



"Women Influencing Policy"

National Council of Women of New Zealand
Te Kaunihera Wahine o Aotearoa

The Circular

No 514

July/Hōngongoi 2008

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Patricia Woodley

Executive Officer
Lynda Sutherland

International Secretary
Margaret Cook

Circular Editors
Barbara Arnold/Elizabeth Bang

**National Council of Women of
New Zealand**
10 Park Street
P O Box 12 117, Wellington

Ph 04 473 7623
Fax 04 499 5554

Email: ncwnz@ihug.co.nz
www.ncwnz.co.nz

President's Comment

LIGHT THE WAY

In the past month I have been speaking to member groups about the National Council of Women of New Zealand. With new people taking over leadership roles in organisations sometimes the institutional memory of why and how their group interacts with NCWNZ is overlooked.

As an established organisation our profile is occasionally challenged, sometimes by people and groups who do not have an understanding of what a true umbrella organisation is all about. While shiny and new will always attract the eye, it is the tried and true that consistently performs as it is usually built on a solid reputation.

What has struck me when speaking to groups is that they do not realise the influence they have. Often they are tied up with their own organisation and to ask them to then contribute to NCWNZ can almost be a step too far. Yet the women that have preceded us for over 112 years have done so, often in circumstances that we cannot begin to envisage. In our current lifestyle of immediate gratification the fifteen-second sound bite has made the norm simplistic 'pop' comments that appeal to time poor individuals.

So it was with interest I listened to the media comment on the recent Toi te Taiao: the Bioethics Council study on Pre Birth Testing. It was notable that in all the coverage that I had contact with, not one media outlet gave a background on how the decision was arrived at. Toi te Taiao: the Bioethics Council used a deliberative dialogue process. Deliberative dialogue differs from other forms of public discourse - such as debate, negotiation, brainstorming, consensus-building - because the objective is not so much to talk together as to think together, not so much to reach a conclusion as to discover where a conclusion might lie. It has been around since the time of the Greeks, yet in today's world of shiny and new it does not have a Wikipedia entry!

In this issue of *The Circular* the nominations for all the elected positions are listed. It is pleasing to see that women are willing to offer their services at the Board of Management level. However it is disappointing that the organisation has not received nominations for all of the standing committee convenerships and positions on the Parliamentary Watch Committee.

Standing Committee Conveners, as previous National President, Barbara Glenie was often quoted as saying, "are the powerhouses of the organisation". While the Board and staff at National Office have an interest, the Conveners have an in depth knowledge of many issues within their portfolio.

The Parliamentary Watch Committee has an important role with submissions presented to Parliament. As a checker and ultimately the presenter to the Select Committee they have a broad knowledge of both NCWNZ and of the issues involved.

I am reminded of a quote that paraphrased for modern times would be *All it takes for apathy to succeed is for a few good women to do nothing.*

The membership of NCWNZ has the opportunity that very few members of our communities have to contribute to policy at the national level and ultimately the international level. Do not think that someone else will be the spark to light the path, be the person who lights the way for the organisation.

Christine Low

National President

From The Board

Rose Bowl Competition

By now Branches should be immersed in living sustainably and preparing for the second survey completion. The Board is looking forward to seeing the changes and reading of your tips for reducing personal carbon footprints. Here are some ideas for saving fuel – particularly valuable as the price increases - from Land Transport NZ through the Federation of Women's Institutes.

- a smooth driving style uses less fuel than sudden braking and acceleration
- faster driving burns more fuel so driving over the speed limit increases fuel usage by 10%
- make sure the tyres are inflated to the correct pressure
- it is more efficient to brake early and more gently than sudden stopping
- short trips are less efficient, especially in cold weather, and use 20% more fuel.
- save the air conditioning for open road speeds; around town open the window instead

From National Office

Travel to National Conference—reminder

To work with the transport arrangements ,the conference will be starting at 3.30pm on Thursday 02 October and finishing at 12.30pm on Sunday 05 October. For ease of planning, flight bookings should be made to ensure arrival in Wellington before 11am on the Thursday and departures from Wellington after 4.30pm on Sunday. These have been changed to fit around public transport times to and from Masterton.

Connections

NCWNZ has sent representatives to the following meetings and events:

30/04/2008	Patricia Woodley	Launch Rape Awareness Week	Auckland
20/05/2008	Christine Low	Taranaki Branch	New Plymouth
21/05/2008	Christine Low	Taranaki AAW	New Plymouth
07/06/2008	Christine Low	Quota conference (speaker)	Auckland
16/06/2008	Christine Lock	He Wahine Pumanawa	Wellington
16/06/2008	Pauline Edwards	He Wahine Pumanawa	Wellington
16/06/2008	Beryl Anderson	People Trafficking Consultation Meeting	Wellington
17/06/2008	Christine Low	People Trafficking Consultation Meeting	Christchurch
17/06/2008	Dame Laurie Salas	CMC Meeting	Wellington
17/06/2008	Bridget Mayne	CMC Meeting	Wellington
17/06/2008	Beverley Telfar	Bioethics Report Launch	Wellington
17/06/2008	Ethne Wyndham-Smith	Bioethics Report Launch	Wellington
18/06/2008	Joan MacDonald	People Trafficking Consultation Meeting	Auckland
25/06/2008	Bridget Mayne	National Party Caucus Party	Wellington
25/06/2008	Colleen Singleton	National Party Caucus Party	Wellington
25/06/2008	Sara Dickon	NGO/MFE & ENZ07 Stakeholder	Wellington
27/06/2008	Pauline Edwards	NZ Fed Ethnic Councils AGM Reception	Wellington
28/06/2008	Beryl Anderson	UN Association Special General Meeting	Wellington
29/06/2008	Elizabeth Lee	ECO AGM	Wellington

People

Queen's Birthday Honours

Anne Gover, Gore awarded MNZM (Member of the NZ Order of Merit)

Gail Collingwood, Nelson, awarded QSO (Companion of the Queen's Service Order)

Fran Jessep, Blenheim, awarded QSM (The Queen's Service Medal)

Noreen Moorhouse, Whangarei QSM



This icon highlights items featuring NCWNZ's Targeted Focus for 2006:

Sustainable Development and **Freedom from Violence.**

Letters to the Editor

Cluster Munitions Treaty

Following on from NCW's endeavours to ensure the adoption of a treaty to ban cluster bombs, it was pleasing and satisfactory to learn of the successful conclusion of such a treaty in Dublin at the end of May. Several NCW members had attended the Wellington conference in February, which drafted a treaty text in preparation for the Dublin conference, and a number of civil society people went to Dublin to lobby delegates and report back. There was great relief that this treaty, which will ban the production and use of cluster munitions, has now been agreed to by over 100 countries. Many of these dreadful weapons still lie undischarged in many countries, menacing civilians including children. The de-mining engineers will be working hard to clear areas so that useful production can resume.

The treaty will be signed in December this year, and hopefully ratified within a short time.

Laurie Salas

Sustainable Agriculture

It is interesting to notice how important the word *sustainability* has become in today's vocabulary. It applies to all aspects of the economy, but in a country where the economy is so heavily dependent on agriculture, sustainability has a specific application to land use in New Zealand.

This is not new. Pioneer farmers probably

never used the word, but sustainability underpinned their very existence. The knowledge and expertise gained over the generations is of immeasurable value, and continuity goes hand in hand with sustainability.

Of course, sustainability is not constant. Fifty years ago a dairy farm with 50 cows was adequate to provide for a family. It was sustainable because labour was not a problem and there was room for diversity. Twenty-five years later that sized farm was unsustainable, and a few more years later farms have increased in size again. But what has happened to sustainability in the meantime? Nowadays, herd numbers are in the thousands and huge corporates are buying land at exorbitant prices. Young New Zealand farmers see no possibility of competing in this market and so they are either leaving the country or opting out of farming. This means the labour supply is in crisis.

And what had happened to the continuity? It appears to have gone forever. We are allowing vast enterprises to be established at enormous expense and requiring huge inputs of labour, power and water. Power supply is a major concern; water, which we take for granted, is probably the greatest cause for concern. Is it sustainable to allow a single dairy farm to devour the equivalent amount of power and water that would meet the requirements of an entire small town?

Nowadays it is fashionable to criticise our forbears for their lack of foresight in

cutting down trees and draining wetlands. In years to come it may well be that future generations will have greater cause to criticise us. It is possible that they will condemn us for allowing corporatisation to undermine sustainability thus jeopardising our entire economy.

Mary McIntyre (abridged)

Pride in Being a Woman – Press Release

Our members thoroughly endorse the sentiments expressed in your [NCWNZ President's] article. Women want equality with men, not to become men and compete with the stereotypical 'bloke' in binge drinking and other risk-taking behaviours normally seen as male 'masculine'. Women and girls drinking to excess and having no memory of the 'blokette' night out are putting themselves in potentially harmful and life-changing situations.

We also share your concerns at the potential dangers of alcohol and party drug use, putting women and girls at risk. The easy availability of wine and beer at supermarkets and the proliferation of liquor outlets is making alcohol over-consumption a worrying trend.

Thank you for drawing national attention to this.

Papakura-Franklin Branch

(Similar thoughts were expressed by Westland Branch – Ed)

Branch Initiatives

Auckland

Much of the work we have done in the past year has been concerned with environmental issues. At a local level we have been concerned about rising water rates, transport and the overall infrastructure of our region, this latter prompting us to send in a submission to the Royal Commission on Auckland Region's governance. This work is nowhere near finishing and it touches every one of us as we feel the effects of the changing economy on our budgets and start seeking ways to cut back.

The issue of violence against women and children has had great public exposure and the voice of the community has been one of shock and condemnation. However there are still those who seek to undermine the repeal of Section 59, the so-called anti-smacking bill. We must be vigilant over this and support and promote both the Agenda for Children and CEDAW. It has been good to see all the initiatives that have sprung up within our communities and the leading role being taken by the Families Commission.

From Branch President's Annual Report.

Dunedin

The speaker at the Branch meeting that followed the AGM was Dr Kim Currie. Kim told us about the home that she and her husband have built that is not connected to the National Grid. Their electrical energy comes from solar energy and from a wind turbine. For days when they have no wind, they have a generator and for the winter, their house is heated by underfloor heating driven by a wood furnace - that has a hopper for wood delivery.

They also try to grow as much of their food as they can and have planted trees for firewood as well as for fruit. They swap vegetables or logs for other commodities where possible.

Both ride cycles to work.

