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Correction

In the September Rural Bulletin there is an item about Enterprising Communities on Page 2. In that article, Enterprising Communities is noted as a Department of Labour initiative. However, Enterprising Communities is actually a Ministry of Social Development (MSD) service provided through Work and Income and led by labour Market Managers who report to Work and Income Regional Commissioners. Please see link below.

<http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/support-communities/enterprising-communities.html>

SMF Applications Open

Applications are now invited from local government, iwi, industry and community groups for the 2006/07 round of the Ministry for the Environment's Sustainable Management Fund (SMF). The SMF provides financial support to projects which produce long-term environmental benefits. To be eligible for funding, projects must demonstrate practical action in one of the following five areas:

- freshwater management initiatives;
- "Adopt-A" schemes (e.g., adopt a stream);
- urban sustainability;
- waste minimisation and resource recovery; and
- practical action to address climate change.

In addition projects must demonstrate that they will strengthen partnerships between different groups including the community, industry, iwi and/or local government. Projects should also involve support from stakeholders.

To find out more about the five topic areas and how to apply for funding, visit the SWMF website at www.smf.govt.nz. For assistance contact: The Sustainable Management Fund, PO Box 10 362 Wellington, tel (04) 439 7400, fax (04) 439 7700, email: smf@mfe.govt.nz. There is also a brochure that explains the application process in more detail: <http://www.smf.govt.nz/new/smf-brochure.pdf>

Cabinet – Government's Senior Committee

Cabinet plays a leading role in our system of government. We hear about its decisions every day in the media, but most of us don't really know a lot about how it works. This article explains a bit about how it evolved, and looks at its role and significance.



Te Tari Taiwhenua

Published by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in association with the Department of Internal Affairs. 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.

The Cabinet is the government's most senior committee. Its meetings are chaired by the Prime (first) Minister. It is where and how Ministers collectively make decisions on issues relating to their functions, powers and responsibilities. Cabinet is the body that decides on government policy, approves the content of government legislation, decides how the government is to spend its money, and oversees the administration.

Yet for all its power, Cabinet works quite informally. It is not created by any legislation or other legal document. It evolved from a time when monarchs ruled with real power at their disposal – dating from Britain in the 1600s – when the monarch required a forum to discuss important matters with his or her most senior advisers. As Britain evolved into a constitutional monarchy, the power of Ministers in the Cabinet increased, with the monarch becoming less involved in decision-making. Finally, in the 1790s, the monarch stopped attending Cabinet completely. When this happened, Cabinet Ministers would collectively decide on the major issues of the day, and then advise the monarch over what action should be taken.

Like its British ancestor, Cabinet in NZ has never had any legal functions or powers. The power to take action lies with its individual Ministers. However, Ministers exercise their powers on all major issues on the basis of Cabinet's collective decision-making.

Cabinet has no legal relationships with the various arms of government (it has no relationship, for example, with the public service). Its decisions come out in the form of "minutes", which are sent to Ministers who refer them to departments for action. What's more, it is the individual Ministers who are accountable to Parliament for ministerial actions and the actions of departments, not the Cabinet. In spite of this lack of formal legal relationships, Cabinet is nonetheless seen by the public as, and is in fact, the "engine room" of NZ's system of government.

How Cabinet Operates

Because Cabinet is an informal body, it can determine its own rules and procedures. These procedures are contained in the Cabinet Manual, which is the rule book of Cabinet government. The Manual can be found at <http://www.dpmc.govt.nz/cabinet/manual>.

Cabinet generally operates by consensus. However, that consensus occurs within boundaries that are set by certain constitutional conventions concerning the role and powers of the Prime Minister (constitutional conventions are long-standing and recognised practices, which regulate the use of legal powers).

The Prime Minister's place in Cabinet is, as the Latin phrase goes, – *primus inter pares* – "first amongst equals". (It's also a phrase that nicely hints at a system that operates with checks and balances.) One important convention is that the Prime Minister of the day has the ultimate right of veto – only he or she can recommend the appointment or dismissal of Ministers to the Governor-General.

Who Gets Into Cabinet

The Governor-General appoints Ministers on the recommendation of the Prime Minister alone. However, the Prime Minister is likely to make her/his recommendations in view of political considerations. These might include a coalition agreement (if any), or internal party rules such as a caucus vote on Cabinet membership. In the Labour Party, for example, caucus (the caucus is all MPs belonging to a particular party who meet privately, usually weekly) has elected members of the Cabinet, with the Prime Minister assigning areas of ministerial work, that is, "portfolios". In the National Party, the Prime Minister alone selects Ministers.

Collective Responsibility

The principle of collective responsibility underpins the system of Cabinet government. It reflects the principle that the House expresses its confidence in the collective whole of government, rather than in individual Ministers. Similarly, the Governor-General, in acting on ministerial advice, needs to be confident that individual Ministers represent official government policy. In all areas of their work, therefore, Ministers represent and implement government policy.

Acceptance of ministerial office requires acceptance of collective responsibility. Issues are often debated vigorously within the confidential setting of Cabinet meetings, although consensus is usually reached and votes are rarely taken. Once Cabinet makes a decision, then Ministers must support it, regardless of their personal views and whether or not they were at the meeting concerned. Note, however, there may need to be a bit more flexibility in a coalition government situation – see below.

In a coalition government, Ministers are expected to show careful judgement when referring to party policy that differs from government policy. Subject to any "agree to disagree" processes (see below), a Minister's support and responsibility for the collective government position must always be clear.

Coalition governments may decide to establish "agree to disagree" processes, which may allow Ministers to maintain, in public, different party positions on particular issues or policies. Once the final outcome of any "agree to disagree" issue or policy has been determined, either at the Cabinet level or through some other agreed process, Ministers must implement the resulting decision or legislation, regardless of their position throughout the decision making process.

"Agree to disagree" processes may only be used in relation to different party positions. Any public dissociation from Cabinet decisions by individual Ministers outside the agreed processes is unacceptable.

Cabinet Committees

Aside from meetings of the full Cabinet, there are also meetings of various Cabinet committees. These committees (made up of 6-10 members, including the Minister/s holding the relevant portfolios) consider issues in greater detail than is possible in full Cabinet. For example, they allocate resources in particular areas and review the performance of departments. Their recommendations are usually, but not always, adopted by the full Cabinet.

Cabinet committees may be permanent, operating over the entire term of office of the government; or “ad hoc”, that is, set up for a limited time to consider a special issue or controversy. Traditionally, the Prime Minister determines the membership of Cabinet committees, and is automatically a member of all committees. Under MMP, the membership of Cabinet committees will also be discussed with any coalition partner.

