

Rural Bulletin

Rural Women New Zealand - informing New Zealand each month



May 2011

www.ruralwomen.org.nz

Rural Bulletin Reader Survey Coming Next Week

Next week, we'll be sending you a short online survey about Rural Bulletin. It's part of our continuing drive to make Rural Bulletin the best possible product we can. We need your help so we can give you the information you want, when you want it, in the form that best suits your needs.

So, we'll be asking questions around content, the 'look' of the Rural Bulletin, how it gets to you, and how it can be improved.

We look forward to getting your views, and will be reporting back to you once the results are collated.

Craig & Paddy (Editors, Rural Bulletin)

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Consultation

Internet: Copyright Regulations

This discussion paper considers regulations for the Copyright (Infringing File Sharing) Amendment Act, which recently became law. The Act sets up a three-notice system designed to discourage illegal file sharing that will come into force on 1 September. Your views are sought on:

- the information that copyright owners would be required to send to internet service providers (ISPs) under the new notice system;
- the form and content of notices;
- the fee an ISP may charge a copyright owner for performing its functions under the Bill; and
- how the Copyright Tribunal will calculate awards for copyright infringement.

Submissions close on 27 May 2011. Email them to jp.policy@med.govt.nz. The discussion paper is at http://www.med.govt.nz/templates/MultipageDocumentTOC_45923.aspx

Law of Trusts: Consultation 3

The Law Commission's third Issues Paper in the review of the "law of trusts: Perpetuities* and the Revocation and Variation of Trusts: Review of the Law of Trusts – Third Issues Paper," is now available on the [Law Commission's website](#).

Part one of this paper examines: the rules that limit the duration of a trust, the common law rule against perpetuities,* and the Perpetuities Act 1964. The Commission asks whether the rule against perpetuities continues to meet a need. It sets out different options, including retaining the statutory perpetuity rule, adjusting or extending the rule, and abolishing it altogether (this has happened in some other countries).

Part two of the paper looks at the rules that allow trusts to be altered. Trusts may be revoked and varied in a number of ways. These rules are examined to ensure that they are clear and workable, and to determine whether reform is needed.

* A perpetuity is an annuity that has no end, or a stream of cash payments that continues forever [just imagine!].

Submissions close on 24 June 2011. You can submit online, email trusts@lawcom.govt.nz, or post your views to Law Commission, P O Box 2590, Wellington 6011

Compulsory Registration for Social Workers?

The Social Workers' Registration Board (SWRB) is seeking views on whether social worker registration should be compulsory (with social workers being licensed). Registration is a voluntary at the moment - social workers are certificated.

SWRB is particularly interested in comments on the subject from people who receive social work services, social workers,

social workers' employers, consumer organisations, and social work organisations.

The board will be reporting on the issue in its coming review of the Social Workers Registration Act 2003.

Comments are due by 1 July 2011. Email them to SWRB at consultation@swrb.govt.nz, or write to the board at PO Box 10150, The Terrace, Wellington 6143. The discussion paper is at http://www.swrb.govt.nz/NP_Mandatory%20information.html. Hard copies are available by emailing consultation@swrb.govt.nz

Private Training Organisations: New Rules?

The Education Amendment Bill (No. 4) would make changes to the way private training establishments (PTEs) are monitored. Amongst other things, it would:

- give the NZ Qualifications Authority (NZQA) more power to monitor and investigate the performance of PTEs;
- set higher standards for PTE registration;
- give NZQA greater powers of entry to premises where there is non-compliance;
- give NZQA more power to cancel registration of a PTE;
- create a rules system to replace the way the Authority currently issues policies and criteria;
- establish a new Crown agent for international education responsible for international education promotion (the responsibility is currently shared between the Ministry of Education, NZ Trade and Enterprise, and the Education NZ Trust); and
- require tertiary education organisations to be more open about compulsory student services fees (e.g., about where they hold the fees, what they cover; consultation with students about the services covered, and information about the services and their cost specified in the annual report).

Submissions close on 13 May 2011. Make a submission online at http://www.parliament.nz/en-NZ/PB/SC/MakeSub/6/f/c/49SCES_SCF_00DBHOH_BILL10589_1-Education-Amendment-Bill-No-4.htm or send two copies to the Education and Science Committee, Parliament Buildings, Wellington. The Bill is at <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2011/0279/latest/versions.aspx>

Sentencing (Aggravating Factors) Amendment Bill

This Bill would make offending against a Police or prison officer, acting in the course of his or her duty, an aggravating factor at sentencing.

Submissions close on 26 May 2011. You can submit online or send two copies to the Law and Order Committee, Parliament Buildings, Wellington. Submit online at http://www.parliament.nz/en-NZ/PB/SC/MakeSub/5/a/d/49SCLO_SCF_00DBHOH_BILL10416_1-Sentencing-Aggravating-Factors-Amendment.htm. The Bill is at <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2010/0222/11.0/versions.aspx>

Protecting Jury Members: Bill

The Juries (Jury Service and Protection of Particulars of Jury List Information) Amendment Bill includes amendments that would:

- prevent certain people sentenced to home detention from serving on a jury;
- give registrars the power to permanently excuse people with chronic ill health or permanent disability, and people over 65 years from jury service; and
- more stringently protect jurors' address particulars (to help to maintain jurors' privacy, safety, and security).

Submissions close on 26 May 2011. Submit online, or send two copies of your submission to the Law and Order Committee, Parliament Buildings, Wellington. The Bill is at <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2011/0278/latest/versions.aspx>

Granting Bail: New Rules?

A discussion paper called "Bail in NZ: Reviewing Aspects of the Bail System" (which was covered in last month's Rural Bulletin) deals with bail in the period between when a person is charged with an offence and when their trial ends (if a matter goes that far). It looks at how to balance the safety of the public and the way court proceedings are held, against a person's right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Submissions close on 16 May 2011. They go to Bail Review, Ministry of Justice, SX10088, Wellington, email bailreview@justice.govt.nz. The discussion paper at <http://www.justice.govt.nz/policy/criminal-justice/review-of-aspects-of-the-bail-system>

Review of NZ Court System

The Law Commission is reviewing of the Judicature Act 1908 and other legislation dealing with the structure and management of NZ's court system (High Court, District Court, Court of Appeal, and Supreme Court). The aim is to make the law more accessible to citizens, more user-friendly, and more efficient (by creating a Courts Act and a Civil Procedure Act, and modernising other legislation). The review will not be dealing with policy matters.

An issues paper published as part of the review sets out the present law and describes the way schemes of this kind evolved elsewhere. It asks whether a register of judges' pecuniary interests (i.e., interests relating to money) is necessary or appropriate in NZ.

Submissions close on 1 June 2011. They go to judicatureactreview@lawcom.govt.nz. The paper is at <http://www.lawcom.govt.nz/project/review-judicature-act-1908-and-consolidation-courts-legislation/publication/issues-paper/201>

Rural & Urban Addresses Standard

Standards NZ (SNZ) is consulting on a revised standard for rural and urban addressing. The standard includes the requirements for:

- assigning addresses;
- naming roads and localities/suburbs;
- recording and mapping related information; and
- signs related to these.

SNZ says good quality national addressing information is vital for electoral, postal, and emergency services.

Land Information NZ (LINZ) is also involved in the address process. It is developing an addressing strategy, which will be available for comment later on this year. The strategy will include a national address dataset (computer file), that will show how the addressing standard will work in NZ.

The closing date for comment is 10 June 2011. The draft standard and options for commenting on it are at <http://www.standards.co.nz/draft-standards/joint-standards/?action=browseDrafts&draftTypeId=2&mod=drafts>

NAIT: Animal ID & Tracing

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) is seeking comments on the design of draft regulations supporting the National Animal identification and Tracing Bill currently with the Primary Production Select Committee. MAF is particularly interested in comments about:

- whether the design of the draft regulations is appropriate (for example, if you think any of the proposed requirements are unnecessary to put in place the NAIT scheme, or if necessary requirements are missing);
- practical impacts, including costs, of the design of the draft regulations; and
- any differences that need to be addressed between the design of the regulations for cattle and those for deer.

Written submissions close on 27 May 2011. Make your submissions online or send them to naitconsultation@maf.govt.nz, or NAIT Regulations Submissions, Biosecurity and Food Policy Directorate, Policy, Science and Economics Branch, MAF, PO Box 2526, Wellington. More is at <http://www.maf.govt.nz/news-resources/consultations/discussion-document-regulations-to-implement-the>

HK-NZ Closer Economic Partnership

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and trade is consulting on the "Investment Protocol*" to the Hong Kong - NZ Closer Economic Partnership Agreement (CEP), which came into force on 1 January 2011. The CEP includes a commitment for Hong Kong and NZ to set up an Investment Protocol within two years of the CEP's entry into force.

Submissions could cover specific issues you would like to see addressed; information you can provide that would help to develop NZ's negotiating position; and outcomes that you would like to see from the negotiations.

*Protocol: a set of rules for ways of working.

Submissions close on 30 June 2011. Email them to thomas.haidon@mfat.govt.nz, post them to T Haidon, Trade Negotiations Division, MFAT, Private Bag 18901, Wellington, or use the online submission form provided. More is at <http://www.mfat.govt.nz/Trade-and-Economic-Relations/Trade-Relationships-and-Agreements/Hong-Kong/NZ-Hong-Kong-CEPIP.php>

What Defines Us as NZers

The Department of Conservation (DOC) wants to know which native species and special places you think define us as NZers and tell our story.

In an online consultation you can list up to 10 species (e.g., pohutukawa or kakapo) and up to 10 specific places that you think are "Quintessentially Kiwi" because they help define who we are as NZers. Your picks don't have to be in any particular order.

Your feedback will help guide DOC's decisions about how we manage species and places for future generations.

More, including an online submission form, is at <http://www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/consultations/how-doc-consults/consulting-on-conservation-management-strategies/what-defines-us/>

Licensing Fish & Game Bird Guides

Have your say on a NZ Fish and Game Council plan to introduce licences for freshwater sports fishing guides and game bird hunting guides. The discussion paper sets out the definition of a guide, the reasons for a guide licence, the options available and preferred option, the regulations proposed to support the licence, and possible risks associated with its introduction.

Submissions close on 4 July 2011. They go to NZ Fish & Game Council, PO Box 13 141, Wellington 6440, email NZCouncil@fishandgame.org.nz. A discussion paper is at <http://www.fishandgame.org.nz/Site/Features/GuideLicences.aspx>

Waste Management: Health & Safety

The Waste Management Institute of NZ (WasteMINZ) is seeking submissions on its new Health and Safety Guidelines for solid waste and resource recovery. Parts One and Two of the draft Guidelines and a response form, are available on the WasteMINZ website.

When completed, the Guideline will provide guidance to the sector to help it move towards good practice in health and safety management.

Responses are due by 16 May 2011. Email them to info@wasteminz.org.nz or post them to P O Box 31580, Milford, North Shore 0741. More is at <http://www.wasteminz.org.nz/sectorgroups/safety/consultation.htm>

NZTA: Highway Erosion/Sediment Control

A draft erosion and sediment control standard, and draft erosion and sediment control field guide for contractors, are available for use and comment.

Submissions close on 1 July 2011. To provide feedback on the draft standard and field guide, please email environment@nzta.govt.nz or send to NZ Transport Agency, c/- C Redmond, PO Box 1479, Christchurch Mail Centre. More is at <http://www.nzta.govt.nz/consultation/erosion-sediment-control/index.html>

Electricity Authority: Financial Transmission Rights

The Electricity Authority is working to improve the performance of the electricity market, and is currently consulting on a proposal to introduce financial transmission rights (FTRs).

FTRs provide cover for the differences in price between pricing nodes ("bumps") on the transmission grid. They also deal with price differences between the North and South Islands.

Submissions close on 12 May 2011. Email them to submissions@ea.govt.nz with Consultation Paper - Managing locational price risk: Proposed amendments to Code in the subject line. More is at <http://www.ea.govt.nz/our-work/consultations/priority-projects/lpr-proposed-amendments/>

Global Census of Expat NZers

Kea NZ (KNZ) has launched an online global "census" of expatriate NZers, Every Kiwi Counts, aimed at the estimated one million Kiwis living overseas. The survey, the main aim of which is to connect expats with NZ, asks people what they are doing overseas, how they might like to help NZ, and also what might bring them home.

Respondents and people who refer friends and family are eligible to win a range of prizes, including a return trip for two on Air NZ and All Black test tickets.

Every Kiwi Counts is KNZ's second global survey. The first, in 2006 yielded 18,000 responses from 155 countries around the world that showed that NZers living offshore:

- are strongly connected with home, with half maintaining economic interests in NZ and the vast majority keeping alive their family and social connections;
- have very high incomes by NZ standards;
- are more than twice as likely as other NZers to have a tertiary education; and
- are evenly divided on their future plans, with about half planning to return to NZ to live.

The OECD says NZ is the developed country with the highest proportion of its educated population living overseas.

Closing date for completing the survey is 9 May 2011. NZers with friends and family overseas are asked to contact them to encourage them to complete the survey at www.everykiwicounts.com

NZ Historic Places Trust Consultations

The NZ Historic Places Trust (NZHPT) is seeking comments from the public on (closing dates for submissions are in brackets):

- **proposals to include new places on the Register:** Former Brougham St Offices, New Plymouth (3 June 2011); Kourarau Hydroelectric Power Scheme, Gladstone (3 June 2011); House, Karere (3 June 2011); Aniwaniwa, Arthur's Pass (12 May); Hyderabad (1865-1878) Wreck Site, Waitarere Beach (16 May 2011); and Tahanga Quarries and Working Floors, Opito (18 May 2011);
- **investigations of the following places already registered:** St Paul's Presbyterian Church, Invercargill (17 May 2011); Burrows House, Auckland (18 May 2011); Claybrook, Auckland (18 May 2011); Auckland Gas Company Offices and Workshops (former), Auckland (18 May 2011); Carmichael House, Auckland (18 May 2011); and St Mary's Church (Anglican), Pokeno (7 June 2011);
- **current reviews:** Blackett's Lighthouse, Timaru (10 May 2011); Sunnyside Hospital Administration Building (former) and setting, Christchurch (26 May 2011); and Makareao Lime Works (former), Makareao (31 May 2011).

More information (including email and postal addresses for comments) are at <http://www.historic.org.nz/TheRegister/NotifiedProposals.aspx>

NZ Transport Agency Consultations

These include:

- **Review of the requirements for urban buses in NZ:** the NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) is seeking feedback on proposed changes to the requirements for urban

buses in NZ (RUB). The changes include making the RUB NZ's common standard for urban bus quality used by regional councils and Auckland Transport when they tender and manage their urban bus service contracts.

Submissions close on 8 June 2011. Email your submission to chad.barker@nzta.govt.nz or post your submission to C Barker, NZ Transport Agency, PO Box 13364, Armagh, Christchurch 8141. More is at <http://www.nzta.govt.nz/consultation/requirements-for-urban-buses/index.html>

Draft High-risk Rural Roads Guide: NZTA has released a draft High-risk rural roads guide and it wants to know what you think about it. The guide introduces a new way to identify high risk road sections and provides information about effective ways to deal with them. Different treatments are needed for different situations. Skid resistance and basic maintenance are a requirement at all locations, and in places speed management measures will continue to be used to limit the number and seriousness of road crashes. NZTA says that crashes on rural roads are a serious issue in NZ: rural roads with speed limits of 80km/h or more accounted for 53% of all NZ fatal and serious road crashes for the five-year period to 2009.

Submissions close on 20 May 2011. Either use our [submission form](#), or send your comments to hrrrg@nzta.govt.nz. More is at <http://www.nzta.govt.nz/consultation/high-risk-rural-roads-guide/index.html>

ERMA Consultations

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

- **the Control and Safe Use of Fumigants Code of Practice updated to include the reassessed controls on methyl bromide.** The code has been approved under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 (26 May 2011). More is at <http://www.ermanz.govt.nz/consultations/hazardous-substances/Pages/HSNOCOP31-Fumigants.aspx>; and
- a proposal for the **release of the rust fungus *Uromyces pencanus* as a biological control agent for the weed Chilean needlegrass** is at <http://www.ermanz.govt.nz/consultations/new-organisms/Pages/Biological-control-for-Chilean-needle-grass.aspx> (9 May 2011).

A submission form is at <http://www.ermanz.govt.nz/about-us/what/have-your-say/Pages/make-submission.aspx>, or write to ERMA NZ, PO Box 131, Wellington 6140

LINZ Consultations

Land Information NZ is currently consulting on (closing dates are in brackets):

- the Preliminary Proposal for **Mount Dalgety pastoral lease tenure review** (15 June 2011); and
- the Preliminary Proposal for **Clent Hills tenure review** (24 May 2011).

Submissions on Mt Dalgety go to Commissioner of Crown Lands, C/- Bob Webster, Opus International Consultants Ltd, P O Box 1482, Christchurch 8140, email robert.webster@opus.co.nz. More is at <http://www.linz.govt.nz/crown-property/news-stats-reporting/crown-property-in-the-news/2011/0415-mt-dalgety-preliminary-proposal/index.aspx>. Submissions on Clent Hills go to the Commissioner of Crown Lands, C/- Mike Todd, Opus International Consultants Limited, PO Box 1482, Christchurch 8140 email mike.todd@opus.co.nz. More is at <http://www.linz.govt.nz/crown-property/news-stats-reporting/crown-property-in-the-news/2011/0326-clent-hills-preliminary-proposal/index.aspx>

Christchurch Building Collapse: DBH Investigation

The Department of Building and Housing (DBH) is investigating the performance of the Canterbury Television, Pyne Gould Corporation, Forsyth Barr, and Hotel Grand Chancellor buildings. The investigation will establish and report on: the original design and construction of the buildings; the impact of any alterations; how the buildings performed in the 4 September 2010 earthquake and the aftershocks; what assessments of the buildings' stability/safety were made; and why the buildings collapsed or suffered serious damage on 22 February 2011.

The Department has appointed a panel of engineering and construction experts to guide the way the investigation is carried out, and review the findings. It is expected to be completed by 31 July 2011.

Members of the public are invited to supply photographs, video recordings, and first-hand accounts of the state or performance of each building before, during, and after 22 February 2011.

Members of the public with material or information relevant to the investigations should call 0800 242 243 or email chchinvestigations@dbh.govt.nz. Material can be posted to: Building Investigation, the Department of Building and Housing, PO Box 10729, Wellington 6143. Attn: D Kelly, Deputy Chief Executive Building Quality. The investigation Terms of Reference are available at www.dbh.govt.nz

Rural

Game Animal Council for NZ

An independent Game Animal Council is to be established to improve the management of game animals in NZ. This would then make it easier for distinctions to be made between deer being intensively farmed for meat and velvet (that is, as a class of livestock), deer run on game estates for trophies, and wild deer on public lands.

Legislation will be introduced to Parliament this year.

Farm Sales Hit All Time Low...

There were 190 farm sales in the three months ended March 2011 compared to 204 in the three months ended February 2011 and 210 in the three months to March 2010. The number of farm sales for the year ended March 2011 was 869, compared to 2,692 farm sales for the year ended March 2008, a drop of almost 68%.

The Real Estate Institute of NZ (REINZ) notes that although there are certainly signs of confidence in the rural sector (see following article), this is not yet being translated in property activity. REINZ thinks this may be due to conservatism on the part of buyers in ensuring that properties they are looking at really meet their needs, or continued restraints on rural lending by the banking sector.

More information is at https://www.reinz.co.nz/reinz/public/news/rural-market-news_home.cfm?obj_uid=5E86DC72-B7E1-34B0-A90A-3E9F2EF1DED9

... While Farmer Confidence Rises

Results at a glance from a recent Rabobank confidence survey are:

- farmer confidence has risen for the first time in more than 12 months and is now at its highest level since August 2008;
- rising commodity prices and improving global markets are the main factors driving confidence;
- sentiment has improved in all sectors, but is highest among sheep and beef farmers; and
- farmers' investment intentions have also surged.

More is at http://www.rabobank.co.nz/Research/Documents/RCS/Rabobank_Rural_Confidence_Survey.pdf

Ethics Code for Vets

A working party set up by the Veterinary Council of NZ has developed a new draft Code of Professional Conduct. The Code sets out the ethical standards which veterinarians are to follow and be measured against. This is the first major overhaul of the Code since 1994.