Kim said it was hard work living sustainably and she did not think they would be able to do it if they had children or older dependents. There were a number of interesting questions and Kim will be in demand as a speaker for many of the organisations that make up the Branch.

Branch Initiatives cont'd

Hutt Valley

The Branch hosted a successful coffee and dessert evening with guest speaker Valerie Redshaw, author of *Tact and tenacity: New Zealand women in policing* published in 2006. Valerie was a teacher before joining the London Metropolitan Police and serving in the New Zealand Police. Resigning – as one had to do at the time – when she started a family, Valerie returned to teaching then rejoined the NZ Police in 1984, and spent a period on secondment with the New Zealand Customs Service. After retiring, Valerie helped to set up the Border Service in East Timor. Valerie told the tales behind writing the book, the experiences of women in policing – both commissioned and non-commissioned officers – that showed the courage and tenacity of women in policing. The book covers the work of NCWNZ and other groups to ensure women could join the police force in New Zealand.



Photo: Valerie Redshaw

Southland

Members were challenged to question ways in which there could be unconscious condoning of violence in our society. Concerns were raised as to what the triggers are in society that result in so much violence. Suggestions included:

- young mothers finding themselves without support
- Plunket is inadequately resourced to provide continuity of care
- there can be a range of providers involved with families and these need to be working together
- appropriate parenting education needs to be available
- the use of violent language is prevalent in the media
- Members were challenged to consider their own use of language.

Tauranga

Environ Queens – Doing our bit for our planet and future generations

In June, fifteen NCW Tauranga members completed a questionnaire re recycling habits and shared their environment-friendly tips. Results are as follows:

We all recycle paper, class bottles, metal cans, plastic and glass, all but two, recycled oil, paint and batteries. Expired medications and computers need our further attention. When the HazMobile is in your area dispose of: light bulbs, green waste, batteries, printer cartridges, lead based paints and other harmful products. When not in use, lights/appliances get the off flick. Environmentally friendly products are sought. Many members car pool, plant native trees and use energy saving light bulbs.

We're top vegetable growers - marigolds and rosemary keep bugs at bay – we have good composting skills and recycle rain/household water in gardens. Fingers squash and soapy water/oil stymies bugs, Jeyes fluid cleans pruning tools and milk shines leaves.

Two husbands chop the wood while full length curtains, HRV's, air foam in the walls and extra clothing warm us up. We don't watch TV3 WASTED – Tuesday 8 – 8.30pm or visit www.sustainability.govt.nz much but reuse gift paper/ribbon, make gifts, use low flow shower heads/toilet flush systems, set water cylinders at recommended temperature and check for efficient power plans.

Guest speaker, Sue Furey, Manager, Tauranga Environment Centre, congratulated the group on their recycling habits and environment friendly tips. Sue highlighted her organisation's sustainable living courses, volunteer group activities, free advice and Funky Junk Bin service.

Whakatane

The annual debate organised by the Branch was won this year by a team

from Trident High School arguing the negative. Debating against the Whakatane High School team in the affirmative, senior participants considered the moot "That education is too important to be left to the experts". Junior teams competed for the first time debating "That Coke is the symbol of our age", with Trident again taking the negative. The winning senior team was congratulated on their rebuttals, and the junior team convinced the adjudicator that young people today want fun and rebellion quickly and now, and that Coke has been overtaken by technology and party pills. The competition is designed as a beginners forum to give students a taste of debating and public speaking.

Article from Eastern Bay News supplied by the Branch.

National Members



National Collective of Independent Women's Refuges Inc.

Inmate Conviction Over Threats Welcomed

Women's Refuge says the conviction of an inmate who terrorised his former partner from jail, is a much-needed clampdown on this type of behaviour.

The man's offending was uncovered as a result of new phone monitoring technology introduced by the Department of Corrections.

The Chief Executive of the National Collective of Independent Women's Refuges, Heather Henare, says many women who have suffered domestic violence have then been persecuted again from behind bars.

"We've had so many cases where the men have continued to stalk the women

and make threats while they are in custody."

"This has simply prolonged the torment for these women, who've already been through the most horrendous abuse and are still incredibly vulnerable."

"They deserve the full protection of all authorities and the knowledge that everything is being done to keep their attacker away from them and in a position where they're no longer able to keep taunting, threatening and abusing them."

"A particularly aggravating aspect of this case is that the man did this while in custody on other charges, and that's certainly something the judge should be taking into account."

Ms Henare says she is glad the Department of Corrections is taking steps to address such a serious issue, and hopes to see a sustained long-term strategy to stem this sort of abuse.

Nationally Organised Societies



Rural Women NZ

Enterprising Rural Woman Award 2009

RWNZ National Council announced an exciting new award at the organisation's national conference in May.

Sponsored by Bank of New Zealand and Rural News Group, the Enterprising Rural Woman Award supports and encourages small rural businesses and celebrates the success of rural women entrepreneurs.

The three finalists will have an outstanding opportunity to showcase their businesses and gain recognition for their achievements through national media coverage and the Award will be presented at a high profile function to be held in Wellington in May 2009 in conjunction with the next RWNZ national conference.

There are three prizes to be won:

The BNZ Award - \$1500 prize money and the opportunity to attend a BNZ Women in Agribusiness course.

The RWNZ/Access Homehealth Award - \$500 prize money and \$500 printing or design work from Precise Print & Design, Paraparaumu.

The Propaganda Award - \$500 or marketing from a company of your choice.

Entry forms and criteria are available from RWNZ website www.ruralwomen.org, by ringing 0800 256 467 or emailing enquiries@ruralwomen.org.nz. Closing date for entries is 16 February 2009.

Raise Earnings Threshold to \$150 a Week

Rural Women New Zealand is disappointed that this week's Budget did not raise the \$80 a week earnings threshold, after which unemployment benefits are slashed by 70 cents in the dollar.

"The opportunity to close the gap has been lost and the chasm widened between those in work and those attempting to take the first steps on the ladder out of unemployment," says Rural Women New Zealand National President Margaret Chapman.

"Our organisation was hoping the Budget would address the difficulties these families are facing and, at our national conference in Blenheim this week,

members passed a remit calling for a raise in the earnings threshold to \$150 a week."

Rural Women New Zealand's position is supported by figures issued recently by the Child Poverty Action Group showing that once housing costs are taken into account, beneficiaries on average have 40% of the minimum wage left to live on.

Rural Women New Zealand does not believe raising the earnings threshold to \$150 a week before the unemployment benefit begins to abate would discourage beneficiaries from seeking work.

"Indeed leaving the threshold at \$80 is discouraging people from working, as increases in the minimum wage mean that people reach this threshold after fewer hours of work. When rising travel costs are taken into account it is often not worthwhile taking on work,

particularly in rural areas when longer distances are involved."

Broadband Investment Fund

In the recent Budget the government announced it would be setting up a contestable fund for broadband investment.

RWNZ is pleased that the need for rural broadband investment is being recognised, as it is something we have been advocating strongly. Broadband is very important in rural areas for accessing services, educational purposes, business and voluntary work. RWNZ believes this investment must include those living in remote rural areas, not just small rural towns. The cost to deliver broadband to these places may be higher, but the spin off for remote rural families is higher than could possibly be imagined by most urban users.



Photo: Governor Lynette Grave stands tall, wearing the kākahu with pride.



Zonta International District 16

The Zonta International District 16 Board met for the final board meeting of the 2006-2008 biennium in Dunedin.

Ranui Ngarimu (left) attended the meeting mid-morning to present District 16 with a kākahu especially woven by herself and Te Aue Davis for Zonta.

The kākahu will travel to Rotterdam where Governor Lynette will wear it while carrying the New Zealand flag at the opening ceremony of the international meeting. The kākahu has been totally funded by donations from members and clubs of the 2006-2008 biennium.



Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)

Sustainable Outdoor Furniture?

The exploitation of the resources of indigenous peoples in the Pacific is of great concern and is a cause of much distress and conflict. One of these resources is timber and illegal logging is having a dire effect on the habitat of many thousands of people, and also having huge environmental impact. Much of this illegal logging is occurring in Papua New Guinea and Indonesian controlled West Papua and is carried out by Malaysian and Chinese logging companies.

Unfortunately New Zealand is importing some of this illegally logged timber which is being sold for kwila decking and being used for making kwila outdoor furniture. Approximately NZ\$20 million of kwila decking and furniture is imported into New Zealand every year.

People don't realise that the timber furniture they are buying could be pushing tropical forests, indigenous communities, the climate and the kwila tree itself to the brink of extinction. Once the deforestation has occurred the land is used for palm oil plantations from which the local people derive no benefits and which are major sources of pollution to the waterways.

In February of this year, Greenpeace and the Indonesian Human Rights Committee cooperated in the release of a Forest Friendly Furniture purchasing guide www.greenpeace.org/new-zealand/news/the-forest-friendly-furniture.

Standing Committees

Conveners

Consumer Affairs - Jan Brown

Economics - Heather Smith

Education - Frances Townsend

Employment - Elizabeth (Liz) Cruickshank

Environment - Sara Dickon

Family Affairs - Belinda Greenwood

Health - Vacant

Justice and Law Reform - Sandra Marshall

Public Issues - Joan Macdonald

Social Issues - Christine Rattray

Parliamentary Watch Committee - Beryl Anderson

Education

Education Funding

The 2008 Budget provided an average of a 5% increase over four years to schools' Operations Grant. The grant covers the day-to-day running of schools. It is calculated from the school roll in the main. According to the Schools Trustees Association (STA) the increase is unlikely to solve schools problems because the Operations Grant is too tightly regulated without reference to a school's particular circumstances. In particular, if a school requires additional staffing, it must be paid out of the operational grant. Although the budget increase for education at 5% is the largest since 2001, the prediction is that inflation in 2009 is likely to be over 4%.

Schools Plus

School Trustees Association supported the *Schools Plus* document in principle but had some major concerns. One concern was over the training and monitoring of workplace instructors. Would they be 'of good character'? Would the training standard be of high quality? From the schools point of view STA wondered how schools could monitor their students undertaking a workplace component and who would create and monitor personal education plans.

About half of the NCWNZ branches and

several NOSs responded to the *Schools Plus* Action Item and tended to take a similar stance i.e. general support but with some serious questions. One of NCWNZ's questions was the funding of the scheme since the Document failed to assure readers that this would be a Government funded initiative. An Education Standing Committee query to the Ministry discovered that the funding issue comes after the creation of the policy. The Education Standing Committee understands that if Schools Plus is approved after consultation, funding will be available. Education Standing Committee thanks all those who responded to this Action Item.

