

NZ: Clean, Green and Genetically Modified

NOT THE 'PEOPLES-CHOICE', but the voluntary moratorium on GE field trials has now been lifted and ERMA has the mandate to restart processing applications.

The days preceding and following the Government announcing its decision on the Royal Commission for Genetic Modification recommendations saw an influx in activity on both sides of the debate. The pro-GE lobbyists have indulged themselves in 'back-slapping' and approving rhetoric, whilst those not supportive of the 'silver-bullet'-bearing technology's release into the great unknown, have not.

Instead, they have sought that New Zealand become witness to a Hikoï, which moved concerned Maori and some European and people of other ethnic persuasions to march from Spirits Bay to the Governor-General in Wellington. We have also seen a 'sit-in' at ERMA's office in Wellington by concerned Wahine, and a 'banner-wrap' at Parliament that spelt the GE-Free NZ message out so clearly and largely - that you have to ask, how could it have been missed?

Post decision and the tempo has been turned up even further. Up to 3000 individuals have pledged that they feel

strongly enough about GE's release into the environment through field-trials and in two years time, no doubt, commercial release, that they could take action to prevent the development of these trials and crops. These pledges, first off, prompted one ACT MP to make several statements to the media and now, to lodge a complaint with the police.

So where is this all headed?

Frankly, it is impossible to predict and perhaps ironically, 'unpredictability' is the one feature of genetic modification that both sides of the debate could agree upon at the 'scoping meeting' held prior to the RCGM.



Photo: Members of the Hikoï, who marched from Kaitaia to Wellington

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Compelling International Evidence Against GE

BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT determined NZ's future with respect to genetic engineering, more and more international evidence came to light about the irreversible nature of this technology, and reinforced the necessity for NZ's environment to be GE free.

The Royal Commission on Genetic Engineering confirmed many of the concerns expressed by ECO and other environmental groups regarding the lack of knowledge we have about GE organisms and their impact on our environment. However, it failed to follow through with appropriate recommendations.

It acknowledged that 'information about potential long-term effects of genetically modified organisms on the environment and on biodiversity is still sparse.' (6:127) and that 'little is yet known about the environmental impacts of genetically modified organisms, and in particular in New Zealand "on the potential adverse effects, or risks of such effects, on the indigenous biota"' (6:142).

The necessity for the adoption of the precautionary principle was highlighted when the Commission said 'there are some significant gaps in knowledge on which to base risk assessments for field trials or release of genetically modified organisms' (6:144).

Subsequent international papers have confirmed that the contamination of conventional and organic agriculture by GE crops is inevitable. This is through natural forces such as wind and pollinators, handling errors, and other pathways such as horizontal gene transfer.

The UK Agriculture and Environment Biotechnology Commission outlines considerable containment concerns in its paper '...no separation distance can guarantee zero-GM status' (p 38 para 109). It goes on to acknowledge, 'the future compatibility of different forms of agriculture appears to be at stake' (Crops on Trial, A report by The United Kingdom Agriculture and Environment Biotechnology Commission, September 2001 p 39 para 110).

Field trial breaches are also well documented in Australia. The Tasmanian Select Committee outlines 21 documented breaches of field trials since 1998 and accepts that contamination is inevitable. It particularly acknowledges human error in containment breaches, 'Aventis Crop Science have been found to have breached a wide range of GMAC

guidelines at a number of GM canola crop trial sites in at least two Australian States, both before and after this evidence was heard' (Joint Select Committee Report on Gene Technology, Parliament of Tasmania, June 2001, p69).

Other relevant international information has recently confirmed contamination of seed supplies seriously compromises agricultural diversity. The first serious outbreak of genetic pollution in the centre of diversity of maize has now occurred in several communities in the state of Oaxaca, Mexico. Testing of maize varieties from 22 communities in the area have revealed genetic contamination in 15 of them: 13 samples showed up to 10% levels of contamination, in two others the contamination level is known to be even higher, but no details have been published yet. The contamination originates from genetically engineered (GE) maize grains imported from the United States to Mexico to be used for food.



photo: GE Free Hikoi reaches Wellington

This diversity ensures global food security now and in the future. As Jack Harlan, an American botanist and plant breeder has stated, genetic diversity 'stands between us and catastrophic starvation on a scale we cannot imagine' (Fowler C, Mooney P (1990) Shattering – Food, politics and the loss of genetic diversity, University of Arizona Press, Tucson, USA).

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Even a low level of genetic contamination is highly significant in a centre of diversity and origin: The genetic contamination is likely to multiply through pollen flow and spread further to other traditional varieties and wild relatives growing in the area. Crop diversity is essential in the continuing pursuit of food crop varieties resistant to new pests, diseases, changing climatic and environmental conditions.

The necessity for NZ to take heed of these examples, and legislate accordingly is compelling and critical. There are a series of reviews and public comment opportunities above and beyond the Government's decision on NZ's GE policy. Of relevance is the Biosecurity Strategy, open for public comment at the moment, and ERMA applications regarding GE. Also, the Patent Act is coming under review, and will look at the exemptions to patents, in particular flora and fauna.

by Annette Cotter, Greenpeace

RCGM – Summary of key Government decisions

Constraint period on commercial release of GMOs

There will be a legislated two-year constraint period during which time no applications can be lodged with the Environmental Risk Management Authority (ERMA) for release of GMOs except those that provide direct benefits to human health or animal health, or in accordance with the existing emergency provisions of the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO) Act.