The proposed code considers aspects of veterinary practice like: strict management of prescription medicines; making clear the obligations vets have when providing emergency animal care; expectations for vets around getting informed consent from clients; a client's right to look at the medical records of their animals; guidance for vets on dealing with animal welfare matters; and an expectation that vets will only carry out surgical procedures that are medically necessary.

The Veterinary Council will be consulting with all interested parties over May and early June with the final version to be launched in mid-August.

More is at <http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/BU1104/S00754/ethics-changes-mooted-for-veterinarians.htm>

Potential of Maori Agribusiness

Two new reports on Maori agribusiness were recently released by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF). They describe how the land is currently governed and managed, and give an indication of current productive and economic performance. They also describe the economic, cultural and social aspirations of Maori communities for the land they own, and look at how agribusiness can become profitable and sustainable. Examples of successful ventures are included.

"Maori Agribusiness in NZ: A Study of the Maori Freehold Land Resource" is at www.maf.govt.nz/news-resources/publications?title=Maori. "Owners' Aspirations Regarding the Utilisation of Maori Land" is at <http://www.tpk.govt.nz/en/in-print/our-publications/publications/owners-aspirations-regarding-the-use-of-maori-land/>

Horticulture Industry Fresh Facts

The latest edition of the NZ Horticulture industries pocket bible "Fresh Facts" has been jointly published by HortNZ and Plant and Food Research. The new edition contains 2010 statistics about NZ's \$6.3 billion dollar horticulture industry. In general, although the horticulture industry's exports contracted slightly (by 1.3%) in the year ended 30 June 2010, horticulture's contribution to NZ's total merchandise exports rose from 7.9% to 8.3%.

Kiwifruit is by far the largest fruit export followed by apples, while onions and frozen potatoes are the largest vegetable exports. Fast movers in terms of export values are avocado exports up 56.2% to \$59.9 million, onions up 48.6% to \$113.4 million, frozen boysenberries up 41.2% to \$5.8 million, and blueberries up 19.9% to \$16 million.

Copies of the new edition of fresh facts are available on request from info@hortnz.co.nz

2010 National Exotic Forest Description

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) National Exotic Forest Description (NEFD) 2010 report provides a full description of NZ's planted forests and forest activities, such as estimated planting and harvesting statistics. Overall, this country's exotic forest estate area remains relatively unchanged with total forest area of approximately 1.793 million, down 4100 hectares (0.2%) on last year.

Forest planting remains at historically low levels but harvesting levels have increased significantly with record demand for logs from China.

The report is available at <http://www.maf.govt.nz/news-resources/statistics-forecasting> and hard copies are available by emailing policy.publications@maf.govt.nz or by writing to Policy Publications, MAF Policy, PO Box 2526, Wellington

Big Interest in Walkway Fund

Dozens of individuals and groups across NZ have applied for a slice of a \$230,000 contestable fund setup by the NZ Walking Access Commission to enhance access to the outdoors. The Enhanced Access Fund, now in its second year, supports projects that boost access to the outdoors and enhance knowledge of responsibilities when accessing rivers, forests, mountains, lakes, and beaches.

Applications for the 2011 round of the Enhanced Access Fund are now being considered and an announcement on grant winners will be made in June.

More at <http://www.walkingaccess.govt.nz/page/26/OutstandinginterestinEnhancedAccessFund.html>

Find FarmsOnline

A new voluntary online property database that records farm details, FarmsOnline, is live. It enables instant access to property information, which can be important when it comes to mounting an effective biosecurity response or in the case of a natural disaster of some kind. FarmsOnline already covers 98% of the country's 220,000 rural properties and will be regularly updated by MAF staff, who plan to canvas 50,000 properties a year.

More is at www.farmsonline.maf.govt.nz

MAF Wins Halal Meat Award

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (and Fisheries) (MAF) recently won the award for best service provider at the World Halal Forum in Malaysia. It is the first time a non-Muslim country has won the award, and it comes one year after MAF set in place the Animal Products (Overseas Market Access Requirements for Halal Assurances) Notice. This notice deals with the processing and certification of halal meat production in NZ, to make sure meat is prepared in the manner prescribed by Islamic law. The award is likely to put the NZ halal meat industry in a better position to market NZ meat to the Muslim market.

AHB Gets More Possum Hunters

The Animal Health Board (AHB) is building up its pool of contractors able to apply for ground control work contracts - almost 100 people responded to its recent call for possum/ferret ground control contractors.

Ground-based pest control methods like trapping, surveying and monitoring are part of the AHB's TBfree NZ programme, which aims to eradicate the disease from wildlife like possums and ferrets over 2.5 million hectares.

More about TBfree NZ can be found at
<http://www.ahb.org.nz/Default.aspx?tabid=116>

Environment

NZ's Freshwater Management: Report

The final report of the Land and Water Forum makes recommendations about the main areas where change is needed in the way NZ manages its freshwater. The areas include:

- setting standards, limits, and targets for water quality and quantity;
- water allocation and the transfer of water permits;
- irrigation;
- storage and hydro projects;
- governance arrangements (rules around freshwater management);
- the knowledge required for water management;
- urban water services; and
- working collaboratively so issues about water are owned by water users and better ways of managing it result.

The forum recommended immediate action on:

- developing a National Policy Statement on freshwater;
- new regulations; and
- getting examples of good practice by water users and water regulators.

It considered matters such as allocation, and water services management as "works in progress."

The forum was made up of representatives from agricultural and environmental groups, iwi, energy companies, recreational interests, and industry - 58 groups in all.

The report is at http://www.landandwater.org.nz/index_files/releases.htm

Fewer 2009 NZ Greenhouse Gas Emissions...

The "Greenhouse Gas Inventory Position Report" shows NZ's total emissions (all the emissions produced) in 2009 reduced to 70.6 million tonnes – down 3% from 2008. The net emissions (emissions minus consumption) under Kyoto rules for 2009 were 53.4 million tonnes – down 4% from 2008. This is the second consecutive year of reductions in both gross and net emissions after a long trend of increases since 1990.

The "Projected Net Position Report" estimates that NZ will have a surplus of 21.9 million tonnes for the Kyoto Period of 2008-2012, an improvement from 11.4 million tonnes estimated in 2010. The surplus has an estimated value of \$444 million for NZ. This is not money that goes to the Government, as \$1.2 billion of carbon units are allocated to post-1989 forest owners, but Government liabilities from the Emissions Trading Scheme are reduced by \$238 million.

The Greenhouse Gas Inventory Position Report for 2009 and Projected Net Position Report are available at
<http://www.mfe.govt.nz/issues/climate/greenhouse-gas-emissions/>

... & Agricultural Emissions Projections Down

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) has revised down its projections for this country's agricultural greenhouse gas emissions because of advances in the way they are calculated. Emissions from agriculture are now projected to be around 4 percent lower over the first commitment period (CP1) (2008-2012) of the Kyoto Protocol, than projected this time last year.

Other changes are mixed: fewer production animals and reduced production has resulted in lower emissions, but there has been an increased use of nitrogen fertiliser, increasing emissions.

More is at <http://www.maf.govt.nz/news-resources/news/more-accurate-science-improves-agriculture%e2%80%99s-green>

eDay Spreads to Pacific

A recent meeting of Pacific Ministers of Energy, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Transport, endorsed a regional approach based on NZ's eDay model to tackle the increasing amount of electronic waste (e-waste) in Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs). e-waste and its toxic materials, including lead and mercury from old computers, is globally the fastest growing type of waste.

A successful Cook Islands eDay has already been held in December 2010, and other countries including Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu have already started to organize their own e-waste collection days.

China Tops Clean Energy Table

China remains the world's leading investor in low-carbon energy technology, a global study has shown. The table, published by the US Pew Environment Group, showed the Chinese invested \$US54.4 billion in 2010, up from \$39.1 billion in 2009. While the US saw investment increase by 51% to \$US34 billion, it still slipped from 2nd to 3rd in the ranking, behind Germany's \$US41.2 billion.

More is at <http://www.pewenvironment.org/news-room/reports/whos-winning-the-clean-energy-race-2010-edition-329291>

Tourism

Visitor Numbers – February 2011

Despite little change in overall visitor numbers, arrivals for a holiday were down 7,900 in February 2011 – with decreases both before and after the Christchurch earthquake on 22 February. Between 22 and 28 February, 2,300 more people arrived to visit friends and relatives compared with the same days in 2010. However, there was an increase in permanent and long-term departures from Christchurch (148 in last five days of February 2011, up from 81 in the same month last year).

Annual visitor arrivals numbered 2.534 million in the February 2011 year, up 2% from the previous year. Net migration in the year ended February 2011 was 8,200, down from 21,600 the previous year, and below the average annual net migration gain of 12,000 over the last 20 years.

More is at
http://www.stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats/population/Migration/IntTravelAndMigration_MRFeb11.aspx

Guest Nights Down in February

Guest nights fell 1.5% in February 2011 compared with February 2010. International guest nights fell 4.0%, while domestic guest nights rose 1.0%. Although lower than in February 2010, guest nights in the latest month were similar to February 2009.

Seven of the 12 regions recorded fewer guest nights compared with February 2010. Canterbury had by far the largest decrease (down 14%), due to fewer international guest nights. This is consistent with the continued decline in international guest nights since the September 2010 earthquake and subsequent aftershocks.

More is at
http://www.stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats/industry_sectors/accommodation/Accommodation-Survey_MRFeb11.aspx

More China-NZ Flights...

China Southern has confirmed that later this year it will increase its three-times a week Guangzhou to Auckland service to daily flights. The move is expected to increase the number of visitors on China Southern Airlines to 50,000 a year, worth an estimated \$150 million to the economy.

...NZ Game for Chinese Travellers...

Tourism NZ has launched an online game in China as part of its marketing efforts to boost arrivals from the fast-growing market. The game, "Pure NZ, 100% Revival Tour," encourages Chinese consumers to invite their friends to join a group and "experience NZ" via Chinese blog site Sina Weibo or MSN.

In the year ending February 2011, 129,000 Chinese visitors came to NZ, up by 25.9% compared to the year to February 2010.

...& Chinese Visitors: Visa Changes

Recent changes to travel visa application processes for visitors from China aim to make travel between China and NZ easier. The changes include greater use of multiple-journey visas and an easing of the documentation required to support a visa application.

Staff numbers are also being increased at Immigration NZ's three China branches - Shanghai, Beijing and Hong Kong - in response to the increase in demand from the new Guangzhou-Auckland airliner. In 2010, 44,462 temporary entry visas were issued, an increase of 11% on 2009.

Health & Welfare

Flu Here: Get Immunised Now

NZers are urged to get immunised against seasonal influenza before winter, as the first cases of this disease have already been confirmed in the country. People need to be immunised before winter as it can take up to two weeks to develop immunity after immunisation.

The 2011 seasonal influenza vaccine provides protection against three strains of flu, including the Pandemic H1N1 (swine flu), seasonal H3N2 and B viruses, which are all expected to circulate in NZ this season.

Influenza immunisation is free for NZers at high risk of complications - people aged 65 and over, and anyone under 65 years of age with long-term health conditions such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes, respiratory disease (including asthma), kidney disease and most cancers. Pregnant women are also eligible for free influenza immunisation as studies have shown that they are particularly susceptible to more severe outcomes from influenza.

Free immunisation is available to eligible people until 31 July. For free health advice, call Healthline 0800 611 116. Information on influenza immunisation is at www.fightflu.co.nz or text FLU to 515

MSD Green Paper: Protecting Children

The Ministry of Social Development (MSD) will shortly be consulting on a "Green Paper" covering health, education, and social issues that focus on how we value, nurture, and protect children.

The Paper will deal with the needs of children and young people aged 0 to 18 years, with a special focus on under five-year olds. NZers will be asked to consider, for example:

- information sharing to protect children;
- tracking at-risk children;
- more use of schools after hours, for activities;
- compulsory reporting of child abuse; and
- Whanau-first placements for children in state care.

After consulting on the Green Paper, a White Paper (which will include a Children's Action Plan) will be published.

We'll keep you posted.

Family Violence Prevention: Funding Changes

The changes in funding for family violence prevention programmes include \$11.035 million of the \$62.4 million budget for family violence prevention being re-channelled into five areas:

- \$8.535 million will go to a new Family-Centred Services Fund that service providers apply to for funding for direct services to families and whanau, where family violence has occurred (aims are to encourage providers to work together to reduce duplications/gaps in services, and respond to local needs);
- \$0.5 million for ongoing funding of the "It's not OK" campaign focusing on the message "It's OK to ask for help";
- \$0.5 million for the "E Tu Whanau!" campaign which encourages whanau to take ownership and action for the safety of their whanau;
- \$0.5 million to address violence within Pacific families through a Pasifika Campaign that builds on the strengths of Pacific cultures to prevent violence from occurring; and
- \$1.0 million to develop and implement a training programme for Pacific providers.

Another \$2.8 million will temporarily fund (for a year) "joined up approaches" to family violence prevention, such as community networks and case collaboration. By then, the Taskforce for Action on Violence within Families will have reported on how best to achieve good coordination of family violence services and initiatives in NZ.

More on the Family-Centred Services Fund is at www.familyservices.govt.nz

Skin Infection Rates Up

Serious skin infection rates in NZ children have increased markedly over the last two decades according to new research from the University of Otago. More than 100 children a week are now being admitted to NZ hospitals for treatment of skin infections with most needing intravenous antibiotics and one-third requiring surgery. Since 1990, rates of serious skin infection have gone from 298 cases per 100,000 to 547 cases.

Other findings in this study include:

- boys are much more at risk of infection than girls;
- these infections are most commonly found in pre-school children;
- the rate of serious infections is almost three times higher for Maori children and over four times higher for Pacific children compared with other ethnicities;
- infection rates are associated with socio-economic deprivation;
- serious skin infections are more than 1.5 times more common in urban than rural areas; and
- North Island DHBs have much higher rates than South Island DHBs.

More is at <http://www.nzdoctor.co.nz/un-doctored/2011/april-2011/28/serious-skin-infection-rates-double-in-children-since-1990.aspx>

Toddler's Car Seats: Rear-facing

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), has issued new recommendations on child car seat safety. It has refined the recommended time infants and toddlers should, where possible, remain rear-facing from at least 12 months of age to 2 years of age. Plunket supports the recommendation.

Rear facing is when a child's car seat is placed into the car facing the back window. If an accident occurs the child's body moves into the back of the seat shell and the head, neck, and spine are supported. During an impact the rear-facing child slides up the back of the seat, and back down. Forces are reduced around the neck and spine and the force of the impact is evenly distributed across the car seat and the child.

Parents and caregivers can seek advice from a Plunket child restraint technician about the best car seat for their child's age and weight, and one that is best suited to their car.

For information on a car seat rental scheme near you visit www.plunket.org.nz

Mountain Safety: Communication Equipment Vital

The NZ Mountain Safety Council is reminding people to take appropriate communications equipment when heading out into remote areas, in case of emergency. That means more than just taking your cell phone, as its usefulness in remote wilderness areas can be very limited. People going out into the wilderness should choose one of a range of communications options available like a Mountain Radio, Satellite Phone, or Personal Locator Beacon (PLB).

Mountain radios are considered one of the best forms of backcountry communication, providing two-way communication in many areas where a cell phone won't work. They are available for low cost hire from Mountain Radio Services, who have depots in many centres.

A Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) is a small, emergency distress beacon that emits a radio signal when activated. Search and Rescue teams use the signal to find the beacon

and enabling a more specific location to be established. They can be purchased from many outdoors retailers and can be hired from some DoC visitor centres. It is recommended that they only be activated in life-threatening situations.

For more information on mountain radios visit www.mountainradio.co.nz

Follow the Firearms Safety Code

The seven basic rules of the Firearms Safety Code are:

- **treat every firearm as loaded.** Check every firearm yourself. Pass or accept only an open or unloaded firearm;
- **always point firearms in a safe direction.** Loaded or unloaded, always point the muzzle in a safe direction;
- **load a firearm only when ready to fire.** Load only the magazine after you reach your shooting area. Load the chamber only when ready to shoot. Completely unload before leaving the shooting area;
- **identify your target beyond all doubt.** Movement, colour, sound and shape can all deceive you. Assume colour, shape, sound, and shape to be human until proven otherwise;
- **check your firing zone.** THINK! What may happen if you miss your target? What might you hit between you and the target or beyond? Do not fire when you know others are in your firing zone;
- **store firearms and ammunition safely.** When not in use, lock away the bolt, firearm and ammunition separately. Never leave firearms in a vehicle that is unattended; and
- **avoid alcohol and drugs when handling firearms.** Good judgement is the key to safe use of firearms.

A copy of the Seven Basic Rules of the Firearms Safety Code can be downloaded from www.mountainsafety.org.nz

Sickness Beneficiaries: Work Requirement

From this month Sickness Beneficiaries who have been assessed as being able to work 15 to 29 hours a week, will have to look for suitable part-time work. They'll need to accept any offer of suitable part-time employment, and participate in employment-related training, work experience and work assessments. There is no penalty if people can't find work.

An extra medical reassessment is now required eight weeks after someone goes onto a Sickness Benefit.

Stop that Bullying

Kidsline has seen an 11% increase in calls from under 14's because of bullying, and an increase of 87% in calls relating to electronic bullying. The nationwide confidential helpline receives thousands of calls each year across a range of issues, but bullying is the leading reason children call.

The impact of bullying can vary widely from child to child. Some children just need support and reassurance that yes, the behaviour they are experiencing is bullying, and then they can approach either a parent or teacher for help. In other situations the impact of bullying is much more severe.

More is at <http://www.kidsline.org.nz/>

Pregnancy Diet & Children's Obesity

A recent international study has shown - for the first time - that during pregnancy a mother's diet can alter the function of her child's DNA – through a process called epigenetic change (a process of chemical modification), and this can lead to her child tending to lay down more fat. Importantly, the study shows that this effect acts independently of how fat or thin the mother is and of the child's weight at birth.

More is at <http://diabetes.diabetesjournals.org/content/early/2011/04/04/db10-0979.abstract>

Specialist Diabetes Nurses Prescribing Meds

Nurses specialising in diabetes health are now able to prescribe medication for people with diabetes in four North Island regions (Auckland, Hawkes Bay, Mid Central Health, and Hutt DHBs).

They are taking part in a trial that aims to make life easier for diabetes patients, who may need fewer appointments, and make better use of nursing skills.

Diabetes nurses will be the first registered nurses to be authorised to independently prescribe a limited range of medicines to their patients, under the guidance of a medical practitioner. Up until now only doctors and nurse practitioners have been authorised to write prescriptions.

The trial will be evaluated before it is set up in other parts of the country or extended to other specialist services.

The number of people with diabetes in NZ has almost doubled in the past 10 years.

UN Report on Adolescents

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has published a report called "The State of the World's Children 2011; Adolescence: An Age of Opportunity." The report looks at both the vulnerabilities and opportunities for adolescents around the world, and some of the steps that can be taken to improve things.

Download the report at http://www.unicef.org/sowc2011/pdfs/SOWC-2011-Main-Report_EN_02092011.pdf

Oz: Plain Tobacco Packaging

The Australian Government has decided to introduce plain packaging of tobacco products.

NZ government officials have begun talks with Australian officials on the subject, and will be reporting back to Cabinet by 30 June 2011.

More on the Australian Government's decision is at [http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/D7E6184AF69E8043CA25786B0007A5F7/\\$File/nr064.pdf](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/D7E6184AF69E8043CA25786B0007A5F7/$File/nr064.pdf)

NZ's Positive Ageing Strategy...

Because people are living longer, more interest is being shown in the positive aspects of ageing – that is, how well people manage as they age, rather than on the negative effects of ageing.

An update on NZ's Positive Ageing Strategy shows the progress being made here with positive ageing programmes using 10 measures (income, health services, housing options for older people, transport options, safety and security, cultural diversity, rural services, positive attitudes, employment opportunities, and personal growth and participation).

The three positive ageing programmes currently being highlighted include:

- **employment of mature workers:** encouraging flexible work options and opportunities for older workers to remain in work;
- **changing attitudes about ageing:** promoting inter-generational programmes and reinforcing the important contribution older people make to their communities; and
- **protecting the rights and interests of older people:** by raising awareness of elder abuse and neglect prevention.

