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• NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS
• MAY 2002

Greenhouse Junkie Awards 2002

SELECTED MEMBERS of the polluters' club, the Greenhouse Policy Coalition were presented on Wednesday 24 April 2002 with "Greenhouse Junkie: Enemy of the Climate 2002" certificates plus intravenous drips and syringes by the Climate Defence Network in Wellington.

The awards signify the disapproval of the Climate Defence Network of the greenhouse gas emissions by the polluters and their intensive pressure on the Government to minimise action on greenhouse gas control and to either not ratify or delay ratification of the Kyoto Protocol.

There are two polluters' clubs and they have overlapping membership. Members of the Greenhouse Policy Coalition (www.gpcnz.co.nz) include Comalco New Zealand Ltd, Cement & Concrete Association of New Zealand, BHP New Zealand Steel Ltd, Fonterra, Coal Association, Natural Gas Corporation, Methanex New Zealand Limited, pulp and paper companies, Business New Zealand, Shell New Zealand Ltd, BP Oil, New Zealand Refining Co Ltd, and Solid Energy New Zealand Ltd. The second group is the Climate Change Pan Industry Group (CCPIG) and includes the Greenhouse Policy Coalition, plus NZ Forest Industries Council, Road and Transport Forum of New Zealand, Todd Energy, Petroleum Exploration Association of New Zealand, Meat Industry New Zealand, Carter Holt Harvey, Wellington Regional Chamber of Commerce, and the Building Industry Association.

The awards, which caused some consternation in most head office reception areas, were received with suave good manners by most of the recipients with the exception of the Cement and Concrete Association. The reception staff, when it dawned on them that the award was by no means an accolade, took it with good humour. In contrast the technical staffer who emerged to deal with the situation, lost his temper. He caused a scene of disgruntled ill humour as he repeatedly tried to return the drip and syringe to the Climate Defence Network representatives and refused to engage in civil conversation on the issue of the emissions from cement and concrete manufacture.

Photo: CDN Protest/Shell 24/04/02 (LtoR) Fionnaigh Mckenzie, Mario Rautner and Airini Beautrais hold a banner in front of a central Wellington Shell Service station during a Climate Defence network protest. In response to intense industry lobbying, CDN members visited key businesses in Wellington, awarding them "Greenhouse Junkie" awards and posting signs reading; "Caution Climate Polluter in Here". Greenhouse Policy Coalition and the Pan-Industry Group, industry lobbies opposing NZ's ratification of the Kyoto Protocol. Shell, BP, Federated Farmers and the Cement and Concrete Assn. of New Zealand were among the recipients. Copyright Dave Hansford/Origin Natural History Media

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• IN THIS ISSUE

CLIMATE CHANGE

Cycling and Climate Change

THE CYCLING ADVOCATES' Network (CAN) believes that New Zealand should ratify the Kyoto Protocol as soon as possible, though it should take part in the response to climate change whether the Protocol comes into force or not.

NZ's response to climate change must be based on altering the expectations of individuals. Behavioural changes are very slow to show an effect, so measures must be adopted immediately in order for them to have an impact in the first commitment period (2008-2012).

It is crucial that all of government policy is aligned to climate change goals. For example:

Energy Efficiency & Conservation Strategy - the primary goal should be to reduce the use of private motor vehicles. Alternative fuel cars still impose a risk on more vulnerable road users, and discourage people from walking & cycling.

Road Safety - the Road Safety Strategy should aim to reduce the risk imposed by more dominant modes. If people perceive cycling and walking to be risky activities they are less likely to do it themselves, and less likely to allow their children to choose those ways to travel.

Health - the Health Strategy should have a stronger emphasis on preventive health. Public health agencies should be able to fund active transport programmes, such as Safe Routes To School schemes, and cycle-friendly employer schemes.

Transport - funding systems should require all roading projects to include provision (to an adequate standard) for cyclists. Allowing roads to be built with no hard shoulder, or with cyclist-unfriendly intersections, for example, has the effect of excluding cyclists from those parts of the transport system. Public transport funding should require access for cyclists, e.g. by allowing bikes on trains, or bike racks on buses.

Tourism - cycle tourism should be marketed to New Zealanders as well as overseas visitors, but the roading infrastructure (e.g. consistent hard shoulders, correcting narrow bridges) and road user behavioural changes need to be in place first. Feedback from overseas cycle tourists suggests that NZ drivers are not well known for their care or politeness towards cyclists on open roads.

Vehicle Emissions Control Strategy - the problem of emissions from congestion versus those from 'smoothed' traffic flows should be analysed in terms of their long-term effects on transport choices. While it may seem that emissions will be reduced by not having cars idling for so long, the longer term effect of easing traffic flows is going to be to give drivers an incentive to drive, and the increase in motor vehicle traffic will make the roading environment even worse for more vulnerable modes.

by Jane Dawson

Are you wondering what cycling can do to help?

A couple of things to remember:

- journeys to work by bike occupy about the same percentage nationally as journeys by public transport (around 2%). Investment should be made in public transport, but a similar commitment should be made to investing in cycling and walking.
- about one third of car journeys are less than 2km long, and two thirds are less than 6km. These short trips are probably the most polluting of all. The potential for shifting many of them to cycling is very high, but it will not happen unless the infrastructure is supportive.

About CAN

CAN is this country's national network of cycling advocates. It is a voice for all cyclists who use their bikes as a means of transport - recreational, commuter and touring.

