan and the United Kingdom.

New Zealand residents departed on 134,800 short-term trips overseas in March 2008, up 2,400 (2%) from March 2007. Most of this increase was to countries in Asia (up 1,900).

In the year ended March 2008, NZ residents departed on 1.996 million overseas trips, up 117,100 (6%) from the March 2007 year. There were more trips to Australia, France, the Cook Islands, China and the United States, but fewer trips to Fiji.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, permanent and long-term (PLT) arrivals exceeded departures by 500 in March 2008. The net PLT series averaged 500 between January and November 2007, but had been lower between December 2007 and February 2008. Annual net PLT migration increased slightly from 4,600 in the February 2008 year to 4,700 in the March 2008 year, but was well down on the net inflow of 12,100 recorded in the previous March year. The net outflow to Australia was 29,900 in the year ended March 2008, the highest since the net outflow of 30,000 in the year ended July 2001. Net inflows were recorded for the United Kingdom (6,900), India (4,200), the Philippines (3,300), Fiji (2,500), and South Africa (2,100).

Health & Welfare

New Carers' Strategy Now in Place

A new Carers' Strategy for the country's carers is now in place.

At the time of the 2006 Census around 420,000 NZers reported providing support for an individual with ill health or a disability within the previous four weeks. About 47% of carers are supporting someone outside their household, 38% are helping someone

inside their household, and 15% are supporting people inside and outside the carer's home. Most carers see themselves not as carers, but as relatives or close friends of the person who needs support. Their carer role includes supporting others with:

- personal care, e.g. dressing, toileting and bathing;
- physical movement and therapy, e.g. getting them out of bed, exercising and transporting them;
- keeping them safe, e.g. in the home;
- practical household tasks, e.g. cooking and housework;
- administrative tasks, e.g. paying bills and arranging appointments, and
- emotional support, such as encouraging and reassuring, spiritual support and advocacy.

The strategy helps identify what actions are needed to make carers feel supported, valued and recognised for the role they have caring for other people. It covers health and wellbeing; opportunities to take a break from caring; learning for caring; financial support; training and pathways to employment; combining work and care; and information provision.

It has been estimated that the unpaid work of carers has an annual economic value to NZ of hundreds of millions of dollars.

The Carers Strategy is at <http://ezine.carers.net.nz/downloads/carersstrategy.pdf>

ACC Rural Safety Campaign

ACC is tapping into the voice of experience for its new rural safety campaign, using the stories of farmers who have suffered long-term injuries.

Between July 2006 and June 2007, 4500 farmers were injured so badly they were off work for weeks or even months. If a farmer is badly injured their lifestyle and income is at serious risk. Not only must they pay someone else to do their job for them, they might not be able to farm again - and that thought is enough to make farmers think seriously about the effects of an injury.

Farmers learn best from other farmers so ACC is using the stories of injured farmers who want to help others. The stories will run over the next few months in some rural media alongside advertisements with the tag line "If you're injured, you take the farm with you."

If you have been injured, or know someone who has, and would like to be part of the campaign and help others, ACC is very keen to hear from you. Please email lee-anne.duncan@acc.co.nz, or call Lee-Anne on 021 751 763.

New Report on Child Poverty in NZ

A new publication called "Left Behind: How social and income inequalities damage NZ children" was recently released by the Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG). The report's authors say that between 2000 and 2004 the proportion of all children in severe and significant hardship increased by a third, to 26%. In 2004, there were about 185,000 children in benefit families in some degree of hardship, with 150,000 of them in significant or severe hardship. They conclude that little has changed for this group of children who, they say, have been "left behind."

A wide range of recommendations cover actions CGAG wants to see carried out in the areas of: income, tax, benefits, health, housing, education and social hazards.

The report is at <http://www.cpag.org.nz/resources/articles/res1209380220.pdf>

How We View Our Hospital Emergency Departments

According to a survey of 250 NZers conducted by Reader's Digest, most NZers are satisfied with the treatment given at emergency departments and, although they expect much faster treatment, they trust the staff, and feel safe and generally satisfied. The survey results showed:

- more than half (58%) see the lack of doctors and nurses as the main cause of slow treatment, with 41% blaming this staffing shortage on inadequate government policy and funding;
- 91% are content with the quality of medical care offered by emergency departments, with 22% best describing it as professional and 26% as efficient, with 6% believing the treatment is incompetent or dangerous;
- some 78% said emergency departments are busy places; of these 43% said they found them "mildly busy", 35% "busy but well-managed" and 6% "chaotic";
- on average, poll participants with direct experience reported a wait of 102 minutes at emergency departments, well above the average of 38 minutes considered an acceptable wait;
- 57% identified the excessive waiting as the leading cause of concern, twice as important as the lack of resources available to staff (19%) and four times (13%) more important than the actual time spent with a doctor receiving treatment. Nearly a quarter (22%) said the slow pace made them feel annoyed and agitated; and
- of those polled who had recently needed emergency hospital care, 85% said they were pleased with the treatment received from emergency doctors and nurses, 60% felt the staff listened and took their concerns seriously, and 73% were happy with the information provided about their condition. In fact, 89% of us said despite the wait and the discomfort, they feel safe in emergency departments.

NZ Disability Group Awarded US\$50,000 Grant

As part of the Roosevelt Disability Award the Disabled Persons Assembly (DPA) has been awarded a US\$50,000 grant. DPA will use the funding to promote the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as a major ongoing event in the lives of NZers, and to create a diversity action programme, using disabled people as teachers.

The 2007 Franklin Delano Roosevelt Award was granted to NZ for its achievements in promoting a truly inclusive society where disabled people are valued and fully participate.

Men's Health Week

Men's Health Week, which is organised by Age Concern and the College of Nurses (Aotearoa), runs from 9-15 June 2008. It provides an opportunity for NZers to focus on improving men's

health and also for NZ men to make a difference to their health for themselves. The week was established because:

- the life expectancy of men is lower than the life expectancy of women;
- some diseases affecting men are increasing (especially prostate and testicular cancers);
- men have higher risk of suicide and yet male depression remains under-diagnosed and under-treated;
- health services have been slow to respond to men's health needs; and
- little has been done to encourage and enable men to access services faster and more efficiently.

"Growing Up" Survey of Children Launched

"Growing Up in NZ", a new longitudinal study of children and families in NZ, was launched recently. More than 7,500 Maori, Pacific, Asian, and Pakeha children and their families from the Auckland and Waikato regions will be recruited during their mothers' pregnancies and will be followed through birth, childhood and adolescence, and on to adulthood.

This study will be the first NZ-based longitudinal study to start before children are born, and will capture the increasing diversity of NZers. It is hoped it will help identify opportunities to improve children's lives by studying parenting behaviours, health and environmental factors, child development, education, nutrition and social interactions.

Homelessness in NZ

The first definitive perspective on homelessness has been written by NZ social service organisations and government agencies providing for homeless people. It is released as an edition of Australia's magazine "Parity".

The 30 articles cover current ideas about homelessness from a wide range of writers. They include definitions of homelessness, the role of government, housing, frontline work and a plan for the future.

Copies are available from C Aspinall at clare.aspinall@huttvalleydhsb.org.nz. There is also a DVD on NZ Homelessness called "Putting Homelessness into Focus". This can be previewed at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TjUJOVuExU>

Children's Nightwear: Labelling Changes

Product safety regulations for children's nightwear labelling are to be amended and significant changes made to the labels of some types of nightwear. Currently, category 1, 2 and 3 nightwear is labelled "LOW FIRE DANGER". Proposed new labels will have categories 2 and 3 carrying a warning that will explain that the material is not heat or flame resistant and will indicate that the garment should be worn snug fitting to reduce risk.

Nightwear with these labels will not be in shops until winter 2009 because most retailers have already ordered this year's winter stock.

MeNZB Meningococcal Vaccination Campaign Ends

The Government has received advice from clinicians through the Ministry of Health that a mass vaccination campaign for Meningococcal B immunisation is no longer needed. The campaign began in 2004, and more than one million NZers have now been immunised. The Ministry will continue to monitor the disease and they will reintroduce the vaccine if it is needed again.