- Any exemption will also require that: applicants provide additional information demonstrating that the organism cannot persist viably in the physical environment beyond the target organism.
- ERMA take account of relative efficacy, safety and ecological effects.

The constraint period is to allow time to:

- establish or continue research programmes addressing areas of socio-economic, ethical, environmental and agricultural research which were identified by the Royal Commission as needing additional work;
- put in place amendments to the HSNO Act;
- establish a Bioethics Council;
- complete generic work on the economic impacts of any GM crop release on the strategy of "preserving opportunities";
- undertake appropriate work on other issues identified by the Commission

Contained research

The Government supports the Commission's conclusion that the regulatory framework governing research involving genetic modification is sound. It considers that the case-by-case approach taken by ERMA under the HSNO Act (which includes scope for public input), supported by the range of containment provisions, provides a strict and rigorous regime.

At present ERMA has some discretion to determine all the conditions to be applied to approved research. The Government intends to clarify its expectation that all research must meet strict safety standards. The HSNO Act will be amended to require specific mandatory conditions to be applied to any research approval to ensure that appropriate environmental and health safeguards are imposed.

This will include explicit conditions on contained field tests of genetically modified plants and animals to ensure that:

- Once a plant reaches the stage where it is capable of releasing heritable material (eg, seed), any reproductive structure above the ground must be securely contained or immediately removed and destroyed.
- Any plant heritable material beneath the ground (eg, potato) must be either destroyed once the test is complete or retained in conditions of high security. All material associated with the trial must be removed from the site by destruction or otherwise.
- Any animals involved in field tests, including their offspring, must be held in secure containment and clearly identified in case the animal escapes.
- Appropriate inspection and monitoring conditions will be compulsory.

Further recommendations of the Royal Commission

Toi te Taiao: The Bioethics Council will be established to advise, provide guidelines and promote dialogue on the cultural, ethical and spiritual issues associated with biotechnology.

Biotechnology Strategy: A strategy to ensure that New Zealand keeps abreast of developments in biotechnology will be developed, with a mechanism to ensure ongoing balance between benefits and risks.

Liability: The liability system for GM related issues will be further investigated during the constraint period. The Minister Responsible for the Law Commission has been invited to consider this for inclusion in the Law Commission's work programme. This will ensure that any potential problems with the existing liability system are identified and addressed proactively.

Parliamentary Commissioner for Biotechnology. The role does not meet the criteria set down for the establishment of a Parliamentary Commissioner and has not been agreed to by the Government. The tasks envisaged for the Commissioner will be considered in the development of the biotechnology strategy.

Further work/research: Officials are to explore coexistence and conditional release frameworks as far as is practicable in the absence of releases and undertake economic analysis on the risks and opportunities that may arise from GM and non-GM technologies by the end of February 2003.

(This item has been slightly abridged to capture the main points and as a result of space limits.)

GreenPages
visit: www.greenpages.org.nz

Sea Sense: Improving Environmental Management of Fisheries

ECO AND FOREST AND BIRD are working together on a national programme to develop ideas for the Ministry of Fisheries on how it might do a much better job on controlling the impacts of fishing on the marine environment.

During November we will hold a series of workshops and have developed a questionnaire for our member groups and their members to have input into this project. If you are a member organisation of ECO, a Friend of ECO or a member of an ECO organisation, we invite you to participate in this process.



The money comes from \$50,000 that Jeanette Fitzsimons of the Greens persuaded Fisheries Minister, Pete Hodgson to make available to environmental non-governmental groups to participate in fisheries management processes. Four organisations have been funded by the Ministry of Fisheries, three of them active in fisheries matters: ECO, Forest and Bird and WWF. Ecologic, formerly Maruia Society, which has never been active in Ministry of Fisheries processes, has also been funded.

The purpose of the funding is that the groups provide feedback to the Ministry on their views and priorities for the Ministry's environmental management strategy. ECO and Forest and Bird have decided on a joint programme and will hold workshops according to the following schedule:

- **Wellington** workshop: 5.30 - 8.30pm, Thursday 1st November, YWCA, 35 Vivian St, Wellington. Meeting room on level 1.
- **Auckland** workshop: 10am-1.00pm, Saturday 3rd November, YWCA, 103 Vincent Street, Auckland. 6th floor.
- **Bay of Islands** workshop: 1-4pm, Sunday 4th November, Opuia Hall, Beechy St, Opuia.
- **Nelson** workshop: 5.30-8.30pm, Wednesday 7th November, Cathedral Parish Centre, 45 Nile St, Nelson. Gemini Room.
- **Christchurch** workshop: 10am-1pm Saturday 10th November, WEA, 59 Gloucester St, Christchurch.
- **Dunedin** workshop: 5.30-8.30pm, Monday 12th November, Dunedin Library, Moray Place, Dunedin. 4th floor, 'Dunningham Suite'.
- **Gisborne** (Forest and Bird) workshop: 7.30pm, Monday 12th November.
- **Wanganui** (Forest and Bird) workshop: 17th November.

The objectives of the EMS are to:

- Achieve meaningful improvements in managing the environmental impacts of fishing; and
- Ensure the Ministry's obligations under the Fisheries Act 1996 and other legislation are carried out in an efficient and consistent manner.

