



Prime Minister

16 February 2006

Mr Itcho Itoh
His Worship the Mayor
Sakura-machi 2-22
Nagasaki City
JAPAN 850-8685

Your Worship

In August 2005 New Zealand's Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control, Hon Marian Hobbs, wrote to you to inform you of our decision to commission a sculpture as a gift from New Zealand for the Peace Park in Nagasaki City.

It now gives me great pleasure to advise you that a sculpture "The Cloak of Peace – Te Korowai Rangimarie" by sculptor Kingsley Baird has been commissioned for installation in the Nagasaki Peace Park to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Nagasaki and Hiroshima bombings. The sculpture will be a gift from the New Zealand Government and the cities of Christchurch, Wellington, Auckland, Napier and Waitakere.

The sculpture is a gift of friendship from the people of New Zealand, and a token of the deep sympathy we feel for those who died, and continue to suffer, from the dropping of the nuclear bombs on Nagasaki and Hiroshima. New Zealand, along with Japan and other like-minded countries, will continue to pursue the objective of a world free from nuclear weapons.

In Mr Baird's words his sculpture symbolises warmth, comfort, support, love, prestige, consolation and protection for those who stand within its embrace. The cloak also expresses unity of those committed to a peaceful world.

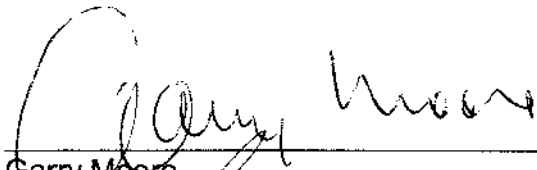
It is anticipated that the sculpture should be ready for installation around August 2006 in time for unveiling at the Citizens Assembly for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons Conference in October.

Attached is a copy of Mr Baird's design proposal as submitted to the judging panel in November 2005, for your information. We hope that you will be as excited about this wonderful sculpture as we are.

Yours sincerely

Helen Clark
Prime Minister

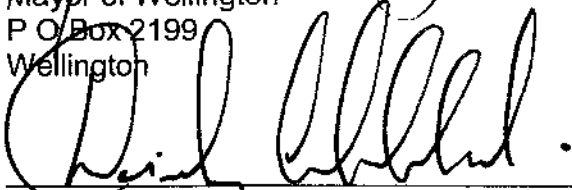
MI




Garry Moore
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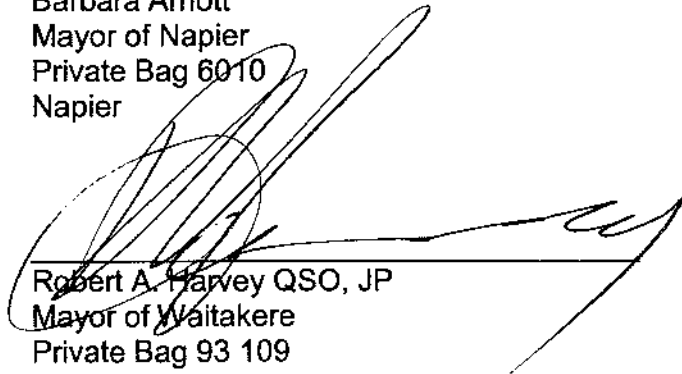
Kerry Prendergast
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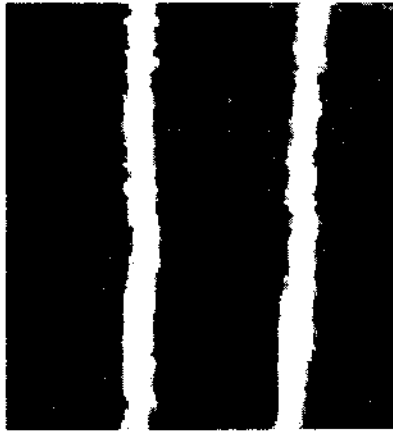


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Proposal for Nagasaki Peace Park

Kingsley Baird

November 2005



The Cloak of Peace
Te Korowai Rangimarie

クローク オブ ピース
平安のマント

1 Artist's Statement

The Cloak of Peace Te Korowai Rangimarie

The cloak is a gift of friendship. It symbolizes warmth, comfort, support, love, prestige, consolation, and protection for those who stand (literally and metaphorically) within its embrace. The cloak expresses the unity of those committed to a peaceful world. Its form is curved inwards at the corners as if to wrap around a wearer's shoulders.

The cloak's dynamic form and its 'invitation' to visitors to engage with it, would provide a different experience from many other sculptures in the park. The latter tend to be more distant and viewed as discrete objects rather than imparting a range of sensory experiences.