Note: children under 5 who have been given only one dose of the Meningococcal B vaccine by 1 June can have their boosters, provided they have them by 31 December 2008.

More information: www.moh.govt.nz/immunisation

New Family Violence Review Committee

A Family Violence Death Review Committee is to be established, with the aim of reducing family violence and family violence deaths. This Committee will be identifying contributing factors to family violence deaths, and recommending any changes to policy or services that may assist with the prevention of family violence. The Committee will be made up of eight members (nominations have been called for).

Human Tissue Bill Passed

The Human Tissue Bill was passed in April. The new Act sets up a new system for organ donation and consents. It also regulates the collection and use of tissue, and sets up a framework for informed consent for human tissue collection and use.

The Act is available on the Legislation website (www.legislation.govt.nz) and from Bennetts bookstores (store locations).

Free One-off Medical Checks for Vietnam Vets...

The process for the free one-off medical checks for Vietnam veterans is now in the final trial stages. The medical check is a key part of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in 2006 with the veterans' organisations, the Ex-Vietnam Services Association and Royal NZ Returned and Services Association (RSA). Veterans will go to their regular doctor for the assessment, and the information gained will be sent to a Medical Audit Team for review. If the assessment uncovers conditions that mean the veteran is eligible for a War Disablement Pension, the information can be used in an application for this pension.

Note: from 1 July 2008 the policy relating to, and delivery of, War Disablement Pensions is to be transferred to Veterans Affairs NZ, so it will be the only agency dealing with War Disablement Pensions.

More information on registering with Veterans' Affairs NZ is at www.veteransaffairs.mil.nz or call 0800 483 8372

Education

"Super-Union" for Tertiary Education Sector

The Association of University Staff (AUS) and the Association of Staff in Tertiary Education (ASTE) are amalgamating to form the NZ Tertiary Education Union from 1 January 2009. The new 11,500-strong Tertiary Education Union will represent academic and general staff in NZ's eight universities, twenty polytechnics and institutes of technology, two wananga and a number of allied organisations. Preparations for the formation of the new union are underway, with a rules conference to be held in late July and the two unions planning to hold a joint conference in November.

New Trust to Fund PhD Education/Research

The Royal Society of NZ has established a charitable trust, the Rutherford Foundation, to provide funding for PhD education, postdoctoral research and early career development in science. Supported with a \$1million government grant, the Foundation will also assist science teachers, and establish a Freemasons NZ Postdoctoral Fellowship.

Landmark Year for Language Learning

A review of language diversity was recently released by the Human Rights Commission. This notes a number of language milestones in 2007:

- learning languages became a core learning area in the NZ curriculum;
- curricula were completed for NZ Sign Language, Maori in mainstream schools, Vagahau Niue and Tongan;
- a survey of the health of the Maori Language showed improvements;
- the Maori Language Commission and the Maori Language Act turned 20, and a review of the Maori Language Strategy was begun;
- new community language resources were released for Cook Island Maori, Vagahau Niue and Gagana Tokelau;
- BNZ and National Bank ATMs went multilingual; and
- a national language policy framework was released.

New Zealand is a world leader in indigenous language regeneration, and also has an important global role to play in the preservation of Pacific languages, particularly those that fall within the "NZ realm", which includes Niue, the Cook Islands and Tokelau.

Housing

New Bill to Modernise Apartment Laws

A Bill to modernise apartment-ownership and body corporate laws - The Unit Titles Bill - will shortly be introduced to Parliament. It will require body corporates to plan for maintenance and

unit owners will contribute to future costs on a yearly basis. The aim is to deal with situations where, for example, owners face huge one-off levies for big maintenance costs, like getting a new roof. Where people are living in a leaky building and going through the repairs process, the Bill will empower the body corporate to act for the development as a whole and get the repairs done.

There are currently an estimated 16,422 unit title developments in NZ comprising 95,416 units. About 88% of these developments have nine or less units, and around 70% of all unit title developments are residential. The rest are commercial and industrial, while a small number are in the horticultural, agricultural and mining sectors.

Toughened DIY Rules

New guidelines for Do-It-Yourself (DIY) home owner-builders were recently announced that are aimed at eliminating rogues in the building sector.

DIYers who want to qualify for an owner-builder exemption will need to meet the following criteria:

- the DIYer must be an individual and the owner of the land on which the building work is to be carried out;
- s/he will have to sign a statutory declaration stating that the new building is to be their home;
- the implied warranties in the Building Act that apply to builders will be extended to apply to DIYers; and
- council records will show that the work was done by a DIYer.

The guidelines also define more clearly what owner-builders can do and what "restricted work" means for home builders. Restricted work does not apply to all building work, only to areas that are critical like: managing moisture content, making sure the framework is robust and reliable, and making sure fire is contained from spreading in these homes.

If DIYers choose not to use a licensed builder for restricted or specified work they will face the same liability as that which will apply to licensed builders.

A press release is at <http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/diy+rules+aimed+eliminating+building+rogues>

Transport

Government Rail Buy Back

The Government is to purchase NZ's rail and ferry business from Toll Holdings with settlement effective on 30 June 2008. The Government will pay a purchase price of \$665 million for the business, and it will then own 180 mainline locomotives, 4,200 wagons, one rail ferry and leases on two other ferries.

Toll employs approximately 2,300 people in its rail and ferry operations.

The Government already owns the rail infrastructure which includes: 4,000 kilometres of track, six million sleepers, 1,787

bridges, 150 tunnels, 12,000 culverts, and signalling infrastructure including points, railway level crossing alarms, electrification and communications systems. These, along with control of trains on the network, are vested in ONTRACK, which has a staff of 900.

More information, including a Q&A section on the sale and purchase is at <http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/rail+buy+back+marks+new+sustainable+era+transport>

Energy

New Policy Statement on Gas Governance

The revised and updated Government Policy Statement (GPS) on Gas Governance has been released. This sets out the objectives and desired outcomes for consumers, retail arrangements, the wholesaling of gas, infrastructure access, contingency management and other gas matters that the Gas Industry Co, as the approved industry body, will consider and report against.

The new GPS is available at http://www.med.govt.nz/upload/56602/gps_gg.pdf

Tidal Energy Project: Cook Strait

Neptune Power scientists have gained resource consents for a tidal generation turbine trial off Sinclair Head in Cook Strait, which they hope will lay the groundwork for a tidal energy industry in NZ. The company is planning to trial a 1MW turbine about 5km offshore, hopefully from early 2009, as it believes that if tidal currents can be harnessed they could generate enough electricity for all NZ. State-owned power companies Meridian Energy and Transpower are also included in the project's development.

A feature of the trial will be a study of the impact of tidal turbines on marine mammals in Cook Strait, as there has been little research done into marine mammals in the Strait.

Employment

Latest Unemployment Benefit Figures

The number of people receiving an unemployment benefit has dropped from 161,128 in December 1999 to 19,034 as at 31 March 2008. That is the lowest number since 1979 when our population was around one million smaller than it is today.

Key changes between March 2007 and March 2008 benefit figures:

- 31% drop in the number of 18-19 year olds receiving unemployment benefit, to 1,073;
- 41% reduction in long term unemployed benefit numbers (two years or more), down to 4,290;
- 32% drop in Pacific Island unemployment benefit numbers, to 1,746;
- 27% drop in Maori unemployment benefit numbers, to 7,248;
- 4.6% drop in numbers of sickness beneficiaries, to 45,676; and
- 4% drop in the numbers of total working age beneficiaries, to 255,754.

Annual Work Stoppages Decrease

Twenty-nine work stoppages ended in the December 2007 year, according to Statistics NZ (SNZ) figures. This compares with 42 stoppages for the December 2006 year. Stoppages in the December 2007 year involved 3,980 employees, and losses of 11,035 person-days of work and \$1.9 million in wages and salaries. In comparison, the 42 stoppages in the December 2006 year involved 10,079 employees, and losses of 27,983 person-days of work and an estimated \$5.2 million in wages and salaries.