Note: At the time of writing this article the membership of Cabinet committees had not been announced. When they are announced they can be seen at <http://www.dpmc.govt.nz/cabinet/committees><http://www.dpmc.govt.nz/cabinet/committees>

Some Cabinet Workings

Detailed Cabinet rules, procedures and conventions are set out in the Cabinet Manual and the step-by-step guide. Here are some of them:

- Cabinet meetings are confidential. Items and reports for consideration are submitted by Ministers to the Cabinet Office before each meeting. The Cabinet Office acts as a “gatekeeper”, making sure that the items and reports follow Cabinet rules, and that they are referred on to full Cabinet or to the relevant Cabinet committee as appropriate.
- Cabinet Office puts together the agenda for meetings of a Cabinet committee or full Cabinet in consultation with the chair of the meeting (in the case of full Cabinet, the chair is the Prime Minister). Within the meeting itself, however, the chair of that meeting may make changes in agenda items or in the order they are discussed.
- Cabinet minutes are the official record of Cabinet decisions. Cabinet minutes may be requested under the Official Information Act.
- Reports made to Cabinet are confidential, although they are subject to the Official Information Act.

Note: It’s only comparatively recently that Cabinet papers have been kept for posterity. Since the Archives Act was passed in 1957, the Cabinet Office has ensured that all Cabinet records are transferred to the National Archives for preservation. The Archives Act 1957 has itself been repealed recently. Cabinet records are now deposited with NZ Archives under the Public Records Act 2005.

Thanks to the Cabinet Office

Parliament: Votes of Confidence

“Confidence of the House” is a term that often crops up in media stories. This article (mostly based on a speech by a previous Governor-General) explains what the term means – politically and constitutionally.

Having the confidence of the House of Representatives is most important for NZ’s democratic process. This is because the group of MPs elected to Parliament who can command the support of the House on matters of confidence and supply has the right to govern – and that group forms the Government of the day.

Politics and the Constitution

One way of understanding the relationship between politics and the NZ Constitution is to think of a mountain. The mountain (the Constitution) re-mains pretty much unchanged over time. On the mountain, however, are trees and other plants. These grow, are cut down or die naturally. These plants represent the role of politics.

Once government gains the support of the House at the start of a parliamentary term, it is presumed that it will keep that support, that is, retain confidence of the House – unless some event (or series of events) brings that support into question. Occasionally, however, the government faces (or declares) a vote of confidence. These votes are very important because the government stands or falls on the outcome – votes of confidence are the ultimate test of a government’s mandate (right) to continue in power. In some situations the votes can be used as a political tactic; in all situations they have constitutional importance.

In an MMP environment votes of confidence may become more important than under the first-past-the-post system, because the way the government is made up is likely to be more varied and fluid than under first-past-the-post. It is also possible that the Governor-General’s constitutional role as Head of State may receive more attention.

Several Types

Here is how the issue of confidence works. Confidence votes can take several different forms. A confidence vote may come from the government, which may move a vote of confidence in itself or move to declare a particular Bill to be a matter of confidence (this is sometimes used as a way of shoring up support for a Bill). There are two situations under which votes of confidence may arise that are independent of the government:

- the Opposition may raise a motion expressing a lack of confidence within the government (there not many opportunities to do this, however); and
- votes on Appropriation Bills (a bill granting the government authority to spend public money or to incur expenses for detailed purposes) or Imprest Supply Bills (a bill granting the government temporary authority to spend public money and incur liabilities) automatically raise questions of confidence, because obtaining Parliament’s authority to spend money has always been viewed as fundamental to the survival of the government.

When there are Doubts About Confidence

The government is presumed to have the confidence of the House unless something happens to cast doubts on that support. If it’s unclear whether there is enough support, the politicians have a duty to make it clear (to the Governor-General) within a fairly short timeframe – allowing a reasonable time for negotiation and reorganisation – where the confidence of the House lies. This is because as Head of State, the Governor-Gen-

eral must be comfortable that he or she is continuing to act on the advice of responsible Ministers who enjoy the confidence of the House.

If a government loses the support of the House, the Prime Minister will, in accordance with convention, indicate a readiness to resign. In this situation, the Governor-General would wait to see whether the politicians were able to resolve the situation themselves, either by re-establishing their support for the existing government, or by agreeing to support a new grouping. If the politicians were unable to resolve the situation within a reasonable timeframe, it is likely that the Governor-General would dissolve Parliament and call an election.

Recent Examples

Twice during the recent history of Parliament, the issue of confidence became, potentially, of constitutional importance. These situations were:

- the replacement, as Prime Minister, of Jim Bolger by Jenny Shipley; and
- the breakdown of the National/ NZ First coalition government and the formation of a National-lead minority government.

In both cases, although there was a political crisis, there was not a constitutional crisis. The reason why there wasn't a constitutional crisis was because the Governor-General was comfortable that the Prime Minister retained the confidence of the House. Secondly, all the politicians understood that political matters had to be kept separate from constitutional matters.

In times of a political crisis it is the job of the politicians, not the Governor-General, to find solutions. The politicians are responsible for ensuring that the Governor-General, as Head of State, is able to remain politically neutral, and is protected from the need to make what is, or may be seen to be, a political decision.

For example, during the coalition breakdown, the political leaders stated regularly and publicly whether they supported the government or not. The public statements made by the politicians in these two examples meant that the Governor-General could get a clear picture of the constitutional situation (and, consequently, did not need to be directly involved).

In the case of the coalition breakdown the matter was effectively ended 8 days after the swearing in of the new minority government when the Prime Minister, on her own initiative, moved a vote of confidence in the House. In passing this motion, the House expressed its confidence in the new minority government.

Then British Prime Minister William Gladstone, writing in the 1880s, wrote that the British constitution "presumes more boldly than any other, the good sense and good faith of those who work it." It's fair to say that this statement applies just as much to 21st Century NZ.

Note: A copy of the Governor-General's speech (a 1998 speech by Sir Michael Hardie Boys), on which this article was based, can be found at <http://www.gov-gen.govt.nz/media/speeches.asp?type=constitutional&ID=94>

What Australians Really Think of Us

A new mood-of-the-nation Australian poll by strategic research and consultancy firm Crosby Textor puts NZ second only to Britain in overall popularity, ahead of the US and two to three times above the ranking of other major European and Asian nations. Crosby Textor found that 90 percent of respondents nationwide thought Kiwis were likeable as a people, ahead of the 85 percent who thought the same of the British and the 76 percent who liked Americans. The other most-liked nationalities were Fijians, Japanese, Singaporeans and Chinese.

NZ was the country that most thought could be relied on, ahead of Britain. Both were way ahead of the next most trusted, the US. Similarly, 88 percent of respondents believed NZ shared Australia's values, followed by Britain, with 87 percent, and the US, with 71 percent. And Kiwis ranked first among the peoples considered honest and trustworthy.