Cycling Advocates' Network Inc., PO Box 6491, Auckland, Phone/Fax: 04-385 2557, email: can@actrix.gen.nz, www.can.org.nz

Climate Defence Network Formed

The Climate Defence Network, initiated by ECO, is a growing coalition of organisations and individuals that wants to see early action to control greenhouse gases and ratification of the Kyoto Protocol coupled with effective government action to control emissions, including a carbon charge. Members include ECO, the Public Health Association, MedEco, the Pacific Institute of Resource Management , Engineers for Social Responsibility, Forest and Bird, the Sustainable Energy Forum, the Appropriate Technology for Living Association , the Cycling Advocates Network , the Nelson Environment Centre, Greenpeace NZ, Friends of the Earth NZ, Walk Wellington, Environmental Defence Society, Federated Mountain Clubs and Eco Action.

Groups that share the objectives of early action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are welcome to apply to join. Individuals can join as Friends of the Climate. For more information email: climate@paradise.net.nz.

Waste report released

THE GOVERNMENT has adopted the recommendations of the Waste Task Force.

The Task Force was a joint Ministry for the Environment/Local Government New Zealand project and it finished its work last year. It proposed a range of targets for reduction of wastes in New Zealand. While many of the targets are in 2010 or 2020, the recommendations are a major step forward in waste management.

Disappointingly the report fails in its recommendations over zero waste. It appears that many members of the Task Force were not prepared to engage with a changed approach to waste management.For further information see the MFE website, www.mfe.govt.nz.

Greenhouse Policy Preferences announced

THE GOVERNMENT'S Preferred Policies on Greenhouse Gas (GHG) control have been announced.

Overall the proposals are much weaker than we had imagined – because of heavy industry lobbying and complacency on the part of the environment movement who wrongly felt confident that Energy Minister Pete Hodgson's commitment would carry the day. At least the Government has committed to ratifying the Kyoto Protocol by the World Summit on Sustainable Development later this year. Helen Clark will lead that delegation for New Zealand. It is regrettable that she appears to have got cold feet over polluter opposition. Government agencies that have vigorously campaigned to water down and delay emissions reduction include the Treasury and the Ministry of Economic Development. We understand too that Lianne Dalziell, susceptible to the Engineers' Union campaign in concert with polluters, has vigorously opposed action being taken.

New Zealand has commitments to stabilise NZ's emissions to 1990 levels, in accordance with the Kyoto Protocol. Key elements of the preferred policies include:

In the pre-commitment period (ie before 2008) only existing measures will be operational unless the Kyoto Protocol comes into force earlier.

These will be:

1 Relying on existing measures and policies for one-third of the reductions to 1990 levels. These include:

The National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy (NEECS) provisions for energy efficiency, voluntary measures, performance standards, and measures to encourage renewable energy generation (consultation on these proposals is underway – for details email renewablefeedback@eeca.govt.nz).

The NZ Transport Strategy *Moving Forward* is another set of existing proposals, albeit not yet well formed, including transport funding and policy instruments.

The New Zealand Waste Strategy's provisions and research are to be relied on for most of the methane reductions. Public education, measures by local government, and potential amendments to the RMA are also being considered.

2 Negotiated Greenhouse Agreements for firms who can convince the government that they need special concessions because of risks to their competitiveness – a huge source of special interest concession pleading to keep on polluting;

3 Industry and government funded research in the agriculture sector;

4 Special projects and funding to give incentives to reduce emissions and create sinks;

–Continued on page 8

Environmental Performance Review: the Labour-Alliance Government

IN 1999 ECO and other major environmental organisations published the "Environmental Charter 1999" and asked all the major parties to commit to the policies that we had developed. Since then, ECO has pressed for the policies in the charter and have raised them with both officials and Ministers. It is timely that we take a look to see how the government has performed.

ECO gives the government a mixed report card – with some notable achievements and some significant disappointments. The disappointments largely reflect the anti-environmental stance of some in the Cabinet, election year jitters, bureaucratic inertia or down-right opposition to Ministerial wishes, and in one case, a Minister who has felt apparently no sense of commitment to either the policies or to environmental group aspirations.

KEY COMMITMENTS 1999

The 1999 Vote for the Environment campaign put forward the following key commitments as fundamental to any political party's platform.

We asked all the political parties to make the following commitments:

1 Protect from logging the 130,000 hectares of West Coast rainforest currently mismanaged by Timberlands West Coast. Disestablish Timberlands and transfer the management of West Coast exotic forests to a new body providing economic local benefits. *Key sites: Okarito, Saltwater, Poerua, East Bank Maruia, Orikaka, Granville, Charleston, eastern Paparoas, Otira-Kopara, and Inangahua.*

Nearly top marks for this – the Government has done New Zealand proud but let logging continue for at least one year longer than necessary.

Score: 9/10

2 Increase baseline Department of Conservation funding by $200 million over three years, with priority given to threatened species, habitat protection and

The 2000 Budget increased funding for the Biodiversity strategy over 5 years. Not all of the extra $186 million over 5 years (or $84 million over 3 years) is allocated to DoC.

–Continued over page

restoration, pastoral lease property purchases, pest control and conservation advocacy.

Score: 6/10

The DoC component is $152 million over 5 years (or $64 million over 3 years) – included in this is $30.5 million for increasing protected areas on private land. So the increased funding was only 30 percent of the funding requested over 3 years.

3 Replace the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry with a Ministry of Biosecurity, incorporating MAF Quarantine, and a Ministry of Food. Reallocate MAF's residual functions to the Ministry for the Environment (sustainable land management and indigenous forests management) and Ministry of Commerce.

Score: 2/10

The Government has not done this but has established a Biosecurity Strategy Review. Instead of a Ministry of Food it established a food agency within MAF that is dominated by producer interests, not consumer interests. They made qualified commitments to this set of policies in their answers to the VfE questionnaire when we asked them where they stood on the issue in 1999 – though Labour refused to reallocate the residual functions.

4 Shift the emphasis of taxation away from expenditure and jobs and instead onto charges for environmentally damaging activities[1].