There were 24 complete strikes, three partial strikes and two lockouts that ended in the December 2007 year.

In the December 2007 quarter, eleven work stoppages ended - nine complete strikes, one partial strike and one lockout. These involved 732 employees, and losses of 2,307 person-days of work and an estimated \$0.4 million in wages and salaries.

Justice/The Law

Modernising Search & Surveillance Powers

Following a review of search and surveillance powers by the Law Commission, the Government is drafting a new Bill covering the exercise of these powers by law enforcement agencies.

The Commission found there are many problems with existing law. Core police powers are scattered around statutes, and many were enacted more than 50 years ago. Law has failed to keep pace with technology. For example, existing legislation sanctioning law enforcement use of interception and tracking devices is cumbersome and outdated, and is silent in relation to visual surveillance devices.

Proposed changes include:

- reforming the law enforcement use of surveillance devices;
- more explicit powers to search computers and seize electronic data; and
- the availability of production and monitoring orders and examination orders for law enforcement agencies.

Legal Services Bill Being Drafted

The Government is drafting a Legal Services Amendment Bill to ensure victims do not face any additional stress during the processing of legal aid grants. The Bill would aim to ensure that victims of crime (those affected by an alleged or committed offence) involved in Coronial Inquests and Parole Board hearings

would not be subject to financial eligibility tests, or need to repay legal aid grants when they need to be represented by a lawyer. The Bill would also enable the Legal Services Agency to write off legal aid debt for victims at the time legal aid is granted.

New Criminal Justice Advisory Board

Appointments to a new Criminal Justice Advisory Board that will advise justice sector ministers on further improvements to the criminal justice system have been announced. The board will be chaired by former Secretary for Justice David Oughton. The other members of the board will be Margaret Eames, Nigel Hampton QC, Judge Margaret Lee, Major Campbell Roberts, Valery Sim and Lynette Stewart.

The Board's role will be to:

- help develop greater public consensus on what issues are important in terms of bolstering confidence in the criminal justice system;
- give high level informal advice to Ministers about issues facing the criminal justice system;
- bring a range of perspectives on further improvements to the criminal justice system;
- provide a sounding board for ongoing discussions about criminal justice priorities; and
- help facilitate constructive community dialogue about criminal justice issues and solutions.

Copyright (New Technologies) Amendment Bill

The recently passed Copyright (New Technologies) Amendment Bill is part of a bigger reform of NZ intellectual property law. The new Amendment Act: updates and clarifies how copyright applies to new technologies in the digital environment; promotes the protection and use of copyright material; and updates the principal Act to ensure its effectiveness at a time of emerging technologies.

Background on this Bill can be found on the Ministry of Economic Development (MED) website at http://www.med.govt.nz/templates/ContentTopicSummary___1103.aspx

Business

China Free Trade Agreement in Place

China's first free trade agreement (FTA) with a developed country will remove virtually all trade barriers for NZ exports over a decade, with the first wave of tariff cuts starting in October. NZ's main agriculture exports will take the slowest route to tariff-free entry and dairy products will face transitional duties on threshold breaches. However, these will be eliminated within 17 years.

In return, remaining duties on Chinese exports to NZ will come off at faster pace, with most either coming off this year or phased out by 2012, although NZ's most heavily traded clothing and footwear items will retain some protection until 2016. NZ has also agreed to allow 1800 skilled Chinese a year to work in NZ in

specialised fields while also setting up a working holiday scheme for a further 1000 skilled young Chinese.

The FTA covers goods, services and investment with NZ's third biggest trading partner and includes a Chinese commitment to allow Kiwis on business trips to stay for longer and to process visa applications more efficiently and with greater transparency.

New Zealand goods and services currently face duties of 10-30% entering China while nearly 40% of Chinese imports here attract no or tiny tariffs. NZ's exports there are now worth nearly \$2 billion a year and with the trade balance running three to one in China's favour, the Government estimates the deal could lift export revenue by up to \$350 million a year.

Specifics include:

- tariffs on butter, milk and cheese (15%) will be phased out over 10 years, but those on milk powder will take two years longer (although there could be some exceptions to this);
- tariffs on beef and sheep meat and those on kiwifruit (up to 20%) will be phased out over nine years;
- duty-free wool will be subject to a special quota so that about three-quarters of current wool exports will not attract tariffs, with scope for this volume to grow by 5% a year over eight years;
- about 80% of forest products will continue to have no tariffs, but the deal makes that binding, and certain processed wood and paper products (accounting for 4% of NZ's total exports) will be excluded from the liberalisation;
- duties on all NZ manufactured goods outside agriculture and some processed wood products will be phased out over six years, with most gone within five years; and
- NZ will eliminate remaining tariffs on nearly 40% of Chinese imports from October. However, existing duties of up to 17% on Chinese textile, apparel, footwear and carpet products will be phased out over seven to nine years, while those on all other products including steel, whiteware, plastics and furniture will be phased out within six years.

The FTA is to come into force on 1 October 2008, once Parliament has passed implementing legislation, and after the two countries have exchanged notes confirming that domestic legal procedures have been completed.

A website containing more about the FTA - www.ChinaFTA.govt.nz - has the full text of the agreement and a detailed guide to it. It also has information on ways NZ and Chinese businesses can take advantage of the FTA.

Small Business Advisory Group Report

This report, entitled "Growing Competitive SMEs" (small/medium enterprises) lists 16 recommendations that the Small Business Advisory Group (SBAG) believes will help develop the competitive environment necessary for good business growth. They include:

- a more competitive environment that provides incentives for business growth, innovation and risk-taking and encourages businesses to base themselves in NZ. The right environment should also attract and retain skilled staff and provide the world-class infrastructure needed to support world-class firms;
- creating smarter business owners by providing access to business assistance and support, and enabling owners to

focus on growing their businesses and exploiting new markets. Also, the availability of more tools to make business processes and transactions with government as easy as possible; and

- benefiting from sustainable business by providing the information and support needed to make the most of opportunities and challenges posed by the world-wide trend towards sustainable businesses.

The report is available at http://www.med.govt.nz/templates/StandardSummary___11700.aspx

Compliance Cost Calculator for Small Business

A new Business Compliance Cost Calculator will enable government departments to work out the potential cost new regulations may have on small-to-medium sized businesses. Once trialled it is likely to be compulsory for departments to use the calculator to check out what their proposed regulation will cost small business before they are put in place.

March Trade Performance...

According to Statistics NZ, seasonally adjusted exports for the March 2008 quarter were down 1.4% (\$150 million) from the December 2007 quarter. Increases in milk powder, butter and cheese, and in meat and edible offal exports, helped soften the decrease. Although down from last quarter's record high, the March quarter is only the second time that exports have exceeded \$10 billion, and only the third quarter to exceed \$9 billion.

The seasonally adjusted value of merchandise imports for the March 2008 quarter increased 0.4% (led by an increase in crude oil), following an increase of 10.8% in the December 2007 quarter. This is only the second time the seasonally adjusted value of imports has been greater than \$11 billion; the first time was in the December 2007 quarter.

The latest figures took the trade deficit for the March year to \$4.53 billion, or 11.9% of exports. That was worse than the \$4.4 billion deficit in the February year but better than the \$4.8 billion in January.

...& March Manufacturing Activity

New Zealand's manufacturing sector experienced a decline in overall activity in March according to the Bank of NZ - Business NZ Performance of Manufacturing Index (PMI). The seasonally adjusted PMI for March stood at 48.3, which is 3.5 points lower than the February result. This is the first time the seasonally adjusted result has been in decline since January 2006 and is the lowest result since November 2005. It is also below the average PMI value of 54.4 since the survey began in 2002.

A PMI reading above 50.0 indicates that manufacturing is generally expanding; below 50.0 that it is declining. PMI values for March in the years 2002-2007 have ranged from 51.7-59.1, meaning the latest result is the first time manufacturing has been in decline for that month.