Three out of four respondents believed that Kiwis were in tune with events outside their country, again second only to the British, and almost 80 percent considered us an important trading partner.

Although almost 60 percent thought the US could be relied upon, only half thought Americans were in tune with the world outside their borders, and 46 percent considered America honest and trustworthy. And while 83 percent considered China an important trading partner, only 18 percent thought Beijing could be relied upon.

The original press release from Crosby Textor can be found at: <http://www.crosbytextor.com/Docs/Australians%20hold%20sophisticated%20and%20discriminating%20views%20about%20other%20countries%20and%20people%20%20CT%20release%20-%202020-9.pdf>

What Kiwis Get Up To In Cars

An Auto Trader and Nielsen//NetRatings Online survey has revealed some curious facts about what NZers really do in their cars. There seems to be very little that people don't do in their cars. Forty-six percent of those surveyed had been partial to a bit of hanky panky in their car, 37 percent had slept overnight in it, 35 percent used it as a mobile office, and 10 percent saved precious minutes by applying make up in their vehicle (and although women were more likely to put their make up on in the car (40 percent) and file their nails (16 percent), three percent of men also reported doing so.

The survey also showed that in addition to liberal activities in cars, NZers were reckless when it came to the rules too. Seventy-nine percent of respondents had broken the speed limit and 31 percent admitted to running a red light.

Eating on the run was also a common phenomenon. Sixty-seven percent of respondents dined as they dashed, with South Islanders more likely to eat in their car (69 percent) than North Islanders (66 percent).

Differences between South Islanders and North Islanders were also exposed by the online survey. For example, South Islanders proved more passionate and feisty than their North Is-

land neighbours with 83 percent being more likely to break the speed limit (vs 78 percent for North Islanders), argue in their cars (67 percent vs 52 percent), and fool around with their partners (56 percent vs 43 percent). North Islanders, on the other hand, were much more conservative and serious in cars, being more likely to sit in traffic (88 percent vs 81 percent), move flats (64 percent vs 60 percent), and use their car as a mobile office (36 percent vs 30 percent).

Thanks to ACP Media. Full survey results can be obtained by contacting Tina Clyma (09) 308 7423, or tclyma@tradergroup.co.nz

Internet Items

Advanced Network. The new board of Research and Education Advanced Network NZ Ltd – established to introduce a high-speed network for NZ's academic and research community – is expecting to let the tender for its roll-out anytime soon and predicts it will be operational by early next year. The network will comprise an optical backbone linking research and education institutes in Auckland, Hamilton, Palmerston North, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin, with regional connections to Hawkes Bay, Nelson and Rotorua. It will also connect with similar high-speed, next generation research and education networks internationally through links between NZ, Australia and west coast of the United States. Operating as a not-for-profit limited-liability company, the company will include the country's tertiary education institutions, Crown Research Institutes (CRIs) and the National Library.

More information about the high-speed network can be found at <http://www.morst.govt.nz/?CHANNEL=IT+INFRASTRUCTURE&PAGE=IT+Infrastructure>

Ask An Expert – www.worksite.govt.nz/en/ask-an-expert – The Department of Labour has launched a new Ask An Expert section on its Worksite/PaeMahi website giving users access to a database of 100,000 questions and answers on labour and employment issues, immigration and occupational health and safety issues.

Wool Market Information Available to Farmers – www.meatandwoolnz.com – Information on wool market trends, weekly sales reports and market forecasts are now available from the Meat & Wool NZ website. The new service is based on commercial information produced by the wool industry from appraisals and purchases of wool at auction.

Update

Symposium on Rural Communications Technology Announced

A major conference to be held in Timaru next March will set out to establish a vision of how the rural economy and productivity could be improved, and rural lifestyles enhanced, if farms and agri-business throughout NZ all came on-line with broadband Internet connections. TUANZ, the non-profit Telecommunications Users Association, has organised the event as the next stage in a four year project to encourage the use of communications technology as a key driver of economic growth.

TUANZ believes that rural businesses have a bigger opportunity than most to make big gains in productivity through communications technology. It says last month's launch of the IPSTAR was a major turning point. Now, every farm and rural property in the country can access high quality broadband services – if not through landline based services such as DSL, or wireless services like those offered by BCL or Woosh, then by satellite.

TUANZ believes that the business case for farmers to use broadband as a key farm management tool is dependent on a wide range of applications being developed, and that developers have been holding off because of the slow rural uptake. The organisation thinks a classic chicken and egg situation exists; farmers won't invest because there are not enough applications in place to make the business case, but the applications are not there because of poor farm uptake.

And that's where the symposium could be important. By getting knowledgeable representatives of all the potential stakeholders together it's hope to paint a big picture and make a compelling case for early and widespread uptake by every farm and agricultural business. Sectors such as rural health and education will also have a part to play and are expected to be at the symposium, and there will also be coverage of uses that reduce the disadvantages of remote living and thereby make the rural lifestyle more appealing.

TUANZ has issued a call for papers, with responses due by the end of October. The symposium will be held in Timaru on 29/31 March. More information is available on enquiry to ruralsymposium@tuanz.org.nz

National Labour Force Projections, 2001(base)–2051 Update

The following highlights are based on series 5M: medium fertility, medium mortality, long-range annual net migration of 10,000 and medium labour force participation.

- NZ's labour force is projected to peak at 2.39 million in the mid-2020s, before declining slightly to 2.38 million in 2051.
- Half the NZ labour force will be older than 42 years in 2012, compared with a median age of 39 years in 2001 and 36 years in 1991.
- In 1991 there were two people aged 25-44 years in the labour force for every one person aged 45-64 years. By 2013 these age groups will be equal in number.
- The labour force aged 65 years and over is expected to increase from an estimated 25,000 in 1991 and 38,000 in 2001 to 102,000 in 2021.
- The male labour force is projected to increase from 1.07 million at 30 June 2001 to 1.30 million in the mid-2020s. With labour force participation rates remaining constant (after 2011), the male labour force would grow only slightly after 2026, reaching 1.32 million in 2051.
- The female labour force is projected to increase from 890,000 at 30 June 2001 to 1.09 million in the early 2020s. The one million mark would be passed in 2007. With labour force participation rates remaining constant (after 2011), the female labour force would decrease slightly after 2024, reaching 1.06 million in 2051.