The Ministry particularly wants ECO and Forest and Bird to:

- Identify, describe and rank environmental stakeholders' concerns about the management of fisheries-related impacts on the aquatic environment;
- Identify the appropriate balance between protection and use of fishery resources required to address these concerns;
- Identify opportunities for environmental stakeholders to work with tangata whenua and other fishery stakeholders to achieve shared environmental goals.

If you are interested, please let us know. The Sea Sense questionnaire will be posted on the Forest and Bird website. If you know of environment professionals with an interest in this area we would like to hear of them too.

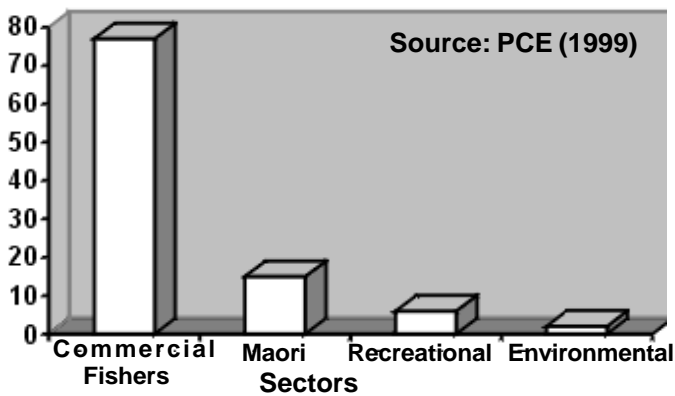
Limited opportunities for public input

Opportunities to take part in decision-making processes under the Fisheries Act are limited. Unlike the Resource Management Act where anybody can take part in policy and planning processes, participation under the Fisheries Act is generally restricted to "approved parties". Approved party status is given only to recognised "stakeholders" who can satisfy the Ministry they have a valid interest in the process.

Some informal opportunities for public participation exist through fisheries liaison committees, which operate at the local level. However, these committees do not have any legal standing and there is no formal process for public input.

In practice, the majority of parties taking part in fisheries processes represent commercial fishing interests.

Participation of approved parties in meetings to review information on the state of fish stocks



Call for Input into World Summit on Sustainable Development 2002

ANGOA / CID are coordinating NGO input into New Zealand's preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in 2002. Gitanjali Bedi outlines what has happened so far.

Last December, the United Nations General Assembly formally decided that ten years after the landmark United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 (Rio Earth Summit), the international community should meet to assess global change in sustainable development. The event, the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) will take place in Johannesburg from 2-11 September 2002 and will aim at a comprehensive, frank and useful review of the past ten years and reinvigorate world commitment to sustainable development.

Next year's WSSD has already proved to be much more far reaching than the previous Summit held ten years ago. Encompassing the three pillars of sustainable development – social, economic and environment, the necessary involvement required from the NGO sector has needed to be more widespread and specialised than before.

Earlier this year, the Association for

Non-Governmental Organisations of Aotearoa (ANGOA) and Council for International Development (CID) applied for funding from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade (MFAT) to initiate a cross sector response to participate in the WSSD process. Since then two processes are under way.

MFAT organised roundtable meetings with civil society in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch in July and August. Parallel to this, ANGOA/CID organised roundtable meetings of NGOs only in the three centres. CID has also provided a list of email contacts, sent out information and coordinated input on the WSSD and informed people of the timelines. An NGO statement outlining NZ's preparations for the WSSD was prepared for the Pacific Sub-regional meeting in Apia, Samoa on September 5. A self-selecting group from the NGO sector have formed a steering committee to work on the NGO report in conjunction with the NGO meetings held across the country. The final report, due November 15, will be completed through consensus with final editorial control held by MFAT. The Government has also invited NGOs to write the chapter on 'The Role of NGOs in Sustainable Development. ANGOA/

CID are keen to see a separate report produced by the NGO sector.

Of particular interest to the NZ NGO sector is Chapter 27 of Agenda 21. It articulates that the linkages with NGOs as partners for sustainable development need to be strengthened, as NGOs play a vital role in shaping and implementing participatory democracy. Feedback from national NGOs roundtable meetings concurred with the above statement. The NGO document (still in the draft stage) focuses on the need to strengthen the role of NZ NGOs as partners for sustainable development, by building a new relationship with government based on mutual respect and trust.

ANGOA / CID are concerned that attempts to engage with NGOs and gain input into the WSSD process hasn't been as successful as hoped so far. This is primarily due to the time constraints and excessive commitments of those working in this sector. Nevertheless, now is the opportune time to meaningfully engage in the process rather than at the meetings next year, when positions would have already been taken and the ground work already done.

For more information: Gitanjali Bedi, NGO Projects Officer, Council for International Development on ph: 04 472 6375, or email: gbedi@clear.net.nz

Mexican Environmentalist freed

MEXICO'S PRESIDENT, Vicente Fox made a public announcement on November 8 that Rodolfo Montiel and Teodoro Cabrera have been released from prison.

Arrested by members of the Mexican Army, Rodolfo Montiel and Teodoro Cabrera have been in prison since May 2, 1999. During the raid, the soldiers shot and killed Salomé Sanchez Ortiz, a local farmer. Mr Montiel and Mr Cabrera were subsequently beaten, tortured and forced to confess to drugs and weapons-related charges. On August 28, 2000, Mr Montiel and Mr. Cabrera were

convicted and sentenced to six-year and ten-year jail terms respectively. Last October, a judge denied an appeal to the two men.

