



Articles

Vaccination Campaign: Meningococcal Disease	1
Nationwide Healthline Service	1
Innovation in NZ: 2003	2
Discussion Paper: Imported Foods Review	2
Discussion Paper: Dietary Supplements ..	3
Survey: Family Income and Employment Dynamics	3
Funding for Second IVF Cycle	4
Ten Thousand Attend Farm Safety Courses	5
Turning Twenty — Wrightson IHC Calf Scheme	5
District Health Boards need Real People with Real Experience	5
What Natives are Planted and Why	5
Changes to Overseas Investment Criteria	6
Issues Facing Maori in Governance	6
Internet Items	7
Update	8
Legislation Notes	13
Resources Available	14

Vaccination Campaign: Meningococcal Disease

Around 1.15 million young people will be vaccinated against the deadly meningococcal disease in NZ's biggest mass immunisation campaign. The \$200 million campaign is to combat the meningococcal epidemic that has claimed 220 lives and affected thousands of others since 1991.

The vaccine is specially developed to combat the NZ strain of the meningococcal B bacterium. The vaccine, which requires three injections four to six weeks apart, will be offered free at schools, workplaces and medical clinics. It will be given first to children in the worst-affected area of South Auckland and then be rolled out progressively to the rest of the country, becoming available in Wellington next year.

The programme aims to immunise 90 percent of those aged between six months and 20 years, with a particular emphasis on pre-schoolers (this is because about half the cases of the disease occur in those under five). Participation in the programme is voluntary.

Meningococcal disease is a bacterial infection that can cause serious illnesses including meningitis and septicaemia. It is spread in droplet form – through coughing or kissing – and is not highly contagious like whooping cough or chicken pox. But its effects can be devastating. Four out of every 100 people who get the disease die and 20 suffer serious physical disability. The biggest risk factor is living in overcrowded housing.

Nationwide Healthline Service

By June next year, all of NZ will have access to a free nationwide health information phone line that incorporates the existing PlunketLine service. Healthline, a 24-hour service, will be progressively rolled out around the country, and will be staffed by registered nurses able to advise on a range of health concerns – from assessing symptoms to locating after-hours medical services or late-night chemists. The existing Healthline and PlunketLine phone numbers will continue to operate.

Healthline will maintain PlunketLine's role in providing support for parents, as well as information on child health issues. Plunket nurses with specialist training in child and family health will deal with all calls needing parenting advice or Plunket (Well Child) services.

Healthline services have been operating in four pilot areas (Northland, East Coast/Gisborne, Canterbury and the West Coast). These will be expanded to provide a national service, beginning in the South Island in October, with Wellington and the Wairarapa on board by the end of this year.

Healthline and PlunketLine nurses will be based initially at a single Wellington call centre, with a second call centre in Auckland established as the service expands.



They will use a computer program and specialised triage software to advise callers on the most appropriate course of action for their problem. That might include symptom assessment, counselling, home treatment advice, referral, disease management, crisis intervention or basic health information. The triage software incorporates a set of guidelines that specify the order and type of recommendations offered, based on the information provided by the caller.

Once a call is answered, Healthline staff will talk a caller through their symptoms, discount those that do not apply and using a process of elimination, assess how serious the symptoms are, the appropriate place to seek help, and a timeframe for action. The advice dispensed may range from something as simple as “an ice-pack and a lie-down”, through to “see your GP within 24 hours” or “we are ordering an ambulance for you right now.”

PlunketLine will gradually be incorporated into Healthline. Initially, PlunketLine nurses will relocate to the Healthline call centre and the two phone lines will run concurrently. Over time, the service will be integrated with the ability to triage or provide Well Child advice as appropriate for each call. PlunketLine will be fully integrated into Healthline by June 2005.

The PlunketLine number is 0800 933 922, and the Healthline number is 0800 611 116 (note: Healthline currently operates just in the four pilot areas – see above). You can get more information about these services on the Ministry of Health website at www.moh.govt.nz

Innovation in NZ: 2003

The Innovation Survey 2003 is the first survey of its type to be conducted in NZ. The survey is designed to develop an understanding of the contribution that technological innovation makes to the NZ economy. It does this by looking at the level and characteristics of innovative activity in NZ businesses.

Innovation is defined as: the introduction of a new or significantly improved product or service to the market; or the introduction of a new or significantly improved process within a business. Innovation could be the result of the introduction, adaptation or adoption of new knowledge or technological developments. It could also be the result of the combination of existing technologies in novel ways.

Rate of Innovation

Forty-four percent of NZ businesses reported innovation activity during the last three years. The likelihood of engaging in innovative activities was greater in larger businesses. Fifty-nine percent of businesses with more than 50 employees recorded innovation activity, compared with 50 percent for businesses with 30 to 49 employees and 40 percent for businesses with 10 to 29 employees.

The proportion of those innovative businesses who considered their innovations as being successfully carried out (as opposed to being ongoing or abandoned) was similar across all business sizes (91 percent). There was variation across industries in the proportion of businesses with innovation activity. The highest proportion (57 percent) was recorded in the manufacturing industry, closely followed by finance and insurance (55 percent). The lowest proportion (25 percent) was recorded in the construction industry.

Types of Innovative Activity

Businesses can engage in a number of activities that give rise to innovation, through development or improvement of products, processes or services. These activities can occur within a business, or be acquired from other businesses. Survey results indicate NZ businesses spent \$1.8 billion on innovation activities in their last financial year, representing 1.5 percent of total operating expenditure and expenditure on fixed assets over the same period.

The most prevalent type of innovation activity was research and development (R&D) undertaken within the business. Seventy-six percent of all businesses who undertook some sort of innovation activity indicated they carried out internal R&D. Other forms of internal innovation activities used by most businesses included staff training (60 percent), acquiring enabling equipment (59 percent), marketing (54 percent), and other supporting activities (58 percent).

Less common was the acquisition of R&D or other types of enabling knowledge from organisations outside the business. Only 23 percent of businesses indicated that they had acquired R&D externally.

Outcomes of and Barriers to Innovation

The actual outcomes of innovation activities may or may not be the same as the intended results when the innovations were begun. This survey focused on the achieved outcomes of innovations which had been actually put in place, as opposed to those in progress or abandoned.

Eighty percent of businesses which had introduced innovations in the last three years reported an increased range of goods and services as a result. Most businesses also reported increased profitability (79 percent), improved efficiency (75 percent), and new or expanded markets within NZ (64 percent). Thirty percent reported outcomes resulting in new overseas markets, reduced environmental impact (21 percent), or reduced energy consumption (18 percent).

Fifty-six percent of all businesses surveyed rated a lack of management resources as the biggest barrier to innovation, hampering it to a high (18 percent), medium (22 percent) or low (16 percent) degree. Other factors rated by most businesses as hampering innovation were the costs to develop new products, processes or services (53 percent), and lack of appropriate personnel (51 percent). The availability or cost of intellectual property rated as the lowest impediment to innovation, with only 23 percent of businesses identifying this as hampering innovation activity.

Discussion Paper: Imported Food Review

A discussion paper on NZ's import regime for food and food-related products and agricultural chemicals, and released by the New Zealand Food Safety Authority (NZFSA), is now available for public feedback. The paper is the result of a six-month project carried out by external experts who reviewed how the system that regulates these imported products works. The paper discusses the current system and poses questions to stakeholders on issues that were raised throughout the review.

People wanting to put forward their opinions have three options:

- attending the consultation meetings and taking part in the discussions;
- downloading a copy of the document from NZFSA's website and feeding back their ideas through the online questionnaire; or
- making a written submission.

Submissions close on 10 September and the final report, which will include any recommendations, is due at the end of November. A copy of the discussion paper can be downloaded from <http://www.nzfsa.govt.nz/policy-law/projects/review-of-food-importation/consult.htm>

Discussion Paper: Dietary Supplements

A discussion paper on a review of the Dietary Supplements Regulations 1985 is now available for public submissions. The paper proposes several changes:

- a range of policy options for the future regulation and classification of those dietary supplements that more closely resemble fortified food-type products;
- interim amendments to current regulations to change permitted levels of folic acid and vitamin B12;
- changing the permitted types of artificial sweeteners; and
- making allergen labelling and labelling in English mandatory.

The discussion paper looks at the impact on the regulations of the proposed joint therapeutic products regulatory scheme for Australia and NZ. Under the proposed joint scheme, therapeutic-type dietary supplements would be regulated as complementary medicines, and appropriate therapeutic claims allowed to be made. The discussion paper also looks at the future regulation of fortified food-type products that will remain under the Dietary Supplements Regulations. A key area for consideration is whether these foods should be regulated under the Food Standards Code and treated in the same way as other food products.

Submissions close on 3 September. The discussion document is on the website, www.nzfsa.govt.nz, or hard copies are available on request from NZFSA, PO Box 2835, Wellington

Survey: Family Income and Employment Dynamics

Preliminary results from the Survey of Family Income and Employment (SoFIE) were released recently. SoFIE is NZ's first-ever national survey designed to study individual, family and household income, how this income changes, and the factors that influence these changes such as involvement in the labour force or family composition.