More information on these projections can be found at: [http://www2.stats.govt.nz/domino/external/pasfull/pasfull.nsf/web/Hot+Off+The+Press+National+Labour+Force+Projections+2001\(base\)+2051+update?open](http://www2.stats.govt.nz/domino/external/pasfull/pasfull.nsf/web/Hot+Off+The+Press+National+Labour+Force+Projections+2001(base)+2051+update?open)

NZ Easy Place to Do Business: World Bank

The "Doing Business" World Bank report ranks NZ as the most business-friendly country of the 155 studied, based on assessments of a range of regulatory benchmarks related to business operations, including start-up, paying taxes and access to credit. Singapore, the US, Canada, Norway, Hong Kong, Denmark, the UK and Japan make up the rest of the top 10. The Democratic Republic of Congo was at the bottom of the list, with Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, Chad and Sudan just above.

The World Bank said the formerly Communist nations of Central Europe had made some of the biggest advances in supporting private business. Lithuania, in 14th place, and Estonia, in 15th, ranked ahead of Switzerland, Belgium and Germany. Among the countries that made the biggest changes in 2004 were Serbia, Montenegro, Slovakia, Latvia and Romania. Overall, the report found the top countries regulate businesses in "less costly and burdensome ways", encouraging business activity, while poorer countries tend to over-regulate, deterring economic growth.

There is a World Bank-affiliated site where you can find more information: <http://www.doingbusiness.org/Default.aspx> and you can find out more about the World bank itself from: <http://www.worldbank.org/>

NZ's International Competitiveness

The World Economic Forum's latest global competitiveness survey shows that NZ's overall ranking improved, rising two places to 16th in terms of competitiveness. NZ ranks number one for public institutions: tax collection, judicial independence, property rights and absence of organised crime. But, according to Business NZ, a low savings rate places us at a disadvantage, along with high real interest rates and inadequate priority given to information technology. Business NZ also says the tax regime penalises us internationally, as does red tape.

Other findings include:

- Australia jumped four places to number 10 this year;
- Finland was number 1 (for the second consecutive year) and four other Nordic countries made up the top 10;
- The US was number 2;
- Taiwan rated 5th and Singapore 6th, and Japan dropped from ninth to 12th place (because of bad management of public finances);
- Hong Kong slipped from 21st to 28th, China rated 49th and India 50th;
- Among European states, Britain ranked 13th, Germany 15th, Spain 29th, France 30th and Italy 47th; and
- Estonia was the highest-ranked former communist state, in 20th place.

More details can be found on the Forum's website at: <http://www.weforum.org/>

NZ's International Investment Position: Year ended 31 March 2005

In a nutshell:

- NZ's most important investment relationships continue to be with Australia, the US and UK.
- The level of NZ investment abroad rose \$7.8 billion, and the level of foreign investment in NZ rose \$21.9 billion between 31 March 2004 and 31 March 2005.

- The finance and insurance industry continues to hold the largest proportion of NZ's international assets and liabilities. At 31 March 2005, this industry held \$67.4 billion (63.1 percent) of NZ's international assets, and \$138.6 billion (59.5 percent) of NZ's international liabilities. The finance and insurance industry includes the Reserve Bank, registered banks, fund managers and other financial institutions.
- The manufacturing industry increased its international assets by \$2.4 billion between 31 March 2004 and 31 March 2005. The manufacturing industry accounted for \$18.0 billion (16.9 percent) of NZ's international assets and \$24.2 billion (10.4 percent) of NZ's international liabilities as at 31 March 2005.
- The stock of NZ investment abroad was \$98.0 billion at 31 March 2005. The main destinations continued to be the US (with \$26.4 billion or 26.9 percent) and Australia (with \$25.5 billion or 26.1 percent). Germany (\$10.4 billion) and the UK (\$7.4 billion) were other significant destinations for NZ's investment abroad.
- The stock of foreign investment in NZ was \$224.1 billion at 31 March 2005. The main source of foreign investment in NZ is Australia, which accounted for \$59.4 billion (26.5 percent) at 31 March 2005. Investment in NZ from Australia increased by \$6.7 billion between 31 March 2004 and 31 March 2005. The other major sources of investment in NZ were the US (18.2 percent, up from 15.7 percent in the previous year) and the UK (14.0 percent, down from 19.4 percent in the previous year).

More information on this can be found at [http://www2.stats.govt.nz/domino/external/pasfull/pasfull.nsf/webHot+Off+The+Press+Balance+of+Payments+and+International+Investment+Position+\(Additional+Information+on+International+Investment\)+Year+ended+31+March+2005?open](http://www2.stats.govt.nz/domino/external/pasfull/pasfull.nsf/webHot+Off+The+Press+Balance+of+Payments+and+International+Investment+Position+(Additional+Information+on+International+Investment)+Year+ended+31+March+2005?open)

Latest Smoking Rates

The Ministry of Health's annual "Tobacco Facts" publication has been released and it is estimated that in 2004 the percentage of adult NZers smoking decreased to 23.4 percent. Other findings include:

- at the same time, tobacco consumption per capita has also continued to fall, decreasing by almost 16 percent from 2002 to 2004;
- while smoking prevalence remains high among Maori and Pacific peoples (at approximately 50 percent and 30 percent, respectively), these ethnic groups have shared in the steepening decline in recent years; and
- especially heartening is the continuing decline in youth smoking rates seen in recent ASH surveys (prevalence has been falling among European/Other teenagers (14-15 years) for some time and in the most recent surveys (2003 and 2004) such falls are seen among Maori and Pacific boys and girls as well).

"Tobacco Facts" can be downloaded from www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/by+unid/8BDA21625203A2DDCC25708B00783A1F?Open

Prescribing Rights for Nurse Practitioners Approved

Nurse Practitioners across the health sector will be able to prescribe a range of medicines under new regulations approved recently by the government. The Medicines (Designated Pre-

scriber: Nurse Practitioner) Regulations 2005 give qualified nurse practitioners, who have met rigorous requirements set by the Nursing Council, the right to prescribe a range of prescription medicines and controlled substances. Previously, only nurse practitioners practising in aged care and child family health had prescribing rights, and even those were limited.

Of the nurse practitioners in NZ, one currently has prescribing rights, and others will be assessed by the Nursing Council once the regulations come into effect on 1 November 2005. At least another 100 nurses have already expressed an interest in completing nurse practitioner qualifications and applying for accreditation.

Examples of where nurse practitioners will be able to prescribe medicines are in the treatment of chronic conditions such as diabetes. They will now have access to a wider range of medicines to manage diabetes including insulin, as well as medicines to treat coexisting medical conditions such as high cholesterol.

Among medicines and controlled substances nurse practitioners will not be able to access are anaesthetic agents, such as Neuro-muscular Blockers, Anaesthetic Inhalants and Anaesthetic Induction agents. The Ministry of Health will be responsible for maintaining and updating the lists of medicines nurse practitioners can prescribe.