Japan-NZ Forum

Senior members of government and business leaders from Japan and NZ will meet in Tokyo on 14-15 May at the first ever Japan

NZ Partnership Forum. About 100 business and governmental leaders are expected to attend, including a 40-strong contingent from NZ. Japan is NZ's third largest trading partner with exports totalling NZ\$3.57 billion in 2007. Japan is also the fifth most significant source of tourist revenue for NZ with 117,743 arrivals in the year to February 2008, despite a reduction of 12% over the previous year.

The Forum has been organised by the NZ International Business Forum (NZIBF) with the support of the NZ Government and the Asia NZ Foundation (Asia:NZ). For more information, contact NZIBF executive director Stephen Jacobi by email at stephen@jacobi.co.nz or Asia:NZ media adviser Charles Mabbett at cmabbett@asianz.org.nz.

Payoffs for Socially Conscious Companies: Report

A study just released by BBMG, New York indicates that educated consumers are looking for companies that mirror their socially conscious values. Chief among these values are health and safety, corporate honesty, eco-friendliness, promoting local producers, and convenience.

On behalf of BBMG, the Global Strategy Group, New York, polled roughly 2000 adults. They found that while price and quality were still top considerations when consumers made purchasing decisions - with 58% and 66% of respective respondents dubbing those traits "very important" - a growing number are showing concern about issues pertinent to social responsibility.

For 41% of respondents, a product's energy efficiency was a key factor, and 44% said that where a product is manufactured was important, beating out more typical considerations such as convenience, which was only considered very important by 34% of those polled.

For companies that meet those criteria, the payoffs are clear. According to the survey, 90% of consumers are more likely to buy products from a company that manufactures energy-efficient goods, and 88% were more likely to buy products that promote consumer health and safety. If a company supports fair labour and trade practices, or if the company commits to environmentally friendly practices, 87% of consumers said they were more likely to buy goods from that manufacturer.

Trust between consumers and marketers is very important too: there has to be a match between what a company is promising and what it's doing.

The article is at http://www.brandweek.com/bw/news/recent_display.jsp?vnu_content_id=1003670155&imw=Y

Money Matters

US Recession Slowing World Economic Growth: IMF

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has warned in its World Economic Outlook report that a global slowdown in economic growth will be led by the United States (US), which will go into a "mild recession" this year.

The IMF forecasts that the world economy will grow much more slowly in the next two years as a result of the financial market crisis that erupted in August 2007, which it says has developed into the "largest financial shock since the Great Depression". It indicates that world economic growth will slow to 3.7% in 2008 and 2009, 1.25% lower than growth in 2007.

It believes that the US economy will grow by just 0.5% during 2008 and will actually contract in the first half of the year. Its recovery will be slow, with growth of only 0.6% forecast in 2009.

Higher Food Prices Push Up CPI

According to Statistics NZ, the Consumers Price Index (CPI) increased 0.7% in the March 2008 quarter. Food prices made the most significant upward contribution to the CPI this quarter, increasing 1.8%. The main contributor to this rise resulted from increases in grocery food prices (up 3.6%). Within the grocery food subgroup the most significant contributions came from cheese, bread, and butter.

For the year to the March 2008 quarter, the CPI increased 3.4%, following a rise of 3.2% for the year to the December 2007 quarter. Higher prices for petrol (up 20.5%) made the most significant individual contribution to the increase in the CPI. If petrol prices had remained constant from the March 2007 quarter, the CPI would have risen 2.5% for the year to the March 2008 quarter.

Not-For-Profits

Charitable Giving Now Easier for Donors/Volunteers

The Government has given the go-ahead to tax changes designed to make charitable giving of money and volunteers' time easier for all concerned. Next year it's planned to introduce a voluntary payroll giving system that will enable people to donate to charitable and philanthropic causes through work-based payroll deductions. Other changes will clarify and simplify the law on how reimbursements and honoraria paid to volunteers in the non-profit sector are to be treated for tax purposes. It is believed that this will remove long-standing problems and associated compliance costs for volunteers. Both sets of changes will be included in the next taxation bill, which is scheduled for introduction in late June this year.

Payroll Giving

It will be voluntary for employers to introduce payroll giving into their workplace and voluntary for employees to participate.

The system will be available only to those employers who file their employer monthly schedules with Inland Revenue electronically.

The system will deliver payday tax relief on charitable donations by way of a PAYE credit.

Each payday employees will receive a PAYE credit on the amount of their donation, and employers will offset the credit against the PAYE calculated on the employee's gross pay.

The current end-of-year rebate claim process will continue - employees who do not or are not able to donate through payroll giving can still claim tax relief on their donations through the rebate process.

Reimbursements and Honoraria

Reimbursements that are based on actual costs incurred by volunteers will be tax-exempt, with no limits.

If a paying organisation puts in place a process for making a reasonable estimate of the costs likely to be incurred by volunteers, payments made to volunteers on the basis of that estimate will also be treated as tax-exempt income.

Honoraria will continue to be subject to withholding tax.

Organisations will have to pay reimbursements separately from honoraria if recipients are to have the advantage of having their reimbursements treated as tax-free.

You can download the survey from <http://www.granthornton.co.nz/Assets/documents/Services/NFP-Survey-2007-2008.pdf>

QuickStats About Unpaid Work

Information in this QuickStats looks at the unpaid work of adults (aged 15 years and over) who usually live in NZ. Unpaid work falls into three broad categories: unpaid work that occurs within the household; unpaid work that occurs outside the household; and other voluntary work through an organisation, group or marae. Overall:

- 89% of people aged 15 years and over undertook some form of unpaid work;
- 92% of women engaged in unpaid work at home, compared with 86% of males;
- females were more likely to participate in voluntary work outside the home, with 17% of females and 14% of males participating in other voluntary work; and
- people 60-64 years old were the most likely to be involved, with 19% undertaking other voluntary work.

More is at www.stats.govt.nz (type "QuickStats: About Unpaid Work" into the search bar)

Not-for-Profit Survey 2007/2008

Grant Thornton, a NZ-wide accountancy and management advisory firm, has just released its third survey of issues affecting the sector. This latest survey was designed to build on the findings from the 2003 and 2005 surveys.

Key findings to emerge include:

- the three most challenging issues for the Not-for-Profit sector are financing and fundraising, governance and the retention and motivation of key staff (the same issues as in the previous two surveys);
- over half of survey respondents continue to be concerned about the sustainability of their key sources of income. However, most organisations are confident about the funding they have in place for the next 12 months, with 86% budgeting to make a surplus or at least break-even;
- 60% of respondents believe that their organisation will benefit from the tax changes on donations that were announced in the 2007 Budget;
- performance monitoring is largely seen as the domain of the CEO. Not-for-Profits are coming under increasing scrutiny and pressure to demonstrate that their activities are delivering "best value" whether they are competing for the public's charitable donations, grants, or for public sector service contracts;
- Not-for-Profit organisations define success in terms of making a real difference to users, and building a financially sustainable organisation with sound leadership and management;
- 93% of respondents undergo an independent audit; and
- 52% of Boards focus on operational issues and 48% focus on strategic issues. The most important role of the Board is to keep the organisation focused on its mission.

Not-for-Profits: Financial Statements Made Easy

NZICA (the NZ Institute of Chartered Accountants) has prepared "illustrative" financial statements as a way of helping Not-for-Profits report in accordance with NZ International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). The financial statements have been prepared using two fictitious Not-for-Profit groups: the "PBE Squash and Tennis Club (Inc)" and the "PBE Charitable Foundation", so you can see how it all works.

The illustrative financial statements can be viewed on the NZICA website at http://www.nzica.com/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Not_for_Profit_Financial_Reporting_Guide_and_Disclosure_Checklist

Workplace Wellbeing Workshops Coming up

These workshops are designed for committee/board/trust members and managers of community organisations which employ paid staff. Topics covered include the principles of the Employment Relations Act, the concept of good faith, managing workplace conflict and performance issues, the difference between governance and management in employment situations, and what is involved in going to mediation.