Score: 2/10

The Government appointed a deeply conservative crew to the Taxation Review that recommended against environmental taxation except for greenhouse gas emissions charges. No progress except for the never-never promise of a carbon charge in 2007 – beyond the term of the next Government.

5 Adopt a 20 percent or greater cut in 2008-2012 greenhouse gas emissions over 1990 levels and introduce a significant fiscally neutral carbon charge at a rate greater than $50/tonne CO2 [that should have been per tonne of carbon].

Score: 3/10

Final decisions have not yet been made but the government's "Preferred Policy Package" on climate change proposes the introduction of a carbon charge capped at $25 in 2007. The delay will make eventual adjustment much harder and the $25 cap will blunt the capacity of the charge to get the shift in behaviour. Not much of a commitment.

6 Establish a five-year moratorium on the field testing and commercial release of genetically engineered organisms while a comprehensive public review and assessment of the long-term effects and risks is undertaken. *Key action: amendment to HSNO Act to provide a 5 year moratorium.*

Score: 7/10

The Government did introduce a moratorium on field testing (about 2 years) and on commercial release (4 years) and there was the Royal Commission on Genetic Modification. Most of the environmental community wants a continued moratorium but the Government has restricted it to only commercial release for 2 year period. In 1999 Labour refused to commit to the policy and the Alliance agreed to a moratorium.

7 Phase out chlorinated PVC plastic, chlorinated solvents and the small number of chlorinated anti-sapstain and timber treatment chemicals still in registered use by December 2002[2].

Score: 0/10

The Government has put together a Waste Strategy but has not achieved any of these.

8 8. Establish a Ministry of Marine Environmental Management with integrating legislation to achieve comprehensive management of the marine environment consistent with the UN Law of the Sea, the UN Fisheries Agreement and the Convention on Biodiversity. *Protection of marine mammals, seabirds and marine reserves should stay with the Department of Conservation.*

Score: 5/10

The Government accepted a review of our (mis-) management of human impacts on the sea and has established the Oceans Policy Review. The Review has completed Phase One, consultation with the public on values, but the Vision statement that has resulted is somewhat disappointing. Planning for Phase Two bogged down with officials. The government's 2-year budgetry commitment for the Oceans Policy review was never realistic. We are still a long way from any idea of specific outcomes or agency responsibilities.

9 Retain Government control and administration of fisheries management, research and enforcement, rather than devolving these functions to the fishing industry. *Key action: reject the devolution and co-management[3] proposals in the Fisheries Amendment Bill.*

Score: 5/10

The Minister of Fisheries, Pete Hodgson, has not repealed the Fisheries Amendment Act 1999, passed prior to the 1999 election by National. The devolution of fisheries quota registry services to the industry has been done. The Minister put a "freeze" on any devolution of commissioning of fisheries research to industry but has not ruled it out for the future or removed the Act that permits it. The Ministry of Fisheries has continued to work on developing Fisheries Plans as a mechanism for the devolution to fishing interests of fisheries management measures. Non-fishing interests would become

supplicants to fishers who would hold the pen on these Plans. The Minister would only approve or reject Plans and would not be able to set conditions or otherwise modify these. Astonishingly, the Ministry's discussion paper on Fisheries Plans suggests that Fisheries Plans would not initially have to address all the requirements of the Fisheries Act 1999!

10 Introduce requirements for environmental impact assessments for fishing activity. *Key action: assessments of areas of known or potentially significant biodiversity, and of damaging methods and of new and exploratory fisheries.*

Score: 3/10

No commitment to environmental assessment and impact assessment. The Ministry of Fisheries refused in 2001 to even discuss our proposal for an environmental impact assessment of trawling. The Ministry has however begun developing an Environmental Management Strategy and put $50,000 to fund NGO consultation after pressure from the Greens. Despite the Minister's instructions, the Ministry seems to be taking a slow path on Environmental Management while the Ministry pushes ahead with other projects. Some, like Fisheries [devolution] Plans are inimical to better environmental outcomes. Under pressure from ECO and Forest and Bird, the Ministry has let contracts for research that might underpin better systems for identifying biodiversity and the impacts of sea bottom damaging fishing methods.

11 Provide safe refuges for marine life and enhance sustainable fisheries management by establishing marine protected areas, including protecting 5% of New Zealand's marine area as no-take marine reserves or marine protected areas by 2002, with 20% protected by 2010.

Score: 6/10

Few new marine reserves have been established, but some have progressed considerably – despite trenchant opposition from the Ministry of Fisheries. The Minister of Conservation, Hon Sandra Lee, has undertaken a major review of the Marine Reserves Act to allow environmental protection, and other reasons to be the basis for the establishment of marine reserves – not just scientific studies as is now provided. She has also pressed to have the veto powers of the Minister of Fisheries modified. The government has committed to the establishment of marine protected areas over 10% of the Oceans by 2010.

12 Oppose the amendments to the Resource Management Act that restrict public participation or weaken environmental assessment provisions. *Key action: review the Resource Management Amendment Bill.*

Score: 5/10

The Government established a heavily business-biased group to review "Compliance Costs" and then used this as an excuse to try to overturn the proposals of the Local Government and Environment Select Committee chaired by Jeanette Fitzsimons to dump National's anti community and anti-environmental amendments to the RMA in the Resource Management Act Amendment Bill 1999. The best that can be said is that the government has not passed those odious proposals, but they have not scrapped them.

13 Resolve Treaty of Waitangi grievances by using productive Crown resources (eg SOE land and other resources) in the settlement of Treaty claims. Conservation land should only be used in special circumstances (eg urupa and notable pa sites).