More information about nurse practitioners can be found at: <http://www.nursingcouncil.org.nz/nursepractitioner.html>

Vaccination Update

More than 600,000 young NZers have now completed their MeNZB vaccination and have received all three doses needed to help protect them against the country's meningococcal B epidemic. That takes to nearly 2.5 million the total number of doses that have now been administered through schools and clinics as part of the Meningococcal B Immunisation Programme.

The Ministry of Health runs a comprehensive website on the programme, at: <http://www.immunise.moh.govt.nz/>

Housing Tenure Aspirations and Attainment

The Centre for Housing Research, Aotearoa NZ (CHRANZ) and Building Research have released research that investigates housing tenure aspirations and attainment in NZ. The key findings include:

- Despite declining home ownership rates, NZers continue to aspire to own their own homes.
- NZ's home ownership rates are projected to continue to fall from 68 percent of households in 2001 to 61.8 percent by 2016. While the actual number of households owning is increasing, the growth in the number of households renting is growing faster.
- Household demand projections to 2016 estimate strong growth in both owned and rented accommodation (approximately 20,500 households per annum between 2006 and 2016).
- The housing demand, centred on the Auckland region and upper half of the North Island, will require significant government and non-government capital. Private sector investment in the growing rental housing market will be critical.
- A significant increase is also estimated in the number of households headed by persons aged 65 years and over.

Copies of the research report and CHRANZ Research Bulletin are available from the CHRANZ website at www.chranz.co.nz under "Media"

Total Mobility Scheme Gets Funding Boost

The government has approved a \$9.49 million funding increase for the Total Mobility scheme, which provides a subsidised taxi transport service to people with serious mobility constraints. The scheme is operated by local authorities and jointly funded by central and local government. The new money will allow for improved services and a 60 percent increase in the number of users from 43,000 to 69,000 over the next three years. The scheme's total budget will rise from \$9.18 million to \$18.67 million. The extra money will see the scheme improve and expand.

Find out if you qualify for the scheme by going to: <http://www.govt.nz/record?tid=1&treeid=786&recordid=3888>

Effects of Air Pollution

A study of the health effects of air-borne pollution in Christchurch has confirmed the conclusions of similar studies overseas but has, for the first time, quantified the specific impact on a NZ city.

The report "Health and Air Pollution in NZ" concludes that air pollution from domestic fires, industry and vehicle emissions causes 158 premature deaths in Christchurch annually and costs the local economy \$168 million annually. The greatest effect – and greatest cost – is a consequence of premature deaths caused by long-term exposure to fine particulates from combustion sources. In Christchurch, the primary source of the particulates is open, solid fuel fires.

The 157-page report can be downloaded, as a PDF file, from www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/air/hapinz-report-aug05.pdf

New Air Quality Standards

New national environmental standards, designed to improve air quality and health for all, came into effect on 1 September. A key standard requires regional councils to reduce pollution from fine particles (that is, smoke) to a set level by 2013 in our towns and cities. Fine particles are the most concerning air pollutant, as they cause the most significant health problems.

To help meet the fine particle standard, a new design standard for domestic wood burners also took effect, greatly reducing the amount of fine particles new wood burners can produce in urban areas. The other standards set maximum levels for carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, ozone and sulphur dioxide in outdoor air, to protect public health.

For more information, including questions and answers, go to the national environmental standards page on the Ministry for the Environment website at: www.mfe.govt.nz/laws/standards/index.html

New Drinking-Water Standards

Recently released, new drinking-water standards come into effect on 31 December 2005. They apply to public and private supplies, but not bottled water. The new Standards (DWSNZ2005)

replace the current 2000 drinking water Standards (DWSNZ2000). They detail how to assess the quality and safety of drinking-water. The characteristics that define whether water is safe to drink have changed very little from earlier editions. However, the criteria for demonstrating compliance have been refined.

The key changes from the 2000 Standards are:

- a new section specifically dealing with small water suppliers (that is, those serving populations under 500 people);
- a new section specifically covering tankered water suppliers;
- a new section dealing with cyanobacteria (previously known as “blue-green algae”);
- amendments to the compliance criteria for *Cryptosporidium*;
- minor changes to bacteriological compliance; and
- inclusion of a section on disinfection using ultra-violet light.

Details of the new Standards, the recently announced Drinking Water Assistance Programme, and procedures for developing Public Health Risk Management Plans, are available on the Ministry of Health’s website: www.moh.govt.nz/water

Holcim seeks Negotiated Greenhouse Agreement

The cement and aggregates company, Holcim NZ, and the government are to enter talks for a Negotiated Greenhouse Agreement (NGA). The government has already signed NGAs with gold mining company OceanaGold and the NZ Refining Company. It is in negotiations with ACI Glass Packaging, NZ Steel, Carter Holt Harvey, Fletcher Building, NZ Aluminium Smelters, Newmont Waihi, and Norske Skog Tasman.

Background information about NGAs can be found at www.climatechange.govt.nz/policy-initiatives/nga.html

Proposed Geothermal Project Awarded Kyoto Credits

The government has awarded over 1.2 million internationally tradable emissions units to Mighty River Power’s proposed 70 MW Kawerau geothermal electricity scheme. The steam for the proposed scheme will be drawn from under land owned by the Putauaki Trust and Norske Skog Tasman under agreements with Mighty River Power. Mighty River Power’s proposal is for the project to come on stream at the end of 2007 with an anticipated life of 25 years. The project is subject to the normal resource consents process.

Under the Projects to Reduce Emissions programme, units are awarded to projects that lead to a net reduction in emission against business as usual and that would not otherwise be financially viable. Units are awarded through a tender process. NZ’s net emissions position is improved, as under the programme fewer emissions units are awarded than the total amount of emissions abated.

Managing Environmental Effects of Fishing

The newly-released Strategy for Managing the Environmental Effects of Fishing arises from government concerns about the voluntary regime for protecting the marine environment and a recognition that the Ministry of Fisheries has “no strategy describing how the Ministry will meet environmental obligations across all its processes and activities”.

The strategy will apply to all fish stocks, whether managed in the QMS or not, and whether considered target, bykill, or incidentally affected by fishing. However, it is focused on principles and processes and does not contain any specific limits, or performance standards – those will follow after consultation with the industry.

The strategy, amongst other things:

- emphasises the need to assess the effects of fishing on all parts of the aquatic environment, not just respond to obvious adverse effects;
- establishes environmental standards as the key mechanism for defining acceptable limits of the effects of fishing on the aquatic environment;
- identifies key stages for setting environmental standards in a transparent and clearly defined way;
- provides for social values, including Maori values, to be incorporated into setting environmental standards; and
- establishes a requirement for fishery managers to demonstrate that a fishery is meeting environmental standards.