20 May: Timaru - Volunteering Mid South, tel 03-687 7364, email volmsc@xtra.co.nz;

23 May: Whangarei - Whangarei Social Services Council, tel 09-430 0176, email wross@xtra.co.nz;

9 June: Tokoroa - Council of Social Services, tel 07-886 6314 x723, email OfficeManager@tross.co.nz;

10 June: Taupo - Council of Social Services, tel 07-378 6832, tpocoss@reap.org.nz;

18 June: Hamilton - Social Services Waikato, tel 07-838 1583, sally@ssw.org.nz;

20 October: Hawera - Bishops Action Foundation, tel 06-759 1178, email actionfoundation@xtra.co.nz;

21 October: New Plymouth - Bishops Action Foundation, tel 06-759 1178, email actionfoundation@xtra.co.nz;

Treaty Matters

Historical Claims Deadline: 1 September 2008

The Treaty of Waitangi Amendment Act 2006 introduced a closing date of 1 September 2008 for the submission of historical claims to the Waitangi Tribunal. The reasons given for setting this deadline were that it would enable government, Maori claimants, the Waitangi Tribunal and all NZers to know exactly about how many claims remain to be heard, and when the historical enquiry process can reasonably be expected to end.

More information about the Act and some questions and answers are at <http://www.tpk.govt.nz/en/in-print/our-publications/fact-sheets/towamend/download/tpk-towamendact-2007-en.pdf>

Agreement on Central North Island Forestry Claim

The Crown and Central North Island iwi have reached agreement on an iwi-developed proposal for the largest single treaty settlement package to be developed to date.

The proposed settlement involves nine central North Island forests: Kaingaroa, Horohoro, Whakarewarewa, Crater, Waimihia, Marotiri, Pureora, Waituhi and Taurewa. These forests are administered by the Crown Forestry Rental Trust, which also holds about \$240 million in rental revenue collected from foresters working there.

The settlement involves Maori assuming ownership of 170,000 hectares of forest valued between \$170 million and \$190 million, and about \$248 million being paid to the claimants from Crown Forestry Rental Trust funds. Under the proposal Tuwharetoa will be offered the chance to buy the Lake Taupo and Lake Rotoaira forests from the Crown. Provision for public access and protection of the rights of forest licensees has been included, and tradeable carbon credits (valued at between \$50 million and \$70 million) are also being discussed.

Seven central North Island iwi - Ngai Tuhoe, Ngati Manawa, Ngati Rangitihi, Ngati Tuwharetoa, Ngati Whare, Ngati Whakaue and Raukawa - representing about 110,000 members, have been working on the package for some time, and other iwi are now also involved.

The tribes and the Crown will now be holding information and consultation hui with members and iwi representatives.

The Elections

Getting Onto the Unpublished Electoral Roll

It's recognised that there are some people who may wish to enrol and vote, but their circumstances mean they are reluctant to do so because their name would be published in an electoral roll. But people whose personal or family safety is at risk by the publication of their name do not need to have their details in a printed roll.

To be eligible to go onto the Unpublished Electoral Roll, applicants are required to provide proof that there is a personal safety risk. In most cases, supplying a copy of a protection or restraining order or a statutory declaration form from a member of the Police will meet this requirement.

Applications (and supporting evidence) need to be made to the Chief Register of Electors no later than 20 June 2008. The address is: Electoral Enrolment Centre, NZ Post Ltd, PO Box 190, Wellington 6140. If you are not currently enrolled, an enrolment form also needs to be completed and sent with the application.

Enrolment forms are available from any PostShop, by phoning 0800 ENROL NOW (0800 36 76 56), or freetexting your name and address to 3676. Alternatively, the Unpublished Electoral Roll request and enrolment form are available from the elections website at www.elections.org.nz

2008 Election: Recent Law Changes

Here is a summary of new laws that are in place for the 2008 general election.

Donations to Electorate Candidates, Political Parties & Third Parties

Anonymous donations to any of these may not exceed \$1000, with anonymous donations larger than this to a political party or third party able to be made through the Electoral Commission. Donors giving more than \$1000 (whether directly or indirectly) must be identified to the recipient. They will be named in public returns if limits are reached:

- to electorate candidates of more than \$1000 towards an election campaign;
- to political parties of more than \$10,000 in a calendar year; and/or
- to third parties of more than \$5000 towards an election campaign.

Donors may not give more than \$1000 to any recipient unless they are: living in NZ, or are NZ citizens, or registered electors, or bodies incorporated in NZ, or unincorporated bodies headquartered or having their main place of business in NZ.

Non-candidates or Non-political Parties Wanting to Influence Voters

Campaigning on political issues is not covered by the new requirements unless it is encouraging or persuading voters to vote for or against any candidate(s), party(ies), or type of candidate or party. The news media, including individuals' own participation in political discussion through the news media and non-commercial blogs, are not covered by these requirements.

Any person or group wanting to encourage or persuade voters must put their name and address to any election advertisement. Any person or group wanting to spend more than \$12,000 influencing voters in this way must list with the Electoral Commission as a Third Party, may not spend more than \$120,000 from 1 January 2008 on election activity, must appoint a financial agent (who authorises its election advertising), and are subject to financial accountability arrangements covering campaign expenses and donations. Lower limits apply if a third party campaign only relates to an electorate candidate.

Campaigns by Electorate Candidates and Political Parties

Definitions of election activity to be counted against expense limits have changed, and expenses must be accounted for from 1 January 2008. Financial agents must be appointed and are responsible for authorising all advertising. Guidance is available for electorate candidates. Guidance for registered political parties is online.

Information about the new laws (including new offences and increased penalties) is available from www.elections.org.nz

Internet/ICT

The Rural Connection: Telecom Workshops

Telecom is holding three workshops in regional centres with interested parties including local government. The workshops are aimed at developing options to extend broadband to rural and remote locations in Public Private Partnerships (PPP). Telecom will be reporting back with PPP models it thinks will work, and will then start working with interested parties on real proposals.

More information on Operational Separation is at http://www.med.govt.nz/templates/ContentTopicSummary____26310.aspx Telecom's side letter on commitment to rural NZ is at <http://www.med.govt.nz/upload/56490/letter-rural.PDF>

Global ICT Survey: How NZ Stacks Up

New Zealand has again placed 22nd in a global survey (the same result as last year) that ranks countries on their ability to benefit from new information and communications technology (ICT). The World Economic Forum's (WEF) annual information technology report compiles information from 127 countries and aims to assess the impact of IT and telecoms on their development and competitiveness.

The WEF considered the business and regulatory environments in the countries it covered, the readiness of individuals, businesses and government to exploit opportunities, and actual usage of the latest IT and communications technology (ICT).

Details of the NZ findings include:

- the Kiwi ICT environment slipped when it came to the category that ranked the quality of ISP (internet service provider) competition - with a ranking of 106;
- NZ came second to the Netherlands in terms of internet saturation, with 6.32 internet users per 100 inhabitants; and
- a category that counts the number of procedures needed to start a business saw NZ tied with Canada and Australia in first place.

Overall, Denmark topped the list for the second year in a row. Seven of the top 10 in the WEF's "networked readiness index" were European. The United States was ranked fourth and Singapore fifth, with South Korea leaping to number nine from 19 last year, displacing Britain.

The full report is published on WEF's website at <http://www.weforum.org/en/initiatives/gcp/Global%20Information%20Technology%20Report/index.htm>

Two New ICT Groups Planned

A new digital forum is to be established for the wider digital community. It is expected to represent all the different interests of the wider digital community, and will include representatives from the community and voluntary sector, business, local government, ICT users (such as academics and the research and science sector) and the ICT industry. The forum will be working with government on the implementation of the refreshed Digital Strategy and other issues of national importance. It is likely to be fully operational by the middle of the year, when the Digital Strategy 2.0 will be released.

The ICT industry is also working on plans to establish an industry body to consider issues that will benefit the industry as a whole.

A cabinet paper on the digital forum is at <http://www.digitalstrategy.govt.nz/Media-Centre/Latest-ICT-news-current-events/Cabinet-Paper-for-new-digital-group-released/>

"Freeview" Officially Launched

The Freeview service, which was set up to make sure that all NZers can have access to quality free-to-air, high definition digital television no matter where they live, has now been officially launched.