The update is at <http://www.msd.govt.nz/what-we-can-do/seniorcitizens/positive-ageing/progress/index.html>. There is also a list of programmes and projects underway around the country. You can access these (by programme, by region and by organisation) at <http://www.msd.govt.nz/what-we-can-do/seniorcitizens/positive-ageing/initiatives/index.html>

...& Economic Benefits of Ageing?

A Ministry of Social Development report called "The Business of Ageing, Realising the economic potential of older people in NZ: 2011-2051" has recently been published. Its focus is on enabling older people to remain active in the workforce, and tapping into the growing consumer market an ageing population presents.

People over 65 are predicted to become one of the most significant consumer markets in NZ. They will have their own needs and preferences that are quite different from earlier generations of older people, and also quite different from younger people.

In 2030, one million people in NZ will be over the age of 65, compared to about 560,000 today.

The report is at www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/research/business-of-ageing/index.html

Prison Drug Rehab Working

Since 2008, Drug Treatment Units have opened at Auckland and Otago prisons, and a third unit will open at Whanganui Prison by the end of the year. The Department of Corrections says the units have been successful in helping prisoners to kick alcohol and drug addictions and lead law-abiding lives, and that they reduce re-offending by a third.

Two-thirds of prisoners enter prison with a drug or alcohol problem. So far in the current financial year, 6% of prisoners have returned positive results for drugs, compared to around 34% returning positive results when random drug testing was introduced in 1998.

"Rust Proof Your Health" a Winner...

The video entry, "Rust Proof Your Health", has won first place in the Comvita Science Challenge. It won because it managed to make an entertaining link between antioxidants, which foods contain them - and why they're so important - particularly with the stresses of modern living.

You can access the winning clip (followed by second and third place clips) at www.comvitasciencechallenge.co.nz

... & Merino Compression Garments: Medical Award

Christchurch-based The Merino Company and Mt Maunganui-based product-development company, Locus Research, have scored an international win with a US Medical Design Excellence Award (MDEA*) for an innovative range of merino wool compression garments.

Designed and developed in NZ, the compression garments are aimed at the more than 40 percent of people over 45 who suffer from a range of circulatory problems, including hypertension, varicose veins, deep-vein thrombosis (DVT), ulcers and chronic venous disease (CVD).

*The awards recognise the achievements of medical product manufacturers, engineers, designers, and clinicians who are responsible for groundbreaking innovations that "change the face of healthcare."

More is at <http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/SC1104/S00020/merino-product-wins-international-medical-design-award.htm>

Education/Training

NZ International Education Agency Coming

A new Government agency is to be set up (by September this year) to co-ordinate, market and represent international education in NZ. Currently, the responsibility for promoting international education has been shared between three agencies – the Ministry of Education, Education NZ, and NZ Trade and Enterprise.

The benefits from the new agency are expected to include a bigger and more streamlined service for education providers and consultancies, and a more focused, better resourced promotions strategy.

International education contributes more than \$2 billion to our economy each year and supports about 32,000 jobs.

More is at <http://www.minedu.govt.nz/theMinistry/PublicationsAndResources/RIS/EducationAmendmentBillNo4/CreationCrownAgentInternationalEducation.aspx>

Public/Private Partnership Schools

Two new schools in Hobsonville (Auckland) are to be designed, financed, built and maintained under a public-private partnership (PPP).

The primary and secondary schools will be the first built in NZ under a PPP. The private sector partner will be responsible for financing, designing, building, and maintaining the property for 25 years of school operations. The land and school will still be owned by the Government, while the board of trustees will be wholly in charge of the governance and day to day running of the school.

An establishment board of trustees will oversee the setting up of both the new schools. The primary school is scheduled to open at the start of 2013, and the secondary school due to open at the start of 2014.

More is at <http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/hobsonville-schools-ppp-will-bring-wider-benefits>

Special Schools' Funding Allocation

One-off funding totalling \$22.8 million in funding has been allocated for upgrades of special schools and satellite units, and for new satellites around NZ. Fifteen special school base sites and 14 satellite units will receive funding as part of the programme (in addition to the regular property funding programmes for which special schools are eligible).

More including a list of schools/units receiving funding, is at <http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/allocation-special-school-funding-announced>

UK Visa Applications: NZ Students

The UK government is to soon introduce a streamlined application process for students from countries whose nationals pose "a low immigration risk to the UK" (NZ is one of these). The change means that NZ visa applicants will generally not be expected to provide evidence of, for example, their qualifications, and how they will maintain themselves, at the time of application.

The first round of changes came into effect on 21 April 2011. Further changes, including the new streamlined process, take effect in the UK 2011 summer, and final changes in April 2012.

More information at <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/march/65-student-visas>

Employment

Wage Rates – March 2011 Quarter

Salary and wage rates, which include overtime, increased 1.9% in the year to 31 March 2011 quarter. This increase follows a 1.7% increase in the year to the December 2010 quarter and a 1.6% increase in the year to the September 2010 quarter. Salary and wage rates for the private sector increased 2.0% in the year to the March 2011 quarter.

More is at http://www.stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats/economic_indicators/prices_indexes/aboutCostIndexSalaryandWageRates_MRMAR11qtr.aspx

More Kiwis Looking for Jobs

Seek.co.nz has reported an increase of 90,000 job applications registered in January to March 2011, compared to the same period last year. This is because of an increasing number of Kiwis are dissatisfied with their current role. The most recent SEEK Satisfaction and Motivation survey identified that seven out of ten NZers are keeping an eye out for their next employment opportunity in 2011.

According to the SEEK results, the absence of pay rises, increased tasks and responsibilities in roles, and a general feeling of being unappreciated are the main reasons behind seeking a new job.

More is at <http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/BU1104/S00535/more-kiwis-apply-themselves-to-job-hunt.htm>

Fewer Work Stoppages

Seventeen work stoppages ended in the December 2010 year, the lowest number of stoppages since 1986. Stoppages in the December 2010 year involved 6,394 employees, and losses of 6,285 person-days of work and an estimated \$1.1 million in wages and salaries. In comparison, the 31 stoppages in the December 2009 year involved 8,951 employees, and losses of 14,088 person-days of work, and an estimated \$2.4 million in wages and salaries.

The proportion of stoppages that were resolved in the December 2010 year is 82%. This is up from 42% in the previous year, and is the highest proportion of resolved stoppages since the December 2003 year (86%).

More is at

http://www.stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats/work_income_and_spending/Strikes/WorkStoppages_MRDec10qtr.aspx

Working Remotely: Good for Business

A recent US article tackles and rebuts five common misconceptions about allowing staff to work remotely:

- **productivity will drop:** not so. According to a recent study, remote workers work harder than their office-based counterparts. See more at <http://news.discovery.com/human/telecommuting-productivity-flex-time.html>;
- **communication will suffer:** many people assume that remote team members will communicate less with one another. It may be true that, overall, time spent communicating will go down, but that doesn't mean communication will suffer. In fact, communication is often better in a remote work environment, because unnecessary interaction is generally removed from the equation. It is important, however, that remote employees are supported by the proper communication strategy – see more on this at http://www.usatoday.com/money/jobcenter/workplace/bruzzese/2011-02-23-tips-for-remote-workers_N.htm;
- **costs will increase:** because it can be expensive to set up a remote work trial, some companies assume those costs will continue throughout the life of the program. However, that isn't the case. Remote working should actually reduce overheads significantly over time – see more at http://www.cisco.com/cisco/web/solutions/small_business/resource_center/articles/secure_my_business/how_to_cut_overhead/index.html;
- **company culture will evaporate:** some fear losing their company's culture or "personality," or at least the quirks that make the workplace feel human, when they switch to a remote setup. Experience suggest this is far from the case. So long as communication remains open and frequent, distributed team members should be able to gain a sense of camaraderie that should come through in interactions with clients and other third-parties; and

- **security will be weakened:** one of the major concerns surrounding remote working is that it endangers company security; data will leave the network from time to time, and employees are largely unsupervised. Sensitive information does seem more vulnerable in such settings, but there's yet to be very much accumulated evidence proving that companies do indeed actually take on increased liability by moving to a remote work setup. Motivated individuals will leak or steal info regardless of whether you have remote working measures in place or not.

Read the original article at <http://gigaom.com/collaboration/5-common-remote-work-misconceptions/>

Technology & Work/Life Balance

Technology advances enable us to work faster and smarter than ever before, but does this also mean the traditional Kiwi holiday is at threat? A recent Robert Half workplace survey found that most of us now find it difficult to switch off while we are away from the office. Almost two thirds (62%) of the NZ finance and accounting professionals surveyed stay connected remotely to what's happening at work or do work-related tasks while they are on holiday.

Of those that stay connected, 15% say that it is because they find it "impossible" to switch off while on holiday; while 43% claim it's because technology allows them to access work information from anywhere in the world.

Interestingly, however, just 6% of employers claim they expect employees to constantly be available while on annual leave, and 14% expect employees to be available outside of office hours. Forty-nine percent were required to be available only in emergencies.

Read more at <http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/BU1104/S00568/technology-kills-worklife-balance.htm>

"Boomerang" Employees High Performers

More than half of NZ businesses have rehired former employees (or boomerang employees) because they rate them as higher performers, according to recent research from Hudson. The report, "The Boomerang Phenomenon: Taking Flight in the New Economy," was based on research of over 1,000 businesses throughout NZ, as well as roundtable discussions with representatives from NZ businesses.

The research shows that nine out of ten employers surveyed rated the performance of boomerang employees as above average. The research also identified that the conditions under which their employment ended is a key consideration for a potential boomerang.

Read more at <http://www.guide2.co.nz/money/news/business/most-companies-prefer-to-hire-former-staff-survey/11/21672>

Medical Technology Work Expanding

NZ's expanding medical technology sector plans to hire over 165 full time, highly skilled workers in the next two years. So says the latest Sector Survey results announced by the Medical Technology Association of NZ (MTANZ). MTANZ represents manufacturers and importers who supply medical technology devices used in the diagnosis, prevention, treatment, and management of disease and disability.

In the last financial year, the sector earned an estimated \$611.5 million in revenues, including over \$578.8 million in exports. The companies surveyed spent over \$65.3 million on research and development.

Read more is at <http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/BU1104/S00742/expanding-medical-technology-sector-creating-jobs.htm>

Work Casual Day Memos

- **Casual Day Memo No. 1:** Effective immediately, the company is adopting Fridays as Casual Day so that employees may express their diversity;
- **Memo No. 2:** Spandex and leather micro-miniskirts are not appropriate attire for Casual Day. Neither are string ties, rodeo belt buckles or moccasins;
- **Memo No. 3:** Casual Day refers to dress only, not attitude. When planning Friday's wardrobe, remember image is a key to our success;
- **Memo No. 4:** A seminar on how to dress for Casual Day will be held at 4 p.m., Friday in the cafeteria. Fashion show to follow. Attendance is mandatory;
- **Memo No. 5:** As an outgrowth of Friday's seminar, a 14-member Casual Day Task Force has been appointed to prepare guidelines for proper dress;
- **Memo No. 6:** The Casual Day Task Force has completed a 30-page manual. A copy of "Relaxing Dress Without Relaxing Company Standards" has been mailed to each employee. Please review the chapter "You Are What You Wear" and consult the "home casual" versus "business casual" checklist before leaving for work each Friday. If you have doubts about the appropriateness of an item of clothing, contact your CDTF representative before 7 a.m. on Friday; and
- **Memo No. 7:** Because of lack of participation, Casual Day has been discontinued, effective immediately.

Housing/Building

Rental Housing Supply: Update

The demand from tenants for rental properties across NZ is lagging behind as supply increased 11% over the past quarter, according to an analysis of listings on TradeMe Property.

Over the past three months in cities like Tauranga, Dunedin, Hamilton, and Wellington the number of properties up for rent has outstripped demand from prospective tenants. However, in Auckland, supply was "incredibly tight" (down 13%) with demand from prospective tenants spiking up by 18%. And, in Christchurch, any rental housing is being tenanted swiftly.

Leaky Homes Bill Reported Back

The Local Government and Environment Select Committee has reported on the Weathertight Homes Resolution Services (Financial Assistance Package) Amendment Bill. This Bill would see qualifying owners of leaky homes receive a 25% contribution from the Government for repairs, and they may also receive 25% from their local council. The contributions will be based on agreed actual repair costs.

Owners close to the 10-year limit on lodging of leaky home claims are urged to lodge their claim with the Department of Building and Housing now. For more information on the financial assistance package visit <http://www.dbh.govt.nz/ws-proposed-financial-assistance>

TV Series on Maori Architecture

Maori architectural history Maori is to be explored in a new 13-part series, Whare Maori, starting on Maori Television in May. The series delves into the stories of the people that worked together to create buildings where whanau and hapu could celebrate and worship, learn, and govern.

Whare Maori premieres on Sunday 8 May at 8pm

New Survey Title Search Fees

Land Information NZ (LINZ) has reviewed the fees and charges for its survey and title systems and new fees come into effect on 1 July 2011. This may in turn affect survey and title fees charged by, for example, conveyancers and surveyors.

The new fees are at <http://www.landonline.govt.nz/about-landonline/pricing/fees-schedule-2011.pdf>

Christchurch Temporary Accommodation Service

The Temporary Accommodation Service in Christchurch is working with people on a case-by-case basis to match them with suitable temporary accommodation. Rental costs will apply for temporary accommodation, but these will generally mean no extra cost for most homeowners or tenants.

For people who have insurance, contents insurance policies generally provide temporary accommodation support for at least six months, and often for up to 12 months, depending on the policy. If a homeowner or tenant's primary dwelling is still uninhabitable after that, they will be eligible for Temporary Accommodation Service rental subsidies.

Six companies have been chosen as providers of temporary accommodation in Christchurch. They are Hawkins/Spanbild/Fulton Hogan, Jennian Homes, NZ Transportable Units (who will provide the first 300 temporary accommodation units), Smith Crane, Hawkins Falcon, and Tranzasia.

Energy

Conserving Power: Consumer Compensation Scheme

The Electricity Authority has set up a Customer Compensation Scheme, under which electricity retailers have to pay customers \$10.50 per week if they are asked to conserve electricity during a public conservation campaign.

The Authority says this will deter retailers from holding public conservation campaigns to lower their exposure to high prices on the electricity spot market when lake levels are low. It will also compensate their customers for having to conserve electricity.

More is at <http://www.ea.govt.nz/consumer/customer-compensation-scheme/>

What Makes Wind Farms Economic

A new report from Deloitte explores the economics of wind farm development in NZ and the factors that determine whether a farm will be economic or not. Apparently, the critical factors are identifying and getting consents for the right sites, making the most of the yield, and having favourable market conditions and exchange rates.

Wind generation has increased 10-fold in the last 6 years, and wind now supplies 4% of NZ's electricity. In the last 18 months, over NZ\$300 million has been invested in new wind farms.

"Economics of wind development in NZ" can be downloaded from <http://img.scoop.co.nz/media/pdfs/1104/economicsnz.pdf>, and more is at <http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/BU1104/S00307/right-place-price-and-wind-make-wind-farms-economic.htm>

US Invests in NZ Green Energy

The United States Department of Energy (DOE) has invested US\$2 million in a wave energy project using technology developed by Industrial Research Ltd (IRL) in NZ. Over the past three years, Wave Energy Technology NZ (WET-NZ) has been trialling a one-fifth size wave electrical generation device anchored off Christchurch.

It is different from other wave energy converters in that the machine is anchored to the sea floor and recognises water

movement. It uses on-board hydraulics to convert water energy into electricity.

The next step in the research program involves building a half-size machine. When this is completed in June (and after testing off Akaroa), it will be relocated and anchored to the sea floor off Moa Point in Wellington. IRL will then ship another set of control and hydraulic parts to the USA. They will be installed in a half-size device built to IRL's design, which will be anchored to the sea bed off the Oregon coast.

Read more at <http://www.irl.cri.nz/newsroom/media-releases>

All About Electricity

The electricity market is governed by the Electricity Industry Participation Code 2010, and it is monitored by the Electricity Authority. The Authority makes sure that people keep to the rules, and that the electricity industry and markets operate efficiently. It also makes recommendations for new rules, assesses any alleged code breaches, and considers applications for exemptions to the code.

Some electricity facts and figures from the Authority:

- power is measured in Watts (W), or more commonly, kilowatts (kW) or megawatts (MW);
- the amount of electricity used over a period of time is measured in kilowatt hours (kWh): a 1 kW bar heater operating for one hour will use 1 kWh of electricity;
- NZ households use an average of about 8,000 kWh of electricity per year;
- nearly 2 million NZ households and businesses purchase more than \$6 billion of electricity annually, of these, about: 1.7 million or 86% are residential consumers; 160,000 or 8% are commercial consumers; 75,000 or 4% are agricultural, forestry, and fishing consumers; and 40,000 or 2% are industrial consumers;
- about 34% of the total electricity is purchased by residential consumers, 36% by industrial consumers, 25% by commercial consumers and 5% by agricultural, forestry, and fishing consumers; and
- there are about 12,000km of high voltage transmission lines that make up Transpower's national grid. They are supported by about 40,000 towers and poles.

The system is made up of:

- **Electricity Generation:** electricity in NZ is largely generated from hydro, gas, coal and geothermal resources, with an increasing contribution from wind generation. Electricity is produced at generation stations and connected at high voltage to the national electricity transmission network, called the national grid, at grid injection points (GIPs). Most stations are owned and operated by the following main generator companies which compete to supply electricity to retailers: Contact Energy Ltd; Genesis Power Ltd; Meridian Energy Ltd; Mighty River Power Ltd; Todd Energy Ltd, and TrustPower Ltd;

- **Electricity Transmission:** the electricity transmission system is owned by state-owned enterprise Transpower. The grid is the physical hub of the electricity system, bringing electricity from remote generation sites to customers. High voltage electricity is transmitted across the grid from the GIPs to the points of distribution at the grid exit points (GXPs). At the GXPs electricity is reduced to lower voltage at transformer substations for distribution on local networks to consumers. Transpower owns the high-voltage national electricity grid. The Authority has a contractual market operation service provider agreement with Transpower for managing the national grid;
- **Electricity Distribution:** there are 28 lines companies that own the local distribution networks throughout NZ. The lines companies are connected to the national grid at the GXPs. Low voltage electricity is distributed via the local networks to end commercial and domestic consumers. Generally the lines companies sell their distribution or lines services to retailers who manage the electricity supply agreements with end consumers. Some commercial and industrial consumers contract directly with lines companies for electricity supply.
- **Retailing Electricity:** a retailer is a company that buys wholesale electricity at spot prices* on the spot market from the generator companies (which is then transmitted across the grid and transformed to lower voltage for distribution via local networks to consumers). The retailer's charges to an end user include the cost of the electricity supplied to the consumer as well as charges for transmission and line services. Some of the electricity retailers in NZ are: Contact Energy Ltd; Empower Ltd; Energy Online; Genesis Power Ltd; Meridian Energy Ltd; Mercury Energy Ltd; Bay of Plenty Electricity; King Country Energy; and TrustPower Ltd; and
- **Electricity Consumers:** although retail competition varies across the country, NZ's consumers have a choice of retailers. In some parts of NZ there are five or more competing retailers. The switching-over process has become easier and faster over time, and can generally now be done over the phone with the new electricity retailer.

*The spot price is the price that is quoted for immediate (spot) settlement (payment and delivery). Spot settlement is normally one or two business days from trade date. This is in contrast with the forward price established in a futures contract, where contract terms (price) are set now, but delivery and payment will happen at a future date.

Wholesale and Retail Functions

Wholesale functions in the industry include bidding (purchasers), offering (generators), scheduling and dispatch (System Operator), pricing (Pricing Manager) and clearing and settlement (Clearing Manager); and

Retail functions include the registration of consumers, enabling consumers to switch easily between suppliers (Registry) and the counting of electricity purchases and sales (reconciliation).

Buying and selling of wholesale electricity is done via a "pool", where electricity generators offer electricity to the market and

retailers bid to buy the electricity. This market is called the spot market, and it is also known as the physical wholesale market.