The terms of the release are not yet fully known, and in his statement President Fox stopped short of describing the environmentalists as innocent. The pair were released under article 75 of the Constitution, which allows for their release due to health conditions. Still, the news is cause for great celebration for all members of the human rights and environmental communities, particularly those who worked so hard on behalf of both men.

Particular thanks also to Prime

Minister, Helen Clark and her office for putting the issue on her agenda for their forthcoming trip to Mexico.

The release of the environmentalists comes less than a month after the murder of their original defense lawyer, prominent human rights defender Digna Ochoa, who was shot to death on October 19 in her office in Mexico City. Digna Ochoa had won international acclaim for defending the poor and marginalized in Mexico.

ECO urges the Rt. Hon Helen Clark to encourage President Fox to bring those responsible for Digna Ochoa's murder to justice quickly.

Parliamentary Watch

A RANGE of environmental legislation is currently before Parliament.

Since June only three Bills of an environmental nature have been passed – Statutes Amendment Bill, Tutae-Ka-Wetoweto Bill and the Electricity Reform Bill.

New Bills:

Biosecurity Amendment Bill

The main features of this Bill are of a technical nature. Clause 4 of the Bill will also enable wildlife with undesirable effects which are covered by the Wildlife Act to be listed as unwanted organisms. This Bill, which is before the Primary Production Select Committee, is due to be reported back by 15 February 2002.

Local Government (Rating) Bill

This Bill reforms the provisions of a number of rating Bills and is part of the Government's changes to local government administration. The Bill continues the main focus of local body revenue generation on rates but allows both targeted rates and uniform annual charges. There is a requirement that fixed annual charges must not exceed 30 percent of the total rates revenue (clause 21). The Bill sets out a clear purpose for rating and procedures for setting rates. The Bill clarifies the exemption for rating that exist for protected private land but does not establish clear provisions for land subject to QEII Conservation Trust covenants.

Disappointingly the Bill fails to consider environmental charges and the ability of rates and other charges to reduce environmental bads. The Bill is before the Local Government and Environment Select Committee and is due to be reported back by 3 December.

Te Uri o Hau Settlement Bill

This Bill implements the deed of settlement between the Crown and Te Uri o Hau. Te Uri o Hau is a Hapu of Ngati Whatua and the settlement involves an area east and north Kaipara.

The settlement involves:

- a Crown apology;
- establishment of a special advisory committee to the Minister of Fisheries on customary fisheries and associated fisheries interests;
- establishment on nohoanga (camping sites) at Pouto Stewardship area;
- statutory acknowledgements and deeds of recognition in the management of conservation land;
- protocols to develop good working relationships between Crown agencies and Te Uri o Hau;
- changes to several place names.

Submissions on the Bill closed on 9 November.

Private member bills

ACT has also got two anti-environment private members Bills on the order paper. These Bills have made it through the private member Bill balloting system but have yet to be debated by Parliament as to whether they should be introduced and referred to a Select Committee. These Bills are:

1 Conservation (Fallen Timber Sale to Fund Programmes) Amendment Bill

– this Bill was introduced by Gerry Eckhoff and would downgrade the prohibition on indigenous forest logging in conservation land. The Bill, which is yet to be debated by Parliament, fails to consider the benefits of fallen trees to surrounding ecology.

2 Resource Management (Controlled and Discretionary Activities) Amendment Bill

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

Bills before Parliament:

Resource Management Amendment Bill and RM (Costs) Amendment Bill

The RM Amendment Bill was reported back to Parliament in April and a debate on the Bill is yet to take place.

At this stage it is unclear whether the Bill will be passed this year. The Government is also considering further amendments to the Bill in light of the report of the Business Compliance Cost Committee.

The Resource Management (Costs) Amendment Bill was not reported back with the rest of the Resource Management Amendment Bill and is still before the Local Government and Environment Select Committee. This Bill may be reported back to Parliament by 28 February 2002.

Resource Management (Marine Farming and Heritage Provisions) Amendment Bill

The main features of this Bill is the repeal of the Marine Farming Act and leaving the management of marine farms under one piece of legislation, the Resource Management Act. The passing of this legislation is long overdue. The original legislation was introduced prior to 1996 as part of the Resource Management Amendment Bill.

Forests Amendment Bill - Local Government and Environment Select Committee

This Bill proposed by the last Government would open up exports of indigenous woodchips, entrench the unsustainable forestry of Timberlands and not improve the public processes under the Forests Act. ECO hopes that most of this Bill is dropped and the Government review the effectiveness of the Act in relation to private land. The public processes in the Forest Amendment Bill are nearly non-existent and have never been used since the Bill was passed in 1993. The Select Committee is yet to progress this Bill.

New Zealand Nuclear Free Extension Bill

This private members Bill introduced by Green MP, Jeanette Fitzsimons. This Bill extends the provisions of the Nuclear Free legislation to cover shipments of

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The Changing Face and Role of Local Government

BY NOW you will be aware of who is on your local and regional council for the next three years. They will face significant changes as the result of a major review of the Local Government Act the Government is currently undertaking. Submissions on a discussion document produced by the Department of Internal Affairs closed at the end of August.

The purpose, principles, powers and role of local government are under the spotlight and ECO is making the most of this opportunity to ensure councils have a greater responsibility for the state of the environment in their area. ECO is pushing for the inclusion of overall policy objectives driving the review that ensure ecological sustainable outcomes and the needs of future generations are met.