SoFIE is a "longitudinal" survey, which means that the respondents (over 22,000 of them) will be revisited over seven years to measure how their individual and family circumstances change over time. This kind of survey provides a quite complete

picture of participants' lives, enabling the study of questions like:

- Do people with low incomes continue to have low incomes?
- What is the pattern of income over time as people go through life?
- How do income levels for families and individuals change, and what are the factors that drive this change?
- What are the patterns of participation in the labour market over time?
- How do factors such as participation in education and training, and having children affect participation in the labour market and income levels?
- How long do people stay in the same job?
- How long do people spend looking for work?

Changes in Labour Force Involvement

Respondents were asked to construct a timeline of their involvement in the labour force over the previous year. They were asked to include the start and end dates of periods of employment; of being not employed but seeking work; and of being not employed and not seeking work (that is, being retired, studying, providing childcare, etc). The main findings include:

- 72 percent of people were involved in just one type of labour force activity over the year;
- 79 percent of employed people were employed for the whole year; and
- of those who were not working but seeking work, 66 percent spent less than 26 weeks involved in this activity.

How Weekly Employee Earnings have Changed over the Year

Three groups of weekly employee earnings have been created: "lower earnings" (those who earn less than \$345); "middle earnings" (earning between \$345 and \$574); and "higher earnings" (\$575 or more per week). The main findings include:

- 90 percent of people did not change their weekly employee earnings group over the year;
- of those with weekly employee earnings of less than \$345, 85 percent remained in this group over the year;
- overall, people were more likely to move up an earnings group than move down an earnings group;
- people in the 15–24 and 25–44-year age groups were more likely to change their level of weekly employee earnings than those in other age groups; and
- males were more likely than females to change their weekly employee earnings over the year.

Characteristics of People Earning Less than \$345 a Week

SoFIE measures the length of time individuals have spent on a particular level of employee earnings. These periods of time at a constant level of earnings are called "spells". New spells can be triggered by a number of different events: a change in job or employer, promotion or significant pay increase, or a change in the number of hours worked (for example, from part-time to full-time hours). The main findings include:

- females were more likely than males to have spells of earnings of less than \$345 per week;

- females (41 percent) were also more likely than males (17 percent) to have more than one spell of earnings at this level;
- by occupation, legislators, administrators and managers were the least likely to have spells of weekly employee earnings of less than \$345;
- over half (58 percent) of service and sales workers had at least one spell at this level; and
- nearly half (46 percent) of those who earned less than \$345 spent less than 13 weeks at this level.

How Weekly Income Changes over the Year

Three groups of weekly income have been created: “lower income” (less than \$242); “middle income” (between \$242 and \$402); and “higher income” (\$403 or more). The main findings include:

- income levels were relatively stable (87 percent of people remained in the same income group over the year);
- of those who started the period with a weekly income of less than \$242 a week, 81 percent were still at this level by the end of the year;
- overall, the likelihood of experiencing a drop in income to a level below \$242 per week was relatively low (5 percent);
- the likelihood of moving into a spell of income of less than \$242 a week decreased as age increased;
- people aged 25–44 years had the highest likelihood of any age group of moving out of a period of income of less than \$242 a week;
- Maori had the highest likelihood of any ethnicity of moving into a spell of income of less than \$242 a week (8 percent); and
- Maori also had the highest likelihood (25 percent) of moving out of a spell of income of below \$242.

Distribution of Annual Personal and Family Income

These results look at how income is distributed across the population. All incomes are reported as gross (before tax) amounts.

Annual Personal Income

Children under 15 years are not included in this analysis. When annual income is arranged in order from lowest to highest, the top 20 percent had incomes that were greater than \$43,800, while the bottom 20 percent had incomes of less than \$8,000. Other key findings include:

- 53 percent of people in the 15–24 year age group had an annual income of less than \$8,000;
- 52 percent of people aged 65 and over had an annual income of between \$8,000 and \$15,800;
- 73 percent of those who reported they were not employed and not seeking work at the interview date had incomes of less than \$15,800;
- 58 percent of those who were employed at the interview date had incomes greater than \$27,500;
- of those who were not employed but seeking work, 39 percent had an income of less than \$8,000; and
- 55 percent of those with no qualifications had an annual personal income of less than \$15,800.

Annual Family Income

People who do not live with members of their immediate family, that is, who live alone or with unrelated individuals, are not included in this analysis. Individuals have been classified according to the total income of all family members they live with. Family incomes have not been adjusted for family size. The main findings include:

- when annual family income is arranged in order from lowest to highest, the top 20 percent had incomes greater than \$90,100, while the bottom 20 percent had incomes of less than \$26,100;
- 75 percent of those whose family type is “couple with children” had family incomes greater than \$43,500;
- 56 percent of children in sole parent families had a family income of less than \$26,100;
- overall, 71 percent of those aged 65 and over had annual family incomes of less than \$43,500;
- 67 percent of NZ Europeans had an annual family income of more than \$43,500; and
- just over half of those who gave their ethnicity as Maori or Pacific peoples had an annual family income of less than \$43,500 (51 percent and 56 percent, respectively).

Funding for Second IVF Cycle

From 1 October this year, couples who are undergoing fertility treatment, and who meet certain criteria, will be able to receive public funding for a second IVF (In Vitro Fertilisation) cycle. It’s thought that about 90 percent of patients who have completed one unsuccessful cycle of treatment will choose to undertake a second cycle. (Each year, more than 3500 people are referred for fertility services, with about 70 percent of them going on to receive treatment.)

Improvements in IVF techniques have led to a big rise in conception rates, with about 43 percent of women aged 37 years and under becoming pregnant as a result of their first IVF cycle – up from 25 percent in 1999. In the past, to increase the chance of pregnancy most women received more than one embryo at one time, a practice that increased the risk of twins and the associated health problems for mothers and babies.

However, as techniques have improved and pregnancy rates increased, there has been a move towards the preferred single embryo transfer (SET), which reduces the chance of twins and creates fewer health issues for the baby. Use of the SET guidelines in IVF procedures will become standard practice from 1 October.

Some Frequently Asked Questions

What is In Vitro Fertilisation? The IVF technique is used to treat various forms of infertility. It involves removing eggs from the woman’s ovary and, in a laboratory, inseminating them with sperm. If fertilisation occurs, one or more embryos are transferred to the uterus two days later using a catheter placed in the cervix.

What Is Infertility? Infertility is defined as an inability to conceive after one year of trying or an inability to carry pregnancies to a live birth. Approximately one in six couples in NZ experience infertility, with the problem affecting men and women almost equally. About 20 percent of infertile women have damaged fallopian tubes.

What Is SET? SET involves the transfer of a single fresh or frozen embryo to the uterus, which reduces the risk of twins associated with multiple embryo transfers. Remaining embryos are frozen and stored for possible future transfer.

Ten Thousand Attend FarmSafe Safety Courses

Ten thousand farmers have attended the FarmSafe rural injury prevention programme since its nationwide launch 18 months ago, making it the most successful farm safety initiative ever. FarmSafe was established 18 months ago by ACC and Federated Farmers, and is delivered through a consortium of the Agriculture ITO, Telford Rural Polytechnic, and Agriculture NZ Ltd.

Now known as FarmSafe Awareness, following the addition of two new programmes – FarmSafe Plans and FarmSafe Skills, it is one of nine Safer Industries groups promoted by ACC to encourage safe practices in high injury-risk industries. FarmSafe Awareness targets the prevention of common injuries in each farming sector. FarmSafe Plans advises farmers on the preparation of an approved Farm Safety Management Plan for their own property and will help participants come to grips with Health & Safety legal requirements. The FarmSafe Skills programme is a series of individual workshops that are designed to teach and assess competence in practical farming tasks such as ATV riding, chainsaw usage, tractor driving, and animal handling.

All FarmSafe programmes are completely free, lunch is provided, and participants get a workbook, a CD-ROM on hazard management and ACC injury prevention literature. Self-employed farmers attending FarmSafe Awareness receive a voucher for \$40 to purchase personal protective equipment of their choice, plus a 50 percent discount off their purchase.

Course evaluation by the Injury Prevention Research Unit at Otago University shows more than 80 percent of participants rate the course as well above average to excellent.

Further information on local FarmSafe courses is available from freephone 0800 545 747

Turning Twenty – Wrightson IHC Calf Scheme

In the last 20 years more than 65,000 calves have been donated to IHC by the rural community of NZ, raising a total of more than \$15 million in support of people living with an intellectual disability. Last year more than 5,000 farmers from all over the country donated, raising a total of \$1.2 million for IHC. That is about a third of all dairy farms donating a calf to IHC.

Any farmer wanting to donate or find out more about this great scheme should phone 0800 746 444 toll free

District Health Boards need Real People with Real Experience

Nominations close on 20 August for October's District Health Board (DHB) elections, which will use the Single Transferable Voting (STV) for the first time. There is a call for the boards to include people with a wider variety of backgrounds and skills to ensure a greater community voice in DHB decision-making; in other words, the boards need real people with real experience so that boards truly reflect the communities they serve.