For more on distributing, retailing and generating, including companies that are involved, and how it all works go to <http://www.ea.govt.nz/consumer/industry-overview/>. Visit Consumer NZ at <http://www.consumer.org.nz/powerswitch> to get free information that will help you shop around for the best electricity supplier. The site shows the electricity retailers and tariff options available in each area, and it also allows consumers to calculate their expected bill with different suppliers

Transport & Travel

Driving Unlicensed Vehicles: New Penalties

The following changes to the penalties for people caught by the Police while driving unlicensed vehicles came into effect on 1 May 2011:

Offence	Current penalty (will continue to apply when offence is enforced by a parking warden)	Planned new penalty(only for tickets personally served by a police officer)
Unregistered	\$200	\$150 plus 20 demerit points
No plates affixed	\$200	\$150 plus 20 demerit points
Driving while licence on hold	\$200	\$150 plus 20 demerit points
Unlicensed vehicle	\$200	\$100 plus 15 demerit points
Current licence label not affixed	\$200	\$75

The NZ Transport Agency will be able to require people to surrender licence plates when putting their licensing on hold or to decline an application to put licensing on hold when a person has abused this right in the past.

Police will continue to give a person ticketed for the first time with an unlicensed car a two-week grace period to license their vehicle before any penalties apply.

One Ticket to Ride

A new "HOP" smart ticket in Auckland will soon enable public transport users to use all public transport services - buses, trains, and ferries - using one card. People will tag on and tag off as they board and exit.

The "integrated ticketing system" is currently used on NZ Bus services, and the rail system is likely to have it by the middle of the year. After that it will be the turn of the ferries.

The HOP system will eventually be installed in public transport services around the country.

More is at <http://www.aucklandtrains.co.nz/2011/04/04/hop-integrated-ticketing-launched/>

Fuel Taxes: Giveth & Taketh Away?

The planned fuel tax increase of 1.5 cents per litre which was due to come into effect on 1 July has been deferred (for a year) while economic conditions remain tight. However, the Government says that it is likely that there will be a need to increase FED (fuel excise duty on petrol) and RUC (road user charges) in future years, possibly to the order of 2 cents a litre in 2012 and 1.5 cents a litre in 2013.

Men/Women's Driving Now Similar

The 2011 AA Insurance Drivers Index has found that today's driving habits of men and women are remarkably similar, even when it comes to making long trips over holiday periods. In previous surveys, men and women differed significantly in time spent behind the wheel, taking speed risks, attitudes to aggression, and even making claims.

Read more at <http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/CU1104/S00381/its-official-men-and-women-can-agree.htm>

Weather Network for Safer Roads

A recently completed (November 2010) nationwide network of state-of-the-art automatic weather stations, thermal mapping, weather forecasting, and road-side engineering is helping to reduce ice and keep NZ roads open and safe during winter.

The network relies on precisely located road weather stations. Each road weather station gives real-time weather and road surface state information over a cellular network. This information is then linked to MetService hourly, site-specific forecasts.

Both sets of information are turned into "thermal forecast maps" on a customised web interface (the actual part of the browser where you view the web pages on the internet) that clearly shows road contractors which parts of their networks are likely to freeze. This allows road contracting teams to

determine precisely where and when grit (or other ice inhibitors) should be applied to the road.

New Resources for Older Drivers

The NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) has recently released its updated resources for older drivers. NZ has a growing number of older people and they are over-represented in vehicle crashes. When you take into account the lower kilometres driven by older people, from age 75 onwards older people have a higher risk of being involved in a crash than 25-29 year olds.

What older drivers do well: wear seat belts; don't drink and drive; don't speed; obey road rules and demonstrate courtesy to other road users; and drive less kilometres than younger drivers and people who drive to/for work.

Where older drivers are at risk: changes in eyesight; health issues; side-effects from medications; uncertainty on busy roads or intersections; and decline in physical flexibility and strength.

Online information for older drivers www.nzta.govt.nz/traffic/senior-road-users

Aeroplane Heaven for NZ's Skyhawks...

Nine of NZ's Skyhawk jets are to go to museums (eight in NZ and one in Australia).

Safe Air in Blenheim will also buy tooling and equipment that will enable them to continue with commercial contracts for refurbishing J-52 engines for international customers.

The rest of the Skyhawk airframes, engines, spares, ground support equipment, role-specific equipment, and documentation and publications will be sold separately possible as spare parts.

More is at <http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/skyhawks-bound-aviation-museums>

...& Airforce Orion Aircraft Upgraded

The first of six upgraded Royal NZ Air Force P3K2 Orion maritime patrol aircraft has arrived back in NZ. The (\$373 million) upgrade includes improved surveillance, reconnaissance, navigation, and communication systems. It also includes crew trainers; and software testing tools.

Orion will now be more flexible in its range of missions, which include military operations, search and rescue, supporting NZ's Pacific relationships, effective monitoring of NZ's Exclusive Economic Zone, and overland operations.

More is at <http://www.airforce.mil.nz/operations/media-releases/media-release.htm?guid=%7Bde6ba6a8-cf49-4068-a915-2d1388c63e97%7D.htm>

Justice/The Law

Review of Family Court...

There is to be a review of Family Court, and the terms of reference for this are now available They include reviewing

- the role of the State in family disputes;
- the purpose, role, and functions of the court;
- the role of professionals, including lawyers, psychologists, mediators, counsellors, and social workers in the court; and
- incentives to encourage people to resolve their relationship disputes outside of the court.

The Family Court, NZ's second-busiest court, dealt with 68,666 new applications last year. It provides family-related professional services, including counselling, mediation, and psychological reports. Its operational costs include court staff, rent, utilities, travel, IT, and consumables. Care of Children applications made up about 42 percent of the direct operating costs in 2009/10.

Legal aid proposals relating to the Family Court (which followed a recent review of NZ's legal aid system) include:

- tightening the merits and special circumstances tests;
- re-introducing a user charge for some cases;
- extending the quality assurance framework to professionals working in the Family Court; and
- making changes to the role of Lawyer for the Child.

A public consultation paper relating to the review is to be released in September of this year.

The terms of reference for the review are at <http://www.justice.govt.nz/policy/justice-system-improvements/family-court-review>

... & Legal Aid System Changes

The Legal Services Bill was recently passed in Parliament. The Bill:

- introduces a system under which legal aid lawyers will have to demonstrate their competence to a selection committee. The quality of the services they provide will be monitored by the Ministry of Justice, and lawyers will have to re-apply to be a legal aid lawyer after a fixed term (up to five years);
- shifting responsibility for administering legal aid from the Legal Services Agency (which will be phased out) to the Secretary for Justice;
- establishes the Legal Services Commissioner, who will be responsible for granting legal aid, and ensuring the independence of lawyers in the Public Defence Service;
- streamlines applications for low-cost criminal cases: there will be a shorter application form and legal aid will not be subject to repayment, unless it goes over a set amount;

- allows the Secretary for Justice to set up different legal services and provide services in different ways; and
- replaces the Legal Aid Review Panel with the Legal Aid Tribunal. The Tribunal will deal with applications for reviews of the Legal Services Commissioner's decisions.

The Government is shortly to announce proposals for ways to deal with the costs associated with legal aid.

In the 2009/10 financial year the Legal Services Agency made 89,042 new grants of legal aid.

More is at <http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PA1104/S00121/parliament-passes-legal-aid-reforms.htm>

Protecting Children/Vulnerable Adults

The recently-introduced Crimes Amendment Bill (No 2) would:

- create an offence of failure to protect a child or vulnerable adult (a person in care because of their age, detention, sickness, or mental impairment) from the risk of death, grievous bodily harm, or sexual assault because of an unlawful act by a third party, or their failure to perform a legal duty. Applies to people over 18 living in the same household, or closely connected to a household, or working in a hospital, institution, or residence where the victim lives (maximum penalty of 10 years' imprisonment);
- double the maximum penalty for cruelty to a child (ill-treatment and neglect) from five years' to 10 years' imprisonment and extends the concept of cruelty to vulnerable adults;
- extend the legal duty on parents and caregivers to provide the necessities of life to cover taking reasonable steps to also protect a child/vulnerable adult from injury (maximum penalty of 10 years' imprisonment);
- amend the offence of sexual grooming to allow prosecution of a person believing they are sexually grooming a person under 16 years old, but actually are grooming a constable posing as a young person;
- amend the maximum penalty for possession of an offensive weapon from two years' to three years' imprisonment; and
- limit the "claim of right" (which was successfully used by the "Waihopai Three") to circumstances where the defendants believe they have a personal right to the property concerned.

Ministry of Justice advice on the claim of right reform options, and the Cabinet paper, is at <http://www.justice.govt.nz/policy/criminal-justice/claim-of-right-review/claim-of-right-review/?searchterm=claim%20of%20right>. More on the amendment Bill is at <http://www.justice.govt.nz/publications/global-publications/c/crimes-amendment-bill-ill-treatment-neglect-and-violence-against-children>

Less Crime in 2010

There was a 6.7% drop in recorded crime per head of population in 2010. It followed a 3.6% increase in the 2009 calendar year.

During 2010 most crime categories showed a decrease. There were 46 murders in 2010 compared to 65 in 2009, a drop of 23.6%. Fraud offences were down 26.9%, weapons offences were down 8.9%, drug offences were down 7.7 %, and burglaries were down 3.4%.

Family violence continued to increase (+1.2%), but at a much lower rate than in previous years.

All but one Police District (Eastern) recorded decreases in the number of total offences. Adjusted for population growth, all districts recorded fewer offences per head of population last year.

There were 426,345 recorded offences during the year compared to 451,405 in 2009.

The resolution rate dropped slightly, from 47.8% in 2009 to 47.5% in 2010 due to a reduction in the volume of offences that have high resolution rates.

LawCan Fund Launched

The Law Foundation has launched a special fund called LawCan so lawyers and law firms around the country can support Christchurch people with urgent and ongoing legal needs following the earthquake. The LawCan funds will be allocated through Community Law Canterbury to:

- give legal assistance to people who can't afford a lawyer; and
- help re-establish lawyers and law firms hit hardest by the quake (these funds will go to the Canterbury-Westland branch of the NZ Law Society's Benevolent Fund).

The Law Foundation will collect and manage donations. Donors can specify how their donations are to be used – legal services for individuals, support for the profession, or both, and every dollar donated will be passed on. The Foundation's contribution will be to cover LawCan's administrative and management costs.

Law firms, lawyers, law staff, or any member of the public can contribute to the fund through the link on the home page of the Law Foundation website www.lawfoundation.org.nz or send cheques to LawCan Fund, NZ Law Foundation, PO Box 5056, Wellington 6145. More information on NZ lawyers is at <http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/BU1104/S00736/typical-new-zealand-lawyer-is-male-for-now.htm>

NZ Lawyers: a Profile

Statistical information from the NZ Law Society shows that 11,585 lawyers held practising certificates at 1 April 2011, with 56% of them male and 64% having practised for less than 20 years. In a "snapshot of the legal profession" in the latest issue of the Law Society's "LawTalk" magazine, the statistics also show that 41% of NZ lawyers work in the Auckland urban area, with a further 20% in Wellington City.

Going by the numbers, the "typical" NZ lawyer is male, has been in practice for less than 9 years, lives in Auckland, is not a partner, is a solicitor in an unincorporated firm with 1-3 partners, and works in company/commercial and/or property law, LawTalk says.

But, if the number of women in the legal profession continues to grow at the same rate, the typical lawyer will change gender in 2018. In the past two decades there have been three major changes in the demographic make-up of the NZ legal profession: the increasing number of women working as lawyers; the growth in barristers sole; and a fall in the proportion of lawyers who are principals (partners in law firms or sole practitioners).

NZ's Privacy Laws Get Tick

An EU working party has officially recognised that this country's privacy law meets international best practice. This is a major step towards obtaining a formal legal finding from the European Commission that NZ is a safe destination for European companies to send personal data for processing. That finding would be important for cross-border trade and should open doors for NZ business.

Female Prisoners: New Skills

The first group of female prisoners have completed their Basic Engineering Trade Skills (BETS) 12-week course at Auckland Region Women's Corrections Facility (ARWCF). The course, provided by Corrections Inmate Employment (CIE) in partnership with Skills4Work, builds towards the National Certificate in Mechanical Engineering Level 2, the same qualification targeted by CIE Engineering in prisons around NZ.

The aim of the Basic Engineering programme is to provide appropriate knowledge, skills and abilities for prisoners to gain employment in the engineering or motor industry upon release. Research shows that prisoners who are able to find sustainable work on release are less likely to reoffend.

Immigration: NZ-Canada Biometrics Agreement:

NZ and Canadian immigration authorities have signed an agreement to check biometric* data aimed at helping immigration authorities in both countries identify people using false identities. The agreement is part of a Five Country Conference (FCC) biometric programme involving the immigration agencies of NZ, Canada, the United States, Australia, and the United Kingdom.

Fingerprints of asylum claimants and people awaiting deportation who refuse to provide identity information will be checked. Fingerprints of the citizens of FCC countries will not be shared.

Arrangements in the agreement conform with the Privacy Acts of member countries.

*Here, biometric data is mostly referring to physical characteristics used to identify a person, for example fingerprints, face recognition, DNA, palm prints, hand geometry, iris recognition, and odour/scent.

Ban on Fake Pistols?

A recently-introduced Arms Amendment Bill would put controls on importing airguns that look like real pistols, military style semi-automatic firearms (MSSAs), or restricted weapons. The Arms Amendment Bill would also clarify the legal definition of MSSAs.

Parliament

Recent Portfolio Changes

Following Darren Hughes's resignation from Parliament, MP Rick Barker is (again) senior whip. The Education portfolio will be shared by list MP Sue Moroney and Mt Albert MP David Shearer. Manukau East MP Ross Robertson will take over as Assistant Speaker from Rick Barker. Steve Chadwick picks up Aged care from Ms Moroney as well as both maternity and early childhood health as assistant spokesperson for health. The Defence portfolio will pass from David Shearer to Palmerston North MP Iain Lees-Galloway.

Budget Day

Budget Day is 19 May. Rural Bulletin will be publishing its usual special budget edition covering the Government's allocation of funding for the year.

Electoral Commission: One Stop Shop

The second* of two electoral Bills establishing the new Electoral Commission is due to become law shortly. The Electoral (Administration) Amendment Bill (No. 2) transfers the functions of the Chief Registrar of Electors to the Electoral Commission on 1 October 2012. Once this bill is passed, the Electoral Commission will be a one-stop shop for all electoral matters. The Bill also:

- enables voters to update their enrolment details online (this is the first step in a process that will eventually allow people to enrol via the internet); and
- changes the date for the transfer of functions of the Chief Registrar of Electors to the Electoral Commission

from 1 October next year to 1 July 2012 (to fit with the financial year).

*The first stage of setting up the Commission was completed on 1 October 2010, when the first Bill enabled it to take over the functions of the Chief Electoral Officer and the previous Electoral Commission.

Public Service/Local Authorities

Govt Back Office Jobs: Report

Treasury has released a report which says government agencies could save more than \$230 million a year through greater sharing, standardisation, and automation of back-office processes and systems. It also says that in many instances the costs of things like property management, human resources, finance, and ICT in NZ are higher than in overseas government agencies. An example given is that average office space per person in NZ's public service is about 21m² compared with best practice in some NZ agencies of about 15m².

In response, the Government is setting up a property management centre in the Ministry of Social Development, to help public agencies better manage their property needs. The centre will set expectations for Departments and monitor their performance. It will also provide a brokerage service to match agencies with spare property with those seeking additional space, investigate shared property-related services, and support the co-location of agencies.

The report is at
www.treasury.govt.nz/statesector/performance/bass/benchmarking

Govt Policy Advice Spending Reviewed

A recent Government review of policy advice* has found that most of a perceived increase in spending in the area was spent on non-policy-related activities, and that excluding the Foreign Affairs and Trade Ministry, overall spending declined slightly in real terms over the period. Amongst 36 recommendations: Ministers should make their policy priorities clear, agencies should develop multi-year policy programmes, and that there should be more "big thinking" and forward planning. Other recommendations include that agencies work together on big policies, and that Government considers regularly releasing Cabinet documents online following decisions, to make the policy process more transparent to the public.

The reviewers concluded that policy advice varied in quality and there was some mismatch between what ministers wanted advice on, and the advice they were actually given.

Government is to set up a "heads of profession" pilot, with experts in areas such as law, economics and science appointed to oversee different policy areas. Treasury, State

Services Commission, and the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) have been asked to produce a detailed plan by 30 June 2011 to pick up on the review's recommendations.

*Policy advice is given to help an agency (Government in this case) make good decisions so it can set up rules (formal and informal) that restrict, encourage, or otherwise shape policies and programmes it thinks will solve a problem. To give good policy advice you first need to: define the problem, then gather information, consult, coordinate, develop options, decide on a preferred option to deal with the problem, show how the preferred option will be set up and managed, and show how it will be evaluated.

The review team's report and the response to it are at:
www.treasury.govt.nz/statesector/policyexpenditurereview

MAF & Fisheries: Faster Merger

The legal merger date for the Ministry of Fisheries (Fisheries) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) has been brought forward to 1 July 2011, the start of the government financial year. The merger will take place in two phases: firstly a legal merger, then the setting up of a new organisational structure. The new organisation structure is expected to be in place in October.

Smarter [Local] Government, Stronger Communities

Three recently-released Cabinet papers set out the purpose, framework, timing, and terms of reference for a review of local government called: "Smarter Government, Stronger Communities: Towards Better Local Government and Public Services". The review aims are to look at issues relating to the structure, functions, and funding of local government as well as the relationship between local government and central government, because:

- local government faces a number of challenges in terms of its structure, functions and funding, and ideas for ways of resolving these are required;
- local government is accountable to both its communities and to central government, and this creates difficulties in the local/ central-government relationship that need addressing; and
- Auckland's local body reforms have implications for local government, which need to be assessed.

The work is expected to finish in 2014, with options development and consultation beginning in 2012.

The Cabinet paper has been released on the Department of Internal Affairs' website: <http://www.dia.govt.nz/Resource-material-Our-Policy-Advice-Areas-Smarter-Government-Stronger-Communities>

Not-For-Profits

Updated Community Resource Kit

The Community Development Kit on the CommunityNet Aotearoa website has been updated. The kit is a guide for community, voluntary, and iwi/Maori organisations on setting up and running community groups in NZ. It is designed for small or larger groups, and for the workers, volunteers, and advisors who work with them. Its sections cover: Getting started; Planning; Organisational structures; Governance; Policies; Meetings; Financial management; Record-keeping; Raising funds; Employment; Communications; and Information technology.

The kit can be downloaded section-by-section from <http://www.community.net.nz/how-to-guides/crk/>. It can also be accessed via free Internet sites available in places such as public libraries and information centres

Working Collectively...

A US case study called "Transformer: How to build a network to change a system" is available. It describes how RE-AMP, a network of 125 nonprofits and funders across eight Midwestern states, has built capacity of activists, increased funding for its cause, created a number of shared resources, and developed stronger relationships between funders and nonprofits. The six key principles used by RE-AMP are:

- start by understanding the system you are trying to change;
- involve both funders and non-profits as equals from the beginning;
- design for a network, not an organisation, and invest in collective systems;
- cultivate leadership at many levels;
- create lots of opportunities to connect and communicate; and
- stay adaptive and emergent (evolving), and committed to a long-term vision.

The case study is at <http://www.monitorinstitute.com/reamp/>

....& Working with Social Media

An article called "Working Wikily" is also available. Most nonprofits use social media like Facebook and Twitter as a helpful addition to what they are doing. A few organisations, however, are using these tools to fundamentally change the way they work and increase their social impact. An article from the Monitor Institute explores what's involved in this approach, the features of which are greater openness, transparency, decentralised decision-making, and collective action.

More is at http://www.ssireview.org/articles/entry/working_wikily/

Generosity in Difficult Times

The latest "Quarterly Generosity Indicators" report analyses the effects of major disasters such as the Pacific tsunami, Christchurch's September earthquake, and the Pike River mine on giving and volunteering behaviours of NZers. Amongst the information in the report:

- the number of people volunteering surged in the March 2010 quarter, because of the large number of community-based sports events that occur over the summer months;
- on average, 1.4 women volunteered for every man who volunteered during the period. However, there were over 140,000 more male volunteers in the March 2010 quarter than in the quarter before or after. This shows how much more seasonal male volunteering is compared to female volunteering;
- the number of people donating money seems to be less affected by season and more by need. Major surges in donations appear to be linked with three major recent events – the Samoan tsunami (late September 2009), the first Christchurch earthquake (late September 2010), and the Pike River coal mine accident (late November 2010). In the December quarter 2010, about 118,000 more people donated money than in the previous quarter. Much of the increase appears to be in response to the first Christchurch earthquake and the Pike River coal mine accident, with large increases by donors to many health and social services related subsectors;
- on average 1.4 women donated money for every man who did across the period measured. The number of men donating money each quarter was also more variable than for women. Similarly, the average amount donated per month by men fluctuated substantially while remaining relatively stable for women; and
- the number of people donating goods increases in winter, primarily driven by donations to health and social services, and in particular hospices. On average 2.1 women donated goods for every male who donated goods across the period measured. However, there was significant variation between quarters for both sexes, indicating that donations of goods is the most changeable form of support measured.