Kowhai pattern

A pattern of cut-out kowhai motifs covers the cloak's surface. The kowhai is considered by many to be New Zealand's national flower. Its flowering period from July to October is significant in relation to the commemoration of the 9 August bombing of Nagasaki, and, the symbolism of new life associated with the New Zealand spring. Central to the visitor's experience of the cloak is the interactive possibility offered by the pattern. When visitors stand within the embrace of the cloak, the shapes of the korowai motif will be cast over their bodies, and, thus they are covered in a New Zealand pattern.

Poem

The focal point of the cloak is the poem. This is contained within a central horizontal band running the length of the cloak (where the title is illustrated in this booklet's accompanying images). The poem – in English, Maori, and Japanese would convey expressions of peace, remembrance, and unity. A New Zealand poet would be specially commissioned to write the poem which could be in the form of a haiku.

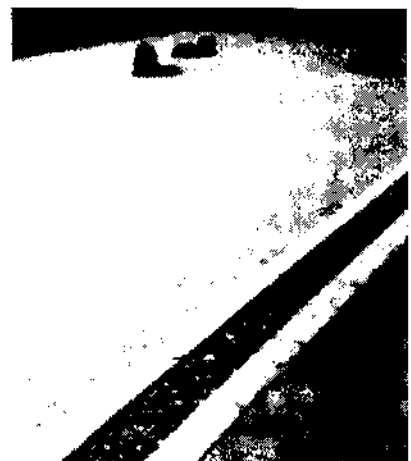
The poem will add another layer of meaning to, and appreciation of, the artwork. Text is important to the understanding of the New Zealand Memorial in Canberra (a Maori whakatauki or saying and a poem by Jenny Bornholdt) and the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior (a karanga in Maori and English).