Freeview's satellite service began in May last year and more than 100,000 NZers have purchased a Freeview receiver (set-top box).

Freeview's satellite channels are: TV ONE, TV2, TV3, C4, Maori Television, TVNZ6, TVNZ7, TVNZ Sports Extra, Stratos, Parliament TV, Cue, Te Reo, Radio NZ National and Radio NZ Concert.

Freeview shareholders are Television NZ, MediaWorks (owner of TV3 and C4), the Maori Television Service and Radio NZ.

More information on Freeview is at <http://freeviewnz.tv/>

New FM Radio Licenses Released

Over 70 FM radio licences for commercial and non-commercial use have been released. Most of the licences are being allocated in the following order of priority for each major coverage area (to the extent that suitable licences are available in that area):

- one licence for local commercial use;
- one licence for non-commercial allocation;
- a second licence for local commercial use;
- one licence reserved for use after 2011; and
- any other licences for unrestricted commercial use, after allowing for the 2011 licence renewal offers and the above priorities.

This leaves a further forty-plus licenses to be allocated by other means. Thirty-one will be put up for sale through an auction process (for local commercial FM licences, held around the third week in May); and another 16 will be allocated by the Ministry for Culture and Heritage on a non-commercial basis (to support community and regional broadcasting).

Registrations are now being taken for the commercial licenses via the Ministry of Economic Development's (MED) radio spectrum website at www.rsm.govt.nz and information on the non-commercial allocation can be found on the Ministry for Culture and Heritage website at www.mch.govt.nz/publications/new-frequencies/

Recycle Old Mobiles for New Ventures in Philippines

New Zealanders can donate disused cellphones to budding entrepreneurs in the Philippines. Vodafone NZ is launching a new partnership with a not-for-profit organisation, Enable Community, which takes old mobiles to the Philippines where they are refurbished, before being used to aid small business development for people on the poverty line. Enable notes that three quarters of the world's population lived in mobile network coverage areas, but only about one-third of people have a mobile.

Cellphones can be handed in at Vodafone, Noel Leeming and Bond & Bond stores, or sent by freepost. For more information go to: www.vodafone.co.nz/recycling Information on Enable Community is at www.enablecommunity.org.nz

More Researchers get High Speed Hook Up

Recently announced grants will enable 17 organisations to connect to the Kiwi Advanced Research and Education Network (KAREN). KAREN is an ultra high-speed internet connection for NZ's research and tertiary education facilities. It helps researchers to send and receive large quantities of data in real time anywhere in the world. It also makes advanced digital tools like high definition video conferencing easy to use, bringing people together for research meetings, discussions and conferences.

To find out more: <http://www.karen.net.nz/home/>

The website of *YouthLaw*, a free community law service for children and young people, is at www.youthlaw.co.nz/default.aspx?_z=59. The site offers 58 legal information sheets on all aspects of the law, articles and submissions on the law, links to related agencies and organisations, and free community resources. Youthlaw has also developed a free online training programme for youth workers to develop the practical skills to advocate for children and young people in their own localities with funding from the Digital Strategy Community Partnership Fund.

The *Good Practice Participate* website at <http://www.good-practiceparticipate.govt.nz/key-sectors/engaging-ethnic-communities.html> gives guidance from the Office of Ethnic Affairs on including an ethnic perspective in policy-making.

The message of an *anti-family violence* website at www.are-youok.org.nz is that it is okay to get help if you are experiencing, using or witnessing family violence. The site is attracting about 1,200 visits a week. While we're on the subject, a 0800 Family Violence Information Line is at (0800 456 450). The freephone is handling about 350 calls a week from around the country, with men making up about half of the callers.

A new website for teachers and students that is designed to help make young NZers more Asia aware is at <http://asia-knowledge.tki.org.nz>. The Ministry of Education says Asia is growing faster than any other region and in this century the region will be extremely important to NZ economically, politically, and socially.

A new edition of the *Cabinet Manual* is at www.cabinet-manual.cabinetoffice.govt.nz. This is a just-released guide to the way that Cabinet works. It also covers the way that governments work under MMP and the conventions which have developed since proportional representation was introduced.

The complete works of Darwin are at <http://darwin-online.org.uk>. The papers which led to Charles Darwin's theory of evolution are being made available for free on the Internet for the first time. Cambridge University has created a website called "The Complete Works Of Darwin Online". This contains all of Darwin's published and unpublished writings, including a major catalogue of his every publication and manuscript in the world.

An *eco-advice* booklet is at www.sustainability.govt.nz. Called "25 Easy Steps Towards Sustainability", the booklet is aimed at NZ households, offering practical information on the things we can do to help the environment. It covers five topics - rubbish, water, energy, building, and transport, and features case studies of Kiwis who have already benefited by taking some of these steps.

Arts and Culture

Literary Achievement Awards: Nominations Sought

Readers, writers, groups and organisations are invited to nominate outstanding NZ writers in the three genres of poetry, fiction and non-fiction for the Prime Minister's (PM's) Awards for Literary Achievement 2008. Worth \$60,000 each, these awards recognise writers who have made a significant contribution to NZ

literature. The nominated writers must be NZ citizens or resident in NZ, and they should have written a body of work that has received national acclaim and/or international recognition.

Nominations close on 13 June 2008. They go to Prime Minister's Awards 2008, Creative NZ, PO Box 3806, Wellington 6140 or email them to pmawards@creativenz.govt.nz. Nomination forms/more information: <http://www.creativenz.govt.nz/files/pm-awards-flier.pdf> or from Creative NZ's offices (Auckland: tel 09 373 3066; Christchurch: tel 03 366 2072; Wellington, tel 04 473 0880)

NZ Post Mansfield Prize 2009: Applications Sought

Established and mid-career NZ creative writers are invited to apply for the NZ Post Mansfield Prize 2009. This prize was previously called the Katherine Mansfield Fellowship. It offers a six-month residency in Menton, France and enables a NZ author to work at the Villa Isola Bella where Katherine Mansfield lived and wrote. The prize is now worth \$100,000.

Applications close on 27 June 2008. They go to Creative NZ (see above item for postal/email). For more information email felicityb@creativenz.govt.nz

Entries Sought for NBR Art Sponsorship Awards

Entries are now open for the NBR Awards for Sponsorship of the Arts, which are held in association with Creative NZ and The Edge. Now in their eleventh year, the Awards acknowledge partnerships between business and the arts that demonstrate a high level of creativity, commitment and vision, as well as important business benefits.

To be eligible, companies must have sponsored an arts event or organisation in the year to June 2008.

Entries close on 29 May 2008. Download the entry form/enter by contacting Bullet PR on 021 303 181, or by emailing awards@bulletpr.co.nz.

ID360 Young Filmmakers Win Award

The winners of ID360 Short Film Competition were announced at a recent awards ceremony. Auckland filmmakers Thomas King and Carl Naus won both the grand prize and the 16-18 age category for their film "No Kiwi Restaurants". Short films by the 15 finalists from across NZ were posted on the ID360 website where they competed for the People's Choice Award.

The competition was a Ministry of Youth Development initiative, with the theme being "Identity and Diversity". More information can be found on www.id360.govt.nz

Fishing

Bottom Trawling on the High Seas: New Rules

New Zealand has some new rules in place for managing the environmental impact of bottom trawling by NZ fishers on the high seas (these are the areas of ocean outside the control of any country). The aims of these are to make sure that bottom trawling activity does not increase, and to avoid damaging vulnerable marine ecosystems like seamounts and deepwater coral forests. NZ will be:

- limiting bottom trawling to areas that were fished between 2002 and 2006;
- prohibiting bottom trawling in any new areas;
- closing around 112,000 square kilometres of previously fished high seas area to bottom trawling;
- imposing restrictions on bottom trawling in around 82,000 square kilometres with a "move-on rule"; and
- requiring all fishing vessels to carry at least one Ministry of Fisheries (MFish) observer.