ECO is also seeking to broaden the purpose of local government to focus on sustainable social, economic, cultural and environmental well-being (quadruple bottom line reporting) and work to enhance or restore the environment. This is in line with public opinion polls that indicate 77% support environmental considerations be given priority over economic growth; and 62% thinking New Zealand's environmental protection laws did not go far enough (Buchan, 2001).

Principles local government abide by must include consideration of needs of future generations and the maintenance of biodiversity. This is especially critical given

Parliamentary Watch *continued*

plutonium. The Bill has recently been reported back to Parliament.

International Treaties Bill

This is a private members Bill introduced by Green MP, Keith Locke. Submissions closed on this Bill on 31 March 2001 with the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Select Committee. This Bill would require Government to get the approval of Parliament before ratifying or withdrawing from an international agreement. The Bill is due to be reported back by the Select Committee by 7 June 2002.

Recently Passed Bills:

Summit Road (Canterbury) Protection Bill

This local Bill, introduced by National MP David Carter, was passed by Parliament in early October.

Tutae-Ka-Wetoweto Forest Bill

This Bill, which implements the deed and covenant between the Crown and Rakiura Maori Land Trust protecting the Lord's River block on Stewart Island, was passed in mid-September.

the move to open up the powers of local government and the possibility that concern for ecological sustainability may be neglected due to short-term economic thinking.

Councils also need to consider wider communities of interest and all their legal obligations in developing goals. For example in making decisions some councils have blatantly ignored provisions of the Resource Management Act allowing the destruction of wetlands and other significant ecosystems.

Other issues promoted by ECO include a reference to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi in the Local Government Act, and ensuring that Maori are involved in a meaningful and effective way; holding councils to account through reporting mechanisms on what they've done to improve the environment; development of more proactive consultation procedures, and ensuring councilors are trained to be competent in meeting legal obligations and community processes.

ECO eagerly awaits the next stage of the review, which will be the introduction of a new Local Government Bill to Parliament by December to be enacted by the middle of 2002.

Anti-Terrorism Bill goes public
PRESSURE from Unions, civil liberties lawyers, a Greens' MP and the general public has convinced the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Phil Goff, to open the Terrorism (Bombing and Finance) Bill for public submissions.

The broadening of definitions under the Bill could have led to actions of protestors being deemed criminal - acts of terrorism. The deadline for public submissions is 30 November.

To make a submission on the Bill, it is sufficient to read the interim report from the Select Committee, as it contains the proposed amendments. It is available at: www.clerk.parliament.govt.nz/content/91/fd121int.pdf

Your submission needs to be sent to the Foreign Affairs and Trade Select Committee, Parliament Buildings, Wellington. Information on how to write public submissions on Bills: www.clerk.parliament.govt.nz/publications/submission/contents.html (or ...publications/MakeSubE.pdf)

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Introducing ECO's New Executive

AT ECO'S CONFERENCE in Wanganui a new executive was elected and this is our opportunity to introduce some of those people to you.

The existing executive members, who stood for re-election and further retained their roles, included: Cath Wallace, Elizabeth Lee, Barry Weeber, Richard Frizzell, Tony Dean, Nick Young, Quentin Davies and Rick Barber. Also elected to the executive was Anna McKnight.

Maiki Marks

I grew up in North Hokianga in the mid 1940's, with no electricity, metal roads and lovely sweet spring water to drink. We took for granted the wonderful morning birdsong at 5am whilst herding in cows to be milked by hand. Educated at Mangamuka Native and Queen Victoria Schools., I have a background in School Dental Nursing and teaching. Currently Chair of the Bay of Islands Coastal Watchdog Incorporated. I have presented papers on the practice of Kaitiakitanga of mauri within the seas in the Bay of Islands and Taitokerau, to a symposium on the RMA Lincoln University 1996; and on the Russell Sewerage Case, Seaviews Conference organised by ECO, 1998. I was Keynote Speaker 'The Coastal Cadastre', NZ Institute of Surveyors and FIG Commission VII, at Waitangi Copthorne Resort, 2000, and highlighted the need for total vigilance by all to maintain and enhance ecosystems where land meets sea, and within the surrounding bays and oceans. I was also invited along with other kaitiaki to contribute to Oceans Policy process, Wellington 2001.

I have written and presented submissions to Regional and District Annual Plans, Regional and District Plans.

The committee of the BOICW decided that Helen and I attend this years ECO conference to network and find out how other like-minded people were coping with the issues, e.g.keeping local government and government on the side of the environment. The following are notes from our presentation to conference Our major goal for the previous and current year is to work towards the re-instatement of the Bay of Islands Maritime and Historic Park. This park was formed in

1978. In 1986 the Parks Boards were disbanded and the Bay of Islands Maritime Historic Park title was removed. DOC was formed in 1987 to manage the individual reserves, which are scenic, historic and recreational, numbering approximately fifty in the Bay of Islands and Whangaroa area.

It is interesting to note that only the Maritime Parks lost their titles. All the National Parks retained their titles despite their boards being disbanded. The law for the Oceans review, which is to be the combination of all laws for the sea, should be there for all time and not altered or manipulated by current or future governments. We asked that ECO support this request internationally.

The eastern foreshore of Northland has and continues to be under threat from massive development. The Bay of Islands Coastal Watchdog have for some years responded to ever increasing applications for resource consents in the coastal area, e.g. a resource consent application for a house, jetty, walkway on an island which had been previously leased by DOC for twenty years. Requests were put to government to buy this island by us. Government felt that the million conservation dollars could be better used elsewhere.