The strategy document can be downloaded from: <http://www.fish.govt.nz/sustainability/management-strategy/smeef-papa2.pdf>

Seven New Schools

The Ministry of Education has begun consulting local communities over a proposal to build seven new schools in the Flatbush area of Manukau in South Auckland. It is proposing four new primary schools (years 1-6), two junior high schools (years 7-10) and a senior high school (years 11-13), which it expects to meet the needs of the fast-growing area for the next 20 years.

Getting Digital Education Right is Hard

An analysis of four ICT projects in schools has revealed that computers make little difference in learning for students and often produce frustration for teachers unless a number of factors are optimised. The Digital Opportunities Pilot Projects were conceived as a three-way partnership between the Ministry of Education, businesses and schools and were trialled over 2001-2003 through four pilot projects – Generation XP, FarNet, Notebook Valley and Digitally Boosted Study Support Centres.

Although each project operated differently and each had specific goals, they all had common objectives – reducing the digital divide; improving student outcomes, particularly in science, mathematics, and technology; and providing an opportunity for trialling a government/industry/schools partnership model.

However, an analysis of the projects (“A Summary of the Key Findings of the Evaluations of the Digital Opportunities Pilot Projects”) just released, shows a range of results. Among the findings are:

- “There was little direct evidence to link student achievement to the implementation of the projects, with the researchers noting the difficulties in trying to establish such causal links”.
- “The available evidence for student retention indicates that none of the projects had a significant impact on either encouraging students to continue their studies in the target

subject areas of mathematics, science and technology or on students' decision to stay at school".

- "Some students ended up not taking their laptops to schools because they found the laptops too heavy, there was nowhere to store them when they were not in use, or teachers did not encourage, or in some cases did not allow, the use of laptops in class".
- "... there was little evidence that any of the ICT projects had a significant impact on the way teachers taught".
- "In most projects the roll-out took longer than anticipated. Also, the teachers who were to be most directly involved with the projects were often not consulted or included in the planning, and there was little inter-school collaboration within projects".

The summary of key findings can be downloaded from; http://www.minedu.govt.nz/web/downloadable/dl10234_v1/digi-ops-summary.doc

Te Roroa Deed of Settlement Ready for Ratification

The Crown and the Te Roroa negotiators have finalised the Deed of Settlement for the settlement of Te Roroa's historical claims. The finalised Deed of Settlement follows the signing of an Agreement in Principle on 20 December 2004. The settlement includes:

- acknowledgements of, and a Crown apology for, historical breaches of the Treaty of Waitangi and its principles;
- a cultural redress package including the transfer of several sites of cultural significance to Te Roroa; and
- financial redress totalling \$9.5 million, which Te Roroa will receive either as cash or in Crown-owned properties.

The Deed of Settlement is available online at www.ots.govt.nz

Retirement Village Management

A tightening up of the rules governing the management of retirement villages is being prepared by the Department of Building and Housing. Officials expect the new regulations (to take effect under the Retirement Villages Act 2003) to be signed off by the government by year's end and to come into effect in March next year. It is likely a draft of the regulations will be published for industry feedback in advance of being sent to the government.

More information on this can be found at the Department of Building and Housing Website at: <http://www.dbh.govt.nz/>

Multilingual Road Rules Booklet Available for New Residents

An easy-to-read booklet released recently by Land Transport NZ (LTNZ) aims to help new residents adjust to the often demanding conditions of NZ roads. The booklet is available in English, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Fijian, Samoan, Hindi and Malay.

This new booklet concentrates on the aspects of NZ driving which new residents most commonly cite as problematic. These are:

- driving on the left;

- navigating roundabouts;
- NZ's unique give-way rules;
- the diverse range of driving conditions – from busy city streets to winding rural roads; and
- adjusting from the often chaotic driving cultures of their home countries to NZ's more controlled driving environment.

The new resident drivers booklet will be distributed in information packs sent to all new migrants by the Immigration Service, through English language schools, secondary schools and tertiary institutions, and through refugee and orientation courses. The booklet will also be available from LTNZ offices and the Citizens Advice Bureau. The booklet can also be viewed online at <http://www.landtransport.govt.nz/overseasdrivers/>

Filling Cylinders with Compressed Gases

New Hazardous Substances (Compressed Gases) Regulations, which took full effect from 1 October, cover the filling of compressed gas cylinders. The Regulations affect everyone who fills compressed gas cylinders, including scuba cylinders. From 1 October, a person must not fill a compressed gas container unless that person is an "Approved Filler" and has a properly issued Test Certificate. Test Certificates can only be issued by a Test Certifier.

An Approved Filler must, for the gases they deal with, be able to demonstrate the procedures for safe filling of compressed gas containers. In addition, they must know about and be able to describe:

- different forms of compressed gases, notably, low pressure liquefiable gas, high pressure liquefiable gas, permanent gas and gas that may be held at cryogenic temperatures;
- factors that can cause failure of a compressed gas container;
- the consequences of a failure of a container associated with the different forms of compressed gas, including asphyxiation; and
- the need for visual inspection and safe charging of compressed gas into a container.

If you have already attended a training course or have received instruction and have experience filling cylinders this should be sufficient. You will, however, need to confirm your level of training and experience – get your supervisor and/or trainer to sign it off – and provide this to a Test Certifier to get your Approved Filler Test Certificate.

If you fill your own cylinders you will still need to be an Approved Filler, with the necessary Test Certificate. You should always take your cylinders to an organisation with the necessary skills and qualifications to fill cylinders correctly.

For more details see the ERMA NZ website at www.ermanz.govt.nz/hs/compliance/cg-cylinders.asp, contact their HS compliance line 0800 376 234, or email hsinfo@ermanz.govt.nz

Better English Teaching for International Students

A re-assessment of how the government can best help schools and the English language sector to build the quality and scope of services for international students is about to get underway. It

will be a joint project between the Ministry of Education and the private sector body, Education NZ, over the coming six to eight months. The objective is acquiring better knowledge about the pathways and movements within and between the various components of international education, and acquiring hard data on levels of student achievement. International students currently contribute about \$2 billion annually to the economy.

The government wants to hear from you about what your priorities are for improving student support and where you think particular changes should be made. Your views should be received by 30 October 2003. They should be sent to: Student Support Responses, Tertiary Education Policy, Ministry of Education, PO Box 1666, Wellington, email: studentsupport.responses@minedu.govt.nz. A copy of this discussion document is available on the Ministry of Education website: <http://www.minedu.govt.nz/goto/tertiarystudentssupport>

Tenure Review Reviewed

Land Information NZ (LINZ) is to overhaul its methods of valuing land for the South Island's high country tenure review programme. Following feedback on the terms of reference on two papers ("Review of Valuation Methodology" and "Implications of Introducing Market Rents"), it has now appointed three valuers to come up with a methodology to strike valuations which "should, at all times, reflect all aspects of the market".