Score: 6/10

To its credit the Government remains committed to resolving Treaty violations and to seeking settlements. So far the actual settlements have been few and Maori have had to take action to prevent alienation of productive Crown resources. Conservation land has been largely respected.

14 Maintain and enhance public foot access to the public conservation estate, and along the coast and waterways (including the Queen's chain) except where ecologically damaging.

Score: 7/10

DoC has come in for some flak for failing to maintain or closing some back country tracks and facilities while suburbanising some "front country" walks such as the Pancake Rocks at Punakaiki where regrettably pleasant bush walks have been turned into bitumin paths and ostentatious block walls.

[1] For example a fiscally neutral switch from GST or income tax to environmental bads such as greenhouse gases emissions or the destruction of forests or the marine environment would lighten the tax burden while sending price signals to discourage environmental damage and encourage people to take account of true environmental costs.

[2] This applies to chlorothalonil and chlorinated pyrethroids.

[3] Co-management is a term used by the fishing industry and government to mean quota holders taking over fisheries management, services and planning.

Water – Essence of Life

NONE OF US can live without water. Life would be impossible without water or the air we breath. But although water is our most valuable commodity, most people fail to appreciate its true value.

We in New Zealand are tremendously lucky to have an abundance of water in most places for most of the time. But in NZ our population is growing, and droughts are not uncommon. The need to conserve and treasure our water resources can never have been more important than it is right now.

According to Kofi Annan, United Nations Secretary General, "Access to safe water is a fundamental human need and therefore a basic human right". The Basic Daily Water Requirement (BWR) for drinking sanitation bathing, cooking and kitchen needs has been determined at 50 litres per person per day. This is the design standard used when water services are provided for many communities in Africa and Asia, and yet in Auckland the average domestic water use per person is approximately 180 litres per person per day. When industry and other uses are included, each person in Auckland uses on average about 385 litres per day.

Data published recently indicates that at present 2.1 billion people, approximately one in every three, is using less than 50 litres per day. But by the year 2050, because of water scarcity, over 45% of the world population will be restricted to using less than 50 litres per person per day. (Ref. *Footprints & Milestones – The State of the World Population 2001* UNFPA)

WaterAid, a UK charity concerned with water supplies and sanitation in developing countries states:

"Over the past 50 years enormous gains have been made in the provision of clean water and in public health throughout the developing world. Infant mortality has been halved and twice as many people have access to safe drinking water as compared to 30 years ago. There is growing awareness of the public health implications of the lack of sanitation and proper hygiene practices, and people, organisations and governments all over the world are working together to improve the water and sanitation services for poor people.

And yet it is a tragic irony that, at a time when one part of the world enjoys unprecedented wealth and comfort, the majority of the world's people languish in poverty on a scale never before experienced. The gap between the rich and poor countries continues to grow. Of an estimated six billion, half do not have adequate sanitation while as many as 1.5 billion lack access to safe drinking water. The lack of sanitation and safe drinking water kills three million children a year around the world."

by John La Roche,Director, Water for Survival (a NZ based Charity working with WaterAid)

Photo: WorldBank - hardened skin nodules typical first stages of arsenicosis (arsenic contamination, Bangladesh)

Contamination from Coalmine

AN INVESTIGATION into contamination from the Stockton coalmine on the West Coast by Auckland-based Scientist, Dr Richard Anstiss has indicated high levels of toxic chemicals in nearby streams.

The study of streams flowing from the Stockton mine, 35km northeast of Westport, found the following:

- Of 18 water sampling sites, 17 showed levels of chemical contamination well over Ministry of Health drinking water standards.
- The peak level for nickel in some streams was up to 36.5 times the maximum allowable for drinking water.
- Arsenic peaks were 4.2 times the ministry standard and lead levels were 3.4 times over the standard.
- The average concentration of nickel in streams was eight times over the ministry's standard.

According to Dr Anstiss, the chemicals had a range of toxic effects and tended to accumulate in the environment, in the flora and fauna, raising concerns that the chemicals could reach humans through consumption of water or fish.

Aquaculture - major backdown

THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (Aquaculture Moratorium) Amendment Bill was passed by Parliament in March.

The Act places a two-year moratorium on new applications for marine farms but was heavily watered down by the Primary Production Select Committee. The provisions now mean that over 10,000 ha of marine farms will still have to processed by regional councils. This is a major backdown from the Government.

This Act was the first of two Bills implementing aquaculture reform. The second Bill is to set out the provisions for the establishment of discretionary aquaculture management areas and that marine farming outside these are would be prohibited. It appears now that this Bill will not be introduced until the end of the year and will not be passed until mid 2003. It is understood that officials have not finished the policy work for this second Bill.

NZ Waters at a glance

Pollution makes Waikato river no-go zone

People should not swim in, ski or row on, or even walk too close to the Waikato River because it is too polluted, warns the region's top public health official.

"There must be assumed to be a risk of other harmful organisms such as viruses, hepatitis A, and protozea such as giardia and cryptosporidium being present in large amounts as well."

The New Zealand Herald 15.04.2002

And Aucklanders will be drinking this?

Green co-leader Jeanette Fitzsimons today said the case was getting stronger by the day for rethinking the use of of the Waikato Pipeline which will pump Waikato River water into Auckland's drinking water.

"There is research that shows this contamination of the Waikato River is changing the sex of goldfish. Despite Watercare's promises to treat the water to the highest standard, there is no requirement to remove hormone disrupting chemicals from this supply. This is of real concern given that even at undetectable levels these hormones can have impacts."

Green Party of NZ pr 15.04.2002

Council steps up war on sewage discharges

The Northland Regional Council is to make stringent checks on boats in the Waikare Inlet area of the Bay of Islands to solve pollution problems threatening the oyster farm industry.