Environment

The Silence of Bees

This was the title of a documentary on Sky, National Geographic, Sunday 20 April. The United States recently lost 80% of its bees. Intense research has found a new factor called Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), which is now also being seen in Europe. The bees were found to have multiple viral, bacterial and fungal disorders, thought to affect their memories, and lead to the abandonment of the hives, since they cannot find them. Sick bees usually leave their hives anyway, to avoid infecting other bees. Beekeepers say that never before have they lost such

large numbers of bees so quickly. The US are replacing their bees by importing bees from Australia. The symptoms were found to be very similar to those shown when bees were exposed to a new strong insecticide. CCD is considered by scientists to be similar to Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS) found in humans, caused by exposure to a number of pesticides, insecticides and other toxic chemicals. MCS symptoms include memory and balance problems. Some researchers thought that other factors might also contribute, for instance bees could be suffering from malnutrition. The cause of this could be that they are feeding off only one crop in industrial scale farming, instead of the variety of plants that would be natural forage for bees. Scientists regard CCD as a very serious condition, which will further deplete the world's food supply, already in dire straits from climate change and diversion into biofuels. It has not been seen in New Zealand yet, but with a bee population already weakened by the varroa mite, it is very possible that it is not far away. We depend on the pollination of bees for a huge number of crops. I would like to ask everyone, everyone who reads this, to try and reduce the use of chemical insecticides and herbicides, wherever they use them. Never use them when you see bees around. In house or garden, or farm, there are alternatives such as natural

pyrethrum in the house, and organic methods for garden and farm. Our bees are very precious, and the hardest workers in agricultural fields. The diversity, and quantity, of our food will suffer immensely if we lose them.

The Department of Conservation Statement of Intent 2008 – 2011

The Government has set three overall themes for its investment in the public service: economic transformation, families – young and old, and national identity. Underpinning these, the Government recognises that future prosperity depends on long-term sustainable strategies for the economy, society, environment, culture and the New Zealand way of life. Two ways Department of Conservation contributes to these are through:

- carbon neutral public service by reducing its own emissions and by identifying and providing sites on conservation land that can be used to provide carbon offsets for other departments.
- forest carbon sinks, which give businesses opportunities to invest in conservation projects for biodiversity improvement to earn Kyoto carbon credits.

Biodiversity Strategy was launched in 2000 to give effect to obligations under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity. Following a review of the first 5 years, these key areas have been identified for on-going work:

- preparing for the impact of climate change on land and sea species and ecosystems
- protecting terrestrial biodiversity in rare and threatened ecosystems, particularly on private land
- identifying and protecting the highest value freshwater systems, and ensuring that land use is sympathetic to freshwater biodiversity
- implementing the Marine Protected Areas Policy around New Zealand's coast, and ensuring land use and other activities such as fishing do not degrade the marine environment
- improving leadership, partnerships and engagement with Maori, communities and local government to get better co-ordination of biodiversity work
- improving monitoring and reporting against New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy outcomes.

The Department's Strategic Direction states: "The overarching purpose of the Department is to increase the value that New Zealanders attribute to conservation. This leads to enhanced

care of New Zealand's unique heritage for people to benefit from and enjoy." This will be delivered by:

- promoting the benefits and value of conservation
- demonstrating that conservation contributes to economic prosperity
- achieving conservation results through collaboration
- demonstrating excellence in conservation knowledge and practice, and sharing it with others.

Family Affairs

Allowance announced in Budget

Along with the announcements in May's budget came a statement from Senior Citizens Minister Ruth Dyson that Grandparents/Kin/Whanau who are raising Grandchildren/kin would be granted between \$6.49 and 21.27 a week (depending on the age of the child) extra to match the foster parent allowance BUT not until April 2009 and no allowances for clothing, schooling, doctors visits etc to which foster parents are entitled.

The grant for a preschool child goes from \$121.50 to \$127.99, 5 - 9 years goes from \$139.73 to \$148.53, 10 - 13 years goes from \$148.83 to \$163.91, 14 years and up.\$157.92 to \$179.19.

Why no allowances? These children still need clothing, health care and education the same as foster children do.

While the announcement is long overdue, after making the initial announcement in 2005, it is more than welcomed by the caregivers of these children but also shows that Grandparents/Kin/Whanau are still classed as second rate caregivers in the Governments eyes. Surely a child is better off being with extended family than unknown caregivers and this should be recognised by the government. Is it going to take another nine years for the extra allowances to be granted, nine years being the time it has taken since the Government was first lobbied for this?

And why not until April 2009, what's wrong with now?

Are they planning on backdating this to the first announcement, which was made in 2005?

Family Affairs has always supported this allowance and will continue to seek the extra allowances which foster parents are getting as a matter of right.

This is election year (again) and Family Affairs encourages you to ask at any election meeting you attend when these extra allowances are going to be granted, or are they still planning to add

these allowances onto the base-allowance and making the announcement sometime during the election campaign so that in April 2009 the base-allowance will be started along with the extra allowances for clothing, health care, education etc.?

What do the other parties plan to do with this announcement? Are they going to honour the announcement or come April 2009, IF another party is in power, do they have other plans for this? Our Grandparents/Kin/Whanau have a right to know the answers to these questions.

Public Issues

Alternatives to Prison

Last month I attended a lecture given by two British academics and activists for prison reform who were visiting New Zealand. Baroness Vivien Stern and Professor Andrew Coyle were speaking about "Understanding Prisons-Key Issues in Policy and Practice" and "Alternatives to Imprisonment". These speakers have both been to New Zealand before and have observed, with concern, the rise in the imprisonment rates here, and the comparison with other countries. The way we are going the rate of imprisonment is projected to rise by 15.3% in the next seven years. At present the rate here is 197 per 100,000 which is much higher than the rates for most European countries. New Zealand has comparable rates to countries such as Libya, Azerbaijan and Brazil.

The numbers of people in prison cannot be explained by differing crime rates. For example, in Australia, the rates vary in different states from 60 per 100,000 to 900 per 100,000. The higher the amount spent by countries on welfare the lower the rates of imprisonment and vice versa. It also reflects differences of treatment for those on the margins and people with mental illnesses. Better treatment for those with mental illnesses would save both victims and offenders.

We need to think of better ways of dealing with this issue. Since harsher penalties were brought in, the prison population has increased dramatically and, from the figures cited, it is obviously going to get worse and will become totally unaffordable. Some of the ideas that originated in this country such as family group conferences and restorative justice, which have been taken from the Maori system of dealing with offenders, can work brilliantly, and have been taken up by many countries. Unfortunately we do not seem to be extending the programme here nearly as much as it could be.

There is also the issue, which was mentioned by the speakers, about the amount of money spent on welfare. Our

record of children living in poverty, which has been highlighted by the Child Poverty Action Group, is a blot on our society. It seems we are prepared to spend far more money on putting and keeping people in prison than we are on the most vulnerable in our community.

There are so many other programmes that could be explored and used as alternatives to imprisonment. Prisons should only be used for those who are too dangerous to live in the community and are unable to be rehabilitated. What is needed is a change in mindset from punishment and imprisonment to more rehabilitative methods. Prisons don't work except to produce more dangerous criminals, or people who are totally unable to function in society.

Consumer Affairs

Shop Trading Hours

In January 2008 NCWNZ Consumer Affairs Standing Committee wrote a submission to the Department of Labour on the Easter Trading and Holiday Legislation.

It was evident that there is a wide diversity of opinion on this topic, but also a perceptible shift towards a wish for more choice about extended shop trading hours on public holidays by the general community. This was marginally reflected in the responses to the Action Item from the NCWNZ membership.

Many members emphasised the importance of the traditional sustained break from usual work that the Easter holidays provides and the need for a work/life balance and family focused activities, also the significance of Easter Sunday for Christians.

This continued to reflect policy established at the National Executive Meeting in 2003 regarding Shop Trading Hours. The majority of members' responses indicated support for Easter Sunday to be a public holiday subject to "Mondayisation" arrangements instead of continuing as a restricted trading day.

The report from the Government summarising the submissions received on Easter trading identifies the key concerns raised by submitters and sets out the preferred options of submitters. The aim of the Discussion Document was to resolve inconsistencies, whilst balancing the competing interests of business owners, employees and the wider community.

In three key decision areas identified for consideration, 107 individual submissions were received from interested submitters and 3951 less detailed submissions from the National Distribution Union members - a total of 4058 submissions overall.

Easter Trading and Holiday

The Circular No. 514 July 2008

Legislation

A summary of the feedback given re concerns with the key areas of decision making and submitters' support for the different options was reported as follows.

Status of Easter Sunday

- 43% supported the status quo.
- 34% supported Easter Sunday to be treated as a Public Holiday with the majority view preferring "Mondayisation" should Easter Sunday become a Public Holiday.
- 9% supported an increase in the number of Public Holidays -12 instead of 11.
- The remaining 7% supported other options such as the Anzac Day restrictions model.

Shop Trading and Sale of Liquor

- 51% of submitters supported the status quo and restrictions existing under the Shop Trading Hours Act Repeal Act 1990, and the Sale of Liquor Act 1989.
- 35% preferred the reinstatement of exemptions for shop trading to exempt specific areas.
- 9% supported removing the trading restrictions under the Act for Easter Sunday.
- 5% supported other options such as the Anzac Day model with trading after 1pm.

Enforcement of Penalties

- 38% supported an increase in Labour Inspector powers of enforcement and penalties
- 62% opposed this increase in enforcement and a majority wished to have penalties removed.
- Some submitters supported other options, ranging from instant fines for trading restrictions to closure.

Employer Protection

- 76% supported additional employee protections for shops opening to trade on Easter Sunday be required, with a right to refuse to work. This could be specified in their employment agreement.
- 24% considered no additional protections were required for Easter Sunday trading.

Leaseholder's protections

- This was also considered with 70% supporting the requirement for additional protections for retailers and employees.
- 30% considered no additional precautions were required for Easter Sunday Trading, where retailer's leases provided for mandatory opening.

The Ministers of Labour and Justice will separately make announcements regarding the outcomes of this review.



**NCWNZ
Teaspoons
available from
National Office
at \$7.50 each**



Millenium Development Goals

How is the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) helping?

UNDP is working with a wide range of partners to help create coalitions for change to support the goals at global, regional and national levels, to benchmark progress towards them, and to help countries to build the institutional capacity, policies and programmes needed to achieve the MDGs.