The introduction of STV, where voters rank their desired candidates in order of preference, gives voters more choice and power to determine the total make-up of the boards. Voters are not restricted to just voting for a few candidates. You can rank as many or as few candidates as you wish under STV.

In this year's DHB elections, for the first time, voters will have a say in the election of all seven elected board members using "at-large" structures. This is different to the 2001 elections, where voters could only vote for a limited number of candidates on a constituency or ward basis. Voters have greater choice and flexibility under at-large structures. Instead of being required to vote on the basis of geographic communities, voters can support candidates who are more likely to represent their particular concerns (be they based on gender, ethnicity, locality or any other factor).

Rural people who want to make a difference to the health of their community should act now. To ensure rural representation on your DHB, rural communities need to put forward strong candidates and support them.

For further information on standing as a candidate, call toll-free on 0508 9 10 2004, visit www.moh.govt.nz/dhbelections, or contact your DHB

What Natives are Planted and Why

AgResearch wants farmers involved in native plant use on their properties to report their experiences to the Tane Tree Trust, which promotes the use of native trees for production and conservation. The Trust, which operates in Northland and the Waikato, consists of representatives from AgResearch, Landcare Research, Forest Research, the Northland and Waikato regional councils and the NZ Landcare Trust.

Trust members are currently surveying farmers in both regions to find out exactly what is planted and why, in a three-year project funded by MAF's Sustainable Farming Fund, the two regional councils and the Transpower Landcare Trust Grant Fund. Ultimately, the Trust plans to publish a comprehensive account of what native plants can be used and where, with the aim of helping farmers with all the practicalities of establishing natives to suit a specific purpose.

Contact: Dr Mike Dodd, AgResearch Ruakura (07) 838 5912; mike.dodd@agresearch.co.nz

Changes to Overseas Investment Criteria

Overseas buyers wanting to buy sites of special heritage* or environmental value will be subjected to a tougher screening and compliance regime under proposed changes. The main changes are:

- Overseas applicants wishing to purchase land assets will have to include – in the asset management plan attached to their application – how they will manage any historic, heritage, conservation or public access factors relevant to the property, as well as any economic development planned.
- Plans submitted by an overseas investor in support of his/her purchase will be made conditions of consent.
- To keep costs to the taxpayer down, the onus of compliance will be on the overseas investor. Investors will be required to report regularly (every one or two years) on how they are complying with the terms of their consent and outline any reasons for non-compliance. Monitoring will continue until all obligations have been met.
- The Crown will have a new right of first refusal over foreshore and seabed land where this would otherwise be sold into foreign ownership.
- The threshold for screening non-land business assets where the proposed acquisition entails a 25 percent or more shareholding will be raised from \$50 million to \$100 million.
- Purchases involving land with an unimproved value of more than \$10 million will no longer require consent where the land is not screened for other reasons. (As the \$10 million applies to land value alone and as any rural land sales over 5 hectares will continue to require consent, this provision is expected to affect only purchases within the main centre CBDs.)
- Land adjoining some non-sensitive reserves, for example, drainage and hospital reserves, will be removed from the coverage of the Overseas Investment Act.

The Overseas Investment Commission, which currently assesses applications from foreign buyers, is to be disestablished, and its functions transferred to a new unit within Land Information NZ.

*** Note:** Special properties include the foreshore and seabed, fishing quota and all sites over 0.4 hectares which are subject to a heritage order; registered or proposed for registration under the Historic Places Act or; classified as an historic, scenic, scientific or nature reserve and administered by the Department of Conservation under the Reserves Act

Issues Facing Maori in Governance

This article (modified from an article originally written by Helmut Karewa Modlik, Ngati Toa, Ngati Tama, Te Ati Awa) looks at issues particularly relevant to Maori directors. The article doesn't seek to resolve these issues, merely to flag them for future analysis and action. The issues identified comprise three broad areas:

1. Accountability Tensions

Although public sector appointment policies may explicitly acknowledge the tribal linkages that Maori directors have, the

author argues there is little real understanding around what such linkages actually mean to an individual director (who may be there because of an iwi/hapu nomination).

The formal expectation is that whatever responsibility the director may feel towards his/her tribal grouping, the director's primary accountability (in a public sector context) is to the responsible Minister through the usual formal board hierarchy. However, this may or may not be true for individual directors – some may in fact see their primary responsibility and accountability as being to their iwi or hapu, regardless of formal expectations (bearing in mind that Maori directors are frequently held to account at a very personal level though their multiple close relationships and interactions with uncles, aunts and cousins, i.e., tribal members, as well as at a very public level though consultation and other engagement obligations).

Compounding this even further is, that:

- many non-Maori NZers who appoint or work with Maori directors have little understanding of the breadth and depth of influence that tribal affiliations can have; and
- many Maori and non-Maori NZers have very divergent views on the place of tribes within NZ's constitutional framework.

2. Cultural Influences

For Maori in governance a particularly relevant set of culturally derived values, behaviours and issues are those that relate to leadership, the essence of a director's role.

a) Traditional Leadership Concepts. Traditional Maori leadership is based on two dynamically interacting influences: genealogy (which provides the opportunity) and capacity. Being a successful leader enhances the mana or ascribed authority of the leader, which in turn builds capacity to act and influence. This "virtuous cycle" of increasing mana/capacity/capability continues unless the leader behaves in a way that diminishes his mana (and, therefore, leadership capacity).

A common example of mana-diminishing behaviour is self aggrandisement, such as speaking at length about one's abilities or accomplishments, as might be expected in an interview or board performance/self-assessment process. Humility and selflessness, by contrast, are examples of mana-enhancing behaviours that resonate strongly with many Maori.

Many Maori still value such concepts. This can put a Maori director in a very difficult position, however. If, for example, a Maori director doesn't act with sufficient humility or selflessness (as perceived by Maori), he may well end up with less authority to lead and influence Maori directors or other Maori stakeholders. On the other hand, a director or chair unwilling to praise himself or his accomplishments, may be perceived poorly by non-Maori associates.

b) Governance-Management Split. Although an unquestionably sound concept, the author notes that very clearly separating the strategic direction-setting and accountability roles of governance, with the operational and implementation roles of management, is not one that exists in traditional Maori leadership models. Any informed observer of the way that tribal meetings work in practice, says the author, will note that blurred lines of accountability and overlapping of decision-making between governance and management seems to be the norm (this is because virtually all the stakeholders are literally related to each other, and in a real sense, everybody is working for everybody else).

The point is, Maori directors recruited from this background may find it hard to act according to the prevailing non-Maori way

of doing things. And, finally, when a director is personally called to account (as discussed before), members of his or her own tribe may find it hard to understand that some things are the preserve of management, not governance.

c) Ways of making decisions. Maori decision-making processes (exemplified by the adage that “the long way is the short way”) are very different from the formalised decision-making processes that normally occur in board meetings. Enforced compliance of either cultural preference around such issues inevitably leaves one or both sides feeling uncomfortable at best, and aggrieved at worst.

d) Pervasive non-Maori Concepts. Common concepts in contemporary Western society can be in stark contrast to traditional Maori preferences. Examples are:

- the fact that leadership is still largely the preserve of men in traditional Maori society (which can give rise to challenging situations, for example, placing a respected kaumatua in a subordinate role to a woman, particularly if she is Maori);
- that, by comparison to Maori society, Western society is generally both secular and materialistic;
- as language is central to any leader’s effectiveness, the fact that te reo may not always be available to a Maori speaker in a board situation, can make it harder for that person; and
- that all Maori are not alike – Maori raised in urban settings may have little experience or understanding of Maori culture, for example (which makes it harder for non-Maori colleagues to genuinely address many of the issues raised in this article).

3. Inherent Difficulties

Because many Maori directors come from communities that are characterised by “serious and persistent social and economic dysfunction”, and that there are seldom simple problems facing Maori communities and their leaders, Maori directors are generally only found operating “between rocks and hard places” in fulfilling their duties.

There is the bind for Maori directors that they can generally only expect to operate in these difficult contexts because it is only in such contexts that they appear to be explicitly invited to participate! The implications of this include, all other things being equal, that Maori directors can expect on average to be less successful, and expect to be seen to be less successful, on average, in fulfilling their role.

Finally, there is the challenge of finding enough adequately skilled and experienced Maori directors in the first instance. This could mean, for example, skilled Maori persons being asked to accept more than they can reasonably handle, as well as the question (for those nominating directors) of whether it might be better to have no Maori director than an inadequately skilled Maori director.

Internet Items

Government web portal increasingly popular. The government web portal www.govt.nz is increasing in popularity amongst NZ Internet users with over 22,000 visitors a week, up 26 percent on the same time last year. Over the same period, there has been a 36 percent increase in the number of domestic visitors to the portal, taking the total number of domestic visitors a week to around 13,000. A recent survey by Victoria University confirmed that rural people were high users of government online, greatly appreciating the ability to contact government at a time that suited them. The survey also found that more than 70 percent of the participants used government on the Internet. The survey

also noted that participants had a much higher level of trust in government on the Internet than they do for the Internet in general.