At least 18 oyster farms in the inlet have been banned from harvesting their shellfish since last year because of concerns over a virus linked to outbreaks of gastroenteritis in Auckland restaurants last August.

The New Zealand Herald 01.04.2002

ICC given nod for discharge

The Environment Southland hearings committee has given approval for the Invercargill City Council to discharge contaminants from its wastewater treatment plant at Clifton, in Invercargill.

The decisions were made despite the committee's concern about odours from the plant.

Southland Times 23.03.2002

Wellington Clean Water Campaign – Success Story

THE CLOSING of the Clean Water Campaign account marks the end of an era.

It followed an epic battle by so many people to stop raw sewage flowing untreated into Wellington's coastal waters since 1899 right in front of a Pa site and onto shellfish beds. The small amount left was handed over by Ray Weeber, the Treasurer right throughout the campaign, to ECO in appreciation of their help and support in holding weekly meetings free of charge in their rooms over the height of the campaign.

The money mainly came from $1 raffles, coming in mainly in $5 dollars and small change. Ray use to spend all morning counting money and writing up names and receipts and then off to bank it all . It became quite a ritual every week as well as writing up acounts to the committee.

No longer is sewage discharged at Moa Pt. The sewage plant has been up and running since the end of 1998 and teething pains of smell from the plant because it was not well sealed are largely overcome.

The Ministry of Health wrote a letter at the end of 2001 stating the coast that had been polluted with raw sewage for over a hundred years was now safe for bathing.

Individuals over years had attempted to get Wellington City Council to come to grips and do something about this raw sewage streaming out into Lavender Bay at Moa Pt along side Wellington's Airport. All to no avail.

Years before I had become concerned after seeing raw sewage lumps floating in the water beside Hue-Te-Taka Penisula on going to a Miramar South School ecology trip with our twins Barry and Yvonne. Then I found the Council had even drawn up plans to put sewage ponds alongside the beach and by the houses of Moa Pt.

The Council on review decided a small milli-screen plant with long outfalll was best. In 1984 Fred Morgan of Seatoun called a meeting of all those interested at his house in Seatoun and from there the Wellington Clean Water Campaign began. It became one of Wellington's and the country's liveliest and intense political campaigns to wake up the city and country to pollution of the sea in a country that has this clean green image.

John Blincoe was elected Convenor, Ray Mercer Tangata Whenua representative, Ray Weeber Treasurer, Fred Morgan Secretary, then Sue Dale and later Fiona Malcolm. Dennis Berdinner, Mike Drummond, and lastly Alan Jenkins became convenor spokespeople as the years wore on.

Helen Drummond, Val and Gerry Brugermann, were also involved with many, many more names.

It was to be a short, sharp, high impact campaign but it lasted 15 years. Three times every home in Wellington received leaflets hand delivered. We organised a petition and ratepayers poll, which ended in the court and then High Court, which we won. The campaign also involved street campaigns, billboards, rock concert, art work, songs. meetings and more meetings. Our house had many leaflet and letter stuffing occasions every room people working.

Colenso advertising firm got into the act with a big one page add of "How do you feel about going on the beach" with a pull chain toilet on one of our sandy beaches. This had a huge impact.

Then another court case, this time to the Planning Tribunal against the milli-screen plant built by Council but funded by the airport supposedly to stop bird strike. This case we lost because we did not have expert witnesses only local knowledge which was to prove right in the end Local knowledge should be accepted alongside expert witnesses in the Environmental Court.

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Engineers for Social Responsibility

To learn more about ESR and the variety of presentations visit, www.esr.org.nz orjoin the ESR email discussion group, send an email message to ESRNZ-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Mayor Lawrence and councillors lost their seats. Then it raged back and forth where to build the new plant from Gollans Valley across the Harbour with the Hutt, to Karori Stream Mouth. New technology arrived. Back to Moa Pt with plant and long outfall passed the tidal flow.

Local Strathmore people, upset at the nearness, went to the Planning Tribunal creating another two years delay. Result, a set of rules and conditions for building plant and a Liaison Group to be set up to overview, with residents, council and builders Anglian Water. This is still in place.

Many battles of will took place during the building years with the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment being called in, resulting in a consultant engineer for the residents being paid for by council. What a blessing Keith Davis has been. He helped the residents and taught the overseas engineers building the plant many things as well.

You can now swim in Lavender and Tarakena Bays, the ecology of the area is returning to before sewage was there. Hutt valley sewage is being removed from the sea our Harbour and South Coast environs are once again clean water. Our work is done but we remain ever vigilant. We now await our Marine Coastal reserve.

by Betty Weeber

Greenhouse Policy Preferences announced *cont'd*

5 A programme for handling HFCs (1300x the potency of CO2);

6 Government and industry to work on a solution for Sulphur Hexaflouride. Sulphur Hexaflouride (SF_6) is an extremely potent GHG (23,900x the potency of CO2) - used in small quantities in electrical switch-gear;

7 No emissions charges or other price measures prior to 2008.

In the first commitment period (2008-2012) policy is for:

8 The introduction of an emissions charge for CO2 approximating the international price of emissions but capped at $25 per tonne of CO2 equivalent (which is already known to be too low to affect behaviour much) but NOT for those firms who provide sob stories about their competitiveness being at risk. We say this paves the way for bribery and corruption. – "moral hazard" as the economists would say;

9 The possibility of emission permit trading;

10 The government to retain sink credits and liabilities (in effect to subsidize the forestry and agriculture sectors);

11 Continued special concessions called Negotiated Agreements for so called "competitiveness-at-risk" polluting firms;

12 Projects and subsidies to provide incentives for emission reductions and sink creation;

13 Handling programmes for HFCs;

14 Government and industry to work on a solution for Sulphur Hexaflouride;

15 Revenue recycling – in other words no polluter pays principle for most pollution.

ECO is disappointed at these measures. The government is consulting with a series of public meetings. The consultation documents can be found at www.climatechange.govt.nz or obtained from the Ministry for the Environment. Details on dates, venues, and times for consultations are available in recorded form at 0800 WARMING (927 646). The deadline for written comments is 14 June 2002. There are some questions and issues on which the government wants feedback as well as a form for feedback in part III of the document *Climate Change: The Government's Preferred Policy Package, A Discussion Document, April 2002*. Feedback needs to be sent to info@climatechange.govt.nz or Consultation on Policy, NZ Climate Change Project, P O Box 55, Wellington.