NZ's community organisations rely heavily on volunteers, donations of money, and donations of goods: NZ was ranked the most generous country in the world out of 153 countries surveyed in 2010 by the UK-based Charities Aid Foundation.

The latest report is at <http://www.ocvs.govt.nz/work-programme/building-knowledge/giving-research/qgi-march-2011.html>

NZ Sign Language Budgeting Video

Each May, NZ celebrates one of the country's official languages, NZ Sign Language (NZSL). This year, the Federation of Family Budgeting Services has placed an introductory video in NZSL on their website,

www.familybudgeting.org.nz, in time for NZSL Week (2-8 May 2011).

The NZSL video will be used by the Federation as a stepping stone to creating more resources in languages other than English (including Te Reo Maori in the next few months).

Business

Exports for March 2011 Quarter

The seasonally adjusted value of merchandise exports increased 3.2% (\$354 million) to \$11.6 billion in the March 2011 quarter. Higher quantities of milk powder, butter, and cheese led the increase in export values. Crude oil and logs, wood, and wood articles also recorded notable increases in values.

The seasonally adjusted trade balance for the March 2011 quarter was a deficit of \$428 million, equivalent to 3.7% of exports. Excluding the one-off importation of aircraft, the March 2011 quarter had a small seasonally adjusted trade surplus of \$14 million (0.1% of exports).

More is at

http://www.stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats/industry_sectors/imports_and_exports/OverseasMerchandiseTrade_MRMAR11.aspx

ANZ Commodity Price Index - April 2011

The ANZ Commodity Price Index* posted a 1.6% increase in April, the eighth consecutive monthly rise in the series, and this takes the index to a new record high (it's worth noting there was also a record rise in March). The index has now doubled in value since the low point that was reached in February 2009, following the global financial crisis. Price increases were measured across ten of the commodities included in the index, prices of three commodities were unchanged and four commodity prices weakened in April.

*A commodity is a raw material or primary agricultural product that can be bought and sold, such as copper or coffee. A commodity price index represents an average of selected commodity prices, most commonly for a broad class of commodities, such as energy, metals, or agricultural products.

Recent Manufacturing Activity

Manufacturing activity has been shaken over the last couple of months, but is still keeping its head above water, according to the latest BNZ - BusinessNZ Performance of Manufacturing Index (PMI).

The seasonally adjusted PMI for March stood at 50.1, down from 52.6 in February and 53.2 in January (a PMI reading above 50.0 indicates that manufacturing is generally expanding; below 50.0 that it is declining).

There is a clear distinction between the North and South Islands in terms of performance. While the Northern and Central regions remain in expansion, the Otago/Southland region has taken a considerable hit in activity levels, although obviously not to the same degree as the Canterbury/Westland region.

Another measure - the Deloitte South Island Index – shows that South Island listed companies suffered a setback from the earthquake, but have held their value surprisingly well. The latest Index, for the 3 months to 31 March 2011, was down by just 0.2% or \$9.8 million in market capitalisation* on the final calendar quarter of 2010.

*Market capitalisation is the total dollar market value of all of a company's outstanding shares. The investment community uses this figure to determine a company's size (as opposed to counting sales or using total asset figures).

To see report go to www.deloitte.com/nz/southislandindex

ACC Introduces Experience Rating

ACC has now introduced experience rating. With experience rating a company's Work levy is adjusted to reflect the company's own safety record, not just the safety record of the industry it belongs to (historically, a business's Work levy was based solely on injury rates within its industry).

How experience rating is applied depends on the amount a business pays in ACC Work levies annually. For larger businesses paying ACC levies of \$10,000 or more, their work levies will now be calculated to take into account:

- the number of claims made by employees for work-related injuries (with medical costs of \$500 or more) over the three-year experience period;
- the length of time employees receive weekly compensation; and
- any fatal injury claim.

Eligible, smaller businesses with levies of less than \$10,000 will receive a no-claims discount of 10%, provided they've had no weekly compensation or fatal injury claims over the previous three years. There is no change for businesses generating between one and 70 weekly compensation days paid; however, a loading of 10% will be applied for businesses that have more than 70 weekly compensation days paid.

NZ's Service Industry in Asia...

Would-be service exporters have a new tool with the release of research that lays out how to succeed in India and China. The services include design, programming, intellectual property, installations and after-sales service, maintenance and training, and the like.

Although India has substantial opportunities for NZ firms, the current stage of development of the market there is seen to be

somewhat behind that of China. There is a general view that India is an easier market in which to engage in business, compared to China. Taking advantage of the opportunities in India, however, presents a number of challenges, which the study highlights.

More is at <http://www.asianz.org.nz/our-work/action-asia-business/action-asia-insights/service-success-asia>

...& China Thirsty for Wine Imports

The Chinese market for imported wine recorded another strong year of growth in 2010 as rising incomes made foreign wines more accessible to Chinese consumers, according to a Rabobank Wine Quarterly report.

France continues to occupy a commanding position. The future promise of the China market for Kiwi wine producers was tempered by the bias towards red wine consumption and a lower level of consumer recognition of NZ wine. However, despite China's taste for red wine, the combined markets of Hong Kong and China now rank as NZ's fifth largest export market by volume, but is by far the most lucrative major market.

Read more at http://www.nzte.govt.nz/features-commentary/In-Brief/Pages/Enter-the-dragon-China-thirsty-for-wine-imports.aspx?WT.mc_id=ExportNews_13042011

NZ-Trained Business Grads' Contributions

A recent study from Asia NZ focuses on the role that Asia-born, NZ-trained business graduates have played in the development of Asia-NZ business relationships. The business graduates believed that they could contribute to Asia-NZ relationships as follows:

- in Asia, through: providing NZ-related advice to businesses, sharing NZ expertise, and promoting Asia-NZ business relationships at a policy level;
- in a bridging capacity, through: advising both Asia- and NZ-based companies on areas of potential conflict or cultural misunderstanding, working to promote understanding and exchange in educational contexts, and developing NZ-Asia business (trade) relationships; and
- in NZ, through: providing companies with Asia-related services, or providing Asian clients with accessible, culturally appropriate services.

More is at <http://www.asianz.org.nz/our-work/knowledge-research/research-reports/business-research>

Money Matters

IMF on Global Economic Recovery...

The latest forecast from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) says that a global economic recovery is gaining strength, with world growth projected at about 4.5% in both 2011 and 2012. However, unemployment remains high, and risks of overheating* are building in emerging market economies (because of the boom-times they are currently experiencing).

*Overheating refers to an economic situation in which growth is occurring so quickly that economists fear a rise in inflation. This happens when producers are not able to make enough goods and services to meet rising demand, and raise prices instead.

Real GDP (the value of all goods and services produced in a given year, which is used as a measure of the size of an economy) is expected to expand in advanced economies by about 2½ percent, and in emerging and developing economies by 6½ percent.

The IMF particularly noted that:

- rising food and commodity prices pose a threat to poor households, adding to social and economic tensions, notably in the Middle East and North Africa;
- oil prices have shot up because of unrest in the Middle East; and
- the earthquake and tsunami in Japan had exacted a terrible human toll but its global macroeconomic impact would be limited.

More is at <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/survey/so/2011/RES041111A.htm>

... OECD: NZ Economic Survey...

The OECD's (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) Economic Survey of NZ 2011 makes the following points (amongst others):

- recovery stalled in 2010, despite record terms of trade and support from policy stimulus, and households, businesses and farmers are attempting to repair over-extended balance sheets after the property boom;
- the effects of two damaging earthquakes will slow the recovery and make the outlook uncertain;
- because the recent property boom was financed by private sector borrowing from abroad through the banking system, NZ's net foreign liabilities have accumulated to levels that make the economy vulnerable to sharp changes in investor confidence;

- NZ needs to restrain spending, and carry out tax and pension reforms, to boost national saving to allow interest rates to stay low for longer and create room for the exchange rate to come down. That would help rebalance the economy, and boost NZ's output of tradable goods and services;
- favourable tax treatment of housing should go; tax reforms are needed to level the playing field for saving and investment decisions, while improving the efficiency of land use policies and the overall urban planning system;
- improving management of the government's asset holdings could help boost productivity growth;
- moving towards full or even partial privatisation of state controlled commercial assets would strengthen market discipline and transparency; and
- green growth would help: as an exporter of resource based goods and services, NZ's "brand" relies on environmental integrity. The emissions trading scheme is a major development, but giving natural assets a value should be used more broadly, notably to allocate water efficiently.

More is at

http://www.oecd.org/document/34/0,3746,en_2649_33733_47611554_1_1_1_1_0.html

... & A Sharing Economy: Next Big Thing?

Increasing attention is being given to a global trend to make sharing something far more economically significant than a primitive behaviour taught in preschool. Spawned by the simultaneous occurrence of some big trends and events (the economic crisis, environmental concerns, and the increasing maturity of the social web), an entirely new generation of businesses is popping up. They enable the sharing of cars, clothes, couches, apartments, tools, meals, and even skills.

The characteristics of sharing marketplaces are that they get value out of the stuff we already have, and they promote the idea that access to goods and skills is more important than ownership of them. The benefits are said to be lower costs, less waste, and the creation of global communities with neighbourly values.

Many of these sites currently depend on younger people disenchanted by the housing bubble (in the US especially) and the banking crisis, or uninterested in traditional icons of success such as house or car ownership. The number of people who have quietly begun tapping into the sharing concept is impressive: already, more than 3 million people from 235 countries have couch-surfed, while 2.2 million bike-sharing trips are taken each month.

Read on at <http://www.fastcompany.com/node/1747551/print>

Financial Markets Authority Established

The Financial Markets (Regulators and KiwiSaver) Bill establishes a new market authority, which takes over the functions of the Securities Commission and Government Actuary on 1 October 2011. The Authority will be able to:

- take, or continue civil action against a person if it is in the public interest;
- use regulations to prevent financial products from being set up so they are not supervised by the FMA;
- warn about unsolicited offers: anyone with a history of making unsolicited offers will have to display a warning to that effect when they send documents to investors;
- make regulations covering, for example, minimum-offer periods, disclosure of market price, and disclosure of other relevant information; and
- carry out surveillance of market activity.

The Bill also deals with KiwiSaver arrangements and with public information about fund performance by:

- making fund managers, rather than trustees, mainly responsible for the accuracy of their prospectus, investment statement, and advertisements;
- requiring trustees to be responsible for supervising managers; and
- allowing regulations that require retail fund organisations to regularly report on their fees and returns, and calculate them in a consistent and transparent way.

The Bill is at <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2010/0211/14.0/versions.aspx>

Trustees and Supervisors: New Requirements

The Securities Trustees and Statutory Supervisors Bill was recently passed. This Bill requires all corporate trustees*, including trustees of non-restricted KiwiSaver schemes, and also all statutory supervisors* of retirement villages, to be licensed.

Licence applicants will need to have, for example, satisfactory monitoring systems, communications systems, processes, experience, and finances. Directors and senior managers of trustee companies will also have to be of "good character".

Trustees will have to report regularly to the Financial Markets Authority (FMA) which will have the authority to grant the licences. The FMA will also have more power to require information from trustees and order them to act in situations when investors' interests are at risk. It will be able to penalise trustees if they fail to meet their obligations by fining them or seeking compensation order on behalf of investors. Failure to comply with the FMA's directions is an offence, with penalties of up to \$200,000.

The trustee's main role is to monitor the issuer's compliance with the terms of the deed and offer of securities, in order to protect the interests of investors. Statutory supervisors for retirement villages have a broadly similar role, including monitoring the financial position of the village.

*All public issuers of debt securities and unit trusts are required by law to appoint a trustee, while issuers of participatory securities, and of retirement villages, are required to appoint a statutory supervisor.

More is at <http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/bill-improves-supervision-regime-trustees>

NZ Food Prices Up in March ...

Food prices rose 0.3% in March 2011, after being relatively flat (up 0.1%) in February. Meat, poultry, and fish had the largest impact on food prices in March, rising 1.5%. The only subgroup to fall in March was fruit and vegetables (down 1.6%), mainly due to seasonal price falls for apples, potatoes, and grapes.

In the year to March 2011, food prices increased 5.5% (this included a 2.2% increase in October 2010, when goods and services tax rose). The biggest price rises came from grocery food (up 5.5%) and fruit and vegetables (up 10.4%).

More is at http://www.stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats/economic_indicators/prices_indexes/FoodPriceIndex_MRMAR11.aspx

... Card Spending Up in March...

There was a 0.5% increase in the total value of electronic card transactions in March 2011. Core retail (which excludes the motor vehicle-related industries) increased by 0.9%, mainly because of spending in the durables industry (includes furniture, hardware, and appliance retailing).

More is at http://www.stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats/businesses/business_characteristics/ElectronicCardTransactions_MRMAR11.aspx

... but Discretionary Spending Down

Figures released by Paymark show that although the value of transactions through its network increased 4.2% year-on-year during March 2011, Kiwis' discretionary spending on goods at retail outlets (excluding food, alcohol, and petrol stations) has dropped to below-year-ago levels for the second month running. The discretionary goods category had been growing at a modest rate of 0.9% (average) per annum since 2008, but dropped to 0.4% below year-ago levels in both February and March.

Things contributing to this decline include reduced spending in Christchurch, the housing downturn, higher food and petrol prices, and an ongoing trend towards saving, not spending.

Read more at <http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PO1104/S00065/discretionary-spend-dips-for-second-consecutive-month.htm>

Poverty & Food Prices

High food prices prevented more than 19 million people in the Asia-Pacific region from lifting themselves out of poverty last year, the United Nations (UN) said in a newly released study. The UN warned that soaring food and fuel inflation will keep large sections of the region's population below the poverty line.

Bad weather in key food-producing countries, increasing use of crops as biofuels and speculation in commodity markets have added to a long-term decline in agriculture investment and affected global food supplies. The study, which examines the underlying causes of inflation in the region and its wider impact, suggests short-, medium-, and long-term solutions for governments and central banks.

The study says the single most important policy initiative for developing countries in the region is to give priority to boosting the agriculture sector. Imbalances in global supply and demand of food could be substantially minimized if today's net importing countries, particularly the least developed countries in Africa and Asia, improved their agricultural productivity.

More is at <http://www.unescap.org/unis/press/2011/mar/g08.asp>

Bank Lending Improves: Survey

Banks' attitude to mortgage lending has markedly improved since this time last year, First National Group's monthly survey has found. Of the total responses, 58% of agents felt banks were more relaxed in their lending and access to mortgages was easier for borrowers compared with last April. Thirty-three percent felt mortgages were still generally difficult to access, and 9% felt it had become even more difficult than the same time last year. First National said the overall perception of relaxed lending would help buyer and seller confidence coming into winter.

IRD: New Tax Management Software...

Tax agents can now get better access to their clients' key account information, with a Department of Inland Revenue (IRD) tax management software package called the "B2B" service. B2B uses software that talks machine to machine (rather than have people manually adding) and it can transfer large amounts of information. Initially, B2B will allow tax agents to view their clients' transactions and balances for most tax types each day. In future, businesses should be able to see immediately that their return has been filed or their refund credited, and this should cut out both paperwork and waiting time.

The changes are expected to be introduced later this year.

More is at www.taxpolicy.ird.govt.nz/

...Tax Changes for Canterbury Businesses...

The following tax changes will be in place in July:

- rollover relief for certain Canterbury business owners whose assets were destroyed as a result of the Canterbury earthquakes. Rollover relief entitles owners who have made a profit on an insurance claim to defer paying the tax due on the profit if they are going to use it to replace assets;
- the timing of "deemed sales" of destroyed insured assets moves from the time they were destroyed to the time when insurance proceeds can be reasonably estimated; and
- current legislation for the write-off of buildings destroyed by an event beyond the owner's control has been extended.

More is at www.taxpolicy.ird.govt.nz

...& Non-Resident Investments: Tax Changes

New tax rules, aimed at making it easier for non-residents investing into NZ, introduce two new categories of Portfolio Investment Entities* (PIEs). The current rules mean that non-residents investing in PIEs are taxed at 28% on all the income that they earn from a PIE, whether it is foreign, or NZ-sourced. This means they are overtaxed in comparison to how they would be taxed if they had invested directly.

The first new category entities could elect into will have both resident and non-resident investors and only foreign-sourced income, and non-residents in these PIEs will be taxed at zero percent. The second one they could elect into will have both resident and non-resident investors, and both foreign-sourced income and NZ-sourced income, with variable rates applying (reflecting the rates that would apply if the investment was direct).

*PIEs were introduced into NZ in 2007 and apply a specific set of tax and investment rules. Eligible entities that elect to become a PIE will generally pay tax on investment income based on the prescribed investor rate (PIR) of their investors, rather than at the entity's tax rate.

NZ as Financial Services Centre?

A recent report says that NZ could be a financial services centre dealing with funds accounts and administration in around 10 to 15 years. It projects that this could generate around \$500 million to \$1.3 billion per year in export revenue and create around 2000 to 5000 high-value jobs, such as accountants, lawyers, and trustees.

The International Funds Services Development Group that wrote the report, (IFSDG - a taskforce established by Cabinet last year), says that establish a financial services centre NZ would need to clarify tax policy, set up laws necessary for a funds centre, and gather good support.

Some relevant tax policy changes are already underway (see item just above on tax changes to non-resident investments).

More is at www.med.govt.nz/financialservicesreport

How to Pay for Infrastructure?

New research conducted for the NZ Council of Infrastructure (NZCID) shows NZers would prefer new infrastructure (such as roads, public transport, ports, and utilities) to be paid for through user pays and public-private partnerships (PPPs). Support was low for government borrowing or raising taxes to pay for new infrastructure. Most of those surveyed believed that central and local government could not afford to pay for all the community's infrastructure needs.

Read more at <http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/BU1104/S00722/user-pays-ppps-top-funding-options-for-nz-infrastructure.htm>

New Responsible Lending Guidelines

New responsible lending guidelines are aimed at educating people about what to expect from lending institutions. They set out the responsibilities a responsible lender has to a person borrowing money, including that they need to understand the borrowers situation and needs. They also explain what a responsible lender will do to help people seeking a loan, including making sure people don't get a loan that they can't repay.

The guidelines are part of a joint venture between the Ministry of Social Development and the Financial Services Federation.

They are available at: www.fsf.org.nz

Identifying Customer Service Champions

Market researcher Colmar Brunton has teamed up with TV ONE's Fair Go to identify customer service champions in a new monthly segment to be launched next week, the Fair Go-Colmar Brunton Best in Service Poll.

The slot will identify the best provider of customer service in categories such as banking, airlines, telecommunications, power companies, and real estate firms.

The programme kicks off with an examination of supermarkets: Colmar Brunton spoke to 2,000 Kiwis and asked them if they had a particularly good experience at a supermarket in the past year, or a particularly bad one.

More is at <http://business.scoop.co.nz/2011/04/26/fair-go-colmar-brunton-launch-new-customer-service-poll/>

Banking Ombudsman Busy

The Banking Ombudsman says that consumer hardship is keeping complaints to her office at record high numbers now that the services of this office have been expanded to cover customers of most building societies, the two largest credit unions, some finance companies, and a range of bank subsidiaries. The expansion comes as a result of the Financial Service Providers (Registration and Dispute Resolution) Act 2008 coming into full effect. Also contributing is the effect of the Canterbury earthquake on Christchurch residents and the wider economy.

The Banking Ombudsman Scheme has helped resolve more than 17,500 cases since it started in 1992.

More is at <http://www.bankomb.org.nz/>

New Angel Investment Fund

Wellington investment firm MOVAC is establishing a new growth capital fund of between \$25 million to \$50 million to invest into young NZ companies ready for expansion. MOVAC's fund is being seeded by MOVAC Partners (to the tune of \$10 million) – a group of ex-Trade Me shareholders – and the NZ Venture Investment Fund (NZVIF), which is committing between \$10 million and \$20 million, depending on the level of private capital raised.