International Tongue-twisters – www.uebersetzung.at/twister/index.htm – “Tie twine to three tree twigs” is merely one among nearly 400 English tongue-twisters on this so-called First International Collection of Tongue Twisters (sic). The collection is rapidly approaching 3,000 tongue twisters, in 105 languages. Aside from being fun, tongue-twisters often reveal a unique perspective on the culture of the speakers of a particular language.

Classical Music Tutorial – <http://www.wku.edu/~smithch/music/> – Specifically designed for the classical music novice, the Classical Music Navigator provides information on composers and their works, and organises the data to aid the casual listener in identifying related music. The information is organised into five compilations: a Composers list, the Basic Library of Notable Works, a Geographical Roster, an index of musical styles, and a glossary. All of the notations are cross-linked and the site also offers handy feature explanations and abbreviation lists. About two-thirds of the some 440 composers listed in the Classical Music Navigator are linked to the Classical Music Archives and its hundreds of musical files for downloading and listening pleasure.

This Day in History – <http://www.dmarie.com/timecap/> – Take a glimpse back in time with the dMarie Time Capsule. Simply enter a date and hit the Quick Page or Advanced Page button to begin. The Quick Page feature automatically generates a page for you, while the Advanced Page lets you customise the final results. The end product is a typical “this day in history” record with headlines, top entertainment, consumer prices, and more. This website houses data for the years 1800 through 2002.

Online Jigsaw Puzzles – <http://www.crea-soft.com/online-jigsaw-puzzle/> – Here are dozens of online puzzles, with your choice of difficulty and with various features to enhance your online puzzle-assembling pleasure. Just click and drag.

World’s Smallest Park – <http://www.parks.ci.portland.or.us/Parks/MillEnds.htm> – The world’s smallest park is a full 452 square inches of downtown Portland, Oregon. Mill Ends Park is located in a median strip that divides lanes of traffic, and yes, it is an official public park. Visit if you wish, but please don’t step on it.

Update

New Dates: Transport Inquiry Public Hearings

Public hearings, conducted by the Human Rights Commission as part of its Inquiry into Accessible Public Land Transport for people with disabilities, will take place in September and October. The hearings were previously scheduled to run in July and August but have been moved to allow submitters more time to review other submissions and prepare their own. All submitters now have until 31 August to make submissions or register their interest in appearing at a public hearing.

Hamilton has also been added to the list of venues for public hearings. The new schedule is:

- Dunedin: 27–28 September
- Oamaru: 29 September
- Auckland: 30 September–2 October
- Wellington: 4–6 October
- Palmerston North: 7 October
- Hamilton: 8 October

Confirmed hearing dates/venues will be posted in the public notices sections of local newspapers closer to the scheduled dates. The information will also be available by contacting the Commission Infoline (0800 496 877) or on the HRC web site at www.hrc.co.nz/Inquiry.

In May, the Commission released the Inquiry Consultation Report. The report gives an overview of accessible land transport issues in NZ and overseas, and includes the views both of people with disabilities and of people working in the transport sector. Copies are available on request (see below).

The Inquiry will consider the need for changes to legislation, regulations, policies and procedures and funding arrangements relating to the delivery of public land transport. Since 1994 discrimination against people with disabilities has been unlawful in a number of areas including access by the public to places, vehicles and facilities and in the provision of goods and services.

Submissions or indications of those wanting to present their submissions at the public hearings should be sent to: Bruce Coleman, Project Manager, Human Rights Commission, PO Box 1578, Christchurch; or to bruceec@hrc.co.nz. Submissions close 31 August 2004. Further information or copies of the Inquiry Consultation Report can be found on the Commission's web site in several formats: www.hrc.co.nz/Inquiry, or by phoning 0800 496 877, or via the TTY access number: 0800 150 111. Braille, plain language and big print versions of the report are also available on request. A marked-up version for use with screen readers is also available

PHO Update

All NZers belonging to Primary Health Organisations (PHOs) – currently over 3.5 million people – will be entitled to cheaper primary health care such as doctors' visits and prescriptions by July 2007, up to five years earlier than first anticipated. The government is to inject an extra \$415.7 million over three years to provide more affordable primary health care for everyone belonging to PHOs, as well as a standard prescription charge of not more than \$3 per item, higher subsidies for influenza injections for older people, and other benefits.

The cheaper doctors' visits and cheaper prescriptions will be rolled out for 18 to 24 year-olds in July next year, for 45 to 64-year-olds in July 2006, and for the rest of NZers, the 25 to 44-year-olds, in July 2007.

A PHO is a group of providers whose job is to look after all the people enrolled with them. The group will always include a family doctor and may also include nurses, pharmacists, dieticians, Maori health providers, mental health workers, Pacific health providers, community health workers, and others.

People can call 0800-HLTH-4-U (0800 458 448) for information on PHOs

Breastscreening Programme Extension

The BreastScreen Aotearoa programme will be extended to include younger and older women for regular two-yearly screens. As of now, all women aged 45 and up to their 70th birthday, who have not been screened within the past two years, can register through the call centre (0800 270 200) and will receive a screening appointment from the provider in their region as soon as capacity is available. This will make breast screening available to over 200,000 more NZ women, and will effectively double the size of the programme over the next four years.

It will take some time to screen all these additional women. Although women may have to wait for their first appointment, once they are in the programme they will receive regular two-yearly mammograms while they are still eligible. As capacity is built, more women will be screened. The programme has set provisional targets for the increases, with these targets to be reviewed after three months and monitored monthly after that. The targets start with an extra 2850 screens for the first three months ending 30 September 2004, increasing to 3000 per month by June 2005. This represents about 22,000 extra women screened in the first year. In the following year the number of extra women screened will increase to around 66,000.

Latest Global HIV/Aids Statistics

Thirty-eight million people around the world are now living with HIV, the UNAids agency reports. Five million new cases were diagnosed last year alone – the largest number in any one year since the epidemic began (last year, three million people died from Aids across the world). There are now 13 women infected for every 10 men, and women now make up 50 percent of those living with HIV across the world. Young people are disproportionately affected as well.

Around 1.1 million people were diagnosed with HIV in Asia last year alone – more than any previous year. Significant increases in HIV infections were seen in China, Indonesia and Vietnam. There are an increasing number of HIV cases being seen in India (it is now home to one in seven of the HIV positive people worldwide).

The HIV epidemic is continuing to grow in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, where 1.3 million people are living with HIV. Russia, which has over 3 million injecting drug users, is one of the worst-affected countries. But HIV infections are also on the increase in the US and Western Europe.

The global estimates in this latest report are lower than in previous years. However, UNAids says this is because better surveillance data from individual countries and improved methods of estimating HIV rates have led to a revision of 2001 figures, rather than because the number of people living with HIV has fallen.

One of the few encouraging sets of figures comes from Thailand. That country has managed to cut the number infected with HIV by encouraging men to use condoms more and reduce their use of brothels. The number of new infections in the country fell from a peak of 140,000 in 1991 to 21,000 in 2003.

Study Examines Gas Heaters and Health

A new study will look at the effects of gas heaters on people's health. The study is the first in the world to compare the health and environmental effects of unflued gas heaters and electric heaters over a long period. The study will involve 800 households in four cities over three winters. All of the households will include a child who has been hospitalised in the past year with asthma. The study will look at the level of moisture in the homes, and the emissions that come out of some heaters, such as nitrogen dioxide.

New Heart Treatment Guidelines Commissioned

New guidelines about the best way to improve NZ's treatment of people with heart attack or severe acute heart disease are being developed. The Cardiac Society will be working with the Ministry of Health and the NZ Guidelines Group to produce the guidelines, which are expected to be produced next year.

Heart Disease in NZ

Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in NZ, accounting for more than four in every 10 deaths. Cardiovascular diseases affect the heart and circulatory system. Of the different types of cardiovascular diseases, coronary artery disease is the major cause of death, followed by stroke, which is the greatest cause of disability in older people. Cardiovascular disease is also the leading cause of years lost to premature mortality, accounting for a third of life years lost between 45 and 64 years of age.

Although coronary artery disease is declining in NZ, it still results in the highest number of deaths of cardiovascular disease-related deaths (91 per 100,000). It is the second leading cause of death following cancer. Coronary heart disease accounted for 23 percent of all deaths in 1999, of which just over 52 percent were attributable to myocardial infarction (heart attack). Eighty-five percent of coronary heart disease deaths occur in those over 65 years.

Cardiac disease affects everyone but the burden of cardiovascular disease is greatest among Maori and Pacific people. Coronary heart disease is the leading single cause of death for Maori; and Pacific peoples have the highest mortality rate for cerebrovascular disease and the highest hospital discharge rate for stroke.