It is vital that environmental organisations and people make submissions. Few spoke up in the last round of consultations. Instead the policies reflect strong polluter pressure. Be sure to make a submission. It is also important that people attend the public meetings, the schedule of which has been included as an insert. Letters to the papers and to Ministers and MPs are also needed.

Hooker's sea lion: You can't trust the fishing industry

THE AUCKLAND ISLANDS squid fishery was closed in mid-April after an estimated 84 sea lions were drowned.

This is five more than a limit of 79 which was set by the Minister of Fisheries, Pete Hodgson, for the fishery this year. This breaches the legal requirement under section 15(5)(b) to ensure that any limit is not exceeded.

This year the fishing industry failed to meet the commitments they had agreed to as part of the operational plan to manage the interaction between sea lions and the squid fishery.

The Minister of Fisheries has confirmed in correspondence to Forest and Bird that: *"Some operators within the SQU6T [Auckland Islands' squid] fishery have not complied with several elements on the operational plan… This situation meant that the catch of sea lions against the MALFiRM [Maximum number of allowable deaths] could not be measured as intended in the plan." (Dated 28 March 2002).*

Trials of the seal escape device or SLED on trawl nets last year had resulted in sea lions suffering life-threatening injuries. The SLED is worse than useless if it ejects mortally injured sea lions, which are not counted in any limit on sea lion deaths.

Before the squid fishery is opened next year it is critical that there is an effective regulatory arrangement to ensure this failure does not happen again and that the companies involved are prosecuted. Since the squid fishery started in the early 1980s over 2,000 New Zealand sea lions, which are the world's rarest, have died.

This year is the fifth year since 1996 that the fishery has been closed due to deaths of sea lions – the fishery was closed in 1996, 1997, 1998, 2000 and 2002. This is a clear sign that the fishing industry must look at alternative methods for catching squid around the Auckland Islands.

From April Marine Notes (abridged), Forest and Bird

Boundaries to Patentability: conservation concerns

THE NZ Ministry of Economic Development (MED) is currently reviewing the Patent Act (1953) and the Plant Variety Right Act (1987). Entitled *Boundaries to Patentability*, the review of the Patents Act poses several steps 'forward' for Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) legislation in Aotearoa/NZ.

Patents and Plant Variety Rights are complex and difficult to understand, but the conservation impacts of these reviews need to be considered. Submissions are due on 26th July 2002, and the Patent and PVR review documents are available at: http://www.med.govt.nz/buslt/int_prop/patentsreview/index.html http://www.med.govt.nz/buslt/int_prop/plantvarietyreview/index.html

These review documents explain the concept of patents, and should be referred to for a better understanding. Basically, as stated in the Patents Act review:

"*Effectively, a patent is a limited form of monopoly right…however [it] is considered to be justified, because, in return for granting this temporary monopoly, society benefits from something that it did not have before: the disclosure of an invention that is new and innovative.*"

Long standing challenges to what constitutes "innovation" and "invention" are acknowledged by the MED, but their pro-investment, pro-industry sentiments colour both the Patent and Plant Variety Right (PVR) review documents. For example, economic arguments are used to explain why flora and fauna, and isolated genes, should be deemed "products of the mind" (ie intellectual property).

However, the whole process is problematic from the start, since these legislative reviews will be completed prior to even an interim report by the Waitangi Tribunal on the WAI 262 claim (which pertains explicitly to intellectual property issues). In 1996 a Waitangi Tribunal commissioned report found that such legislative changes were "arguably inconsistent with the Treaty Rights of iwi and hapu", and it is likely that this review of the Patent Act will pre-empt the possible outcomes that can come from WAI 262. However, the MED is now going ahead with these reform anyway, having 'waited long enough'.

The patenting of other beings and of life process, and 'ownership' of plants by individuals or corporations via PVR, are hotly debated on ethical and cultural grounds. The assumptions that strong intellectual property right laws encourage 'innovation' and foreign investment are also questionable. However, the NZ Government is bound by the international TRIPs agreement (Trade Related aspects of Intellectual Property), and through that agreement any cultural-ethical exclusions to patentability could be opposed through the WTO. Despite this, the NZ Government continues to advocate a free market agenda internationally, such as bilateral trade deals, which bind the country to such contradictory obligations and further erode the ability for public concerns on such issues to be taken into account.

PVR are currently issued to plant breeders for protection of commercial varieties, and the current review of these laws may strengthen plant variety rights to the status of patents. Current examples of native species that carry such rights are varieties of Horopito, Coprosma genera, Hebe, Kowhai, Harakeke (Phormium), Cabbage Tree/ Ti Kouka, Red Beech, and Manuka. A number of these variety rights are owned by Crown Research Institutes, such as NZ Crop and Food.

The arguments for and against such patenting rights are complex, and can not be covered adequately in this article, but members of ECO will be investigating what impacts such changes to the legislation may have on conservation. Some of the specific concerns that ECO has are:

- increased monopoly and control of biological resources by individuals and corporations;
- increased exposure to 'biopiracy' and expropriation of flora and fauna, such as patenting of native plant species;
- negative impacts on agriculture and horticulture, such as denying farmers the right to save seed;
- threats to the marine environment through increased bioprospecting in NZ waters; and
- further privatisation of biodiversity.