Time, energy and finances were used up fighting an application for resource consent on an island in the bay for extra houses, boat ramps, jetties, wooden walkways around rocks and to blow up a hole in a headland/wahi tapu.

An application to sub-divide an outstanding landscape unit was granted by the Environment Court, forever destroying this natural area and



emptying our meagre coffers.

Other applications to dredge the seabed, violating wahi tapu which is also a historic Paa site and DOC recreation reserve, a bay has been completely ruined by the Far North District Council (FNDC) inability to listen to ratepayers and a pristine beach defiled by FNDC allowing a building as a business.

Many other applications for resource consents have been addressed resulting in a number of cases coming before the Environment Court. The issue has been money versus champions for the sea and the environment. With the depletion of our resources we decided to change tack. by becoming deeply involved in ongoing submissions to the Far North District Council Proposed Plan and the Regional Council Coastal Plan.

Our work and journeys to the Environment Court has been generated by the inability of Councils' (FNDC & NRC) to interpret their rule and plans. We are fortunate to have the support of the Kororareka Marae Society Incorporated, Russell Protection Society, Eastern Bay of Islands Preservation Society and Far North Forest and Bird. In the Russell Sewerage Case, oyster farmers, and Te Runanga o Taumarere have supported us.

New Executive *Continued*

Malcolm Wren

Howdy. A New Zealander by birth, I was shipped across the ditch with my family when I was 11 and grew up in a small forestry town at the base of the Snowy Mountains in southern NSW. After something of a journey from a small town Australia mindset, I joined Greenpeace in Sydney in 1994 as an office administrator.

Shortly after I discovered an affinity for direct action within campaigning which soon became the primary focus of my work for Greenpeace. The power of taking action based on your values and confronting environmental and social injustice at its source should never be underestimated. And so with direct action as a core belief, I worked at developing skills in campaigning strategy, focussing on integrating direct action tactics with other elements of campaigning.

I was fortunate to be involved in some very effective and inspirational campaigns in Australia and in the Pacific with Greenpeace. Other campaigning has included time at Jabiluka protest camps running NVDA workshops, working with community groups trying to stop toxic waste dumps and urban development, helping the NSW Greens during election campaigns, and involvement

in motorway protests and with Reclaim the Streets in Sydney.

At the turn of the century, and at the time Helen Clark was calling for ex-pat Kiwis to come home, I was lucky to have the opportunity to return to NZ to work with Greenpeace. And it's been the best move I ever made. New Zealand has become my home again and it is an exciting time to be here.

By being on the ECO Exec I am hoping to continue to play a part in the movement by sharing my skills and experiences and importantly learning more from others in and around ECO. My primary interests lies with contributing to the strengthening of our movement and with not the letting the bastards get away with it. Both of which are steps to the goal of a seeing the issues we deal with not just being those of the movement, but becoming issues that the wider public embrace and act on because at the end of the day the power is, and must remain, with the people.

Developing 'Vote for the Environment'

WITH ELECTION YEAR just around the corner, the ECO AGM was the scene for discussion on the 'Vote for the Environment' campaign.

The 'Vote for the Environment' campaign provides voters with information on the positions and policies that the respective Parties have to offer going into the election. The 'VfE Charter' provides a snap-shot of what the environment movement is seeking from the prospective Government.

Richard Frizzell will be developing the process for input into the 'VfE' campaign. The mechanisms for which, will be fully explored at ECO's planning session meeting set to take place in December 2001.

If you have any ideas, comments, resources or would like to play a voluntary role in the 'Vote for the Environment' campaign, ECO would like to hear from you.

ECO's new Executive Committee contact details:

- Rick Barber (phone: 03 768 4563; email: mawhera@paradise.net)
- Quentin Davies (phone: 03 579 3029; email: qdavies@yahoo.co.nz)
- Tony Dean (phone: 04 934 3326; email: deanfamily@paradise.net.nz)
- Richard Frizzell (ph: 03 548 3147; email: richard.frizzell@paradise.net.nz)
- Elizabeth Lee (phone: 04 476 9809; email: geoff.lee@xtra.co.nz)
- Anna McKnight – until the end of 2001 (phone: 06 353 0809; email: greenvegananna@hotmail.com)
- Maiki Marks (phone: 09 402 7933; email: m.marks@ace.ac.nz)
- Clive Monds (phone: 07 868 6641; email: cmonds@wave.co.nz)
- Cath Wallace (phone: 04 389 1696; email: cath.wallace@vuw.ac.nz)
- Barry Weeber (phone: 04 389 1696; email: ecowatch@paradise.net.nz)
- Malcolm Wren – from January 2002 (phone: 09 630 6317; email: malcolm.wren@nz.greenpeace.org)
- Nick Young (phone: 021 134 9750; email: nyoung@xtra.co.nz)

ECO Office Holders Elected

In keeping with ECO's constitution, the new executive committee of ECO has elected some of the key office holders.

ECO's new Co-chairs are Richard Frizzell and Cath Wallace and the Treasurer remains Tony Dean. Still to be elected are the vice-chairs.

The Annual Conference elected Quentin Davies to be honorary solicitor, and Gillian Cross was selected as our auditor.