In addition, the following factors increase cardiovascular risk:

- **Cigarette smoking** – linked with a two- to three-fold increase in coronary artery disease, stroke and peripheral vascular disease.
- **Hypertension** (high blood pressure) – is a major risk factor for coronary artery disease and stroke. Twenty-two percent of men over 15 years old and 18 percent of women have high blood pressure.
- **Cholesterol** – the higher the cholesterol level the higher the risk of death from cardiovascular disease.
- **Diabetes** is associated with a two- to three-fold increased risk in coronary artery disease in men and a four- to five-fold increase in premenopausal women.
- **Obesity** – obese people (that is, with a body mass index (BMI) of 30 or greater) are two to three times more likely to develop coronary heart disease.
- **Physical inactivity** – people who are sedentary are nearly twice as likely to die from coronary artery disease as active people. Forty percent of NZers are physically inactive.
- **Absolute risk and cumulative effect of risk factors.** Risk factors are cumulative, so the presence of two or more risk factors results in a higher absolute risk of cardiovascular disease.

However, people can reduce their risk of cardiovascular disease by:

- quitting smoking (getting advice from a doctor and nicotine replacement therapy);
- reducing their high blood pressure (eat less salt, lose weight, eat better and take blood pressure reducing medication);
- improve their lipid profiles, lower their cholesterol levels (dietary advice, the use of plant sterols, weight loss, exercise and most effectively – using cholesterol-lowering medicines);
- more intensively controlling their diabetes; and
- changing lifestyle factors (eating better, reducing weight, and increasing physical activity).

Survey on Workplace Ethics

A new survey on ethical behaviour in the workplace shows that a quarter of NZ workers admit to taking office stationery and supplies for personal use even though less than half approve of such conduct. The survey, by global recruitment agency, Kelly Services, of almost 1,000 workers in NZ found that many were prepared to “bend the rules” on acceptable ethical practices including taking office supplies, using office software at home, using unlicensed software, and using the Internet at work for personal use. Many of those who did not approve of such practices admitted to committing them, effectively breaching their own ethical code of conduct.

The survey found that 53 percent admit to using their employer’s Internet for personal use. Twenty-four percent have taken stationery and office supplies. Ten percent have used office software at home, and nearly 3 percent have used unlicensed software at work. A further 2.8 percent openly admitted to accessing personal information on colleagues. And a higher education does not guarantee against ethical breaches. Those most likely to bend the rules were males in the 20–34 age group with tertiary qualifications.

However, when asked their attitude to certain workplace activities, workers were far more prepared to identify practices they regarded as wrong. Although 53 percent used the Internet at work for personal use, only 32 percent said it was acceptable. Although 24 percent had taken office stationery and supplies, only 7 percent approved of such behaviour.

The exception to the rule was the illegal use of use of office software, which many workers clearly felt was not such a serious issue. Although nearly 3 percent had used unlicensed software at work, 9 percent actually said it was acceptable. And although 11 percent admitted to using the employer’s software at home, 17 percent believed it was acceptable to do so. The least acceptable practice was accessing personal information on colleagues, with just 1 percent approving.

Climate Summary – July

Rainfall: Rainfall was at least 300 percent of average in eastern Bay of Plenty, and also above average in western Bay of Plenty, Gisborne, and in and around Blenheim. However, below average rainfall occurred in many northern and western North Island regions and throughout much of the South Island.

Temperatures: The July national average temperature of 7.3°C was 0.6°C below normal. Mean temperatures were below average in most districts, and as much as 1.5°C below average in parts of Buller, Canterbury, and Otago. Overnight minimum temperatures were well below average.

Sunshine: Sunshine totals were above average throughout much of NZ, with new July records at Dargaville and Tekapo. However, lower than usual totals occurred in Northland, Gisborne, and Hawke's Bay.

The Main Centres: Of the four main centres Auckland was the sunniest and Dunedin the driest. Rainfall was below average in Auckland, Christchurch, and Dunedin, and above average in Wellington. Temperatures were below average in Wellington, Christchurch, and Dunedin, and near average in Auckland. Sunshine hours were above normal in all four main centres, especially Dunedin.

Thanks to NIWA

Language Line Growing In Size and Services

Language Line, a telephone interpreting service funded by the government, is now open earlier (by an hour) and has added more agencies and languages to its menu. Language Line has almost doubled the number of agencies from which clients with little or no English-speaking ability can request advice and certain services in their own language. Japanese and Spanish have been added to the 35 languages already offered by the service.

The participating agencies are: the Accident Compensation Corporation, Department of Internal Affairs, Housing NZ Corporation, NZ Immigration Service, NZ Police, National Poisons Centre, Tertiary Education Commission (English for Migrants), Commerce Commission, Ministry of Economic Development, and Ministry of Social Development. Language Line operates from 9am to 6pm (Monday to Friday) and is managed by the Office of Ethnic Affairs.

Community Patrols Reduce Petty Crime

New research shows the incidence of petty crime has plunged in many areas, with much of the drop thought to be due to volunteer community patrols at night. According to a Canterbury University report, the fall is as much as 80 percent over the last 12 months. Seventy-two districts have joined the community patrols programme with 150 volunteers checking their communities at night and phoning police about anything suspicious. More districts are joining the programme all the time.

Thanks to "NewsRoom"

Identity Fraud Team Being Set Up

A new police unit is being set up to tackle the growing problem of identity fraud. One of the first tasks of the unit will be a method to make it easier for victims of identity crime to prove their innocence (having identity documents stolen creates serious problems that can take years to sort out). The team is considering a system used overseas where police provide victims with an affidavit of their identity that can be presented to banks and institutions that have been duped. For its part, the Department of Internal Affairs says it sees at least one passport fraud case a fortnight.

Thanks to "NewsRoom"

Lifting Boys' Educational Achievement

The membership of a reference group that will provide advice on boys' educational achievement was announced recently. The group's main job will be to build support for effective practice

and innovation in teaching boys. Although most boys do well, some subject-based differences occur as boys and girls go through secondary school and this is where effort is to be focused. There is not much difference between boys' and girls' achievement up to the end of primary school, and it appears that their results become similar again at university level. Members of the group are: Mike Leach, Paul Baker, Chris Saunders, Ian Baldwin, and Bill Hagan.

Text Messaging to Combat Truancy

The Ministry of Education is calling for tenders for a pilot project involving the texting and e-mailing of messages to parents to get truant students back at school. As part of the pilot, a small selection of schools in the Wellington region will be provided with software which connects to the schools' electronic attendance systems. The software automatically sends text messages and e-mails to parents when their children are absent without a reason.

Next year the Ministry of Education will pilot a new student management system that automatically tracks enrolment information when students move schools. This is designed to reduce the time needed to re-enrol students, reduce the numbers of false referrals to the Non-Enrolment Truancy Services (NETs), and speed up the time it takes to notify NETs when students fail to re-enrol.

First Housing Partnerships Signed

Six housing partnerships worth \$3.2 million were announced recently. The projects are the first proposals accepted by the government's \$63 million Housing Innovation Fund which was announced as part of Budget 2003. The Fund was established to encourage third sector groups (not-for-profit, non-government, community), iwi/Maori organisations and local government to increase their involvement in providing rental housing and home ownership opportunities for low-income earners and people with special needs. The first six projects will provide housing for more than 41 people living in Ponsonby, Manurewa, New Plymouth, Rotorua, Hamilton and Palmerston North.

NZers Favour Renewable Energy Growth

An EECA study shows that NZers overwhelmingly support wind energy and hydro electricity. Wind power comes out top in the EECA commissioned survey, conducted by UMR research, of attitudes towards electricity generation options. Some 82 percent of respondents approved or strongly approved of wind power. Hydro generation was the next most preferred option with 79 percent approval while geothermal scored 67 percent.

The report also indicates low levels of the "not in my back yard" or NIMBY syndrome. When people were asked if they support a wind farm being built in their local area, support dropped to 60 percent, with only 18 percent opposed. Only nine percent did not want them even if they could not see or hear them.

NZ has an abundant wind resource capable of producing about 20 percent of NZ's electricity needs. The perceived main problem with wind, that it is unreliable, is not an issue in NZ. Wind and hydro are ideal complementary renewable power sources because when the wind does not blow, we effectively have electricity stored in our hydro lakes.

National Environmental Standards Approved

The government has approved the first ever national environmental standards (14 of them) aimed at air quality and

controlling landfill gas emissions. The new standards will replace previous guidelines, introduced in 1994 and updated in 2002, and will become law by regulation under the RMA.

There are seven standards for dioxins and other toxics, five for ambient (outdoor) air quality, one for the design of new wood burners in urban areas, and one requiring landfills to collect and destroy their greenhouse gas emissions.

The first of the standards comes into effect this October, banning specific activities that discharge dioxins and other toxics to air. From September 2005, the design standard for new wood burners in urban areas applies. From October 2006, school and hospital incinerators will be banned unless they obtain resource consent. The timing of the standards allows transition for individuals and businesses affected.

The ambient air quality standards set a maximum level for the amount of fine particles, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide and ozone in the air. When levels of these particles and gases are high, there is a related increase in hospital admissions for respiratory illness.

Regional councils are responsible for managing the air in their regions. From October next year, councils will have to monitor and publicly report on air quality levels and if and when the standards are exceeded. Locations that exceed the ambient standards will need to trend towards improvement by 2013. From 2013, no resource consent can be granted to discharge fine particles to air in areas that still exceed the outdoor air quality standards.