MOVAC is now actively raising funding from institutional and private investors. It aims to complete a first close of the Fund and start investing in late May. When MOVAC is successful in raising the fund, it will be the first to be established since the initial six NZVIF-backed venture capital funds, all of which have finished making their initial investments.

More is at <http://movac.co.nz/>

New Bank Registered

BOI (NZ) Limited has been registered as a bank in NZ. BOI (NZ) Limited is a fully owned subsidiary of Bank of India. It will change its name to Bank of India (NZ) Limited before beginning to operate here. There are now 20 registered banks in this country.

The banks are listed on the Reserve Bank website at <http://www.rbnz.govt.nz/>

Internet/ICT

Rural Broadband On Its Way

Telecom and Vodafone have been selected by the Government to deliver the Rural Broadband Initiative (RBI). Now that each company's commercial agreement with the Government has been signed, work will be getting underway immediately.

The RBI will provide 100Mbps services to 95% of rural schools, and a minimum 5Mbps broadband service to over 80 percent of rural households, within six years. Within the first year it's planned have around 500 rural schools connected to fibre. In total, around 750 rural schools and six hospitals will have 100Mbps connections.

Telecom and Vodafone are building open access infrastructure systems. This means that any party can offer services over the new systems. Vodafone is building an additional 154 cell towers to link to the Telecom fibre network (and each tower's infrastructure will allow open access for other operators to co-locate on).

Both companies will now start talking to rural stakeholder groups before build work begins in July.

Rural Broadband Working Group: Nga Pu Waea

Nga Pu Waea/the National Maori RBI Working Group, has been set up to advise on Maori interests and development opportunities as the rollout of the government's Rural Broadband Initiative (RBI) proceeds. It's job is to make sure marae, kohanga, kura, wananga, iwi runanga, and Maori health and social service providers benefit from broadband getting to into rural areas. The benefits could include training and employment for Maori as the network is built, business opportunities relating to setting up the RBI systems, and extending faster broadband services to other uses and communities.

More information on the RBI is at www.telecom.co.nz/rural-broadband, www.vodafone.co.nz/rural-broadband, and www.med.govt.nz/rural-broadband. More on Nga Pu Waea is at <http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/rural-broadband-benefit-maori-communities>

New Law Covers Copyright Breaches

The Copyright (Infringing File Sharing) Amendment Bill has been passed. Its aim is to discourage illegal file sharing and provide effective ways of helping creative industries enforce their copyright. A "three-notice" warning system involves internet service providers (ISPs) sending warning notices to their customers in response to evidence gathered by copyright owners. These inform the customer that they may have infringed copyright.

The Bill also extends the jurisdiction of the Copyright Tribunal so it can hear illegal file-sharing claims. The tribunal will be able to make awards of up to \$15,000 based on the amount of damage sustained by the copyright owner. If it is shown that the current process has not been effective and that the

problem is widespread, the Copyright Tribunal can order internet account suspension. However, this power will not be used unless the notice process and Copyright Tribunal remedies are ineffective.

The notice system will apply to cellular mobile networks from October 2013.

Trans-Tasman Roaming Services Investigation

NZ and Australia have begun a formal investigation into the trans-Tasman roaming services provided by the two countries' mobile operators.

Many NZers take their mobile phone, tablet, or laptop with them when they travel to Australia, and they need to know they are purchasing services in a competitive market. If the investigation finds they are not, then regulating will be considered

The investigation will be conducted by NZ's Ministry of Economic Development (MED) and Australia's Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy.

As part of the investigation, the two governments will release their draft decision about the state of competition and, if appropriate, their preferred options for action. The decision will be made available publicly for comment before it is finalised and released in early 2012.

More is at www.med.govt.nz/ttr

NZ Telecommunications Market Update

The Commerce Commission's 2009/10 telecommunications monitoring report, which looks at the state of NZ telecommunications markets, shows investment in the telecommunications industry reduced slightly compared to 2008/09. This is mostly due to the completion of both Telecom's XT network and the first stage of 2degrees' mobile network during the previous financial year. On the other side of the coin, fixed line investment increased slightly. The report also shows that telecommunications markets are becoming increasingly competitive. Consumer choice and quality of service continues to improve, while prices have fallen.

The total number of fixed broadband connections has more than doubled in nearly five years with fixed line broadband penetration increasing to 25% of the population. An estimated 61% of households now have fixed line broadband.

Despite this progress, challenges remain, for instance:

- in the mobile market, while call minutes have increased by 5%, use of mobiles remains low by international standards (Kiwis make an average of 79 minutes of calls per month compared with 120 minutes per month in Australia and 198 minutes per month in the UK); and
- off-net prices (calls and texts (SMS) sent to people who are on a different mobile network) are much higher than on-net prices, discouraging calls between customers of competing networks.

You can download the 2009/10 report from the Commission's website at www.comcom.govt.nz/telecommunications-market-reports

Kiwis More Tech Savvy ...

We appear to be becoming more tech savvy and making more use of different information and communication technologies in our daily lives, according to Statistics NZ. The increasing popularity of devices such as smartphones, which include software "apps", digital cameras, and music players is creating less demand for these individual products. Sales of audio and visual equipment have decreased 16% since 2008.

Internet users are using more data and changing the way they communicate, by increasing their use of tools such as video conferencing over the Internet. These changes have contributed to the large increase in sales.

More is at http://www.stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats/industry_sectors/information_technology_and_communications/InformationandCommunicationTechnologySupplySurvey_MR09-10.aspx

... but Need to Back-up Information...

According to results from a recent survey, nearly half of all Kiwis don't back-up their precious information despite admitting some of their most treasured possessions are only stored on their computer. Specifically, 42% of the people surveyed said they don't back-up, with one in four saying they didn't know how, while another one in ten admit to being overwhelmed by the features and options available.

Surprisingly, it is those under 25 who were least likely to back-up files. Of the people who don't back-up their files almost half (48%) have just never got round to it, while 18% don't perceive there is a real risk of losing anything.

The number of people online who have lost personal files or information is almost identical to the number who don't back-up, at 43%. Some 15% of the people who said they'd lost computer files said they'd lost everything. Most lost photos and videos (33%) and personal files and documents (27%). Eight percent lost study or university files.

Most NZers (88%) have photos stored on their computers, including important family moments and special birthdays. Given the poor back-up figures, it's somewhat surprising that 57% don't store these memories or milestones anywhere else. Other files commonly saved only on computers include media files (39%), other important photos (33%) and important work documents (20%).

The survey also revealed:

- people aged 45-54 were more likely than other age groups to have lost files (51%);
- those aged 55+ are most likely to back up (63%), while those under 25 are the least likely (49%); and

- half (52%) of NZers consider losing the contents of their computer hard drive worse than having their car broken into (19%), no holidays for a year (18%), or losing their cell phone (10%).

For more information or to download simple back-up software, visit <http://www.pctools.com/simple-backup>

... & Increase Cyber-Security Knowledge

More than 87 percent of the people who responded to a recent NetSafe AVG NZCyber Security Survey believed they had adequate protection from online threats. However, only half had installed a combination of current, automatically updated anti-virus, anti-spyware, firewall, and anti-spam software to provide security against criminals and malware attack.

The survey also revealed high levels of concern about online child predators (72%) but lower levels for identity theft, Online Scams, and Computer Security. This, says the survey organisers, highlights an urgent need for well promoted education programs to spell out the increasing threat from, not only online predators, but also cyber criminals who have financial gain as their objective.

The Orb - www.theorb.org.nz - provides an opportunity to report cybercrime and includes advice for keeping safe online

Post-Earthquake Radio Networking

A newsletter produced by the Human Rights Commission (HRC) reports that:

- TahuFM, taken off air after its building was damaged in the quake, could still get messages out to the community. It did this by broadcasting Te Upoko O Te Ika, an iwi radio station in Wellington, over its frequency (TahuFM is operating from a temporary studio in Wigram, and switches to Radio Ngati Porou from 5pm to 9am);
- the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs worked the Pacific Media Network and Samoa Capital Radio to compile a bulletin of key messages such as 0800 numbers, the physical locations of welfare centres, the availability of emergency help of all kinds etc. The Pacific Media Network then gave the bulletins to all producers within the network, who translated key information into the language featuring in that evening's programme; and
- Community Radio Hamilton coordinated a project to deliver essential quake recovery information across the country in multiple languages, drawing on volunteers from Community Radio Hamilton, Fresh FM in Nelson, Access Manawatu, Arrow FM (Masterton), and Taranaki Access Radio.

Read more at http://www.hrc.co.nz/newsletters/diversity-action-programme/nga-reo-tangata/2011/04/radio-networking/?utm_source=nga-reo-tangata&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=April2011

InternetNZ -TalkLink Trust Partnership

InternetNZ has formed a partnership with Talklink Trust, the national non-profit organisation that provides assistive technology to people with a communication disability.

The new partnership will see InternetNZ contribute \$10,000 toward funding KiwiChat Camp. This is a residential camp for school-aged children who use speech generating devices, and their families and carers. The funding is being used to bring children and their carers from around NZ to the camp.

The TalklinkTrust website is at <http://www.talklink.org.nz/>

Personalised Advertising: Australian Guidelines

Behavioural advertising is when advertisers put personalised adverts on the websites you frequent. For example car enthusiasts who visit car sites often find themselves looking at car ads when they're on other completely unrelated sites.

The publishers doing this are making an educated guess based on your online behaviour about what sort of ads you might like to view. It has been shown to an effective tool for advertisers and profitable for publishers. But some web users find the ads intrusive.

In Australia the newly formed Australian Digital Advertising Alliance has produced some best practice guidelines for behavioural advertisers, and have created a website which helps users turn off this type of advertising on websites which have signed up to their guidelines.

Read more at <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/media/wary-welcome-for-self-policing-of-online-ads/story-e6frg996-1226025038024>

Is Yours NZ's Oldest Telly?

An Oldest Telly competition is underway. Its part of the Going Digital campaign to raise awareness of the switchover to digital television.

The winning entry will then be converted to digital TV next month ahead of the first switchover in Hawke's Bay and West Coast in September 2012. Apparently, TVs which showed the first moon landing in 1969 or Dick Taylor's 10,000 metre victory at the 1974 Commonwealth Games can be converted.

The competition closes on 25 May 2011. More is at Information about switching to digital TV and the Oldest Telly competition is available from www.goingdigital.co.nz, or freephone 0800 838 800

A Handful of Sites

Six steps to work out if it's time for a website redesign can be found at <http://www.dmnews.com/six-steps-to-determine-if-its-time-for-a-website-redesign/article/194885/>

So, you are stuck in a job that you don't especially like and you feel your career is not moving forward as it should. The following article offers *ideas for making the most of the job you already have*. The article (and accompanying slide show) is at <http://www.forbes.com/2010/12/20/job-change-advancement-leadership-careers-promotion.html?boxes=Homepagechannels>

The Going Digital campaign provides a website and freephone, so *people can get the information and advice about switching to digital TV*. (Households that have Freeview, Sky or TelstraClear, are already set for digital switchover.) Go to www.goingdigital.co.nz, or phone 0800 838 800

The Ministries of Social Development, Justice, Health, and Education have put information about the contracts they have with community groups on the Contract Mapping website. You'll find out about where government money goes, who gets it, and how it is spent at <http://www.contractmapping.govt.nz/>

Government House has established an Official Facebook Page and a Twitter account. These will promote content on its website www.gg.govt.nz (including the activities of the Governor-General and his spouse). The Facebook page is at www.facebook.com/GovernorGeneralNewZealand and the Twitter feed at www.twitter.com/GovGeneralNZ

The impact of the global recession on temporary and permanent migration to NZ is examined in "Migration Trends and Outlook 2009/10" at <http://dol.govt.nz/publications/general/migration-trends-outlook/2009-2010/>

Want to do business in Germany? Read NZTE's country brief at http://www.nzte.govt.nz/explore-export-markets/Europe/Doing-business-in-Germany/Pages/Germany-country-brief.aspx?WT.mc_id=ExportNews_03022011

Want to do business in Taiwan? Read NZTE's country brief at http://www.nzte.govt.nz/explore-export-markets/North-Asia/Doing-business-in-Taiwan/Pages/Taiwan-country-brief.aspx?WT.mc_id=ExportNews_03022011

Businesses are being encouraged to take a second look at opportunities arising from Rugby World Cup 2011 (RWC), especially in areas where the benefits may not be so obvious. An ANZ Viewpoint paper "2011 – The Year of the Rugby" gives tips for how to make the most out of the tournament at <http://anz.co.nz/commercial-institutional/banking-business/viewpoint-newsletter/>

Five suggestions for dealing with procrastination can be found at <http://www.bnet.com/blog/time-management/5-ways-to-stop-procrastinating-by-friday/379>

A major US study (done over 25 years) measured gender, earnings and obesity. The study results indicate that women's salaries decrease as their weight goes up; the opposite is true for men, until the point of obesity, when salaries then decline. Read more at <http://www.compensationcafe.com/2011/03/could-a-diet-lead-to-a-heavier-paycheck.html>

The Foreign Policy journal has published a sobering *article arguing that global food scarcity will increasingly shape global politics*. It can be found at http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2011/04/25/the_new_geo_politics_of_food?page=full

A study at a US Buddhist retreat suggests eastern relaxation techniques can protect our chromosomes from degenerating. Read more at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/lifeandstyle/2011/apr/24/meditation-ageing-shamatha-project>

Famous Objects from Classic Movies shows you an object (let's say a pair of sunglasses and asks you to name the film that object appeared in let's say *The Matrix*). The game lets you go letter by letter and gives you three misses per film. Test your knowledge at <http://famousobjectsfromclassicmovies.com/>

WeatherSpark is a new website that lets you access and data-mine decades worth of weather patterns, instantly, online. You can zero in on your hometown, zoom out and take in the whole wide world, compare multiple locations, follow patterns back through the days, weeks, months, and years, or see what the weather was like at any given moment on any given day. More is at <http://weatherspark.com/#>

If you find the notion of setting up an 8,000-square-foot winery on the third floor of an industrial building, a 25-minute drive away from Hong Kong's central business district interesting, then go to <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/your-business/grow/alexandra-seno/vancouverite-opens-winery-in-hong-kong/article1966770/>

For a well-written and concise article outlining some of the main ways you can make your writing simple and clear (the feedback comments are quite good, too) go to <http://smartblogs.com/leadership/2011/04/11/do-you-make-your-english-teacher-cringe/>

This site offers some tips for freelancers from someone who started out as a freelancer, but moved to a position of being the employer of freelancers. Go to <http://freelancefolder.com/4-requests-after-working-with-more-than-25-freelancers/>

If you have ever applied for a job and felt that you were treated shoddily by a recruiter or by a prospective employer, you are not alone! For an article encapsulating many of these frustrations (with very good feedback comments as well) go to <http://www.ere.net/2011/04/12/talent-acquisition-steps-that-enrage-not-engage-top-talent/>

There was bound to be the backlash. If you would like to read a witty little article that disses what its author calls the "myth" of work-life balance, go to <http://www.businessnewsdaily.com/work-life-balance-myth-1170/>

Treaty Matters

Maori Language Review Report

"Te Reo Mauriora," the report of the Maori language sector and Maori language strategy, was recently released. The panel reviewing the strategy was asked to look at how to promote te reo Maori in future and get value for money in government spending promoting te reo Maori, and it consulted widely with both Maori communities and government.

The report says that despite significant progress in the last 25 years, as a minority language Maori is still in the critical stage,

and it sets an objective that by 2050, 80% of Maori homes are Maori language homes.

Amongst the recommendations/points made:

- a Minister for the Maori language be established with powers to determine all matters pertaining to the Maori language;
- the Government has an obligation is to ensure te reo is spoken in homes but also to assist in raising its status publicly;
- a "Runanga a-Reo" be established in nine regions to plan language programmes, spending and evaluation;
- revitalisation needs to be led by iwi;
- a board known as "Te Matawai" for te reo Maori be established. It would be made up of language experts representing the seven dialectal regions; and
- "iwi Wananga" be established to oversee teaching, broadcasting, publishing skills, and Maori tribal history and identity.

The report is at <http://www.tpk.govt.nz/documents/te-reo-mauriora.pdf>

Directory of Iwi/Maori Organisations

Te Puni Kokiri has developed a national directory of iwi and Maori organisations called Te Kahui Mangai.

Te Kahui Mangai will be useful for people holding consultations who wish to contact representatives of iwi and hapu (the Crown uses the directory to meet its obligations under the Resource Management Act to provide information to each local authority on iwi authorities and groups that represent hapu).

The directory will also be useful for people who want to find out basic information about iwi, hapu and marae; and the role of certain other national and urban Maori organisations.

Visit Te Kahui Mangai website at <http://www.tkm.govt.nz>

Arts & Culture

Museum Awards 2011 Winners

Winners at the 2011 NZ Museum Awards, announced at the Museums Aotearoa national conference on 14 April were:

- Commander David Wright won the 2011 Individual Achievement Award for developing the new Torpedo Bay Navy Museum at Devonport (the museum opened late in 2010 and received about 10,000 visitors in its first month);
- The Dunedin Public Art Gallery won the Award for Excellence in Exhibition (Art) with "Beloved," a

showcase of the gallery's historic and contemporary gems commemorating its 125th year;

- A special award for the use of technology was won by the Auckland Art Gallery for its Whakamiharo Lindauer Online project - <http://www.lindaueronline.co.nz> - a website focussing on Gottfried Lindauer's celebrated portraits of 19th century Maori leaders;
- Puke Ariki, the winners of the Excellence in Exhibition (Social History) award, explored the history of the Taranaki War (1860-2010) with Te Ahi Ka Roa, Te Ahi Katoro, Taranaki War 1860-2010 : Our Legacy, Our Challenge; and
- Expressions Arts and Entertainment Centre (Upper Hutt, Wellington) won the Excellence in Exhibition (Small Museum) award for its exhibition of a collection of NZ's own brand of Impressionist paintings from the late 1800s. These were created at Pumpkin Cottage near Upper Hutt, and later gifted to the centre.

Read more at <http://www.localgovt.co.nz/includes/download.aspx?ID=7224>

Cuisine "Best of the Best" Wines

A Gewürztraminer from Marlborough wine label Spy Valley has been awarded Best White Wine for in Cuisine Magazine's Best of the Best 2011. From 1550 wines tasted over the past year, Cuisine's wine judges recently re-tasted the top wines from each issue to select the best red, the best white, and best sparkling wine.

Best red wine is Trinity Hill Homage Syrah 2007 and best sparkling is the Taittinger Comtes de Champagne Blanc de Blancs 1999.

Read more at <http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/BU1104/S00410/mission-accomplished-cuisine-best-of-the-best-white.htm>

Nominate NZ's Poet Laureate

The National Library is seeking nominations for the next Poet Laureate, who will fill the role for two years from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2013. Nominees must have made an outstanding contribution to NZ poetry, be accomplished and highly regarded poets, and reside in NZ.

The National Library considers the public nominations for the award along with submissions from NZ libraries, universities, and creative writing programmes.

Nominations close on 17 June 2011. A nomination form is at <http://www.natlib.govt.nz/downloads/NZ-poet-laureate-call-for-nominations.doc>

2010 NZ Poetry Anthology

A brand new issue of the online anthology Best NZ Poems has been released by Victoria University's International Institute of Modern Letters (IIML), containing the best 25 poems from 2010. The anthology includes work from well-known writers like Fleur Adcock, Elizabeth Smither, Ian Wedde, Jenny Bornholdt,

James Brown, Gregory O'Brien, and Poet Laureate Cilla McQueen as well as some of the rising stars of NZ literature.

The anthology is at <http://bit.ly/fhX710>

New Online Art Market

A new online portal designed to create a virtual market for modern and contemporary visual art is aiming to change the way art is bought, sold, and researched throughout Australasia.

Ocula claims to be the first online art portal and market news source, incorporating online auction and private sales. It will cater to the trans-Tasman art market.

More is at www.ocula.com

Less Local Content On Air

NZ On Air, which invests in a wide range of NZ broadcast content, has just released its annual Local Content Report. This report measures the amount of local programming on the six main free-to-air television channels. Findings include:

- local content made up 35% of prime time schedules (39% in 2009; 42% in 2008; 42.5% in 2007; 43% in 2006);
- the overall percentage of local content dipped to 31.7% of the schedule (from 33.7% in 2009);
- local content hours decreased by 537 hours to 10,881 hours, down 4.9%;
- TV One screened the most local content, with 3,405 hours;
- Maori Television screened the second highest number of hours with 2,604 hours;
- there were more hours of local sports, children's drama, information,* and Maori programmes;
- there were fewer hours of news, drama/comedy, documentaries*, children's programmes, and entertainment; and
- there were fewer repeated programmes.