Guided by the UN Core Strategy, UNDP's work on the MDGs focuses on coordinating global and local efforts that:

- Campaign and mobilise for the MDGs through advocacy;
- Share the best strategies for meeting the MDGs in terms of innovative practices, policy and institutional reforms, means of policy implementation, and evaluation of financing options;
- Monitor and report progress towards the MDGs; and
- Support governments in tailoring the MDGs to local circumstances and challenges.

Goal 5: Improve maternal health

Target: Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio



Many people consider the day their child was born the happiest day in their life. In the world's wealthier countries, that is. In poorer countries, the day a child born is all too often the day its mother dies. In high-fertility countries in sub-Saharan Africa, women have a one in 16 chance of dying in childbirth. In low-fertility countries in Europe, this number is one in 2,000 and in North America it's one in 3,500.



Who's got the power? Transforming health systems for women and children—UN Millenium Task Force Report

The central thrust of 'Who's Got the Power?' is that dramatic, meaningful, sustainable progress toward decreasing child and maternal mortality requires an intense focus on improving health systems. The authors highlight that change is possible and they advance a comprehensive action plan that recommends the rapid and equitable sale-up of interventions such as integrated management of childhood illness, the universal provision of emergency obstetric care and sexual and reproductive health services, and the provision of strengthened health systems.

The economic dimension is the next challenge towards global gender equity



SOCIAL WATCH
www.socialwatch.org

More than half the women in the world live in countries that have made no progress towards gender equity in recent years. That is one of the findings of the Gender Equity Index (GEI) 2008 that Social Watch launched as a contribution to the 52nd Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women that ended on March 8, the International Women's Day.

The GEI, developed and calculated by Social Watch, ranks 157 countries in a scale where 100 would imply complete equality between women and men in education, participation in the economy and in decision-making bodies (empowerment). Yet the highest-ranking country in the world (Sweden) has an index of 89 and the world average of 61. Finland (85) and Norway (84) follow Sweden in the table, and after that come Germany and Rwanda, both with 80. (*New Zealand ranks eighth.*) While the first four countries are among the richest of the world, Rwanda is one of the poorest. German Women are obviously better educated and live longer than those in Rwanda. What the index shows is that the gap separating their condition from those of men is similar.

"The GEI for 2008 clearly shows that income alone is no guarantee for gender equity", emphasises Social Watch co-ordinator Roberto Bissio. Countries with very high per capita incomes, such as Luxembourg or Switzerland, have the same equity level as Mozambique, a country with a much lower income level.

For the first time this year, the GEI is able to show recent evolution (last five years) in 133 countries. While there is not enough evidence yet to show the evolution of very populous countries like China and India, the indicators do show that progress towards gender equity is difficult and vulnerable to regressions. Education is the dimension that is closer to complete equity, with a global average of 90. But in education more countries are regressing than those making progresses. Empowerment is the

dimension where most countries are showing progress, but it is also the one where the global average is the lowest, reaching only 35 points out of 100. In terms of the economy, there are as many countries where women make progress as countries regressing.

According to Genoveva Tisheva, managing director of the Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation and a member of the Coordinating Committee of Social Watch, "in Eastern Europe women are more often unemployed after the completion of a higher educational degree". Tisheva argues that "legal and regulatory measures should ensure access to the labour market of young women and other groups of women with less bargaining power and from vulnerable groups". Tisheva warns that the global trends of trade liberalization "have made of women one of the most flexible participants in the labour market, subjected to deregulation, informalisation, lowering of the social and labour standards".

Affirmative measures such as gender quotas for political participation in elected bodies and pro-equity regulations in the labour market are behind most of the success stories of countries making progress in the Gender Equity Index.

More information about the Gender Equity Index and the complete statistical tables can be found at: www.socialwatch.org



Landmark UN Treaty on Rights of Persons with Disabilities enters into Force

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities entered into force on 2 May 2008, one month after the

required twentieth country ratified the landmark treaty which guarantees the rights of some 650 million people worldwide.

The Convention -- which Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon has called "a powerful tool to eradicate the obstacles faced by persons with disabilities" -- was adopted by the General Assembly on 13 December 2006, and was opened for signature and ratification on 30 March 2007.

The Convention does not create any new rights, but aims to ensure that the benefits of existing rights are fully extended and guaranteed.

"It had been argued that persons with disabilities were covered by existing human rights treaties, but the reality was very different," says Akiko Ito, the UN Focal Point on Disability. "Persons with disabilities have routinely suffered discrimination in the job market, in schools and in receiving public services. This Convention will make sure that these people will no longer be ignored."

The treaty asserts the rights of people with disabilities to education, health, work, adequate living conditions, freedom of movement, freedom from exploitation and equal recognition before the law for persons with disabilities.

It also addresses the need for persons with disabilities to have access to public transport, buildings and other facilities and recognises their capacity to make decisions for themselves.

By ratifying the Convention, States commit themselves to enact laws and other measures to improve disability rights, and also abolish legislation, customs and practices that discriminate against persons with disabilities.

John Flanagan, Officer-in-Charge of the UN Mine Action Service, said the new treaty is particularly relevant for survivors of accidents with landmines and explosive remnants of war.

"Too often, landmine victims are excluded from their communities," he stated. "For example, child survivors of landmine incidents are often removed from school. Landmine victims are entitled to all the same human rights as every other member of their societies, and this new Convention will help level the playing field in terms of access to services and opportunities."

Christine Knock, ICW Co-ordinator Social Issues.

Release of Human Rights Report 2007

On 12 March 2008, the U.S. Department of State announced the release of the Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2007. The U.S. Congress mandates these reports every year on 194 countries around the world.

Based on the fundamental and universal nature of human rights as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United States seeks to:

- Hold governments accountable to their obligations under universal human rights norms and international human rights instruments;
- Promote greater respect for human rights, including freedom from torture, freedom of expression, press freedom, women's rights, children's rights, and the protection of minorities;
- Promote the rule of law, seek accountability, and change cultures of impunity;
- Assist efforts to reform and strengthen the institutional capacity of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the UN Human Rights Council;
- Coordinate human rights activities with important allies and regional organizations.

<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2007/>

Violence Against Women (VAW)

The Special Rapporteur on VAW, Yakin Erturk has released her report on indicators of violence against women and states responses to such in the March session of HRC. (Google A/ HRC/7/6 **for full report.**) Useful examples of state action or civil society action and recommendations to combat VAW are included at the end of the report.

For more general information on the work of the rapporteur read the website: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/women/rapporteur/index.htm>.

For a list of country reports go here: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/women/rapporteur/visits.htm>.

The 2007 country visits were to Algeria, Congo and Ghana and Saudi Arabia in 2008 though this report has not been released yet.

Women's Groups Push for Gender-Sensitive Budgets

As women's groups and political activists intensify their global campaign for gender empowerment, there is a growing trend towards "gender budgeting" both among developed and developing nations.

Rawwida Baksh, team leader of Women's Rights and Citizenship at the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in Canada, told IPS the concept of "gender-responsive budgeting" has been in currency since the mid-1980s.

The Australian government was the first to introduce gender budgeting in 1984, followed by Canada in 1993 and South Africa in 1994. Since then, some 50 countries worldwide have adopted some form of gender-responsive budgeting, she said.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon points out that "governments are increasingly creating an enabling environment for investing in women." He said many member states "are abolishing laws that prohibit women's access to land, property ownership, credits and markets."

But women's groups and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are now seeking concrete commitments on gender budgeting.

"The United Nations can help by making a strong declaration in favour of gender budgeting that requires all (192) member states to take clear steps," says the Women's National Commission, a non-governmental organisation with consultative status with the UN's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

In 1995, the Beijing Platform for Action (that followed an international women's conference in the Chinese capital that year) and the 2002 Monterrey Consensus (that followed the first FfD conference in Mexico) urged member states to recognise gender equality as an essential element of good governance and women's empowerment as a key factor in economic development.

"And yet, we still have a long way to go," says Ban, because "women are still severely hampered by discrimination and gender-based violence; lack resources and economic opportunities; and have limited access to decision-making."

Baksh of IDRC said a national budget is a crucial instrument "in shaping women's living standards and their prospects for economic empowerment". She listed several countries, both in the developed and developing world, which have embraced the concept of gender budgeting. (*The list does not include New Zealand.*)

According to "Gender Budgets Make Cents" published in 2002 by the London-based Commonwealth Secretariat, national budgets can worsen or improve the living standards of different groups of women and contribute to narrowing or widening gender gaps in incomes, health, education, nutrition, and other areas.

By Thalif Deen IPSNews (Inter Press Services) May 14 2008 (Abridged)

Target Focus



Sustainable Development

Fair Trade Workplaces

Making Fairtrade products available in the workplace is one of the most significant ways a group can show people it cares about others, whether in New Zealand or farmers and their families in other countries. While it is well known that Fairtrade is good news for farmers in developing countries, offering a fair price, an additional premium, environmental benefits and better income security, it is also true that buying Fairtrade products has benefits for New Zealand.

Why become a Fair Trade workplace, or group? It brings positive publicity and shows that your group is serious about social responsibility, it is a tool to help meet sustainability, environmental and social responsibility goals and it improves moral as it shows support for poorer communities.

Do you use Fair Trade tea and coffee in your workplace or group? Check the online procurement guide or visit www.fairtrade.org.nz/buyandsell to find out where you can purchase Fairtrade Certified products. Or check your existing supplier to see if they offer a Fairtrade Certified option. Promote fair trade in your workplace or group by putting up posters or by distributing Fairtrade Certified products to colleagues and friends or by holding an event during Fair Trade Fortnight in May – plan ahead for next year!

Since Fairtrade was launched in supermarkets in the UK, sales have doubled every year and supermarkets there are clamouring to offer the widest variety of Fairtrade options to customers. In New Zealand, we're lucky to find one or two choices of Fairtrade coffee, tea or chocolate.

Speak out at your supermarket:

1 minute action – fill out a comment card or write on your till receipt that you would like them to stock a wider range of Fairtrade products.

5 minute action – check out the range and fill out the Fairtrade supermarket survey card to help find the best Fairtrade supermarket in New Zealand.

10 minute action – speak to the manager about why you support Fairtrade products.

15 minute action – write a letter to the supermarket manager or its Head Office. You can find a sample letter and addresses on the Oxfam website. www.Oxfam.org.nz/fairtrade.

The website also has details on the supermarket survey card.