Minimising Sulphur Hexafluoride (SF6) Emissions

Government, national grid operator Transpower, electricity generators and large electricity users have signed a voluntary agreement to minimise emissions of sulphur hexafluoride (SF6), the most potent greenhouse gas. Through the agreement, users of SF6, mainly used in electricity transmission and distribution systems, undertake to:

- adopt best practice to minimise SF6 emissions;
- set and meet emissions targets (in the case of major users); and
- report on SF6 use in accordance with internationally recognised guidelines.

In turn, the government will exempt users of SF6 from costs arising from its use under climate change policies. Sulphur hexafluoride (SF6) is a synthetic, inert, non-flammable, non-toxic, odourless and colourless gas five times heavier than air. It is exceptionally stable once released into the atmosphere with an estimated lifetime of 800 to 10,000 years. It has the highest global warming potential (GWP) of all known substances.

Seven New Lizard Species Discovered Since 2002

Many of you may not realise that in addition to our unique native bird life, weta and giant snails, NZ is home to a wider variety of lizards than almost any other temperate country in the world. This is because NZ has been isolated from other land masses for 85 million years. We have at least 80 species and subspecies of lizard that we know of and we are still finding more. In the past two and a half years, four new species of skink and three new species of gecko have been discovered. Two of these species were spotted for the first time this year. The new species are:

- **Sinbad Valley Skink:** Discovered in March in the mountains of Fiordland during a survey for geckos. Large, spectacularly coloured and unlike any other known species – black with green spots on the back and salmon-pink spots on the sides. Unusually long toes and tail.
- **Rangitata Skink:** Discovered in Canterbury early this year during a DOC survey. Much larger relative of the long-toed skink. Chestnut brown with very prominent pale stripes. Indications are it is a distinct species that does not interbreed with the long-toed skink despite occupying same habitat.
- **Whirinaki Skink:** Discovered last year in a forest clearing in Whirinaki and still known only from video footage. Appears to be different from all known species. It has a distinct colour pattern (brown with indistinct long stripes), head shape and scale count.
- **Te Kakahu Skink:** Discovered in 2002 on an island in Fiordland. So far has only been found in one small area of low, open vegetation at the top of a cliff. Has distinct colour pattern differences to other species, and different scale counts.
- **Mount Benson Gecko/Split Rostral Gecko:** These probable new species were found in the Kahurangi National Park, the first in 2002, and the other in 2003. They appear to be quite different from other species, and each other. The split rostral species differs from all other geckos in the world, not just NZ, because the scale at the tip of its nose is divided in two. Genetic studies are now being made of these species.
- **Moke Valley Gecko:** Discovered in the South Island high country during tenure review in 2002. A large robust gecko, which genetic tests have established is different from a similar gecko species discovered near Wanaka in 1997.

NZ Contribution to Solomon Islands Continues

NZ's military contribution to the Regional Assistance Mission in Solomon Islands (RAMSI) will continue for a further two years. The military contribution to 31 July 2006 will comprise up to two, three-month rotations of a NZ Defence Force infantry platoon of 33 personnel, with a support contingent of up to three further personnel for each rotation. The platoon will be rotated around the five troop-contributing countries, of NZ, Australia, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, and Tonga. NZ will also contribute one officer to the RAMSI headquarters for two years, till 31 July 2006.

Assets of Crown Forestry Rental Trust Grow

The assets of the Crown Forestry Rental Trust continue to grow, thanks largely to a tax refund of \$50 million. The Trust, which funds research for Treaty claims from the rental on Crown forest lands, has net assets worth \$426 million, which is an increase of \$50 million on the previous year. That's the same amount given back to the Trust in a tax refund following a Privy Council ruling that the body is a charitable trust and is exempt from paying income tax.

Thanks to "NewsRoom"

Expats Given Assistance To Develop Our Global Connections

The Kiwi Expat Association (KEA) has been awarded \$200,000 from the Ministry of Economic Development's Sector Initiatives Fund, to assist them in building up NZ's global connections. KEA has already been working effectively with government agencies such as NZ Trade and Enterprise (NZTE) and has been able to assist a number of NZ firms to enter global markets.

Labour Department Restructure

Big changes in the structure and senior management at the Department of Labour announced in March, have gone into effect. The department now has three operational groups: Workplace, Workforce, and Work Opportunities, replacing the former NZ Immigration Service (NZIS), the Occupational Safety & Health Service (OSH), the Employment Relations Service (ERS), the Community Employment Group (CEG), and the Labour Market Policy Group (LMPG).

The senior management team is: Deputy Secretary – Workplace: Andrew Annakin; Deputy Secretary – Workforce: Mary Anne Thompson; Deputy Secretary – Work Opportunities: Andrew Crisp; Deputy Secretary – Strategy: Marie France; Deputy Secretary – Corporate: Brian Sage; Deputy Secretary – Legal: Graeme Buchanan; Deputy Secretary – Maori: Meka Whaitiri.

Lotto Changes

From 8 August the Lotto game will undergo the following changes:

- Guaranteed Millionaire is being removed (First Division will now be at least a million dollars every week and will be shared evenly between winners, and it will jackpot when not won);
- Second Division winnings will go from \$4,000 to an average of \$20,000;
- the prize for winning Sixth Division will increase from the current \$10 to an average of \$24 (prizes in all other divisions will also increase);
- there will be new price of 60c per line for Lotto (from 50c): a Lucky Dip will now cost \$6 rather than \$5, a Power Dip \$11 rather than \$10 and a Triple Dip \$13 rather than \$12, and the minimum entry point to the game will be \$2.40 for four lines;
- there will only be one Bonus Ball, not two; and
- there will be a new live game feature, giving every Lotto ticket holder another chance to win a million dollars, or other great prizes, each week.

Developing and Preserving Marae Facilities

The Lottery Marae Heritage and Facilities Committee has allocated \$1.4 million to 24 marae conservation projects around NZ. Three grants in this funding round include:

- \$360,000 to Motatau Marae in northwest Auckland for redevelopment and restoration of the marae complex (an isolated rural marae of great significance to nga iwi o Te Tai Tokerau);
- \$5,000 to Te Unga Waka Marae in Epsom, Auckland, to conduct a study on options for development and conservation work; and
- \$5,000 to Te Poho o Rawiri in Gisborne for restoration of the wharekai and replacement of spouting on the wharenui (this marae is in a very central location in Gisborne city and is widely used for community events).

For more information on Lottery Grants visit www.dia.govt.nz (click on "Lottery Grants") or www.cdgo.govt.nz, or call 0800 824 824

AgResearch Moving

Crown research agency, AgResearch has confirmed its plans to move all but 11 of its scientists and support staff, currently based at Wallaceville in Upper Hutt, to new science centres in

Palmerston North and Dunedin. The restructuring is part of a larger plan to create three national centres of science collaboration.

The three centres will be:

- An Institute of Animal Health which is currently being established. By 2006 it will be consolidated on site at Massey University. New animal facilities will also be built at the AgResearch Grasslands campus to support the Institute.
- A new National Centre for Biosecurity and Emerging Diseases based at Wallaceville. The new unit will bring together researchers on infectious diseases, disease outbreaks, investigation and diagnosis. AgResearch's Infectious Diseases diagnostic team will stay at Wallaceville where they will become part of the new unit.
- An Institute of Reproductive Research is planned for Dunedin, in conjunction with the University of Otago, bringing together NZ's top reproductive scientists. However, AgResearch's reproductive science team will stay on at Wallaceville until 2008 to minimise disruption to its current research programmes.

Fonterra's Record-Breaking Season...

Fonterra has confirmed record-breaking dairy collection and sales figures for last season. The company collected more than 14 billion litres of milk, which is nearly 5 percent more than the previous record in 2002/03. It also made US\$5.1 billion in sales – nearly \$1 billion more than the previous record.

...and Final Payout Increased

Higher world dairy product prices and tight control over costs have enabled the dairy exporter Fonterra to increase its final payout to farmers. The group's 13,000 farmer-owners will get \$4.25 per kilogram of milksolids (kgMS) – up 2 cents on earlier predictions and 17 percent higher than last season's \$3.63 per kgMS.

Waterways Protection

Nine of the country's 13 regional councils have now developed clean water action plans under an accord with Fonterra. The plans cover 84 percent of the company's farmer suppliers. The Dairying and Clean Streams Accord is an on-going agreement between Fonterra, regional councils, unitary authorities, MfE and MAF. The priorities are:

- excluding dairy cattle from streams, rivers, lakes and their banks;
- farm races to include bridges or culverts where stock regularly cross a watercourse;
- that dairy farm effluent is properly treated and discharged;
- that nutrients are managed effectively to minimise losses to ground and surface waters; and
- regional significant wetlands are to be fenced and their natural water regimes are to be protected.

Besides protecting waterways, the Accord will directly benefit farmers who need clean water for cleaning machinery, which is a requirement of the Food Safety Authority. The Accord only applies to those farms which supply Fonterra.

Costs of Electricity Commission

The charges consumers will pay to fund the Electricity Commission have been revealed. Consumers will pay around \$18.20 for the commission this year. The Commission was set up to provide

overall governance of the electricity industry. The main responsibility, apart from industry oversight, is provision of reserve, dry year electricity generation capacity. This will take up about a third of the levy.