The rules were developed during negotiations to set up a new international organisation called the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO). SPRFMO will manage the fishing of non-tuna fish species, and the environmental impacts of fishing in high seas areas of the southern Pacific Ocean and Tasman Sea. They will be reviewed in 2010 to make sure they fit with any new SPRFMO agreements that are made.

New Mataitai Fishing Reserve for South Waikato

A new Aotea Harbour mataitai reserve has been set up on the south-west coast of the Waikato fisheries. The mataitai takes in Aotea Harbour and the coastal waters outside the harbour, and it covers around 40 square kilometres.

Mataitai reserves are established under customary fishing regulations and recognise traditional Maori fishing-grounds that are important for customary food-gathering. They also allow the local tangata whenua to advise the Minister of Fisheries directly on how best to manage fishing in the area. Commercial fishing will be banned within the mataitai reserve, but recreational and customary fishing will still be allowed. Recreational fishing will not require a permit from local Maori.

A high resolution map of the new Aotea Harbour mataitai reserve and further information on mataitai reserves and customary fishing are available on the Ministry of Fisheries website www.fish.govt.nz

New Aquaculture Space Approved

New aquaculture space of 803 hectares in Golden Bay, Tasman Bay and the Kaipara Harbour has been approved for industry development. The move follows a Ministry of Fisheries assessment which looked at the impact on the environment and fish stocks in the area as well as commercial, customary and recreational fishing.

Currently the NZ aquaculture industry employs over 2,500 people and turns over \$1 million a day.

General

Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade: Funding Increase

A funding increase for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) will see new posts set up, and an increase in overseas staff. Changes include:

- more staff in Wellington, to focus on high-priority areas such as Asia, the Pacific, Latin America, trade, and environment;
- new posts being opened in Stockholm and Brisbane;
- posts in Asia having extra staff and resources so they can work more effectively with regional groupings such as ASEAN and the East Asia Summit;
- an increase in trade policy, in order to push towards trade negotiations with key markets such as Korea, Japan, the United States, India and Mexico;
- our embassy in Tehran being strengthened to allow for more engagement with Pakistan and Afghanistan;
- an increase in staff at several two-person overseas posts; and
- an increase in the Pacific Security Fund and Asia Security Fund to help increase NZ's regional capacity to combat terrorism and other trans-national threats.

NZ's Emergency Services: Update

Fire Protection Levy Raised...

A small increase in the Fire Service levy, the first in seven years, will take effect on 1 July. The levy, which funds much of the nation's fire-fighting and rescue services, will increase from 7.3 cents to 7.6 cents per \$100 of insured property value and the flat rate charge for motor vehicles will rise from \$5.84 to \$6.08 a year. The changes to the levy will result in a total increase of about \$4 per year for a typical NZ household with house, contents and car insurance.

...Funding Boost for Search and Rescue...

Search and Rescue in NZ will receive an additional \$8.4 million over the next two years, beginning on 1 July, nearly doubling the amount the search and rescue sector receives through direct government funding. The volunteer sector of Search and Rescue will receive \$2.7 million per year of the funding.

...Faster Warnings for Civil Defence/Emergency Management...

The new 24/7 Civil Defence Emergency Management Warning and Advisory system was launched recently. Through an arrangement between the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management and the NZ Fire Service, the Fire Service will provide a 24/7 monitoring service and, in pre-determined situations, issue national warnings and advisories from their Northern Communication Centre.

As a result of this, agencies, local councils and the civil defence and emergency management sector will now get faster

warnings of impending emergencies and this will in turn result in faster, clearer information for the public. This will also mean they can start their own responses and preparing their communities sooner.

...& Emergency Radio Spectrum Allocated

The Government has allocated radio spectrum for the exclusive use of agencies engaged in public protection and disaster relief (PPDR). This allocation of radio spectrum will ensure that NZ's emergency services are able to build an interoperable, modern and secure digital radiocommunications network in the place of analogue systems that will reach the end of their useful life over the next decade.

Further information on the allocation of spectrum for PPDR can be found at the Ministry of Economic Development's radio spectrum website at www.rsm.govt.nz

NZers' Views on Government Services: Report

The State Services Commissioner has released the results of the first national survey of NZer's experience of government services. Public Satisfaction with Service Quality 2007: The Kiwis Count Survey asked 6,500 NZers what they thought of government services. In a 61% response to the survey, 68% of respondents reported that they were satisfied with their most recent experience of government services. Other general results included:

- 66% agreed that the service met their expectations;
- 75% felt that staff were competent;
- 70% thought that staff kept their promises;
- 73% thought that they were treated fairly;
- 63% felt that their individual circumstances were taken into account; and
- 55% thought that the service was an example of good value for tax dollars spent.

The full survey is available on the SSC website at: <http://www.ssc.govt.nz/kiwis-count-research-survey>

Auckland's Increasing Asian Diversity

A new Asia NZ Foundation report from the University of Auckland called "Diverse Auckland: the Face of NZ in the 21st Century?" highlights the complexity of what defines a NZer. It also says it is evident that over time an increasing part of the Asian population will identify as Asian as well as having European, Maori, Pacific and other ethnic identities as a result of intermarriage.

In 2006, about 10% of the NZ population identified with more than one broad ethnic group and this was especially the case for people aged less than 15 years of age. But although the Asian population identifying with more than one broad ethnic group was slightly lower at 8%, nearly 20%, or one in five of those below 15 years of age, identified with more one ethnic identity.

The report indicates that China and Korea are likely to remain key sources of migrants for many years even though tougher

English language requirements have reduced flows of people from these countries. But the prevalence of English in the education systems of South Asian countries such as India and Sri Lanka and parts of Southeast Asia such as Malaysia, Singapore and Philippines means immigration from many of these Asian countries is increasing.

It goes on to say that Auckland will continue to absorb more migrants than the rest of the country, with an estimated growth of about 51% for the Asian population up to 2016 compared with 46% for NZ as a whole.

Copies of the report are available from the Asia NZ Foundation. Contact Director, Policy and Research, Asia NZ Foundation, tel 04 470 8705, email: abutcher@asianz.org.nz

15 May is Families Day...

The Families Commission is challenging NZers to get together on 15 May - Families Day. The day is about making a special effort to spend time with family. The Commission is using the week from 12 May to 18 May to raise awareness of Families Day and encourage NZers to take time out of their busy lives to celebrate with their families.

The Families Commission is providing pages on its website www.nzfamilies.org.nz where you can find information regarding Families Day, order posters and stickers, and pick up tips on how to hold an event.

...& Youth Week 08 is from 26 May-1 June

Youth Week aims to highlight the amazing things young people (12-24 years) do, and this year's theme is relationships. Turn up to an event, wear a hoodie on 30 May (Hoodie Day is about challenging the stereotypes of young people), plan an activity, or just be a great example of a young person (or a great adult that cares about young people).

More is at www.youthweek.co.nz

Conferences/ Festivals

Conflict in Paradise: the Transformation of Rural NZ

The Environmental Defence Society's national conference is being held on 11-12 June at the Langham Hotel, Auckland. Sponsored by NZ Landcare Trust, Federated Farmers of NZ and Lincoln University, it will focus how changes in rural land use can best be managed to achieve positive environmental and eco-

nomic outcomes for NZ. Environmental implications of deforestation, dairy conversions, rural subdivision, wind farms and climate change will be examined. New economic opportunities arising from climate change, increasing environmental awareness and "green" tourism will also be explored.

More information/registrations: www.edconference.com

NZ Small Business Summit 2008

This business summit is being held on Friday, 25 July 2008 at SkyCity Auckland Convention Centre. It will bring together business leaders, policy advisors, decision makers and representatives from small and medium sized businesses (SME, which represent 96.4% of NZ firms). The summit will also provide political parties with a platform to present their economic foundation and policies affecting SME business.