Their work will include interviews with a range of lessees, their representatives, government officials, non-government organisations and valuation professionals. They are to report back to LINZ by the end of October. A report to the Minister will follow shortly afterwards.

The first of the two above papers can be downloaded (as a PDF file) from <http://www.linz.govt.nz/docs/crownproperty/terms-of-ref-valuation.pdf> and the second paper from <http://www.linz.govt.nz/docs/crownproperty/terms-of-ref-mkt-rents.pdf>. Contact: Kevin Kelly, tel (04) 498 3500

Tourism and Conservation

A major cross-agency project (involving thirteen agency groups) is gathering momentum to improve the interface between tourism and conservation, including the rapidly escalating problem of tourism waste on conservation land. The work is being carried out through a multi-agency forum called the Tourism on Public Conservation Lands Industry Forum. The purpose of the forum group is to:

- discuss tourism within the public conservation estate and other natural resources for which the Department of Conservation (DoC) has responsibility;
- transfer information and views between entities in the industry;
- provide a resource for DoC, Ministry of Tourism and others to get feedback on specific initiatives and proposals affecting the tourism industry;
- provide for the development of pan-industry accords or agreements relating to tourism activities in protected areas; and
- develop positive working relationships between government and industry.

For more information, contact: Sharon Flood, tel (04) 498 7440; email sharon.flood@tourism.govt.nz

DoC Concessions

For the first time ever, the Department of Conservation (DoC) is earning more money from tourism than any other source. In the year to March 2005, DoC pulled in \$10.7 million from concessions, as against \$9.6 million in the previous financial year – an 11 percent growth rate. Virtually all the growth came from existing concessionaires taking more visitors on guided tours of the conservation estate (fishing, hunting, tramping, walking, climbing/ski tours and kayaking/canoeing), although the number of new concessionaires also rose.

DoC's other main sources of revenue from the conservation estate come from such things as concessions to telecommunications companies (which site their equipment on high spots on conservation land), fees paid by tourist bus operators, grazing leases and services such as shops, restaurants, garages, or hire services. In the year to June, DoC received 720 applications for concessions, of which 13 (1.8 percent) were declined.

More information on DoC concessions can be found at <http://www.doc.govt.nz/About-DOC/Concessions/index.asp>

Lake Wanaka Weed Control Strategy

Much stronger controls on recreational boating on Lake Wanaka, including the possibility of boat registration, are planned following the finalisation of a strategy to control the invasive Lagarosiphon weed. The 10-year strategy has three central objectives:

- halting the spread of Lagarosiphon further north and reducing the extent of existing weed beds by treating the weed itself;
- preventing the transport of Lagarosiphon around the lake and to other lakes; and
- preventing the accidental re-introduction of more Lagarosiphon into the lake.

Besides restricting boat movements, the plan also calls for continued use of the herbicide, diquat, and suction dredging of the weed beds.

The strategy can be downloaded from the Land Information NZ website (as a PDF file) from: <http://www.linz.govt.nz/docs/crownproperty/biosecurity/lake-wanaka-10-year-draft-plan-final.pdf> Contact: Chris Hawker 03 441 0482

Beehive Database

The Hawke's Bay Regional Council is hosting a beehive register after concerns that beehives in the region are being poisoned by agricultural sprays. It was developed as a cooperative venture between the council, Pipfruit NZ, Hawke's Bay Fruit Growers' Association and the Hawke's Bay Pollination Association.

The register can be accessed at <http://www.hbrc.govt.nz/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabid=313>

Mandatory "Pop-Up" Messages on Gaming Machines

The Department of Internal Affairs recently released details of how gaming machines in casinos, pubs and clubs must display

mandatory, on-screen messages to gamblers about how long they have been gambling and how much they have won or lost. Gaming machines will interrupt play for at least 15 seconds to display the messages. The messages will pop-up at intervals of up to 30 minutes. Gamblers will be able to resume play after the 15 seconds, or they can wait longer if they wish. They will also be able to end that session of gambling. The messages will be displayed for 30 seconds if the gambler has not chosen either to continue or end that session of gambling.

Background information on gambling and running a gambling operation can be found at: http://www.dia.govt.nz/diawebsite.nsf/wpg_URL/Services-Casino-and-Non-Casino-Gaming-Index?OpenDocument

Parallel Importing Should Continue Says MED

The gains to NZ from parallel importing exceed any observable detriments and should continue, according an analysis by the Ministry of Economic Development (MED). In a paper to Cabinet "Parallel Importing of Copyright Goods for Creative Industries", the Ministry said its review of the government's parallel importing policy confirmed previous findings that parallel importing had resulted in "improved choice and quality and timeliness of service to retailers and consumers through an actual or threatened increase in competition".

The only caveat was in relation to children's books. However, the extent of the impact in that area was unclear. The Ministry has recommended another review in 2008.

The Cabinet Paper can be downloaded, as a PDF file, from: www.med.govt.nz/busl/int_prop/creative/cabinet/200805/200805.pdf

NZ to Join International Passport Security Initiative

NZ is joining an international initiative to share information about lost and stolen passports. All reports of lost and stolen passports will be electronically provided to Interpol on a daily basis. Interpol makes this information available to border control authorities internationally.

This will have some impacts for the travelling public. It means that once a passport is reported as lost or stolen it cannot be used again under any circumstances. Customers will need to apply for a new passport, even if they subsequently recover their passport after reporting it lost. If they attempt to use their passport again they are liable to face significant problems including being apprehended by overseas border authorities.

If customers have questions about the new reporting system for lost and stolen passports they should contact Freephone number 0800 22 50 50 or visit the website www.passports.govt.nz

NZ-Singapore Double Tax Agreement Updated

NZ's double tax agreement (DTA) with Singapore is being updated to cover NZ entities providing consultancy services in Singapore and Singapore entities providing those services in NZ.

Double tax agreements are designed to reduce tax impediments to cross-border trade and investment. They ensure that businesses are not taxed twice on income earned in another

country, and help enforce the tax laws between the countries involved. The DTA with Singapore is one of NZ's earliest DTAs, and was signed between the two countries in 1973. Last year Singapore's direct investments in NZ totalled more than \$1,300 million, with NZ exporting more than \$331 million of merchandise to Singapore.