A Rocha: Bringing Benefit to Local Communities

A Rocha is an international conservation organisation working to show God's love for all creation. It operates in 17 countries, including New Zealand from 2007, and is a member of IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature)

In Ghana, conservation work has been undertaken with communities on the fringes of Mole National Park. One element of this programme has been the provision of a shea nut processing machine. When crushed and pressed, the nuts of the shea tree yield a vegetable fat used in cooking, soap-making and in skin and hair care. The trees grow wild throughout the semi-arid Sahel region of West Africa and harvesting the fallen nuts is traditionally the work of women and children. Selling the unprocessed nuts is much less profitable than selling the butter, but pounding the nuts is hard manual labour. The provision of a simple press, along with training in marketing, has greatly reduced the women's work and enables them to earn a decent income.

A Rocha International Review 2008

Freedom From Violence

Researchers on Sexual Violence Appointed

The Minister of Women's Affairs, Steve Chadwick, has made announcements in regard to planned sexual violence research.

"Contracts for the research have been awarded, and I am pleased to announce that the work will be carried out by very experienced and highly respected researchers from the Crime and Justice Research Centre, Victoria University of Wellington," Steve Chadwick said.

The research will look at improving the likelihood of victims making a complaint, supporting victims through the criminal justice system and the types of intervention that best support victims.

Over the next six months researchers will conduct interviews and surveys with victims of sexual violence and key informants such as rape crisis workers, counsellors, doctors, police and community leaders. They will also undertake statistical analyses and a literature review.

"Eliminating sexual violence is a priority for this government and the research will complement the work of the Taskforce

for Action on Sexual Violence, which is working to address the impacts of sexual violence and to improve outcomes for victims.

"We know that sexual violence is significantly under-reported in New Zealand, and the likelihood of obtaining a conviction when an assault is reported is not high. This research will support policy development that will vastly improve our processes for victims of sexual violence.

"This will not only benefit victims, but New Zealand as a whole. As well as the physical and mental health cost to victims, the cost to the community through the health, justice, and social systems is significant."

The two-year research project began in July 2007 and is being led by the Ministry of Women's Affairs in partnership with the Ministry of Justice and the New Zealand Police. The researchers will present their findings to the Ministry of Women's Affairs by the end of 2008.

National Collective of Independent Women's Refuges Inc.

Official Responses

Tax Incentives for giving to charities and other non-profit organisations

This letter provides an update on the governments' tax policy reform programme in relation to the charities area since the release of the October 2006 discussion document, *Tax incentives for giving to charities and other non-profit organisations*.

As you may know, Budget 2007 kick-started the reforms by removing the caps on the dollar amount of charitable donations eligible for tax relief. This means that from April this year, individuals can make cash donations up to the level of their annual taxable income and claim a tax credit, equal to one-third of the total donations made, at the end of the year (31 March 2009). Also, companies and Maori authorities can claim tax deductions for donations up to the level of their annual net income in their 2009 tax return.

Last year also saw the release of the discussion document, *Payroll giving: providing a real-time benefit for charitable giving* and the officials' issues paper, *The tax treatment of honoraria and reimbursements paid to volunteers*. The proposals in these documents received overwhelming support from a wide range of people and organisations, and were seen as a positive step towards the development of and support for the charitable and voluntary sectors of New Zealand.

Just recently I announced that the government has given the go-ahead to tax changes designed to make charitable giving of money and volunteers' time easier for all concerned. This would see the introduction next year of a voluntary payroll giving scheme and changes to clarify and simplify the tax rules surrounding the payment of reimbursement and honoraria paid to volunteers.

Further work is also underway on a range of other mechanisms for delivering tax relief on charitable donations. They include investigating the idea of allowing deductions for non-monetary donations and the possibility of a gift-aid scheme where the tax benefit goes directly to the charity rather than to the donor.

Also of relevance to the charitable sector is the question of imputation credits and who should be entitled to use those

credits. The government is in the process of a wide review of the use of imputation credits, part of which will explore the question of whether imputation credits should be made available to charities. I expect the government discussion document including this matter to be released soon.

As you can see, there is still a lot of work ahead of us. I look forward to your continued collaboration in developing a stronger culture of giving in New Zealand, to support the work of the charitable and voluntary sectors in delivering many vital services to our communities.

Hon Peter Dunne Minister of Revenue, 22 May 2008

President's Comment June 2008

Firstly, congratulations to Christine for her comments in the June 08 edition, particularly in regard to our country's youth.

In regard to the comments in "Employment" regarding leaflet deliverers, I want to bring to your attention the Minimum Wage and Remuneration Bill, which is a members Bill in my name making its way slowly through parliament.

The bill is designed to ensure vulnerable contractors including leaflet deliverers are paid a minimum wage and I am hopeful that with Labour, Greens and Maori party support, this will become law before the election.

Thank you for bringing this to the attention of NCW members.

Darien Fenton MP, 12 June 2008

National Conference

NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTED OFFICERS 2008-2010

At close of nominations on 30 May all positions on the Board of Management had been filled, therefore they have all been declared elected. There will be an election at Conference to decide the positions of First and Second Vice President. The role of National President is however to be contested as Christine Low completes her second and final term.

Nominations were received for the convenerships of Consumer Affairs, Education, Economics, and Parliamentary Watch. There were only **two** PWC members nominated. Therefore they have been declared elected. Nominations for PWC members will remain open till 31 August 2008.

There were no nominations for several Standing Committee Conveners (Employment, Family Affairs, Environment, Health, Public Issues, Social Issues and Justice and Law Reform). Nominations are called to fill the three Standing Committee Convener vacancies and three Parliamentary Watch Committee member vacancies. These nominations close at noon on 31 August 2008. Should there be more nominations than vacancies, an election will be held for these vacancies at Conference.

STANDING FOR NATIONAL PRESIDENT

ELIZABETH BANG

Nominated by: Hamilton Branch

Awards and Honours: Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit, MNZM. 2003 for Services to Women and the Community; CEO Hospice Waikato: Newstalk ZB Not for Profit Business of the year 2007

NCWNZ Experience: 2004-2008- 1st Vice President; 2002- present, member of The Board of Management; 1998-2002- Convener, Health Standing Committee; 1996-2008 member Hamilton Branch; Member of Otago Executive, Convener Otago Centennial Committee until August 1996; NZ Nurse's Association representative on Otago Branch 1982-1991, then Associate member (Voting Delegate); President Dunedin Branch 1987-1990; Vice President Dunedin Branch 1985-1986; Executive Member 1984-; Corresponding Member Health Standing Committee 1984-1996

Education and Training: Winston Churchill Memorial Fellow, 1994. Studied Breast Screening in The United Kingdom, Europe and Australia. Massey University 1984-1988 (Extramural): Diploma in Health in Health Administration. University of Otago, 1976-1977: Certificate in Theory and Practice of Social Work-completed 1977. 1965, Post Graduate School for Nurses: Ward Sister's Certificate Course. Palmerston North School of Nursing, 1960-1963: Registered General and Obstetric Nurse graduated June 1963.

Service in Public Positions: Justice of the Peace; Member of Anglican Social Service Trust Board 1998; Board Member, Richmond Fellowship, Hamilton, 1996-1998; Churchill Fellow-1994; Member AAW Dunedin Branch 1990-1996; Trustee, Aroha Ki Te Tamariki Trust, Dunedin 1990-1996; Dunedin Hospital Chaplain Council, 1988-1996; Dunedin Diocesan appointee- various positions on the Executive; Member and Vice President YWCA Board of Directors, Dunedin, 1975-1980; Presiding Member, YWCA Programme Committee 1978-1980.

Employment Experience: Chief Executive Officer, Hospice Waikato, 2002- present; Senior Portfolio Manager, Public Health Directorate, Ministry of Health, Hamilton, 2000-2002; Portfolio/ Service Manager, Health Funding Authority, Hamilton 1996-1998; Manager, Otago-Southland Pilot Breast Screening Programme, Dunedin 1992-1996; Surgical Management team 1989-1992, Dunedin Hospital; Nursing positions Charge nurse to Supervisor 1986-1989; RGON 1963 Palmerston North School of Nursing.

Particular Strengths and Contribution Nominee could bring to this position: Having been six years on the Board of Management, the past four as Vice President, I now stand for President. During the past four years I have represented NCWNZ on behalf of Christine, our President on several occasions. This has given me a greater understanding of how our NOS and Branches operate and also enabled me to meet many of our members. During the times Christine has been overseas I was able to field the number of requests from various sources that NCW receives, and I understand fully the need to act in a timely manner in response.

I hope to bring to this role my strengths in networking, fundraising, and leadership and to encourage inclusiveness at all levels of involvement in the Council's work.



STANDING FOR NATIONAL PRESIDENT

MARGARET COOK

Nominated by: Southland and Matamata Branches

Iwi affiliation: Ngati Kahungunu Ki Wairoa

NCWNZ Experience: 2004-2008 Vice President; 2002-2004 member of the Board of Management; 1996-2002 NOS delegate National Conference and Executive meetings; Standing Committee Board liaison: 2002–present for Economics, 2002-2004 Social Issues, 2004-2006 Health, 2006-2008 Public Issues. 2002-2007 co-editor of The Circular, 2007- present International Secretary; 2000-2004 Southland Branch Treasurer, 1995-2002 NOS delegate to Branch

Education and Training: Advanced Diploma of Teaching; Diploma of Special Teaching Needs; Past Member of the Royal Academy of Dancing

Service in Public Positions: 1992-1999 NZ President of NZ Democratic Party, 1991-1999 Alliance of Political Parties-Council Member, 1991-1999 Alliance Policy Development Committee, 1997-1999 Alliance Treasurer, since 1978, chair of various local and regional political and church committees.

Other voluntary involvement: 1979-1997 James Hargest High School Special Needs Teacher-in-charge, 1993-1997 Fifth Form Dean.

Employment Experience: 2008 –present co-chair Southland Interagency Forum; 2001-2008 Habitat for Humanity, Invercargill Affiliate Board Chair; 2006-present Otago Presbyterian Synod Education Committee; 2001-2005 Southland Tertiary Chaplaincy Charitable Trust Board, secretary, 2001-2004 Southland Presbytery Public Questions Committee; 1975–present Presbyterian Church Elder. 1974-1979 Girl Guide Commissioner.

Particular Strengths and Contribution Nominee could bring to this position: I would be honoured to serve as president to ensure NCWNZ's continuing growth and development, and to advance the cause for women and families.

One of the fundamental strengths that I have brought to NCWNZ is the ability to communicate, both orally and in writing. I have proven myself valuable in this area, with members, politicians, officials and media, at local, regional, national and international levels. Communication holds the key to the ongoing successful growth of this organisation – there are even opportunities to embrace new communication technologies like Facebook to attract younger members.

The portfolios I have held and my involvement with CEDAW processes have given me the opportunity to express my passion for social and economic justice – the cornerstones of NCWNZ.