More information: <http://www.smallbusinesssummit.org.nz/> or contact B Dudli, Summit Organiser, PO Box 36 067, Northcote, North Shore City 0746, Auckland, tel 09 419 0450, fax 09 419 0059

FINZ South Pacific Conference 2008

The Fundraising Institute of NZ's (FINZ) conference is being held from 25-27 May 2008 at the Waipuna Hotel and Convention Centre, Auckland. The conference is a training opportunity for professional fundraisers in all sectors wanting practical ideas, inspiration and challenge. It includes master-classes, workshops and case studies from people at the forefront of international and local fundraising. Three, two and one-day options are available.

For more information, email conference@finz.org.nz or phone 0508 64FINZ, or see www.finz.org.nz/conference

Mental Health and Addictions Conference

The Central Region Mental Health and Addictions Conference is being held at Palmerston North Conference Centre on 17-18 July 2008 (with 16 July a pre-conference day for forums to caucus and network).

More information: <http://cpteritomaia.protosite.co.nz/> or contact the Central Potential - Te Rito Maia officer on freephone 0800 837 486, 04 382 9600, or by e-mail: admin@cp-teritomaia.org.nz

Fuel Poverty Workshop

This workshop is being held on 4 June 2008 at the Christchurch Netball Centre, Christchurch. "Fuel poverty" refers to the difficulty some people have keeping warm affordably. The workshop will consider how fuel poverty is managed in the UK and how it could be managed in this country.

More information: K Nimmo (Community Outreach Coordinator) on 03 363 9854 or fuelpoverty@cea.co.nz

A Gender Conference

A "Celebrating our Gender" conference is being held from 30 May-1 June at the Copthorne Durham Street, Christchurch. It is described as a celebration of everything concerning gender differences.

More information/registration: J London, Conference Convenor, Rainbow House, Otautahi, PO Box 33 236, Christchurch, email AgenderChCh@xtra.co.nz

Rural Women NZ National Conference

A reminder that the National Conference of Rural Women NZ is being held from 16-19 May 2008 at the Marlborough Convention Centre in Blenheim. The conference theme is "Celebrating Diversity".

Speakers include Gregory Fortuin, Stuart Smith, Trish McKelvey, Alistair Sowman, Heather Oehlich, Jane Mitchell, Mike Hollings, Kevin Fleury, Graeme Titcombe, Margaret Millard, and Margaret Chapman. The conference includes a celebrity debate: "Rural Women do it Better" (Kim Hill, Tom Lambie, Fiona Gower, Jim Hopkins, Kerry Maw, Doug Avery) which will be open to the public - as will the charity auction which follows it (proceeds from the auction go to the Rural Women NZ Leptospirosis Research Fund).

For more information/registrations go to Rural Women NZ's website at www.rwnz.org

Reminder: Mystery Creek National Fieldays

The fieldays are being held from 11-14 June at Mystery Creek in Hamilton. The Science of Farming will be the premier feature looking at some of the developments expected over the next 40 years, along with the popular competitions such as the Fieldays Rural Bachelor of the Year, Ag Art Wear, Possum Fur Fashion Design, National Tractor Pull Competition, Fieldays Wiremark and Cyclone Fencing Champs, and the Fieldays Innovation Centre.

Go to www.fieldays.co.nz or call 07 843 4499 for more information

Some Funding/Awards Opportunities

Lottery Regional Community Committees

Applications to Lottery Regional Community Committees are now due. These committees make grants for projects that encourage or enable community self-reliance, capacity building and stability, or opportunities for social, civil or cultural participation and reducing or overcoming barriers to such participation. There are 11 regional committees, and their priorities include projects that have a community/social service focus, for example: developmental or preventative projects, welfare and support services, or projects that help improve the well-being of people in the community.

Applications close Monday 2 July 2008. For more information contact your nearest Department of Internal Affairs office, tel freephone 0800 824 824, or go to www.cdgo.govt.nz

Community Action Fund: Preventing Family Violence

The purpose of this fund is to support community projects that aim to change the attitudes and behaviours that ignore, excuse, minimise or trivialise the effects of family violence.

The Fund is open to local not-for-profit community organisations, hapu and iwi Maori organisations and networks that can provide evidence of community collaboration.

Applications close on 10 June 2008. More information/application forms are at <http://www.familyservices.govt.nz/our-work/preventing-violence/community-action.html>. Postal address is: Community Action Fund, Family and Community Services, Ministry of Social Development, PO Box 1556, Wellington 6001

Funding for European Union/NZ Education Exchange

The Government is providing \$600,000 over four years (with the European Commission contributing a similar amount) to co-fund a new European Union/NZ exchange programme. This will support academic and student exchanges of up to 30 NZers and 30 Europeans to study abroad for between five and 10 months. The exchanges will begin in 2009.

Applications close on 6 June 2008. More information, including the application form and guidelines, is at <http://www.tec.govt.nz/templates/standard.aspx?id=3036>

Grants to Aid Research into Maori Health

Grants worth a total of \$1.2 million are being offered to researchers to look into the health and social wellbeing of Maori. The Health Research Council of NZ (HRC), in partnership with the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology, has invested jointly in a fund focusing on the distinct needs of Maori, using enterprising solutions that arise from Maori knowledge, people and resources, to tackle social inequalities and help formulate future health policy.

Expressions of interest need to be in by 20 June 2008. More information: A Haggie, tel 09 303 5207, email ahaggie@hrc.govt.nz

Funding for Planting More Small Forests

The first round of public tenders for the Afforestation Grant Scheme is now open. This scheme has been developed to encourage more planting of trees in small forests and on farms. The idea is that increasing the area of new forest that complies with Kyoto Protocol rules will lead to more climate changing greenhouse gases being absorbed. Grants are for planting new forests on land that was unforested at 31 December 1989. Those who receive grants under the scheme will own the new forests and earn income from the timber when harvested. The Government will retain the Kyoto Protocol carbon sink credits and take responsibility for meeting harvesting and deforestation liabilities.

Half the funding in the Afforestation Grant Scheme will be available to regional councils to help meet their sustainable land management objectives. The other half will be available directly to the general public through a public tender pool.

Copies of the Afforestation Grant Scheme Guidelines and application form can be downloaded from the MAF website, www.maf.govt.nz/climatechange, by emailing climatechange@maf.govt.nz or by calling 0800 CLIMATE (254 628)

Sir Peter Blake Leadership Awards - Nominations Open

Nominations are now open for these awards, which seek to recognise outstanding leaders with considerable potential around the ages of 25-40. There are two awards:

- the Blake Medal: The premium award for outstanding leadership achievement in NZ. Its purpose is to acknowledge, identify and celebrate great NZ leaders. One medal is awarded each year; and
- Sir Peter Blake Emerging Leader Award: Presented to six people annually, its purpose is to recognise and encourage young leaders of considerable potential.

Nominations close 31 May 2008. For full award details and nomination forms visit www.sirpeterblaketrust.org

2008 Whanau Ora Awards

The Whanau Ora Awards recognise Maori health providers' successful and innovative service delivery, and also recognise projects that increase whanau health and wellbeing.

Registrations close on 6 June 2008. More information is at <http://www.maorihealth.govt.nz/moh.nsf/pagesma/308>

Appointments

NZ's next *Consul-General to New Caledonia* will be Simon Draper. Lance Rowe has been appointed as *Crown Solicitor at Wanganui*.

Deputy State Services Commissioner Iain Rennie has been appointed to the position of *State Services Commissioner*, replacing Mark Prebble, who will retire at the end of June. *Horizons Regional Council* has reappointed its *Chief Executive*, Michael McCartney, for a further five years. Geoff Dangerfield has been appointed as *Chief Executive designate of the NZ Transport Agency*, the single statutory Crown entity that is to be formed by the merger of Transit NZ and Land Transport NZ.

Miriam Dean, QC and Nigel Cann have been reappointed as *members of the Testing Laboratory Registration Council* for 3-year terms. Ken Pawson joins Russell Goudie on the *Wanganui Land Valuation Tribunal* and Max Dick joins Roger Malthus on the *Taranaki Tribunal*. Annabel Young has resigned as Chief Executive of Federated Farmers to take up the role of *Chief Executive of the Pharmacy Guild*. Tim Lusk has been named as *CEO of Meridian Energy*.

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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