The text of the DTA and updated Protocol can be viewed at: www.taxpolicy.ird.govt.nz/international/DTA/index

NZ is Top Country for UK Travellers

NZ has been voted the best country in the world for the first time ever at the Conde Nast Traveller Awards 2005 in the UK. NZ also took out the top overall prize, beating out winners of 23 other categories. Readers graded their chosen country in 10 separate categories. These included climate, culture, food and scenery. With an overall rating of 97.33 (out of a possible 100), NZ beat Thailand, Australia and Italy to take out the top country spot. NZ received top marks for scenery (99), environmental friendliness (98.87) and safety (97). Visitor arrivals from the UK for year ended July 2005 were 308,000, an increase of over 10 percent from 2004.

Strong Outlook for Tourism Growth

The new forecasts of the Tourism Research Council NZ and Ministry of Tourism covering the period 2005 to 2011 have been released. Total international visitor arrivals are forecast to increase by 37.5 percent to reach 3.21 million in 2011, with international spending to increase 52.3 percent to \$9.6 billion. International visitor nights are forecast to increase by 33.3 percent to 59.5 million. Domestic tourism is also forecast to increase with domestic visitor nights increasing by seven percent to 62.3 million in 2011. Total domestic spending is forecast to increase by 28.9 percent to \$9.3 billion. Total expenditure is forecast to increase by 39.8 percent to \$18.9 billion in 2011.

Thanks to "Tourism Leading Indicators Monitor"

Web Access to Tourism Data & Research

The Tourism Research Council NZ (TRCNZ) prepares the Tourism Leading Indicators Monitor as an ongoing mechanism for tracking the state of the NZ tourism industry.

For further tourism research and information, you can access the following research and information-focused websites:

- Tourism Research Council NZ – www.trcnz.govt.nz – Access to inbound, outbound and domestic tourism data, forecasts, tourism research and strategy papers, and Tourism Leading Indicators Monitor;
- Tourism NZ – www.tourismnewzealand.com – Access to Regional Rap and market research papers;
- Statistics NZ – www.stats.govt.nz/tourism – Access to data on inbound and outbound travel, accommodation and Tourism Satellite Account.

All of these outputs are assessable through the TRCNZ website.

NZ Visitor Spending: Visa Results

Strong growth in tourist arrivals and spending in NZ is being offset by a worldwide trend in a decline in average visitor spending, according to new research from Visa International. The research shows 2004 was a strong year for NZ tourism, with a 10.7 percent increase in visitors, who spent \$6.6 billion during that time.

Other major findings include:

- International Visa cardholders spent \$2.1 billion last year, representing 31.8 percent of the total spend by inbound visitors.
- The number of transactions by international Visa cardholders has doubled in the past five years to 13.5 million in 2004 from 6.4 million in 1999.
- Of all international visitors, tourists from the UK spent the most in NZ in 2004, using their Visa cards – \$571.4 million.
- A total of \$1.6 billion was spent through Visa cards on eight key broad categories, and this represented 75.1 percent of all Visa spend by visitors in NZ. Transport and general retail and trade took up the lion's share of the \$1.6 billion. Visitors spent \$NZ427.9 million on transport through Visa, \$NZ407.3 million on general retail and trade, and \$NZ243.9 million on accommodation.

Although spending figures show a major rise, when they are viewed over five years and inflation and the appreciation of the NZ dollar is taken into account, the average spending by tourists to NZ has actually declined. This is a global trend. The NZ situation has been further exacerbated in recent years as the NZ dollar has appreciated against the US dollar and the currencies of other important inbound markets.

Copies of Trends in International Visitor Spending in NZ are available on Visa International's website: www.visa.co.nz

New Project to Better Understand Tourist's Needs

The project involves the development of a regional-level data collection system to measure visitor's travel motivations, expectations, behaviour and satisfaction. Up until now there has been a gap in the tourism sector which has not looked into international and domestic customer-oriented information at a regional level. The project is a partnership between the Ministry of Tourism, Tourism NZ and six participating regional tourism organisations – Tourism Auckland, Destination Rotorua, Positively Wellington Tourism, Christchurch and Canterbury Marketing, Tourism Dunedin and Destination Queenstown. The initial agreement between the partners is for three years and it starts this month. Once the project is fully developed, it's hoped to bring on board other parties.

Tourism NZ is NZ's tourism international marketing organisation. Its website is at: <http://www.tourisminfo.govt.nz/>

Legislation Notes

NZ Signs Treaty Against Nuclear Terrorism

NZ has signed a United Nations treaty strengthening international efforts to reduce the risk of nuclear terrorism. The International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism calls for states to ban the use, or threat of use, of nuclear materials for terrorist purposes and to co-operate with international nuclear terrorism investigations and prosecutions. The convention is the 13th international anti-terrorism treaty NZ has signed. It will enter into force after 22 countries have ratified it,

and 62 other countries have indicated they will sign the convention.

Appointments

Ian McHardy of Auckland has been appointed as a *Family Court Judge*. Tom Broadmore of Wellington is a new *District Court Judge*. Eduardo Gustale has been appointed *NZ's Honorary Consul in Paraguay*. Vivian Kloosterman has been appointed to the *Standards Council*. David Hunt is the new *Chief Executive of Contact Energy*.

Resources Available

Engaging With Asian Communities

"Engaging with Asian Communities" is the title of a report prepared for the Asia NZ Foundation. The research considers the nature and models of engagement of Asian communities and characteristics of successful engagement.

The types of engagement considered have indicated what elements and components are needed in programmes. There are good examples of engagement but few that are all-encompassing in their effectiveness. Some programmes have been included as examples of what is good and capable of imitation.

The report can be found on the Asia NZ Foundation website: <http://www.asianz.org.nz>

Report Explores Research and Development

"Research and Development in NZ 2004", a report based on the results of the 2004 Research and Development Survey, is a joint report by Statistics NZ and the Ministry of Research, Science and Technology (MoRST). Information on business, government and higher education sector research and development (R&D) is contained in the report. It investigates in detail the type of R&D expenditure, type and purpose of research, and personnel involved in R&D in NZ.

Research and development expenditure in NZ in the 2004 reference year has been measured at \$1,593.1 million (revised from \$1,603.1 million). Of this, the business sector spent the largest amount on R&D, at \$677.1 million (revised from \$648.1 million). The government sector spent \$461.2 million (revised from \$498.4 million) and the higher education sector spent \$454.8 million.

A copy of the report can be downloaded, as a PDF file, from: www.stats.govt.nz/analytical-reports/r-and-d-nz-2004

Cultural Wellbeing

The Ministry for Culture & Heritage has published two new documents prepared for regional and local government:

- "Regional Cultural Statistics" – <http://mch.govt.nz/cwb/stats.html> and
- "Literature review: Cultural Well-Being and Local Government (June 2005)" – <http://mch.govt.nz/cwb/litreview>

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