New Cultural Diplomacy Programme

A \$2.35 million per year Cultural Diplomacy International Programme aims to promote NZ and NZ's culture overseas, in order to promote economic, trade, tourism, diplomatic, and cultural interests. The programme would use organisations like the NZ Symphony Orchestra, the Royal NZ Ballet, or Black Grace, or individuals like Dame Malvina Major, in a way which promotes NZ's cultural heritage while leveraging off their profile to enhance NZ trade and tourism.

Legislation Notes

Pawnbroking Bill Passes

This Bill will make it harder for criminals to dispose of stolen goods through secondhand dealers and pawnbrokers, and make it easier for police to recover stolen goods and to solve property crimes. The Bill's measures include:

- dealers will have to sight approved photo ID and record the contact details and signature of everyone selling them goods;
- five-year licenses for dealers and pawnbrokers, renewable only after dishonesty/character checks, will replace current lifetime ones;
- staff accepting goods, or supervising the acceptance of goods, will require certificates indicating they do not have dishonesty convictions;
- licenses and certificates will be in photo ID form, with details recorded on a centralised electronic register;
- businesses will have to keep records of employees' names, addresses, phone numbers and certificate numbers;
- Internet auctioneers and promoters of markets and fairs will have to keep records of who is selling secondhand goods through their event;
- the existing, outdated list of furs, suits and gramophones will be replaced with a more generalised list of goods that must be retained for 14 days to enable police checks (the new list includes items frequently targeted by burglars such as compact discs, computers, and DVD players);
- police able to inspect on demand all registers and goods held for sale;
- penalties will be increased from the current maximum of \$200 to \$20,000 for unlicensed dealing or pawnbroking, or \$10,000 for not keeping a register.

Pawnbrokers will be required to keep unredeemed items for at least three months. Unclaimed items must then be offered for sale via public or Internet auction, unless the pawnbroker and pledger reach agreement for an immediate and unconditional cash sale. If the redemption price is not reached at auction, the pawnbroker can then sell it by other means.

Land Transport Amendment Bill

This Bill tabled in Parliament recently, aims to improve safety and reduce the road toll through the amendment of existing legislation. Proposals in the bill include action to:

- stop those convicted of serious sexual or violence offences from holding P (passenger) licenses;
- effect tougher enforcement measures for repeat drink-drivers, repeat disqualified drivers and those that drive at excessive speed;
- no change to existing speed or blood alcohol limits, but a reduction in the amount of alcohol at which roadside license disqualification is triggered; and
- tighten up licensing laws around the operation of public service vehicles.

The Bill will result in changes to existing legislation including the Land Transport Act 1998, Transport Act 1962, Transport Services Licensing Act 1989 and subordinate legislation, and the Boilers, Lifts and Cranes Act 1950.

Death and Asset Distributions

The government is to legislate to clarify the income tax rules on transfers of assets at death and liabilities to beneficiaries. The changes, to be included in the taxation bill planned for this year, will apply only to assets and liabilities which are already in the tax base such as buildings for which depreciation is being claimed (e.g., rental properties and land or shares for which the gain is taxable). The government says the vast majority of estates will not be affected as their assets are not in the tax base.

The current tax law is unclear about the tax treatment of "in kind" distributions of assets from trusts and estates, as well as gifts of all kinds regardless of the circumstances. The three main proposals are:

- a disposal and acquisition of a taxpayer's assets and liabilities will be deemed to occur at market value, on the day of his or her death;
- "in kind" distributions of assets by companies and trusts (including estates) will be treated as dispositions and acquisitions at market value; and
- gifts will be treated in the same way as "in kind" distributions.

Exclusions will relate to estates left to spouses who are the only beneficiaries, to forestry assets on the owner's death, and to simple estates when the assets are left to charity, or to close relations.

Helping Control Illegal Traffic in Cultural Heritage Objects

NZ intends joining two international conventions designed to prevent the illegal trafficking of cultural heritage objects. The two conventions are the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, and the 1995 UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects.

The conventions will enable NZ to secure the return from overseas of important cultural heritage objects, and will help NZ return the heritage items of other countries which are found to have been imported illegally into NZ. Amendments to legislation will be needed for NZ to accede to these conventions, and these are being addressed through the Antiquities Amendment Bill due to be introduced to Parliament later this year.

Appointments

Christopher Allan and Helen Winkelmann have been appointed as *Judges of the High Court*.

Michael Ring, Harry Waalkens, Miriam Dean, and Francis Cooke have been appointed as *Queen's Counsel*. Within the government, the following changes to the Executive were announced:

- Mahara Okeroa, who is the MP for Te Tai Tonga and Chair of the Maori Affairs Select Committee, will serve as *Parliamentary Under-Secretary* to the Ministers of Maori Affairs, Education, and Conservation;
- John Tamihere, as *Associate Minister of Commerce*, will pick up the responsibility for building and housing regulatory functions which are being transferred to the new Department of Building and Housing from the Ministry of Economic Development, and will subsequently take on responsibilities for the new department when it is established;
- Dover Samuels is being appointed *Associate Minister of Housing* to assist the Minister of Housing in the area of Maori housing;
- Harry Duynhoven will become *Minister for Transport Safety*, in addition to his current role as Associate Minister of Energy; and
- Mita Ririnui will become *Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Minister of Health*, in addition to his existing responsibilities to the Ministers of Corrections and Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations.

The membership of the *Maori Affairs Select Committee* has changed. The committee members are now: Nanaia Mahuta (Labour); Mahara Okeroa (Labour) Chairperson); Mita Ririnui (Labour); Metiria Turei (Green); Wayne Mapp (National); Pita Paraone (NZ First); Georgina te Heuheu (National) (Deputy Chairperson).

Alastair Bisley and Brian Lynch have been appointed as *Directors* of the *NZ Meat Board*. A new appointment to the *Food Standards Australia NZ (FSANZ) Board* is Dr Laurence Eyres; and Professor Christopher Hudson and Dr Heather Yeatman have been reappointed. The *School Trustees Association* has elected a new *president*, Chris Heines. Ken Williams has been appointed to the *National Pacific Radio Trust Board*. Alastair Carruthers is the new *Chair of the Arts Board of Creative NZ*. Two other Board members, Judith Fyfe and Graeme Gorton, have been re-appointed. Yani Johanson has as been appointed as a *Trustee to the Road Safety Trust* as the youth representative. Keri Kaa has been re-appointed as a member of the *Board of Te Waka Toi*. Two current members of the *Board of Te Papa* – David Gascoigne and Mark Solomon – have been re-appointed for a further term of two years. Josie Karanga has also been re-appointed for a period of three years. Peter Brunt has been reappointed for three years as a member of the *Council of Creative NZ*. The current *Chair*, Barrie Everard and members, Bill Birnie, Lisa Chatfield, Bob Harvey and James Wallace, have been re-appointed to the *NZ Film Commission*, each for a further two-year term. Dr Merata Kawharu has been re-appointed to the *Board of the NZ Historic Places Trust* for a three-year term. Tumu te Heuheu has been appointed to the *Maori Heritage Council*. Dr Monty Soutar has been re-appointed to the Council. Diana Fenwick has been re-appointed to the *Board of the NZSO*. Adrienne Young Cooper has been appointed to the board of the *Maritime Safety Authority*. Hilary Philips is the new *President* of the *Young Farmers* organisation, and Ben Allomes and Stephen Belton have been elected as *Vice Presidents*. New *Board members* of the *NZ Railways Corporation* are Mike Williams, Ray Potroz and Clive Matthewson.

Resources Available

Kiwis Have Their Say on Work-Life Balance

Most Kiwis like the idea, but achieving a balanced life isn't always easy, according to a report "Achieving Balanced Lives and Employment – what NZers are saying about work-life balance". The report summarises the consultations that a Work-Life Balance Project team recently completed. The report shows that many people face significant barriers to achieving a desired work-life balance.

The main barriers preventing people from achieving work-life balance are:

- lack of access to quality, affordable childcare to suit working parents;
- difficulty for those on low hourly wage rates, who need to work long hours to earn enough income to support their families;
- undervaluing of caring and voluntary work;
- long hours and physically or mentally intensive work, without sufficient recovery time;
- "precarious" employment arrangements;
- lack of workplace policies and unsupportive workplace cultures;
- pressures on small employers to "do everything" in the business, which impacts on their own work-life balance, and their ability to think about work-life balance for staff; and
- the need for government to lead by example.

Rural People

Many people working in rural areas are self-employed farmers and have similar work-life balance issues as other self-employed people. But for rural families work-life balance also has specific meanings. The necessity to travel distances to get children to and from school transport emerged as a theme, as did a lack of suitably skilled people to relieve farmers so they can take a break. One respondent said:

"Being on a farm brings all the positives of living where you work – minimal travel, home meals, contact with children, etc – but the negatives sometimes counter those: children go with parents on farm work (e.g., after school/weekends) rather than parents going with children to do what they wish (e.g. trip to beach/hit of tennis/bush walk, etc), work is always staring you in the face making it hard to get away and stop working, e.g., on Sundays, etc; work loads can make it difficult to take holidays."