Through my roles as mother and grandmother, working woman, and in retirement, I have a great understanding of women's needs and desires in today's society, and the demands that women face every day.

I am able to dedicate my time to the role of NCWNZ National President. As your president I will ensure the issues, identified as important by you, are placed before every point of influence to bring about positive change for New Zealand women and families.



NATIONAL VICE-PRESIDENTS

There will be an election to decide positions of First and Second Vice President

BARBARA ARNOLD—ELECTED UNOPPOSED

Nominated by: Manawatu Branch

Awards and Honours: MNZM for Services to Environment 2005

New Zealand Science Technology and Mathematics Teacher Fellowship 2003

NCWNZ experience: Member of Manawatu Branch since 1992, representing PPTA, and served as VP and Secretary; Environment Standing Committee Convenor 1998 –2004; Board member 2004-2008 as International Secretary and Circular Editor.

Service in Public Positions: Attended ICW General Assembly Perth 2003; Kiev 2006; Rangitikei / Hawke's Bay Conservation Board. 1993–1998; Taranaki/Wanganui Conservation Board 1998-1999 and 2001-2002; New Zealand Conservation Authority 2006-2008; Palmerston North City Environmental Trust 1995-1998; Royal Society of New Zealand Council 2006-2008.

Education and Training: BSc (Hons) Zoology, Dip Teaching, Grad Dip Technology Education

Employment Experience: Secondary school teacher 1994-2004; Science Educator for Ag Research 2004-2006; Science Educator for Te Manawa Museums Trust 2006- present.

Other Voluntary Involvement: Girl Guiding 1975 – 1995. New Zealand Mountain Safety Council Instructor 1990-1996. Backstage work in theatre

Particular Strengths and Contribution Nominee could bring to this position: I have experience in NCWNZ at Branch, Standing Committee, and Board level, and internationally. My career as a teacher gives me people skills and time management, and I bring knowledge of range of issues affecting women and their families. I endeavour to be an effective team member and contribute for the good of NCWNZ and women in New Zealand.

PATRICIA WOODLEY—ELECTED UNOPPOSED

Nominated by: Auckland Branch and New Zealand Methodist Women's Fellowship

Education and Training: Registered Teacher-Practising Certificate 1989. Auckland University of Technology Certificate of Language: Teaching to Adults 1988 ; Adult Literacy Certificate; 1988 UNITEC Home Tutoring Certificate; 1956-1957 Wellington College of Education; 1959 Part time University study, Diploma of Teaching.

NCWNZ Experience: 2004-2008 Board Member; 1998 -2002 Convenor of Social Issues Standing Committee; 1993-1998 President Auckland Branch; 1989-1992 Vice President Auckland Branch; 1982-1986 Executive Christchurch Branch; 1976-1986 member Christchurch Branch.

Service in Public Positions: 1993-2008 Board Member of the Grafton Halls of Residence. 1995- 1998 Chairperson of the Grafton Halls of Residence.

Other Voluntary Involvement: 1992- 2008 Convenor Methodist Women's Fellowship Auckland Evening Group. 2004-2008 Member of Pacific Women's Watch. 1988-1989 Home Tutoring ESOL and Adult Literacy – seven students. 1988-1989 Friend at Court. 1985- 1986 Vice President North Canterbury District Women's Fellowship. 1979- 1986 Youth Leader Methodist Youth Group. 1968-1969 Area Supervisor Hokianga Playcentre. 1965-1969 Mother Help and Assistant Supervisor (certificate gained) Rawene Play Centre. 1958- 1963 Girls' Brigade Leadership. 1955- 1957 Wellington Outdoor Basketball referee.

Employment Experience: Primary School Teacher Yr 3 –Yr 8, twelve years experience between 1959-1987. Wellington, Gisborne, Auckland, Christchurch; 1990 ESL/LAC Teacher Onehunga College. 1991-2001 ESOL Manager/Teacher St Peter's College Auckland; 2002-2005 Lynfield College-Contracts International Students.

Particular Strengths and Contributions Nominee could bring to this position: I have belonged to NCWNZ for 30 years and have been an active member in the Auckland and Christchurch Branches. The role and responsibility of being an active member, Branch President, Convenor of the Social Issues Standing Committee and Board Member means I have a very good network, able to access a wide range of opinion with a view to establishing consensus. An ability to communicate has been an essential part of my four years as a member of the Board with responsibility for supporting the work of Committee Convenors and awareness of each Branch and their issues and concerns. Most importantly, I have a very good work ethic, and I am a team player.

International experience has been gained from attending and contributing to four Methodist Women's Pacific Area Seminars. The World Federation of Methodist Women's Conference in Nairobi Kenya. Attending The UN Beijing Women's Meeting. Also, recently attending and addressing the European Section of the International Country Women of the World, in Vienna.

I see the role and responsibility of a Vice President of NCWNZ as supporting the National President and the staff of the National Office and, in that capacity, representing NCWNZ. I will bring an experienced and informed awareness and knowledge of our Organisation, its Branches, Committees and Board. I will seek to strengthen our Advocacy task- "Women Influencing Policy" – on the issues and concerns of all New Zealand Women and their Families. Much has been achieved. There is still more to do.

NATIONAL TREASURER

CORREEN RODGER—ELECTED UNOPPOSED

Nominated by: Dunedin Branch

Awards and Honours: Member of College of Chartered Accountants, New Zealand Institute of Chartered Accountants, 1991-Present

Education and Training: 1991- present Continuing Professional Development (as required by N.Z.I.C.A) 1989 B.Com (Accounting Major) Otago University. 1984-1989 Part time (4 years) and full time (2 years) study Otago University.

NCWNZ Experience: 2006-2008 National Treasurer; 2003-2006 President Dunedin Branch; 2001-2003 Vice

President and Minute Secretary Dunedin Branch; 1999-2001 Vice President and Treasurer Dunedin Branch and Sub Committee Member organising National Executive Meeting in Dunedin; 1998-1999 Executive Member – Media and Archives; 1996-2006 New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women representative.

Services in Public Positions

Other Voluntary involvement: 1992- present Member of NZFGW Otago Branch committee, serving as Regalia Treasurer for 4 years, NCW representative from 1996, and a Trustee of NZFGW Otago Branch Charitable Trust. 1978-1982 as a St Peter Chanel School parent helped to set up and worked weekly in school library, and did church typing. Green Island Plunket Mothers group, Sub Branch and Choir /Entertainment Group; Member of St Philomena's College Ex pupils Association, including 1983 Jubilee Committee.

Employment Experience: 1990 –Present Bursar/Chartered Accountant, Kavanagh College, Dunedin. 1982-1988 Part time clerical work Inland Revenue Department; 1962- 1972 Shorthand Typist Department of Education (Child Welfare Division), Shorthand Typist in Charge at Department of Labour, and Department of Lands and Survey.

Particular Strengths and contributions Nominee could bring to this position: Among my strengths are honesty, integrity and loyalty; I have a sound knowledge of business accounting practice, and enjoy working as part of a team. I am willing to continue in the National Treasurer's role, and support the work of NCWNZ.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

VICKY CARR–ELECTED UNOPPOSED

Nominated by: Auckland Branch

Awards and Honours: 2002 Associate of NZEI; 2005 Qantas Television Award, shared with Screentime Productions for best documentary.

Education and Training: 2006 SPELD training; 2002 Reading Recovery Refresher; 1986 Reading Recovery; 1983 Bachelor of Arts (English) Auckland University; 1982 Diploma of Teaching, North Shore Teachers' College.

As a teacher and subsequently senior teacher with many responsibilities I have continued to be involved in regular courses to update curriculum and pedagogical knowledge, and gained skills in policy analyses, data analyses, development of charter, conducting meetings, assemblies.

NCWNZ Experience: 2004-2008 President Auckland Branch; 2007 Convened workshop for Women Intending to Stand for Local Government; 2005 Participant in CEDAW workshops; 2004 ICW Inaugural Asia Pacific Region Seminar Committee member; Convened MOW seminar on Status of Women for MWA CEO Shenagh Gleisner; 2002 NCWNZ Auckland Branch Executive, role of minute secretary, attended NCW Conference for first time; 1999 Elected to represent NZEI Auckland Branch to NCWNZ Auckland Branch.

I have participated in all NCWNZ conferences since 2002, and in NCW National Executive meetings, 2007 and 2005.

Other Voluntary involvement: 1980s became an active member of the Teachers' union NZEI, work site rep, member of the Auckland District Council Women's Network on which I served as treasurer then convenor, I continue to be a member of this group. 2001, I was a founding member of the NZEI Primary Classroom Teachers Advisory Group until 2004. In 2002 I was awarded Associate of NZEI. In 2007 I served on the National Executive of NZEI. I have long been an advocate for change and I am currently a member of representative to the executive of the Auckland District Council. I have served on the Auckland Branch Management Committee for about twenty years. I have represented Auckland Branch Management at NZEI meeting fifteen times. 1991-present, founding trustee of Colin McCahon Research and Publications Trust. Various consultancies re Mc Cahon particularly "I Am" documentary, Screentime Productions and McCahon House Trust, Waitakere. 1999-present Advocate for intellectually disabled woman within Mt Tabor Trust. 1972-1979 Secretary St James Kindergarten Committee.

Employment experience: 2006- present; Relief teaching and fixed term contracting in Primary Schools. 1985-2005 Wesley Primary, a classroom teacher working with junior children. I had time working in Reading Recovery and I was involved in the Maori Bilingual movement. I was part of an inspector's reference group and in 1990 my whanau class was made an official Maori Bilingual Unit by the Ministry. This was dissolved due to demographic changes in 2000. I have worked extensively with decile 1 students in multicultural school communities including refugee families from Africa and Asia. Besides having responsibility for Maori in school, I have been Literacy Leader from 2000-2005. A senior teacher since the early 1990s I have held many positions of responsibility including membership of the School Board of Trustees, 2005/06, and involvement in school reporting and strategic planning. 1982-1984 teaching at Grey Lynn, Westmere and Flat Bush schools. 1966-1968 Stock Control clerk, Berlei Ltd.

Particular Strengths and Contributions Nominee could bring to this position: My strength as a communicator has helped me as President of NCW Auckland Branch to encourage participation, stimulate discussion and build a good sense of fellowship. My literacy skills have been useful in the production of our newsletter and in compiling our various opinions about Action Items into something reportable. My main attributes

are curiosity, love of learning and a huge interest in the lives of ordinary women. As a teacher, I had many occasions where I was able to listen and sometimes help with the problems besetting our mothers. I worked with many children suffering the effects of poverty and abuse. This taught me compassion and has made me keen to try and help to improve their situation. As a working mother, I learned many lessons in the management of time, routines, budgets and relationships. As an NCWNZ Board member, I would have more opportunity to develop and use these skills. How my skills would be deployed would be up to the Board.