The Conference also agreed to revisit the date of the annual conference and the associated constitutional provisions. While ECO has traditionally had its annual conference in August, this no longer matches well with Universities and schools who have four term years. In addition there is talk of having an earlier conference. A proposal for changes will be circulated to member bodies as a postal ballot.

Clive Monds

Currently live on Coromandel. Involved in anti-mining movement from beginning of 1980's, a director of FOE mid-eighties - early 90's. A co-deputy chair of ECO in 1993.

I have done some fisheries work for ECO since 1992. Also done some endangered species work in the Coromandel the last few years. Said species ceased to be critically endangered on 27th Nov 1999, well Dec 7th precisely. However still on endangered species list.

In the last three months I have been developing a website - www.jeanetteyourcoromandelmp.org.nz - still under development.

ECO Conference 2001

THERE WERE CHEERS, there were tears and some even managed to get in a few beers. It was a wet weekend in Wanganui and it was the annual ECO conference. If you weren't there, chances are you missed it. But never mind. In this exclusive report, we bring you the weekend's highlights and lowlights! Read on and re-live.

THE GOOD AND THE BAD

Recipient of longest and loudest applause: Addressing the conference on opening night, Conservation Minister Sandra Lee received a standing ovation for her decision to decline GRD Macraes' application for an open cast mine on conservation land in Reefton. Never lost for words, one long-time ECO executive member quipped "We want the West Coast intact, not the Waste Coast".

And they say the RMA stops development: Maiki Marks from the Bay of Islands Coastal Watchdog helped expose another myth about the Resource Management Act. Maiki regaled the audience with photographic evidence of buildings that appear around the Bay almost overnight without any public say and, in some cases, without any planning permission.

Pulling the punters: Green co-leader Jeannette Fitzsimons had the venue packed to the gunnels for her Saturday morning slot, attracting more punters than Motua Gardens.

The man who made sewage interesting: Local campaigner Alan Wigglesworth enthralled conference goers with the machinations of the decade long fight to clean-up Wanganui's sewage problem. Who knew a story about faecal coliform could be this interesting?

Hope for the next generation: Bright eyed and tye-dyed, students from Massey and Victoria University put paid to any despair older attendees may have harboured about today's youth, with the added effect of making some of us feel old.

Most mentions of the word "marine": ECO executive member Cath Wallace, winner of the unofficial award at the last ten conferences, surprised no one with her eleventh win

for the number of times she mentioned marine matters during the three days.

Only fieldtrip ending at a pub: Under the pretext of exploring Wanganui's historic buildings, half a dozen conference attendees ended up supping beer at one of city's old pubs. Unnamed ECO executive member swears he was only looking for a latte.

Others went where there were no pubs, exploring Wanganui's natural environs with visits to a forest restoration project, an organic garden, a river walk and a brisk walk along the coast braving the rather bracing wind.

Worst music selection: Outgoing ECO chairperson Stephen Blyth shocked and horrified with his astoundingly bad music selection. Those of us who made the road trip from Wellington to Wanganui with Stephen would like to propose Leonard Cohen tapes are banned from future conferences.

On the entertainment front: Readers will be either relieved or disappointed to hear there was no folk dancing. Attendees were left to find their own Saturday night entertainment. For a number, the choice was an evening of board games. For those with little imagination and less discernment, it was watching the rugby. This in turn made some pine for folk dancing.

by Jessica Wilson

Special Thanks to: Ross Gardiner, Bryon Fawcett, Bridget Gibb, Deb Frederikse, Dorothy Wilson, Richard Manneke, Allan Wigglesworth, Maiki Marks, Helen Pick, Hon. Sandra Lee, Mark Bellingham, Jeanette Fitzsimmons, Jessica Wilson, Anna Brooking, Christine Cheyne, Di Buchan, Owen Cox, Annette Cotter, Keith Beutrais, Colin Ogle, David Aislabie and the very groovy Ross Mitchell-Anyon (the 'bruskies' were a good touch!).



Stephen Blyth retires from Chair and Executive Committee

AT OUR annual conference in Wanganui, ECO thanked retiring Chairperson, Stephen Blyth, for his many years of hard work for ECO.

Stephen Blyth first began as our Executive-Secretary, then as executive member and Chair of ECO. Stephen departed for a trip to Europe and a well-earned rest at the end of August. Stephen's "real job" is in the community development office of the Department of Internal Affairs where he has a particular interest in "e-government" and community democracy. ECO wishes him well.

Particular thanks were given at the annual conference to other retiring members of the executive committee: Alan Carson, Jonathan Pauling, Berylla, and Logan Petley. Tricia Allen of Greenpeace resigned when she left that organisation not long before the annual conference. Special mention was made of Henry James, long-time environmental activist from of Golden Bay, who left the executive committee earlier this year due to serious health concerns.

Events

National Permaculture Gathering Paekakariki Holiday Park, Wellington Road, Paekakariki Friday 23 - 25 November

Workshops and Speakers. For more information, phone Annette or Tony Dean on 04 934 3326 or email deanfamily@paradise.net.nz

Toitu Te Wahine - Maori Women's Development Conference, 21 - 23 November, Lakeside Convention Centre, Montgomerie Road, Manakau City

This event is organised by the Manakau Urban Maori Authority. For more information phone 09 277 7866 or email muma@muma.org.nz

ERMA Seminar: Precaution in environmental risk management - a review of recent policy and practice Friday 30 November, 2001 BP House, Wellington

Registration fee: \$50

Also includes afternoon workshop - choice of Fisheries, Hazardous Substances and New Organisms, Biosecurity and Climate Change

Contact: Christine Clapcott, ERMA NZ, PO Box 131, Wellington, or phone: 04 918 4825, or email seminar@ermanız.govt.nz

Climate Change - Public Consultations (5 - 23 Nov)

visit www.climatechange.govt.nz or phone 0800 927 646

Introducing The GreenPages

THE GREENPAGES is a new comprehensive public directory of conservation and environment groups in Aotearoa/New Zealand.