Some rural submissions expressed the view that balance was very difficult to find, and also highlighted the fact that for family businesses work and life issues are intertwined. One person said:

"There is no balance, if you live in a rural community, your work, family and community commitments just feed off each other. Example: the people who work for us are treated like our family (some actually are), but if they have personal or health problems, they become your concerns too. If you ignore them, they could affect you in the long run."

The report can be downloaded from the Work-Life Balance Project website (www.worklife.govt.nz). Hard copies are available by emailing worklife@dol.govt.nz, or by phoning the Department of Labour on 04 915 4409

Progress on Water Quality and Allocation Programme

Progress towards a framework to manage NZ's freshwater quality and allocation has been highlighted with the release of three independent reports. The reports were commissioned as part of the Water Programme of Action – a two-year, comprehensive review of water management led by the Ministry for the Environment and MAF.

The reports provide information on:

- the range of economic instruments that could be applied to manage water quality;
- individual's and groups' actual and perceived rights of water allocation; and
- individual's and groups' actual and perceived rights of the impact of their land use on water quality.

The Water Programme of Action covers sustainable and equitable freshwater allocation and use, maintaining freshwater quality, and identifying nationally important water bodies.

The first phase of the programme is nearly complete and these three papers are the first of eight information-gathering reports. The programme is expected to deliver decisions on how to improve water management in NZ and the tools and resources required by late 2005.

The reports will be available on the Ministry for the Environment's website at www.mfe.govt.nz under "Publications"

Helping Councils Develop Sustainable Tourism Strategies

Local councils now have a new tool to help them develop tourism strategies that better manage the impacts of tourism growth, while still capturing the benefits. The Tourism Planning Toolkit will help councils plan for tourism, taking into account all the factors, so the positive impacts can be maximised and the negative impacts can be clearly identified and minimised. The web-based resource has been developed by Lincoln University with significant input from Local Government NZ and the Ministry of Tourism.

Talent Identification and Development (Sports)

A lack of success at a young age doesn't mean a child won't become a champion; deliberate practice is as important as innate talent; and the acquisition of basic motor skills in early childhood is crucial, are all findings revealed by a new SPARC-commissioned Talent Identification and Development Taskforce. The Taskforce looked at whether it is possible to predict future talent based on current performance, and if international methods could be applied to NZ to significantly raise performance standards.

The Taskforce concluded there is no simple way to accurately identify future talent as talent is multi-dimensional. It can emerge at any point during an athlete's development, and is affected by factors such as genetics, environment, mental, physiology and support. However, it is possible to create an environment that increases the chances of athletes fulfilling their potential. What's needed, says the Taskforce, is an holistic, long term development process, with an on-going identification strategy built into it. But it should be noted that it takes an average of 12-13 years of deliberate training and development in

order to develop talent in most athletes, and the foundations are laid in early childhood, so changes will not be seen overnight.

The Taskforce particularly emphasised the importance of ensuring that all children master fundamental motor skills at an early age, as one of the cornerstones of the successful development of talent is that every child should be physically literate. They also identified quality physical activity programmes in schools as the best foundation for the initial stages of a young athlete's talent development. Other important aspects are quality coaching, supportive parents, emphasis on the joy of sport rather than pressure to perform and access to opportunities.

The Taskforce's report, "Linking Promise to the Podium", is available on the SPARC website: www.sparc.org.nz/whatwedo/pdfs/Promise_Podium.pdf

Long-term Residential Care Booklet

The Ministry of Health is distributing a booklet to ensure that older people and their families have access to good information about long term care for older people. The booklet is called "Long-term Residential Care in a Rest Home or Hospital, What you need to know". The booklet covers issues such as what people need to pay towards residential care, and how those who cannot afford to pay the full cost can get access to government help.

The booklet also explains what services are not covered by government funding. Examples include, transport to outside social functions, toll calls or private phones. People can be charged for these services.

The booklet will be available from Income Support Service Centres, Age Concern and Grey Power branches and CABs. The document is also available on the Ministry of Health's website: <http://www.moh.govt.nz> and can be requested from Ministry of Health Publications, c/o Wickliffe Press, PO Box 932, Dunedin, or by emailing moh@wickliffe.co.nz. For telephone queries, contact Residential Care Line on 0800725 463, or from Auckland (09) 375 4395

NZ Housing Research

The Centre for Housing Research, Aotearoa NZ (CHRANZ) has released two research reports:

- Housing Costs and Affordability (DTZ Research, June 2004). This report identifies and scopes the key issues associated with housing costs and affordability in NZ. The recommended research programme seeks to address what does government (central and local) need to know to better design, implement and measure the results of its interventions seeking to improve affordability?
- The Impact of Financial Circumstances and Tenure Choice (BERL, June 2004). This report recommends a research programme addressing the relationship between financial circumstances and tenure choices for those NZers in the 18-40 year-old cohort. In the author's view, in developing a housing research agenda it is important to note that the context facing the current 18-40 year old group is very different to the context within which tenure choices were exercised by the same age group in previous decades.

A full copy of the reports are available on the CHRANZ web site at www.chranz.co.nz

RMA Information

The Ministry for the Environment has released “An Everyday Guide to the Resource Management Act”. The guide includes an overview of the RMA, along with a number of practical guides for those contemplating involvement in the RMA process.

The Guide can be downloaded from <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/rma/everday-guides-jun04.html>

Craig Matthews
Editor

Contact details for the Department of Internal Affairs' Community Development Advisers:

Kaitaia	26 Puckey Avenue, Kaitaia Tel (09) 408 0034; Fax (09) 408 0923
Whangarei	PO Box 1755, Whangarei Tel (09) 430 2205; Fax (09) 430 2209
Waitakere	PO Box 83 209, Edmonton Tel (09) 834 9701; Fax (09) 834 9705
Manukau	PO Box 76 451, Manukau City Tel (09) 263 7372; Fax (09) 262 0606
Auckland	PO Box 2220, Auckland Tel (09) 362 7914; Fax (09) 362 7941
Hamilton	PO Box 19 230, Hamilton Tel (07) 839 9960; Fax (07) 839 9955
Rotorua	PO Box 3041, Rotorua Tel (07) 343 1680; Fax (07) 343 1689
Gisborne	PO Box 254, Gisborne Tel (06) 868 1915; Fax (06) 868 1964
Hawke's Bay	PO Box 1042, Napier Tel (06) 834 1350; Fax (06) 834 1274
New Plymouth	PO Box 331, New Plymouth Tel (06) 759 8246; Fax (06) 759 8094
Palmerston North	PO Box 247, Palmerston North Tel (06) 355 8088; Fax (06) 355 8084
Wellington	PO Box 30 454, Lower Hutt Tel (04) 570 5386; Fax (04) 570 5381
Nelson	PO Box 1149, Nelson Tel 0800 660 900 or (03) 546 0904; Fax (03) 548 2488
West Coast	PO Box 33, Greymouth Tel (03) 768 1001, (03) 768 1002 or (03) 768 1003; Fax (03) 768 4200
Christchurch	PO Box 4033, Christchurch Tel (03) 353 8290; Fax (03) 353 8299
Dunedin	PO Box 5341, Dunedin Tel (03) 479 6515; Fax (03) 479 6519
Invercargill	PO Box 501, Invercargill Tel (03) 218 0701; Fax (03) 218 6411 COGS Ph: (03) 218 0702

The MAF/Internal Affairs objective in circulating the Rural Bulletin is to facilitate a two-way information flow between the government and rural people, so that rural people have the opportunity for input into government programmes and policies.

Please photocopy the Bulletin as you wish and distribute it to others in your area. If you would like more information about any of the content of the Bulletin, contact the relevant government department/organisation, or contact the following Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) staff:

Alan Walker

Director, Policy Information
& Regions
Email: Walkera@maf.govt.nz

PO Box 2526
Wellington
Tel (04) 474 4100
Fax (04) 474 4206

Craig Matthews

Editor, Rural Bulletin
Email: Matthewsc@maf.govt.nz

PO Box 2526
Wellington
Tel (04) 474 4100
Fax (04) 474 4206

Philip Journeaux

Regional Team Leader
Email: Journeauxp@maf.govt.nz

Ruakura Agriculture
Centre
Private Bag 3123
Hamilton
Tel (07) 856 2832
Fax (07) 838 5921

John Vaney

Regional Team Leader
Email: Vaneyj@maf.govt.nz

Forest Research Campus
PO Box 1340
Rotorua
Tel (07) 348 0089
Fax (07) 347 7173

Grant McFadden

Regional Team Leader
Email: Mcfaddeng@maf.govt.nz

PO Box 20 280
Bishopdale
Tel (03) 358 1860
Fax (03) 358 1861

Trish Burborough

Regional Team Leader
Email: Burborough@maf.govt.nz

PO Box 5648
Dunedin
Tel (03) 477 8454
Fax (03) 477 9144

Disclaimer: While every effort has been made to ensure that the information herein is accurate, MAF does not accept liability for error of fact or opinion which may be present, nor for the consequences of any financial decision based on the information. Any views or opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the official view of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.