*A couple of definitions: "*documentaries*" refers to one-off documentaries and series in a non-magazine format. "*Information*" covers a wide range of programme types, generally with a magazine format and/or an information flavour, as opposed to an entertainment or competitive purpose. Examples include series such as Kai Time on the Road; spiritual series such as My God; leisure and lifestyle series such as Gone Fishin'; and special interest series such as Attitude.

View the full report at http://www.nzonair.govt.nz/media/54207/nzoa_local%20content%202010_fa.pdf

Celebrating Arab-Western Dialogue...

The United Nations' Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) recently celebrated 20 young artists for their contributions to dialogue between the Arab and Western worlds, saying it hopes their efforts will spark similar initiatives from other artists.

Amongst them, Zuhail Sultan, who founded the National Youth Orchestra of Iraq when she was aged 17, and Betty Shamieh, who writes plays focused on intercultural relations. Other artists acknowledged included Moroccan dancer-choreographer Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui; French-Algerian novelist Faïza Guène; Italian film director Federico Ferrone; Israeli curators Ruti Sela and Mayaan Amir; Lebanese trumpeter Ibrahim Maalouf; the Egyptian band Massar Egbari; the Dutch composer Merlijn Twaalfhoven; and the members of Talent 2008 (nine musicians from the Palestinian territories, Egypt, and Norway).

More is at http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/single-view/news/twenty_young_artists_recognized_for_promoting_dialogue_between_arab_and_western_countries/

...& Sharjah Arab Culture Prize

UNESCO also jointly awarded its annual Sharjah Prize for Arab Culture to Sudanese actor and theatre director Ali Mahdi Nouri and French professor Cherif Khaznadar. This prize honours individuals, groups or institutions that have made a significant contribution to the development, dissemination and promotion of Arab culture worldwide, as well as the conservation and revitalisation of Arab intangible heritage.

Ali Mahdi Nouri founded the Al-Bugaa Theatre, which travels around conflict zones in Sudan and stages plays performed by child soldiers and war orphans. Cherif Khaznadar, also a theatre director, poet and novelist, runs the Maison des cultures du monde in Paris that he founded in 1982. UNESCO cited his invaluable contribution to the dialogue between Arab culture and other cultures for nearly 50 years.

Fish & Ships

Maritime NZ Safety Bulletins

Safety bulletins alert people to significant marine hazards in any area Maritime NZ deals with - for example health and safety, rules, or codes. Where an incident occurs, safety bulletins bring the hazard and any related issues to people's attention, as well as providing suggestions to prevent it happening again. Safety bulletins are written for each group most likely to be affected by the problem, such as: owners, operators, skippers, and crew of commercial vessels and jet boats; ship surveyors; safety auditors; safe ship management companies; maritime safety inspectors; people involved with commercially operated ships in NZ including port companies; harbourmasters; stevedoring companies; and manufacturers.

Sign up for a free email subscription at <http://www.maritimenz.govt.nz/Commercial/Shipping-safety/Safety-updates/Safety-bulletins.asp>

Science/Technology

Science Education Vital to Growth

The Chief Scientist has written a report called "Science Education for the 21st Century", which highlights issues in school science education and how we might deal with them. The report notes that by international standards, the level of science education in NZ performs well, but this is hampered by an unfortunate legacy of underachieving.

The report suggests a range of recommendations including a more integrated approach to teachers and the scientific community, teacher professional development, harnessing technology as an education tool, and curriculum improvements.

Access the report at <http://www.pmcsa.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/Looking-ahead-Science-education-for-the-twenty-first-century.pdf>

Antarctic Science Strategy

The Antarctic Science Strategy 2010-2020 has been published. The "Antarctic and Southern Ocean Science Directions and Priorities 2010-20" sets out the focus of research in the area on climate, cryosphere, lithosphere, and atmosphere; inland and coastal ecosystems; and marine systems.

More on the science strategy is at <http://www.antarcticnz.govt.nz/science/science-strategy>

Language – Out of Africa?

Psychologists from The University of Auckland have published two studies on the evolution of the world's languages.

The first, published in Science Magazine, provides strong evidence for Africa as the birthplace of human language. The researcher studied the phonemes (the distinct units of sound that differentiate words) used in 504 human languages today and found that the number of phonemes is highest in Africa and decreases with increasing distance from Africa. The fewest phonemes are found in South America and on tropical islands in the Pacific Ocean. Areas that have hosted modern humans for millennia (particularly sub-Saharan Africa) still use the most phonemes.

The second study, published in "Nature" magazine, challenges the idea that the human brain produces universal rules for language. There are about 7,000 languages spoken today,

some with just a dozen contrasting sounds, others with more than 100, some with complex patterns of word formation, others with simple words only, some with the verb at the beginning of the sentence, some in the middle, and some at the end. The researchers looked at global patterns of word-order evolution, and found that rather than universal rules applying for language, each language family evolved in its own way.

More is at
http://www.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/home/template/news_item.jsp?cid=376502

Humpback Whales: Precise Navigation

NZ researchers based have found that migrating humpback whales achieve navigational precision usually associated with jetliners or arrows. Humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) can perform straight line movements over thousands of kilometres of open-ocean, without deviating more than a degree, during their migrations. One whale, moving southeast from Brazil towards the South Sandwich Islands, swam over 2200 km during a 28-day period along a heading that varied by less than half a degree. What is still the big unknown is how the whales do it.

Have You Seen Monarch Butterflies?

The Monarch Butterfly NZ Trust is looking for "citizen scientists" throughout the country to report sightings as the Monarchs follow their annual migration. A degree is not needed; anyone can take part, and everyone, schools included, are welcome to join the Trust's annual project.

Small white tags, each with a unique number, are being applied to the wings of migrating Monarchs. Already tagged Monarchs are being seen on their journeys and people are reporting tag numbers to the website of the Trust.

All the information needed to register and to play your part is under "projects" on the Monarch Butterfly NZ Trust website at www.monarch.org.nz, or write to the Monarch NZ Trust, PO Box 44100, Pt Chevalier, Auckland 1246

General

Seasonal Climate Outlook: May – July 2011

The NIWA National Climate Centre's latest outlook indicates a mild onset of winter. Regional predictions for the next three months:

- **Northland, Auckland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty:** temperatures are likely to be above average for the time of year. Early winter rainfall totals are equally likely to be in the normal or above normal range. Soil moisture levels and river flows are likely to be above normal;
- **Central North Island, Taranaki, Whanganui, Manawatu and Wellington:** temperatures are likely to be above average. Seasonal rainfall totals and river flows are likely to be near normal during May-July, while soil moisture levels are equally likely to be near normal or above normal;
- **Gisborne, Hawke's Bay, Wairarapa:** temperatures are likely to be above average. Seasonal rainfall totals and soil moisture levels are equally likely to be in the near normal or above normal range. River flows are likely to be near normal;
- **Nelson, Marlborough, Buller:** temperatures are likely to be in the above average range. Seasonal rainfall, soil moisture levels and river flows are likely to be in the near normal range;
- **West Coast, Alps and Foothills, Inland Otago, Southland:** temperatures are equally likely to be near average or above average, for the three months as a whole. Seasonal rainfall and river flows are both equally likely to be in the near normal or below normal range. Soil moisture levels are likely to be near normal; and
- **Coastal Canterbury, East Otago:** temperatures are equally likely to be in the near average or above average range. Seasonal rainfall is likely to be in the normal or below normal range, for the 3-month period as a whole. Soil moisture levels and river flows are likely to be in the normal range.

Global Telethon: Rise Up Christchurch...

A 12-hour global telethon for Christchurch is planned for Sunday 22 May, exactly three months on from the city's devastating earthquake.

Called Rise Up Christchurch –Te Kotahitanga, the telethon is to be broadcast by Maori Television from Christchurch, Auckland, and Wellington, with live crosses to regional centres and global activities in London, Los Angeles, and Sydney.

It will also be streamed live online throughout the world and people will be able to donate securely via the internet. They will also be able to buy or sell items on the Sella auction site. All funds raised by the telethon will go to the people of Christchurch.

Fonterra is contributing \$500,000 towards production and administration costs.

The auction site is at www.sella.co.nz

...Canterbury Earthquake Royal Commission...

The terms of reference (ToR) for the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Building Failure caused by Canterbury Earthquakes require the Commission to:

- inquire into buildings in the Christchurch CBD, looking at the factors that led some buildings to fail severely; why some buildings' failure caused extensive injury and death, and why buildings differed in the extent to which they failed (this includes examining characteristics of buildings which may have led to failure, for example age, location, whether buildings conformed to earthquake risk best practice); and
- look at how adequate the current legal and best-practice requirements for the design, construction and maintenance of buildings in central business districts in NZ are.

The report will cover:

- what should be done to prevent or minimise the failure of buildings in NZ due to earthquakes;
- the cost of this action; and
- an evaluation of the current legal and best-practice requirements for earthquake-related building design, construction and maintenance.

The Commission's final report is due on 11 April 2012. It will release an interim report after six months.

More is at <http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PA1104/S00211/christchurch-royal-commissioners-announced.htm>

...Earthquake Recovery Authority Review Panel ...

An independent four-person review panel has been appointed to assess all the draft legislation and regulations changes of the new government agency, the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority (CERA).

The panel will then advise Ministers whether they think the regulations are appropriate.

For more information about the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority visit: www.cera.govt.nz

...Alliance to Rebuild Christchurch...

A newly established Alliance to rebuild Christchurch include the Christchurch Earthquake Recovery Authority (CERA), Christchurch City Council (CCC), Fulton Hogan, Downer Construction, Fletcher Construction, MacDow NZ, and City Care. It will be responsible for the reinstatement of all ground level and below ground work. This includes roads, water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure.

An Interim Alliance Agreement covers establishment of the alliance and planning for undertaking the work. A full alliance agreement expected to be signed within the next three months.

...& Student Volunteer Army Recognised

The Student Volunteer Army was set up immediately following the 22 February earthquake, and it played a central and vital role in the clean-up efforts in Christchurch. Student Volunteer Army volunteers helped, among other things: remove 360,000 tonnes of silt; deliver 21,000 chemical toilets; deliver over 500,000 information pamphlets to residents; and lay sandbags alongside the banks of the Avon River (because of concern about high tides).

Much of the coordination work of the army was done by students Sam Johnson and Jason Pemberton. The pair have now been chosen to help establish a self-sufficient volunteer project made up of university students in areas hard hit by Japan's recent massive earthquake and tsunami.

Greymouth Memorial Events Centre

The Government will contribute \$3.5 million towards the cost of a new events centre in Greymouth to commemorate the miners who lost their lives in the Pike River tragedy. It will be called the West Coast Miners Memorial Events Centre, and it is projected to cost \$5 million. The balance of the funding will be contributed by West Coast organisations.

NZ Place Names Bill Introduced

The NZ Geographic Board (Nga Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa) Amendment Bill was recently introduced to Parliament. It would enable the Board to give NZ places two alternative place names. Both names would be able to be used separately, or together, in official papers. The Bill would also make minor changes enabling the official record of Crown-protected area names to be kept up to date.

The principle Bill – the NZ Geographic Board (Nga Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa) Act 2008 - is at www.legislation.govt.nz

It's Good Being a Mum in NZ

NZ is the sixth best place in the world to be a mother, according to Save the Children's 12th annual State of the World's Mothers report and index. The report documents conditions for mothers and children in 164 countries – 43 developed nations and 121 in the developing world – and shows where mothers fare best and worst. The top 10 countries are: 1-Norway, 2-Australia, 3-Iceland, 4-Sweden, 5-Denmark, 6-NZ, 7-Finland, 8-Belgium, 9-Netherlands, and 10-France.

Read more at <http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/CU1105/S00041/nz-one-of-best-places-in-world-to-be-a-mother.htm>

Religion & Consumerism: Comfy Partners?

New research to be published in the Journal of Marketing Management shows that some Christians are happy to ignore some of their beliefs if they feel it is justified. The research showed that although many of the people they surveyed believed it was wrong to be materialistic, they were still willing to acquire material wealth.

The study surveyed more than 400 people living in the UK who were shown an advertisement for a watch that was either advertised as being an item of desire and public recognition or as an item of functional value. Half of the people surveyed identified themselves as being religious and believing that materialism was wrong.

The results showed that non-religious consumers did not prefer one ad over the other. However, the religious consumers were 25% more likely to purchase the watch if they saw the ad that didn't portray it as a materialistic item.

Read more at <http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/BU1104/S00713/religion-and-consumerism-can-go-hand-in-hand.htm>

NZers: Warm Attitude to China

The latest findings of AsiaNZ's annual "Perceptions of Asia Tracking Study" indicate that compared to the US and fellow Commonwealth countries, NZers display the warmest attitudes to China. Cultural contributions from the diverse Asian ethnic groups are also strongly valued by NZers. NZers' favourable attitudes towards China are measured by a warmth score of 68 - noticeably higher than Australians' perceptions (a warmth score of 53), or those in the US or Canada, where roughly half of the population is favourable towards China.

The study is at <http://www.asianz.org.nz/our-work/knowledge-and-research/research-reports/social-research/perceptions-study>

Topo50 Maps Updated

Land Information NZ (LINZ) recently released 43 updated Topo50 map sheets, 9 full sheet updates and 34 other updates. The new map versions are free to download as both data files and image files. LINZ will shortly be releasing more Topo50 map sheets, and some of these will include updated track and hut information and location names.

For more go to Topo50 update history at <http://www.linz.govt.nz/topography/topo-maps/topo50/update-history/index.aspx>. You can also use a "choose a map tool" at <http://www.linz.govt.nz/topography/topo-maps/map-chooser/index.aspx> to select and download maps

Brain Drain: Countries' Development Unaffected

New research from the University of Waikato (based on studying migration mostly in small-island nations in the Pacific) shows little evidence that high-skilled emigration has a negative impact on the home countries.

The researchers conclude that although high-skilled migration from smaller and island countries may not bring the trade and investment flows experienced by larger countries like Taiwan, China and India, there's no evidence that it acts as a brake on development.

More is at <http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/BU1104/S00534/brain-drain-no-drag-on-development.htm>

Medal Applications Open

Applications for the NZ Defence Service Medal (NZDSM), designed to be a specific recognition of non-operational military service, have now opened for ex-Service personnel who are over 70 years.

People who have served in the military for more than three years since World War Two, and those who completed their compulsory military training or national military service obligations, qualify. They need to have three years accumulated service, for example between Regular, K Force, J Force, and the Territorial service (including RNZNR and RNZNVR).

Because of the large number of people who are eligible for the NZDSM (over 100,000 people) there will be a four-stage call for applications. In this first stage applications from the oldest ex-Service personnel are sought.

More information is at <http://medals.nzdf.mil.nz>

Rugby World Cup Fun

Over 170 public events planned for the Rugby World Cup have shared \$9.48 million in funding from the NZ 2011 Festival Lottery Fund Committee. They include, amongst others:

- \$250,000 for Real Canterbury Market Days and "A Taste of Canterbury", showcasing the best food and wine from the Canterbury region;
- \$350,000 for a family concert in the Auckland Domain on Labour Day;
- \$350,000 for a major outdoor projection project, featuring spectacular imagery and state-of-the-art technology, on Wellington's most prominent buildings;
- \$50,000 for a series of live music events in Auckland, Wellington, and Christchurch showcasing NZ music; and
- \$100,000 for a "Taste of Southland" festival.

A full list of successful applicants is available at <http://www.nz2011.govt.nz/news/april-2011/nz-2011-festival-funding-announced>

Some Conferences/Events

Information & Communications (ICT) Technology for Not-for-profits Conference

Connecting Up NZ 2011 is a one-day conference designed to help community and not-for-profit sector organisations increase their ICT capacity, put fundraising online, use online tools, refresh ICT knowledge, and insert social media into their everyday communications. It will be held in Wellington on 27 May 2011, at the Westpac Stadium Function Centre, Waterloo Quay, Wellington, and at in Auckland on 30 May 2011, at the Waipuna Hotel and Conference Centre, 58 Waipuna Road, Mt. Wellington, Auckland.

More is at <http://growevents.co.nz/connecting-up-conference/>

2011 National Volunteering Conference

Volunteering NZ's "Raising the Bar" conference is being held in the Wellington Town Hall on 23-24 May.

Conference details are at http://www.volunteeringnz.org.nz/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=182&Itemid=82

Internet NZ: NetHui 2011

The aim of this conference is to bring together everyone involved with Internet issues in NZ. It will be held in Auckland at SkyCity, 29 June to 1 July 2011. (Cost of attending NetHui 2011 is \$30 plus GST.)

More is at www.nethui.org.nz

2011 Fundraising Conference

The Fundraising Institute of NZ's (FINZ) conference, covering new approaches to fundraising, is called "Looking Forward". It is being held at the Amora Hotel (formerly the Duxton) in Wellington from 12-14 May.

For more information visit: http://www.finz.org.nz/Site/Conference_2010/default.aspx

Human Resources Institute of NZ's 12-hour Conference: "HR to the Rescue"

This conference is to be held on 11 May at the Skycity Auckland Convention Centre, Auckland

More is at <http://www.hrinz.org.nz>

Mental Health & Social Justice Symposium

A two-day symposium for researchers studying mental health and social justice is being held on 18-19 May at the Centre for Mental Health Research, University of Auckland. Its aim is to promote networking among researchers working in this field.

More is at <http://www.community.net.nz/communitycentre/events/auckland/mentalhealthsymposium.htm?region=default>

NZ Federation of Disability Information Centres Training Conference

The NZ Federation of Disability Information Centres national training conference – "Making information accessible for everyone" – will be held in Auckland on 16-17 May 2011.

More is at <http://www.nzdsn.org.nz/>

HortNZ Conference – Venue Change

Horticulture NZ is not able to hold its 2011 conference as planned in the Christchurch Convention Centre. Instead, the conference is to be held at the Rotorua Energy Events Centre on the same dates, 26/27 July.

More information about speakers and registration, as it becomes available, will be put up on the HortNZ website at www.hortnz.co.nz

Promoting the Health Promoters

The Health Promotion Forum is running several panui, nationwide, to explore issues around the establishment of a Professional Association for Health Promoters and the review of Nga Kaiakatanga Hauora mo Aotearoa Competencies for Health Promotion in Aotearoa. Dates: 17 May - Auckland; 23 May - Wellington; 13 June - Dunedin; 14 June - Christchurch. Time: 9.30am-11.30am. Venues: to be advised.

These workshops are free; however places are limited so you need to register for them: email sal@hauora.co.nz

Future Focus: Local Government NZ Conference 2011

This conference, called "Future Focus" - is being held at the Wellington Convention Centre from 10-13 July.

More is at www.lgnz.co.nz or www.conference.co.nz/lgnz11

Some Funding/Awards/Opportunities

The Rural Women NZ & Access Scholarship

The Rural Women NZ & Access Scholarship is a \$3000 tertiary scholarship. It is awarded for one year to a health care worker who wishes to further studies in the health and/or disability fields that particularly focus on provision of services to the rural sector. Preference will be given to applicants who are studying at post-graduate level.

Applications close on 1 July 2011. Entry forms are at www.ruralwomen.org.nz or www.access.org.nz

Prime Minister's Business Scholarships

The 2011 Prime Minister's Business Scholarships are designed to build business capability and develop skills, particularly in management and international business leadership.

Applications close on 7 June 2011. For more information go to www.med.govt.nz/scholarships

Lottery Grants

The following grants do not have a specific closing date:

- the Lottery Minister's Discretionary Fund (MDF) accepts applications from individuals and groups for community projects that are not the responsibility of the Lottery distribution committees. Applicants are generally advised of grant decisions within 12 weeks; and
- the Individuals with Disabilities Committee: this committee makes grants to people with mobility and communication related disabilities for the purchase and adaptation of vehicles, scooters and other mobility and communication equipment. Applicants may expect to be advised of the committee's decision within 6 to 16 weeks.