Who we are: We are a collective of people involved in various environmental organisations such as Greenpeace, Native Forest Action, ECO, DoC and the Nelson Environment Centre who saw a need for greater nationwide networking and visibility of the environment movement.

The GreenPages main functions are to support environmental networking throughout the country and to enable information seekers to find relevant groups more easily. It is an easily accessed resource.

Consequently, environmental campaigns are more accessible both to people currently working on similar issues and to the general public. It is envisaged that the GreenPages can support campaigns and help the environment movement grow.

The website is already operating. In the future it will also be available from the main environmental networking organisations such as Environment Centres, ECO and Greenpeace.

All groups working on environmental campaigns, projects or other activities are welcome to join. Please tell others.

Please check out the website or contact Bridget Gibb for further information : www.greenpages.org.nz or email: harakeke@actrix.co.nz write to: PO Box 9163 Wellington, or phone: (04) 385-7545 or (04) 385-9013

Moving on...

This is a brief message to let you know that the role of ECO Executive Officer will be becoming vacant in the coming year. If you would like to be notified when this vacancy comes up, please email the ECO office - eco@reddfish.co.nz

Meanwhile we will establish an egroup so a job description and other info can be sent to you.

Volunteer Workshops:

The Life-blood of the Environment Movement

MOST OF US in the environment movement do our work on a voluntary basis – yet only some of us are good at attracting and retaining other volunteers. Many of us have also experienced difficulties of various kinds in volunteering.

ECO will run workshops on environment and conservation volunteer recruitment and retention during November 2001 as part of the International Year of the Volunteer, using a grant from the Lottery Grants Board. One such workshop has already been held in conjunction with the ECO annual conference in Wanganui, on 24 August.

The workshops will be participatory, drawing on the knowledge and experience of people attending as well as using various resources on volunteering.

The project is intended to enhance the ability of environment and conservation groups to attract and retain volunteers who will be or become skilled members of the team. As retention involves a mixture of recognition and training, both aspects will be discussed.

The workshops will be held in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin. They will be held back-to-back with the Fisheries Environmental Management Strategy workshops in order to save on travel and other costs.

The schedule will be:

- 3rd November - Auckland - YWCA, 6th Floor, 103 Vincent Street (Central City), 2.30 - 5pm
- 10th November - Christchurch - WEA, 59 Gloucester Street, 2.30 - 5pm
- 11th November - Dunedin - Dunedin Public Library, Dunningham suite, 4th Floor, Moray Place, 1 - 4pm
- 22nd November - Wellington - YWCA, 35 Vivian Street, 5.30 - 8.30pm

Submissions

- **MFAT:** Antarctica and Southern Ocean - revised statement of strategic interest, comments by 19 November 2001
- **MAF: CODEX:** Food Labelling/Biotechnology, submissions by 23 November
- **MAF: CODEX:** CX/FBT CRD3 - comments relating to the discussion paper on traceability, comments by 23 November
- **MAF: CODEX:** CX/FBT 01/6 Discussion paper on traceability, comments by 23 November
- **Ministry of Transport:** Proposed Land Transport rule: vehicle emissions and overview, submissions by 30 November
- **MAF: CODEX:** Draft principles for the Risk analysis of foods derived from modern biotechnology and the draft guideline for the conduct of food safety assessment of

foods derived from recombinant DNA plants (at step 6), comments due by 3 December.

- **MAF: CODEX:** CL 2001/38-FBT Request for comments on the report of Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Allergenicity (at Step 3 and Step6), comments by 14 December 2001
- **NZ Climate Change Programme:** Consultation Paper on Climate Change, submissions due by 21 December
- **Biosecurity Strategy Development Team:** Developing a Biosecurity Strategy for New Zealand, submissions by 31 December
- **DoC:** Draft Te Urewera National Park Management Plan - submission extension, submissions by 25 January.
- **MfE:** an Action Plan for Reducing Discharges of Dioxin to Air, comments by 31 January 2002



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:

- 1-100 members: \$80 P.A. • 101-1000 members: \$125 P.A.
- 1000+ members: \$430 P.A. (all GST inclusive).

• **I would like to support ECO by:**

- subscribing as a 'Friend of ECO'**
-\$35 P.A. (GST inc.) 'Friends of ECO' receive this quarterly newsletter, mailings and invitations to ECO gatherings.
- subscribing as a sustaining 'Friend of ECO'**
-\$112.50 P.A. (GST inclusive).
- subscribing as a corporate 'Friend of ECO'**
-\$500 P.A. (GST inclusive).
- subscribing as a student 'Friend of ECO'**
-\$20 P.A. (GST inclusive).
- making a regular automatic payment**
-send me a form and details today.
- contributing services or goods:**

- making a donation** (*donations over \$5 are tax deductible*)
 \$25 \$50 \$100 \$ _____


• **Total enclosed:** \$

VISA payment:

Cardholder name: _____

Expiry date: _____ Signature: _____

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