Comments and queries may be directed to garrick.martin@paradise.net.nz

Changes to GMO Bill

The Finance and Expenditure Select Committee has made a few changes to the GMO parts of the Genetically Modified Organisms and Restricted Biotechnical Procedures Bill.

The main change was reducing the requirement to remove sub-soil genetically modified material from a field test. There is also improved monitoring and inspection requirements for field tests. Another change was adding new provisions for prohibiting two specific biotechnical procedures (xenotransplantation and human germ cell-line) by amendments to the Medicines Act until 30 June 2003. This prohibition can be extended until 30 June 2005.

National and ACT have opposed the Bill and instead want the Royal Commissions (RCGM) recommendation of limited released introduced.

The Alliance and the Greens have questioned the arbitrary nature of the lifting of the 2 year moratorium. They have recommended that the lifting of the moratorium should be extended until evidence of safety has been established. The Greens have added that apart from some special conditions on vaccines the moratorium should become permanent. Labour supports the Bill as reported back.

The Government has yet to make a commitment to fund the research requirements identified by the RCGM to assess the environmental impacts of GE organisms, in particular on soil and ecosystems (recommendation 6.12), This was identified as needed prior to any release of GM crops.

Pesticide Risk Paper Released

THE GOVERNMENT has finally released its long awaited discussion document on a national pesticide risk reduction policy. It could lead to big improvements in the ways New Zealand manages its ecosystems - or it could become nothing but a greenwash exercise. It all depends on public response and the political will of the government over the next few years.

Risks from pesticides are considered in four areas: primary production, natural environment, the built environment, and domestic settings. The paper focuses on education, improved methods of weed and pest control, improved pesticides and more research, but only four policy tools are discussed:

1 Environmental user charges on pesticides. The paper does not support a tax, but they have been effective overseas in reducing pesticide use and should be tried here.

2 Transferable permits. It is hard to see how effective these might be.

3 Reduction targets have an important function in achieving pesticide risk reduction - they focus minds on what can be achieved and they provide a measure of success or failure. Simplistic reduction targets that consider only the quantity of pesticide used regardless of its hazard are flawed and in 1998 I developed a new approach based on a hazard scoring system. This method is briefly described in the discussion paper, but more detailed information is available from Soil & Health info@organicnz.pl.net. or PO Box 36-170, Northcote.

4 Reassessments of registered pesticides by ERMA - fundamental to risk reduction.

Other policy tools that could have been included are:

- The approach of minimum harm, requiring that pests, weeds and diseases are managed in ways that minimise harm to the environment.
- A national database of pesticide use so we know how much is used.
- Buffer zones around waterways and lakes, where pesticides could not be used, would help reduce water pollution.
- All users of pesticides could be required to have training.
- Aerial application of pesticides could be banned or severely curtailed.

Policy approaches used overseas are described in Reducing Reliance: A Review of Pesticide Reduction Initiatives by Watts MA and Macfarlane R, 1997; available from Soil & Health, $10. For a copy of the discussion document contact MfE: PO Box 10362; pestrisk@mfe.govt.nz; www.mfe.govt.nz.

An Auckland meeting to discuss the document with MfE is being held on May 16th, 7pm. Contact Hana Blackmore 09-52888-11 to attend. *by Meriel Watts, Director of the Soil & Health Association of NZ.*

Write to Protect Hector's Dolphin

THE NEW ZEALAND Minister of Fisheries has asked for public comment on the management of the North Island Hector's dolphin. This is the second round of submissions. The first round of decision-making became bogged down after the fishing industry took the Minister to court.

Three management options have been put forward:

- Fishing industry option: Protected area from Manukau Harbour to Aotea Harbour. Acoustic "pingers" would be used in Hector's dolphin habitat north of the protected area - unfortunately, there is no scientific evidence that this method works for Hector's dolphins. An additional limited seasonal closure is proposed. The total protected area in option 1 (seasonal and year-round protected areas combined) is about half of the habitat of the North Island Hector's dolphin. This option does not include protection for Hector's dolphins in the harbours, nor reductions in the amount of trawling.
- Ministry of Fisheries option: Protected area from Maunganui Bluff (near Dargaville) to Pariokariwa Point (about 40 km north of New Plymouth). This includes about 90% of the Hector's dolphin habitat off the West Coast of the North Island. No gillnetting would be allowed on the open coast out to 4 nautical miles and in the entrance of the Manukau Harbour. This option does not include protection for Hector's dolphins in the other harbours on the North Island west coast, nor reductions in the amount of trawling.
- Department of Conservation option: Protected area from Maunganui Bluff to Pariokariwa Point (same as option 2, but also includes harbours). No gillnetting would be allowed on the open coast out to 4 nautical miles and in parts of the Kaipara, Manukau, Kawhia, Raglan and Aotea Harbours and Port Waikato. No trawling or Danish Seining would be allowed within 2 nautical miles of the coast (trawling is currently prohibited to 1 nm offshore). Commercial fishers using trawling and Danish seining between 2 and 4 nautical miles offshore would be required to carry observers, video cameras or other means of detecting dolphin captures.

Option 3 shows by far the best promise of providing adequate protection for the North Island Hector's dolphin. As the agreed management goal for North Island Hector's dolphin should be to reduce human impacts to as close to zero as possible. The DOC option is the only proposal that has any chance of achieving this. Please send a letter or email to support the Department of Conservation option, or stronger protection measures.

Either by post to: Ministry of Fisheries, P.O. Box 3437, Auckland, or by email to: phodgson@ministers.govt.nz; slee@ministers.govt.nz; hectorsdolphin@xtra.co.nz on or before 21 May 2002.