More on the Lottery Minister's Discretionary Fund is at http://www.cdgo.govt.nz/available-grants/downloads.aspx#ApplicationType_12. More on the Individuals with Disabilities Committee funding is at http://www.cdgo.govt.nz/available-grants/downloads.aspx#ApplicationType_10

2011/12 Maori Provider Development Scheme

Applications for funding under the 2011/12 Maori Provider Development Scheme are sought. The Scheme supports activities that build whanau capability, strengthen whanau connections, support the development of whanau leadership, aid development of a skilled Maori health workforce, and help providers to improve services. Applicants need to have a contract (or be developing one) with the Ministry of Health/a District Health Board (DHB)/a Primary Health Organisation (PHO).

Applications close 27 May 2011. Application forms and more information are at <http://www.maorihealth.govt.nz/moh.nsf/indexma/maori-provider-development-scheme>, or email MPDSadministrator@moh.govt.nz

Rural Innovations at NZ National Agricultural Fieldays...

NZ National Agricultural Fieldays organisers are searching for kiwi inventors to enter rural innovations in the Innovation Competition. The competition sections include:

- an Inventions category (to win the Golden Standard);
- an Equipment category for businesses with new developments that improve farming systems; and

- a Young Inventor of the Year award.

Up to eight awards will be presented to the most pioneering inventions.

Entries close on 18 May 2011. For more information email adamr@fielddays.co.nz or visit www.fielddays.co.nz

... & Fieldays Ag Art Wear Competition

The 2011 NZ National Agricultural Fieldays organisers are searching for creative people to challenge their aesthetic and structural ability to create a visual work of wearable art from rural products.

The deadline for the wearable art competition has been extended to 18 May 2011. <http://www.tbob.co.nz/article/extended-deadline-ag-art-wear-entries>

EEO Trust Work & Life Awards

These awards acknowledge the business benefits of supporting diversity and helping employees meet their commitments outside work as well as at work. Entries from the disability sector and from organisations that employ disabled people are encouraged.

Entries close on 19 May 2011. More is at <http://www.eeotrust.org.nz/awards/awards.cfm>

Show Me Shorts" Applications Open

The 2011 Show Me Shorts Film Festival is going global. In addition to playing the best NZ & Australian short films, Show Me Shorts is now accepting entries from all over the world. The best 40 Kiwi and Australian short films will be screened in NZ cinemas from 3 November.

Entries close on 4 July 2011. To enter your short film directly go to <https://www.withoutabox.com/login/5217>. More is at www.showmeshorts.co.nz, www.facebook.com/showmeshorts, or www.twitter.com/showmeshorts

Funniest Farming Video: Competition

Federated Farmers is holding a funniest farming video competition with an iPad 2 as prize for the winner. The competition is open to all NZ residents.

Entries close on 31 May 2011. Email them to haveyoursay@fedfarm.org.nz, submit them on the Feds' Facebook page, or mail them on DVD to attn: Funniest Farming Video competition, Federated Farmers, 154 Featherston Street, PO Box 715, Wellington 6140. More is at www.fedfarm.org.nz

Elsie Locke Writing Prize

The Elsie Locke Writing Prize is open to students in years 7 and 8, and this year's theme is a journey, real or imagined. Entries will be judged on the quality of writing: i.e., the ability to engage the reader and convey meaning; a sense of time and place; the ability to organise and develop an idea; clarity and coherence in the writing; and a flair with language.

Entries close on 20 June 2011. They go to S Paris, School Journal Editor, Learning Media, PO Box 3293, Wellington 6140. More is at <http://www.learningmedia.co.nz/contributors/writers-and-editors>

Nexus Commonwealth Awards

These awards recognise outstanding contributions to the countries, organisations, citizens and values of the Commonwealth. Award categories include: Lifetime Contribution Award; Communicator of the Year Award; Enterprise of the Year Award (for companies, NGOs or projects in the Commonwealth); and Investor of the Year Award.

Nominations are due by 31 May 2011. For more go to <http://www.nexuscommonwealthawards.org/>

New Horizons for Women Trust Awards

The following awards provide opportunities for women in education and research:

- the Second-chance Education Award offers women a second chance at tertiary education;
- Research Awards are for research that will benefit women and girls;
- the Peg Hutchison Award is for women who are changing direction, and intend working in a field where women are under-represented and/or that is non-traditional for women;
- the Sonja Davies Peace Award promotes women's initiatives to advance the cause of peace; and
- the Ria McBride Public Service Management Award is available to women in the Public Service.

Closing date for applications for all New Horizons for Women awards is 31 May 2011. More is at <http://www.newhorizonsforwomen.org.nz/awards/apply-for-awards/>

Arts Internship with RM

The Artists Alliance Internship Programme calling for applications from recent graduates for a fixed term, paid internship with the artist-run space RM. The aim of the programme is to provide a valuable opportunity for graduates to obtain significant work experience in the art industry.

Applications close on 10 May 2011. More is at <http://www.artistsalliance.org.nz/html/article.php?documentCode=38642>

Red Meat Industry: New Fund

An \$850,000 contestable fund has been set up for the red meat industry. The Red Meat Market Development Contestable Fund is a joint initiative between NZ Trade & Enterprise and Beef + Lamb. It aims to encourage new projects that will lift the profitability, competitiveness and sustainable growth of the meat sector. Funding will be allocated to successful applicants on a 50/50 basis.

Applications for the fund, which will be administered by NZTE, close on 20 May 2011. More about the application process is at <http://www.nzte.govt.nz/features-commentary/In-Brief/Pages/Government-launches-new-fund-for-meat-sector.aspx>

Value of Medicines Award

Entries for the first Medicines NZ Value of Medicines Award are now open. This \$20,000 award recognises one NZ researcher or health care professional for their outstanding contribution to improving the understanding, effectiveness, or safety of the use of medicines.

Entries close on 30 May 2011. More is at <http://www.medicinesnz.co.nz/value-of-medicines-award-now-open-for-entries/>

2011 Concrete3 Sustainability Awards

These awards are open to anyone in the construction industry – from architects, designers and engineers to contractors and clients. There are five categories from which a supreme winner will be selected: Excellence in Residential Concrete Construction, Excellence in Commercial Concrete Construction, Excellence in Civil Concrete Construction, Excellence in Concrete Innovation, and Excellence in Concrete for the Community.

Entries close on 26 June 2011. Entry information and forms can be found at www.sustainableconcrete.org.nz

Vodafone Fellowship in Youth Health Leadership

Youth researchers and practitioners with leadership skills are urged to apply for a Fellowship in Youth Health Leadership offered by The Vodafone NZ Foundation in association with SYHPANZ (Society of Youth Health Professionals Aotearoa NZ). The fellowship, worth \$90,000 over a 12-month period, has been established for promising mid-career researchers or practitioners with proven leadership in the youth sector to complete study, research, or undertake a sabbatical.

More is at <http://foundation.vodafone.co.nz/what-we-fund/youth-health-fellowship/>

ANZ "Flying Start" Competition

An ANZ Flying Start Business Plan Competition is looking to find the best business plan from a new or fledgling NZ business, and help them put their plan into action. Overall winner gets \$60,000, and regional winners get a package worth \$3000 (cash, web advice, and legal advice). The competition is open to those with a business idea they want to get off the ground or businesses with gross sales of less than \$1 million.

Stage 1 submissions close on 3 June 2011. For more information go to www.business.govt.nz/business-plan-competition

Interested in Joining AGMARDT Board?

The agriculture not-for-profit trust AGMARDT is searching for an Associate Board Member to join the trust's Board for an 18 month term. The person will attend AGMARDT Board meetings and participate fully in discussion (without having decision making authority), and they'll be given the opportunity to attend an Institute of Directors governance course or similar.

Applications close on 20 May 2011. The application form is available at www.agmardt.org.nz

Horticulture: Bledisloe Cup Nominations...

Nominations for the horticulture's highest honour the Bledisloe Cup 2011 are now open.

Nominations close on 7 June. For more information on the criteria and nomination process contact shona.roberts@hortnz.co.nz

... & Horticulture Leadership Programme

Applications for the 2011 HortNZ Leadership Programme are now open. It is free for growers.

The aims are to develop leadership skills, and build networks between horticultural people who are keen to make a difference in their work and industry.

Applications close 31 May. Go to www.hortnz.co.nz or call S. Pickering on (04) 472 3795 for more information

AsiaNZ Media Travel Grants

The AsiaNZ media programme offers NZ journalists the chance to travel to Asia to research and prepare stories. AsiaNZ's Media Discretionary Grants also offer partial assistance to correspondents travelling to Asia (there is no specific closing dates for these grants).

Media Travel Grants applications close on 16 May 2011. More about both grants is at <http://www.asianz.org.nz/opportunities/media>

FITEC: New Wood Safety Award

A new award has been introduced to the annual FITEC* National Training Awards in 2011. The Health & Safety award will recognise companies that have put in place an outstanding health and safety initiative in 2010. FITEC's training awards also include Modern Apprentice of the Year, Trainee of the Year and Training Company of the Year. *FITEC is the industry training organisation (ITO) for the forest industries.

Applications for all awards close on 20 May 2011. Entry forms, eligibility and criteria are at www.fitec.org.nz

Whanau Integration, Innovation and Engagement Fund

The is available to help whanau move to greater self reliance and self management by strengthening connection and

engagement, developing whanau leadership, and building whanau knowledge, skills and capabilities. Two application forms, one for developing a Whanau Plan and the other for implementing parts of a whanau plan are available to download.

More is at <http://www.tpk.govt.nz/en/newsevents/news/whanau-integration-innovation-and-engagement-fund-wiie/> or contact your local Te Puni Kokiri office

Appointments

David Cameron has been appointed a *District Court Judge*.

Richard Griffin has been appointed *chair* of the *Radio NZ (RNZ) board*. Associate Professor Anne Kolbe has been appointed as *chair* of the *National Health Committee (NHC)*. Peter Cowper has been appointed to the *Maritime NZ Board*. Helene Quilter has agreed to act as the *Acting Deputy State Services Commissioner*. Sean Hughes will be the *chief executive* of the *Financial Markets Authority*. Moira Coatsworth has been named as the new *President of the NZ Labour Party*. Neill Atkinson has been appointed as *Chief Historian at Manatu Taonga - the Ministry for Culture and Heritage*. Nathan Twaddle has been appointed as *Athlete Life Advisor at the NZ Academy of Sport North Island*. The new *chair* of the *NZ Bankers' Association (NZBA)* is Andrew Thorburn; and David Hisco is the *deputy chair*. Dr Christopher Tremewan has been appointed as *Secretary General of the Association of Pacific Rim Universities*.

Sir Ron Carter and Associate Professor Richard Fenwick are the *commissioners* for the *Royal Commission of Inquiry into Building Failure caused by Canterbury Earthquakes*. New appointments to the *Abortion Supervisory Committee* include Dr Tangimoana Habib and Rev Patricia Allan, and Professor Dame Linda Holloway has been reappointed as *chair* of the committee. Nigel Gould has been appointed *chair* of the *Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)*. Members of the *Department of Building and Housing Panel* investigating the performance of the Canterbury Television, Pyne Gould Corporation, Forsyth Barr and Hotel Grand Chancellor buildings include: Sherwyn Williams (*chair*), Professor Nigel Priestley, Associate Professor Stefano Pampanin, Dr Helen Anderson, Peter Millar, Marshall Cook, Peter Fehl, George Skimming, Adam Thornton, Rob Jury, and Dr Clark Hyland.

Financial Markets Authority Board members are: Simon Allen (*chair*), Shelley Cave, Colin Giffney, Mary Holm, Murray Jack, James Miller, Justine Smyth, Michael Webb, and Mark Verbiest. *Associate board members* are Bruce Sheppard, Rebecca Eele, and Arthur Grimes. The *review panel assessing legislation developed by the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority* will be *chaired* by former Sir John Hansen. *Members* are Rt Hon Dame Jenny Shipley, Anake Goodall and Murray Sherwin. Paula Rebstock and Jill Spooner have been appointed to the *ACC Board*. *Members of Nga Pu Waea/the National Maori Rural Broadband Initiative (RBI) Working Group* include representatives from te Huarahi Tika Trust, Te Putahi Paoho, and the Maori Economic Taskforce. The *members* are Jeremy Gardiner, Daphne Luke, Mavis Mullins, Haami Piripi, Antony Royal, Tuwhakairiora Williams, and Richard Orzecki. *Members of the Advisory Board to the Christchurch Earthquake Appeal Trust* are Jane Huria, David Close, Ros Burdon, Justin Murray, Tane Norton, and Pamela Richardson.

Rural Broadband Initiative delivers for rural communities....

From July, Telecom and Vodafone will begin rolling out faster broadband deep into rural New Zealand, offering the kinds of services currently enjoyed in urban areas.

To be completed over six years, the RBI will mean major improvements to internet access in rural New Zealand. The project is based on using four technologies – copper, fibre, fixed wireless and mobile – to deliver broadband deep into New Zealand's rural heartland.

Telecom's role in the RBI is to deliver the Government's objective of connecting 93% of rural schools to ultra-fast broadband, by building and delivering the fibre-based fixed infrastructure and services. To achieve this, Telecom will connect around 750 schools, as well as 6 hospitals, to broadband speeds of 100Mbps.

And, as well as hooking up rural schools and hospitals, Telecom's network company, Chorus, will be laying around 3,100km of new fibre, to deliver fast broadband deeper into rural New Zealand. This builds on the 27,000km fibre Telecom already has in the ground - that's enough to cover the trip from Bluff to Cape Reinga twelve times over!

This means half of all rural lines will be able to access speeds of over 10Mbps and over a third will be able to access speeds of over 20Mbps – the kind of broadband that's currently available in urban areas, capable of sending and receiving large files (such as music and photos) quickly, accessing and downloading content-rich websites and streaming video.

This new fibre will also connect about 40,000 lines into rural homes, halls, sheds and offices to broadband access for the first time.

Within the first year, 500 rural schools – covering over 80% of rural pupils - will benefit from this ultra-fast broadband service, enabling them to access online resources, stream video over the internet, take part in online learning sessions and all kinds of other high-speed internet-based activity. During the same period, five hospitals (Waikari, Murchison, Gisborne, Tuatapare Maternity, and Dunstan) will also be connected to fibre.

And because all of the infrastructure built under the RBI is open access, other internet service providers can use it to deliver their own broadband straight to customers. Service providers like TelstraClear, Callplus, Slingshot, Orcon, Actrix, and Farmside already offer these products in urban areas, and will now be able to do so in rural communities – that means more choice and better value for customers.

Telecom and Vodafone are committed to working with local communities to ensure they are kept fully up to speed with the project and to create opportunities to extend broadband even further. Over the coming weeks we will be hosting a series of meetings with regional stakeholders (local authorities, economic development agencies, iwi



hosting a series of meetings with regional stakeholders (local authorities, economic development agencies, iwi and other Maori entities, lines companies, wireless broadband providers and user representatives) throughout New Zealand.

The aim will be to share information and gather feedback on rollout plans, identify collaboration opportunities for funding, delivering and extending rural broadband services, and encourage stakeholders to promote their constituents' awareness of and interest in the Rural Broadband Initiative.

At the same time we'll continue our regular dialogue with other key stakeholders such as Rural Women NZ. Your input to date has been important and your continued involvement is vital to the success of the RBI.

To that end, Telecom will be presenting at the Rural Women of New Zealand 2011 Annual Conference and we look forward to seeing you there.

For more information about the RBI visit www.telecom.co.nz/rural-broadband

Key facts about Telecom and the Rural Broadband Initiative

- The proposal includes the installation or upgrade of approximately 1,000 cabinets, extending Telecom's FTTN programme to deliver broadband speeds of 10Mbps deeper into rural New Zealand – from 84% of lines up to 92%
- By July 2012: about 500 schools rural schools will be connected to fibre giving them access to broadband speeds of 100Mbps or more – that's 60% of all rural schools and over 80% of all rural pupils.
- By July 2015: about 750 schools, or 91% of all rural schools, will have access to speeds of 100Mbps or more.
- 57% of rural lines will be capable of broadband speeds of over 5Mbps, 50% over 10Mbps and 34% over 20Mbps.

Broadband speeds at a glance..

1 Mbps	email general web surfing social networking	online shopping or gaming download audio and video files
5 Mbps	stream video, music and podcasts fast download of audio and video files audio and low quality videoconferencing (eg. Skype)	
10 Mbps	stream HDTV broadcasts and DVD quality movies high quality (HD) video conferencing	
20 Mbps	stream multiple HDTV broadcasts stream 'blu-ray' quality DVD movies	
100 Mbps	stream very high definition video cloud computing and remote hosting e-health (telepresence surgery, telehealth) e-learning (videoconferencing for distance learners)	

Access Secures New Contracts



Access has been successful with its recent proposal to the Canterbury DHB and is delighted to be one of three organisations chosen to provide home support and community nursing in the Canterbury region under a new service specification with restorative focus.

This success reflects the high regard the Canterbury DHB has for the quality and professionalism of Access and the services we provide. In addition, Access has secured a separate contract with the Canterbury DHB to provide a new early supported discharge service.

These contracts offer Access new and exciting opportunities for innovation, including new roles and new ways of doing things as we increase our capacity to cater for the significant growth in the number of new service users.

Under the new arrangements, Access will be working collaboratively with the Canterbury DHB, primary care and other home based support service providers to improve the effectiveness of community services across the Canterbury region.

FUEL FOR SCHOOLS
School Sponsorship Programme

WHAT IS FUEL FOR SCHOOLS?
Fuel for Schools is a brand new sponsorship programme that provides Primary, Intermediate and Secondary Schools throughout New Zealand with an exciting new way to raise additional funds.

WHO IS INTRODUCING FUEL FOR SCHOOLS?

The Fuel for Schools programme is operated by Northfuels in the North Island and Southfuels in the South Island.

WHO CAN BE INVOLVED IN FUEL FOR SCHOOLS?

- All schools throughout New Zealand
- All bulk fuel users

HOW DOES FUEL FOR SCHOOLS ACTUALLY WORK?

4 Easy Steps

- Schools need to register for Fuel for Schools Sponsorship
- Schools then promote the programme to families and bulk fuel users using the on-line resources provided
- New and existing Northfuels and Southfuels customers nominate a school of their choice on-line
- Once nominated the school receives ongoing sponsorship of 1 cent for every 2 litres of bulk fuel delivered

HOW MUCH MONEY CAN A SCHOOL MAKE THROUGH FUEL FOR SCHOOLS?

There is no limit on the number of fuel users that can nominate a specific school. There is no limit on the amount of sponsorship available. The more fuel used, the more money the school makes.

HOW DOES THE SCHOOL ACTUALLY GET PAID?

We will issue a cheque on a quarterly basis to the school.

HOW IS FUEL FOR SCHOOLS FUNDED?

The programme is 100% funded from our sponsorship budget, meaning the fuel price to customers is unaffected. We can't think of a better way to say thanks to the communities that support us.

To learn more go to www.southfuels.co.nz or www.northfuels.co.nz and click on "Fuel for Schools"



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North and South Island winners announced

Rural Women New Zealand is delighted to announce that the North and South Island winners have been chosen in the RWNZ Enterprising Rural Women Award 2011. The Supreme Winner will be announced on Friday 20 May at our National Conference 2011.



Our North Island winners are Maria-Fe Rohrlach and her sister Bernadine Guilleux who run Nestling Ltd, a business based in Mamaku, Rotorua that produces organic merino and cotton baby wraps and slings.

The judges were impressed by Nestling's use of New Zealand materials and their commitment to manufacturing onshore, as well as their innovative designs, where modern fabrics and colours are fused with the traditional methods of wrapping and carrying babies.

One of the founding principles of Nestling is to give parents the tools needed to provide the best care for their child and go about their busy lives, while maintaining a sense of style.

Social media is their primary marketing platform, and the sisters interact with their customers online so that they become part of the Nestling family.



Our South Island winner is Lisa Harper of Sherrington Grange. Lisa runs an accommodation and food business with her mother, based in the Marlborough Sounds on the farm where she grew up.

Lisa has built on family tradition and the skills she learned as a child, and now produces some of the best cheeses in New Zealand.

Sherrington Grange produces a wide range of goats' and cows' milk cheeses, including full strength European-style cheeses that are not common here. This diversity enables the business to supply full cheeseboards to the restaurant trade.

Sherrington Grange also caters for the growing market of travellers who seek experiences, rather than simply accommodation. Many of Lisa's visitors come to take one of her cheese making classes, as part of their Marlborough Sounds' stay.