COLLEEN SINGLETON—ELECTED UNOPPOSED

Nominated by: Wellington Branch

Awards and Honours: 1993- The New Zealand Suffrage Centennial Medal; 2007 Paul Harris Fellow, Rotary Club of Wellington

Education and Training: Registered Nurse; BA (Psych), Massey University

NCWNZ Experience: 1992- present representative New Zealand National Party; 1999-2005, 2007- present Wellington Branch Executive member; 2001-2004, 2007-present President, Wellington Branch; 2007- present Parliamentary Watch Committee member

Service in Public Positions: Former member Complaints Assessment Committee, Electrical Workers Registration Board.

Other voluntary involvement: 1990- present member of Rotary Club of Wellington; member, NZ Federation of Graduate Women, Rural Women New Zealand, NZ Academy of Fine Arts and Commonwealth Trust; Athletics New Zealand-race walk judge and track official.

Employment experience: I am employed by the New Zealand Law Society on the implementation of the Lawyers and Conveyancers Act 2006 and in the preparation of submissions on parliamentary bills. I have 20 years' experience as CEO or equivalent position with regulatory bodies for lawyers, nurses, midwives, plumbers, gasfitters and drainlayers. 1976 -1985 Senior Hansard Reporter, Parliament. My post-registration nursing experience covers general surgery, operating theatre and trauma services in New Zealand, London and New York.

Particular Strengths and Contributions Nominee could bring to this Position: My 15 year involvement in NCWNZ has given me considerable understanding of its functions at both local and national level, and has prepared me for membership of the Parliamentary Watch Committee. Influencing for women has been at the forefront of my employment and community involvement, particularly preschool and after school services, flexible working hours and improved working conditions. To continue building its influencing role, NCWNZ needs PWC members who understand the submission process as well as understanding the "wheels of Wellington and government". I would bring that knowledge and experience to the Board. NCWNZ has a bright future. Women have many choices in how they spend their "leisure" hours. The work of the PWC demonstrates that NCWNZ is relevant to today's busy women.

FRANCES TOWNSEND—ELECTED UNOPPOSED

Nominated by: Papakura Franklin Branch of NCWNZ

Awards and Honours: Life Member of Auckland Branch of New Zealand Educational Administration and Leadership Society. Recipient of the Papakura Community Award for Services to the Community.

Education and Training: PhD (in Educational Management and Leadership) M.A, M Ed Admin., Adv Dip Ed. Trained as a Secondary teacher in History and Social Studies.

NCWNZ Experience and Service in Public Positions: From 2002-2008 I convened the Education Standing Committee. I joined the Papakura Franklin Branch in 2001 as the delegate of the Auckland Branch of Graduate Women of New Zealand and have been on the Executive for much of that time.

2000-2002 Chair of the Auckland Catholic Diocese Pastoral Council (DPC); 1996-2000 South Auckland DPC representative; 1999-2000 served on the Executive of NZFGW, Auckland Branch, as Treasurer.

Other voluntary involvement: I am an active member of the Waiuku Golf and Squash Club, the Waiuku Probud Club and St Anthony's Parish choir in Waiuku. I also belong to the Auckland Branch of Graduate Women of New Zealand.

Employment Experience: 1995-2008 Distance Education Tutor at the School of Education, Canterbury University; 1989-1995 Director of the School of Advanced Studies, Auckland College of Education; 1972-1989 lecturer/senior/principal lecturer in teacher training (History and Social Studies) at Auckland College of Education.

Particular Strengths and Contribution Nominee could bring to this position: For 30 years I have been involved with educational management at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels. My recent work with the School of Education at Canterbury University has helped me develop writing, researching and teaching skills. As a

PhD candidate I was trained in research methods of documents analysis, interview techniques, report writing and public speaking. The distance education work with principals and teachers has kept me up to date and well informed. I foresee that these skills will be of use to NCWNZ as much of the work is concerned with responding to legislation, discussion documents and general matters of policy making in many areas and not just in education. NCWNZ plays an important part in representing women's concerns at Government and Department levels. I look forward with enthusiasm to the challenge of taking part in this work as a Board Member. I enjoy being part of a team.

CONVENERS

The nomination details will be published next issue due to space limits in this issue.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS STANDING COMMITTEE

- JAN BROWN - ELECTED UNOPPOSED

EDUCATION STANDING COMMITTEE

- RAE DUFF - ELECTED UNOPPOSED

ECONOMICS STANDING COMMITTEE

- KATHERINE RANSOM - ELECTED UNOPPOSED

PARLIAMENTARY WATCH STANDING COMMITTEE

- BERYL ANDERSON - ELECTED UNOPPOSED

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENTARY WATCH

The nomination details will be published next issue due to space limits in this issue. The following members have been elected.

- WENDY ZEMANEK
- JEAN FULLER

THREE VACANCIES – Nominations to be received at National Office by noon 31 August 2008.

! STOP PRESS !

VACANCIES EXIST IN THESE FOUR STANDING COMMITTEES FOR CONVENERS

- ENVIRONMENT STANDING COMMITTEE
- EMPLOYMENT STANDING COMMITTEE
- HEALTH STANDING COMMITTEE
- JUSTICE AND LAW REFORM STANDING COMMITTEE
- FAMILY AFFAIRS STANDING COMMITTEE
- PUBLIC ISSUES STANDING COMMITTEE
- SOCIAL ISSUES

Standing Committee Convener. This position is now vacant, nominations will be accepted until noon on 31 August 2008.

Maori Language Week

Te Wiki o te Maori (Maori Language Week) will be celebrated over 21-27 July 2008. Te Wiki o te Maori provides a time for special events to celebrate and promote the Maori language. Te Taura Whiri i te Maori (The Maori Language Commission) presents awards to groups that make a particularly noteworthy contribution at this time.

The theme for Te Wiki o te Maori 2008 is Te Reo i te Kainga - Maori language in the home. There will be a special 'korero Maori - Give it a go!' booklet produced to support people to Korero Maori at home.

For more information about Maori Language Week go to www.koreromaori.co.nz

Panui, MWA, June 2008.

Meeting Reports

FSANZ provides confidence to consumers

Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) is an independent statutory agency and involves both governments of New Zealand and Australia.

It works within an integrated food regulatory system and sets food standards and joint codes of practice within industry and covers the content and food-labelling of food.

Its primary goal is to ensure a safe food supply involving all foods produced or imported for sale in New Zealand or Australia. FSANZ desires well-informed consumers and provides opportunities for public comment with regular invitations for written submissions when developing a Foods Standard.

The Consumer Liaison Committee (CLC) was initiated two years ago by FSANZ with the following purposes: to bring to FSANZ current consumer concerns; to provide opportunities for consultation with vulnerable and hard to reach

groups; to offer advice on issues referred by the Board; to participate in appropriate committees or activities. The CLC has representation from groups in Australia and New Zealand i.e. the national consumer bodies, National Council of Women, Maori and Australian Aborigine populations. In addition, FSANZ called for interested consumers from both countries to apply to serve on the CLC with the result being a very diverse group of women and men all passionate about food!

FSANZ has an excellent website at www.foodstandards.gov.au. One may seek information on Standards Development, The Code, Monitoring & Surveillance, Food Matters and News Room. For example by clicking on Food Matters, consumers can find information on such subjects as food labelling, food recalls, listeria, GM foods, fortification of foods with vitamins and minerals, mercury in fish, antibiotics and food etc.

Fact sheets in plain easy to understand language are regularly contributed and updated as new research is evaluated.

Some of the fact sheets posted in 2008 are:

- Food derived from cloned animals and their offspring
- Correct storage and use of canned foods
- Effects of artificial colours on children's behaviour
- Bisphenol A and food packaging.

Some fact sheets posted in 2007 are:-

- Pregnancy, health advisory labels on alcoholic beverages
- A1 & A2 Milk
- Aspartame (sweetener)
- Risk assessment of genetically modified corn
- Trans fatty acids

Information gathered may be reproduced in newsletters or journals as long as it is mentioned that it is reproduced with permission of Food Standards Australia New Zealand.

Heather Tate, NCWNZ representative on FSANZ.

Conferences

Every Child Counts 3rd Annual Conference and Awards Ceremony

James Cook Hotel, Wellington 10 and 11 September.

Guest speakers include: Baroness Doreen Massey (Chair, House of Lords All-Party Parliamentary Group on Children), Dr Susan St John (Founding member of Child Poverty Action Group) and Di Grennell (Executive Director of Amokura, an iwi-led violence prevention initiative).

For more information visit www.everychildcounts.org.nz or contact Deborah Morris-Travers at 0274 544 299.



He Mana tō ia Tamaiti
Every Child Counts

Social Service Providers Aotearoa Conference 2008

Otago Museum, Dunedin 17 – 19 September.

As well as keynote presenters, the Conference will include participant led sessions on topics and issues of interest to those present. There will be the opportunity to raise items of interest and find out who else shares that interest, as well as being able to work closely with colleagues on what matters most.

Contact pat@dcms.co.nz



Third Sector Research Conference 2008

The Australia-New Zealand Third Sector Research Conference will be held at the AUT city campus in Auckland 24 - 26 November. The theme of the conference is DEMONSTRATE – Come demonstrate the valuable work done by and for the Third Sector.

The three main sub-themes for the conference are:

1. Responsibilities and Rights for Wellbeing of People and Planet;
2. Organisation, Governance, Management in the Third Sector;
3. Public Private Partnerships, Corporate Social Responsibilities.

For more information visit <http://www.anztsr.org.au/2008%20conference%20web%20home.htm>



General Interest

Australia Moves to Protect Women's Rights

In another sign that the Rudd Government is re-engaging with the international community, steps have begun for Australia to accede to the Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

Attorney-General Robert McClelland and Minister for the Status of Women Tanya Plibersek said that, by becoming a party to the Optional Protocol, the Government is clearly demonstrating its commitment to promoting and protecting women's rights.

"The previous Government refused to sign the Optional Protocol when it was adopted in 2000," Ms Plibersek said.

"By moving towards accession, Labour is making a powerful statement that discrimination against women in any form is unacceptable."

Becoming a party to the Protocol requires the Government to conduct an assessment examining the impact it will have on Australia and, in particular, Australian women.