Parliamentary Watch

Bills Recently Passed:

Resource Management (Aquaculture Moratorium) Bill

This Bill was passed in March. Introduction of part two legislation to better control aquaculture is still not likely until the end of the year.

Local Government (Rating) Bill

This Bill was passed in March. It reforms the provisions of a number of rating Bills and is part of the Government's changes to local government administration.

Bills before Parliament:

Genetically Modified Organisms and Restricted Biotechnical Procedures Bill

Previously the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (Genetically Modified Organisms) Amendment Bill. The Bill was reported back by the Finance and Expenditure Select Committee in March and it is now before the Parliamentary committee stages.

Resource Management Amendment Bill

This Bill was reported back to Parliament by the Local Government and Environment Select Committee in April 2001 and a debate on the Bill has yet to take place. The Government announced in December it would renege on previous commitments and introduce amendments that will undermine public involvement by removing the appeal on non-notification of resources consents and introducing a provision for limited notification.

Resource Management (Costs) Amendment Bill

This Bill is still before the Local Government and Environment Select Committee and has a report back deadline of 29 November 2002.

New Zealand Nuclear Free Extension Bill

This Private Members Bill introduced by Green MP, Jeanette Fitzsimons proposes to extend the provisions of the Nuclear Free legislation to cover shipments of plutonium. The Bill was reported back last August with the Government and the opposition (apart from the Greens) recommending that the Bill not proceed further and not be passed. This Bill is no 6 of the Private Members Bill order paper.

International Treaties Bill

The Foreign Affairs and Defence Select Committee has recommended that the Bill lie on the table until the current Parliamentary practices of reviewing treaties introduced in 1999 has had more time. This Bill is no 9 on the Private Members Bill order paper.

Biosecurity Amendment Bill

The Biosecurity Amendment Bill was reported back by the Primary Production Select Committee in November 2001 and still awaits a debate.

RMA (Marine Farming and Heritage Provisions) Bill

The original legislation was introduced prior to 1996 as part of the Resource Management Amendment Bill. This Bill is languishing at number 30 on the order paper.

Bills before Select Committees:

Forests Amendment Bill

The Local Government and Environment Select Committee is yet to progress this Bill despite submissions closing in 1999. It is understood they are awaiting on Government decisions on South Island Landless Natives Act (SILNA) land.

Crown Minerals Amendment Bill 2001

This Bill has been introduced to make two key changes so as to correct an important error in the transitional provisions of the Crown Minerals Act, and secondly to remove the requirement to advise the district land registrar of that a mineral permit has been granted. The first is supported the second is strongly opposed. This Bill is before the Commerce Select Committee and submissions closed at the end of February.

Private Member Bills:

Private Members Bill which have yet to be debated are:

Road Traffic Reduction Bill

This Bill is based on similar UK legislation and has been introduced by Green's Jeanette Fitzsimons. This is no 14 on the Private Members Bill order paper. The Bill, which will be welcomed by groups and communities campaigning for more rational transport policies, has two parts:

- the first part would require both national and regional government to set binding targets for the reduction of motorised road traffic and thereby enhance environmental quality and the health and safety and well-being of people and communities;
- the second part amends the principal objective of Transfund to provide a safe and sustainable land transport system.

The Government or opposition parties position on this Bill is not known. This Bill is no 13 on the Private Members Bill order paper.

Anti-environment Bills:

Resource Management (Controlled and Discretionary Activities) Amendment Bill

This Bill has been introduced by ACT's Owen Jennings to further undermine public processes under the RMA. Debate on this Bill's introduction has yet to be completed.

Conservation (Fallen Timber Sale to Fund Programmes) Amendment Bill

This Bill was introduced by ACT's Gerry Eckhoff and would downgrade the prohibition on indigenous forest logging in conservation land. The Bill is no 12 on the Private Members Bill order paper.

RMA workshops coming your way

Forest and Bird are running a series of free public workshops on the RMA around the country, to give people practical skills to influence positive environmental management in their area. The workshops, and the free RMA training booklet made available to all participants, explain the RMA's principles and processes, and aim to improve community participation in local environmental decision making.

They are designed for individuals and organisations who may not have had much experience of the RMA process. Attending a workshop will give you the skills to make persuasive, focused submissions on resource consents or plan developments.

The workshops are funded by the Ministry for the Environment's Education and Advisory Services Fund.

Workshops are coming up in Nelson on 18 May, Ashburton and Christchurch on 25 and 26 May, Auckland and Whangarei on 15 and 16 June, New Plymouth and Wanganui on 29 and 30 June, Invercargill and Dunedin on 20 and 21 July, Napier and Gisborne on 27 and 28 July. All workshops run from 9.30am-5pm.

If you want to come along or for more information, contact Forest and Bird, P O Box 631, Wellington, 04 385 7374, email: office@wn.forest-bird.org.nz. Full information about the workshops, dates, places and venues, and who to register with is also available on http://www.forest-bird.org.nz/RM/workshops.asp.

Vacancy: ECO Executive Officer - applications close 24 May 2002

Please contact eco@reddfish.co.nz or phone 04 385 7545 for a job description

ENVIRONMENT & CONSERVATION ORGANISATIONS OF NEW ZEALAND
ECO • P O BOX 11057 • WELLINGTON

Name _____

Address _____

_____

_____

Phone _____(work)

_____(home)

E-mail _____

☐ **Please place me on your e-mail list for notices and information**
–or contact us by e-mail at eco@reddfish.co.nz

• Join ECO

☐ **Please send information on becoming a member of ECO.** Membership is by application for groups involved in the protection of the environment. Subscriptions for member organisations are determined by the size of the organisation:
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