From: BPW online Weekly Digest May Week 4

Same job = same pay?

The Canadian Human Rights Tribunal has ruled that "medical adjudicators" (mainly women) do the same work as "medical advisors" (mainly men) at the Canada Pension Plan Disability Benefits Programme and should therefore get the same pay.

The pay gap between adjudicators and advisors was considerable, with the advisors being paid about twice as much as adjudicators. Advisors also had their annual licensing fee paid and had good access to educational opportunities, unlike the adjudicators.

The core job function for both jobs is to determine eligibility for disability benefits and both advisors and adjudicators are hired for their medical knowledge. The differences in pay and conditions arose because advisors were doctors and classified as "health professionals" and adjudicators were nurses and classified as "programme administrators". There were some tasks that the advisors performed such as providing expert advice on 2% of the files and providing testimony when decisions were appealed or judicially reviewed. However, these were judged to be exceptions to what was essentially the same job.

The case was first raised by the 431 complainants 20 years ago.

NEON (National Equal Opportunities Network) Update May 2008



Budget leaves conservation in the cold

Two reviews have sounded the alarm bells about the precarious state of New Zealand's precious species and ecosystems, ECO Spokesperson, Barry Weeber said.

Mr Weeber said the "State of the Environment" report showed significant declines with 2,420 species in the "threatened" category, of which 648 are acutely threatened and 236 chronically threatened. "A further 3,262 species are data-deficient and may well be threatened, according to Environment NZ 2007."

"Despite the urgency and irreversibility of this situation, the Labour led government has forced the Department of Conservation to shed scientific and technical staff, particularly in the marine area and policy and historic heritage staff, as they try to save \$8 million."

"Yet the government has increased the funding for the racing industry by \$9 million or for the extra \$8.5 million for the GCSB covert intelligence gatherers (a 21% increase)."

"A casual look at the Department of Conservation's expenditure allocation shows that there are cuts throughout its operations, but some apparent gains as well. These gains are mostly illusory since they are accounted for by the transfer of previous year's underspent budget and transfers of depreciation and the capital charge."

"The Greens have managed to persuade the government to allocate \$4 million to private conservation efforts, but this leaves the conservation estate in dire straits, with the marine environment especially at risk."

"Pressure from fishing and invasive species, poor coastal development decisions and bad land-use practices are especially responsible for damage to marine ecosystems – DoC needs marine capacity and terrestrial capacity but these are being cut." Mr Weeber said loss of policy capacity makes DoC all the

weaker just where it really matters."

"Over-all this Budget reveals a low priority for conservation concerns that would be hard to beat. It is very sad that the Government could not come up with anything better to invest in protecting our natural capital and heritage."

Environment and Conservation Organisations of New Zealand (ECO)



Backing for Funding to Reduce Tobacco Use

The Cancer Control Council of New Zealand is delighted that the government has increased funding for smoking cessation programmes, says Chair Dame Catherine Tizard.

"Tobacco use is responsible for approximately one quarter of all cancer deaths in New Zealand. About 4700 deaths each year are attributed to smoking or second-hand smoke and one out of every two smokers will die from a smoking related illness. By reducing tobacco use we can reduce the incidence, impact and inequalities with respect to cancer."

"Reducing the harm caused by tobacco is a priority for the Council and the cancer control community. Extra support for DHBs to run more cessation programmes is good practical way to help to those who are trying to quit smoking."

"While this is great news, the Council also urges the government to support other initiatives, like banning tobacco displays."

"The evidence shows that a combination of measures is the most effective way to achieve a reduction in tobacco use, so the community needs to support all of them if we are to ensure the wellbeing of future generations." Dame Catherine says.

The \$8 million budget allocated for 2008/09 will help fund the implementation of District Health Board (DHB) plans to increase smoking cessation rates, in particular in primary care. It is also intended to further widen access to smoking cessation pharmaceuticals as part of nationwide smoking cessation services.

Women's participation in the labour force is rapidly increasing

Department of Labour figures show the percentage of working -age women with a job increased from 59% in December 2002 to 62% in December 2007. A relatively large number of women also work part-time – 34.5%, compared to the OECD average of 26.4%.

Leigh Johnson says employers are now willing to accept part-time staff. "There is definitely more part-time work available, especially for women who want to work four days a week."

For more details, go to www.dol.govt.nz

Johnson Group Autumn Newsletter

Enclosures

S07.25 Criminal Proceeds (Recovery) Bill

S07.23 Births, Deaths, Marriages and Relationships Registration Amendment Bill

S07.50 supplementary Order Paper No 148 employment Relations (Flexible Working Arrangements) Amendment Bill

S07.48 Misuse of Drugs (Classification of BZP) Amendment Bill
National Conference Registration Form

Media Releases

NCWNZ Backs Campaign to ban Tobacco Displays

The National Council of Women of New Zealand (NCWNZ) is giving its total support to the open letter from the Cancer Society and Heart Foundation to the people of New Zealand – 'Protect Our Children: Get tobacco out of sight and out of mind'.

Research shows that tobacco displays help sell and promote smoking, and are certainly a temptation for children because of where they are placed. Although most forms of tobacco advertising were banned nearly 20 years ago, these kinds of displays are still allowed in retail outlets.

"Medical evidence proves that tobacco smoking is detrimental to people's health. To safeguard the health and well being of future generations, a total ban on tobacco displays would be a big step in the right direction", says NCWNZ National President, Christine Low.

NCWNZ is concerned that tactics being used in Australia by a tobacco company may be used in New Zealand. The tactics, aimed at the retailer of tobacco products, should be seen for what they are, scaremongering.

31 May 2008

Tikanga Maori – Matariki

Matariki is celebrated on different dates by different iwi (tribal groups). The bright star Puanga – or Rigel – emerges at about the same time, and for some iwi it is the appearance of Puanga rather than Matariki that has significance and is celebrated. Iwi who celebrate this star are those who don't see Matariki, those who live in the west, some parts of the far north, and parts of the South Island.

Ngati Kahungunu iwi (the tribe representing the greater Hawke's Bay region) has the most extensive Matariki celebrations in New Zealand and runs throughout the month of June and July.

They focus on:

- celebrating their unique place in the world.
- giving respect to the whenua on which they live, and admiration to their mother earth, Papatūānuku.
- learning about those who came before: their history, their family, their bones.

Matariki signals growth. It's a time of change. It's a time to prepare and a time of action. During Matariki, what they have and what they have to give is acknowledged.

Matariki celebrates the diversity of life. It's a celebration of culture, language, spirit and people.

Matariki is our Aotearoa Pacific New Year.

In 2001, Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori began to reclaim Matariki, or Aotearoa Pacific New Year, as an important focus for Māori language regeneration in partnership with Te Papa Tongarewa and the Ministry of Education.

This year, the commission has spearheaded a campaign to elevate Matariki into an iconic national event as part of a nationwide Māori language information programme, "Kōrero Māori", and intends to develop relationships and partnerships in order to co-ordinate and share activities with other stakeholders while complementing existing events.

Matariki is seen as much more than a festival-type event that welcomes in the New Year – it is believed to be a way of thinking and planning, leading up to the sighting of the stars followed by the next new moon.

Matariki, the star cluster that heralds the start of the Aotearoa Pacific New Year, is important to Māori and Pacific people and other cultures around the world. Matariki is visible to the naked eye in the pre-dawn sky after the full moon from mid to late June each year.

Some say that Matariki is the mother surrounded by her six daughters, other stories suggest that Matariki is a male star. These are the Māori names that make up the other six prominent stars of the Matariki cluster, Tupu-a-Nuku, Tupu-a-Rangi, Waiti, Waitā, Waipunarangi and Ururangi.

Astronomers generally refer to Matariki as Pleiades. The cluster is a group of many hundreds of stars about 400 light years from Earth and has been recognised since ancient times. The brightest stars which are quite easy to see with the unaided eye, in Greek legend bear the names of Seven Sisters, the daughters of Atlas and Pleone, Alcyone, Merope, Asterops, Maia, Taygeta, Calano and Electra. The similarity of the mythologies of disparate peoples is fascinating.

Calendar 2008

July

- 1 Closing date for amendments to Remits
- 3 **Closing date for proposed amendments to remits**
- 11 World Population Day
- 19 -20 Board Meeting
- 28 Circular dispatch
- 31 Last day for Payment of Branch Dues

August

- 9 International Day of Indigenous People
- 22 Circular dispatch

September

- 1 **Closing date for National Executive Registrations**
- 19 Suffrage Day
- 21 International Peace Day
- 26 Circular Dispatch

30 Board Meeting

October

1 Board Meeting

2 - 5 National Conference Meeting Masterton

October

- 15 International Day for Rural Women
- 16 World Food Day
- 17 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
- 17 – 19 Standing Committee Convener and Board training**
- 24 United Nations Day
- 31 Circular dispatch

November

- 20 Universal Children's Day
- 25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

29 - 30 Board Meeting

December

- 1 International AIDS Day
- 3 International Day of Disabled Persons
- 10 International Human Rights Day

SPECIAL NOTE: The deadline for material for the NEXT Circular is 5th of the month

Please send all contributions to the Circular Editor via the National Office

Disclaimer: The views expressed in this Circular are not necessarily those of the National Council of Women of New Zealand

Sited

Offsetting Carbon Emissions

Climate Stewards is a new initiative from A Rocha to encourage individuals and organisations to reduce and offset carbon emissions – www.climatestewards.net. Projects selected follow the *Climate, Community and Biodiversity Alliance* standards. This ensures that the tree plantations will not only be successful at storing carbon, but will also provide benefits to local communities and wildlife, and avoid the environmental damage often resulting from fast-growing tree monocultures.

Monitoring Your Water Usage

www.waterfootprint.org is another website that could help with the Rose Bowl challenge. It can be used to calculate personal virtual water footprint, through questions ranging from how many showers a week to food preferences. This calculator tries to account for water used in production of foodstuffs as well as direct usage.

NZ Council of Christian Social Services

NZCCSS has a new website and can be contacted through www.justiceandcompassion.org.nz. The email address continues to be communications@nzccss.org.nz.



Be the Change

This is a joint campaign co-ordinated by Forest and Bird, Greenpeace and Oxfam NZ. It aims to encourage individuals to minimise their greenhouse gas emissions and by doing so create a public mandate for greater political action on climate change. By recording and publicising a range of diverse actions that are taken BTC seeks to inspire greater action and ensure that policy makers take stronger action on climate change.

The website address is www.bethechange.org.nz. Have a look and think about signing up.