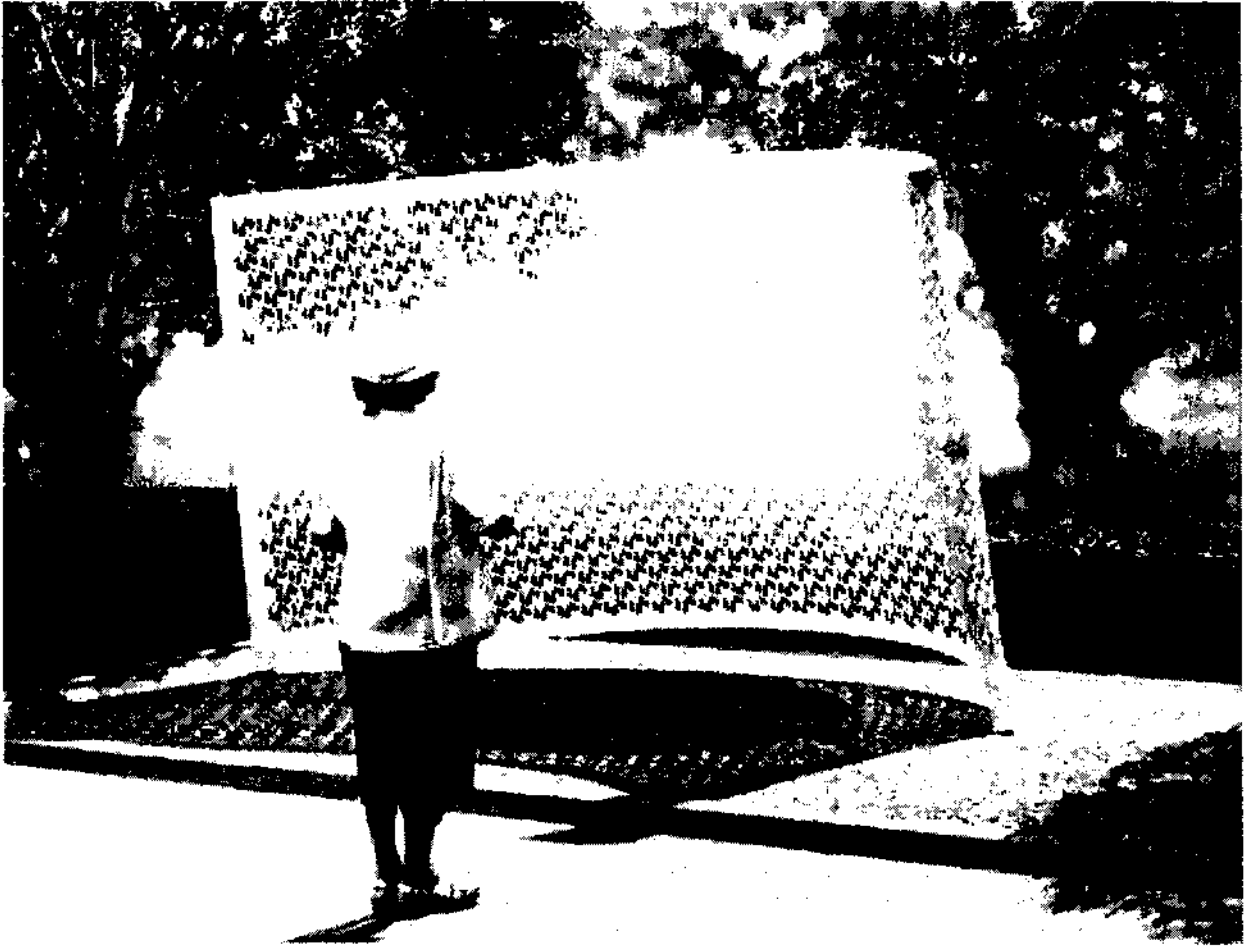
Island

In the centre of the site will be a circle of New Zealand Coromandel granite and Japanese stone pavers composed in a 'woven' pattern. This 'island' of stone is surrounded by loose pebbles. Visitors may choose to cross the gravel bed and stand on the 'sanctuary' of the island. Symbolically, they are standing on the interwoven lands of New Zealand and Japan and embraced by a cloak of peace.

The artwork's title and commemorative text could be incorporated into the surface of the stone pavers.

Kingsley Baird, November 2005





The Cloak of Peace
Te Korowai Rangimarie

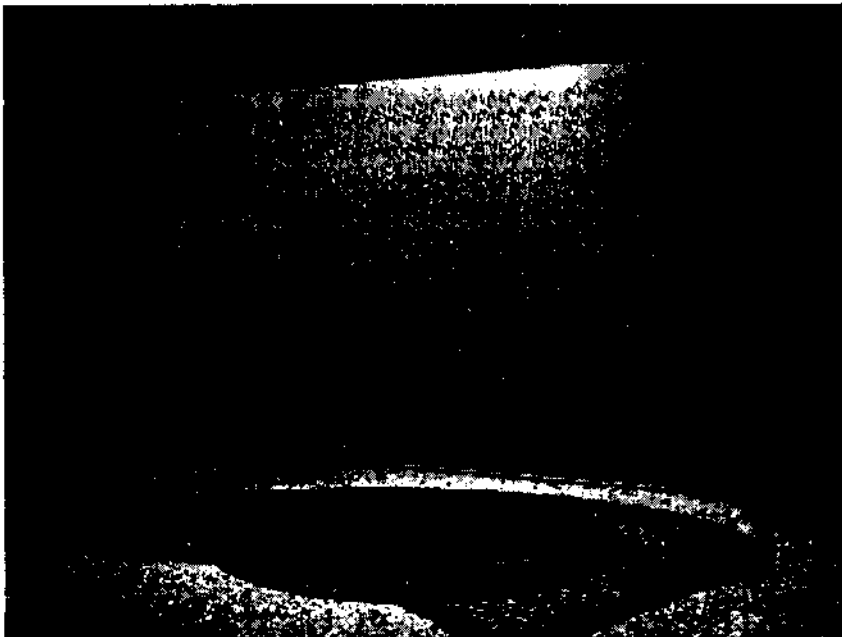
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2 Relation to the Site

Scale

The cloak's scale (approximately 4 metres long, 2.5 metres high) relates to the scale of other sculptures in the park as well as adjacent vegetation. It also has a human scale especially in terms of 'embracing' a number of people at once.

The sculpture will have a visible and physical presence both during the day and night. Lighting from behind will provide a dramatic patterned effect at night.



Atmosphere

Visitors to the park could enjoy the cloak's detail at close quarters. Its 'porous' structure allows for viewing through the cloak to the other side and will provide a sense of enclosure and protection without any sense of entrapment or threat.

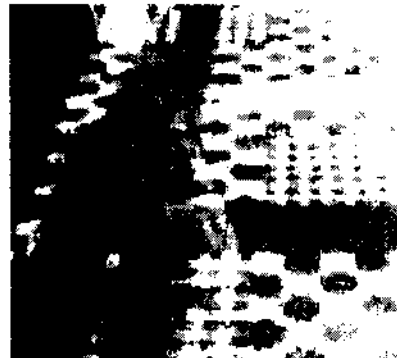
Korowai would be compatible with its surroundings, integrated into the larger site but possessing a distinctness and uniqueness that provides its own character. This character will be enhanced by its physical distinctiveness from surrounding sculptures: its interactive possibilities, porosity, and essentially horizontal as opposed to vertical form. Both the kowhai pattern and stepping onto the stone island contribute to the 'playful' nature of the artwork.



Tawa windscreen (detail of leaf and drupe)



Tawa windscreen pattern



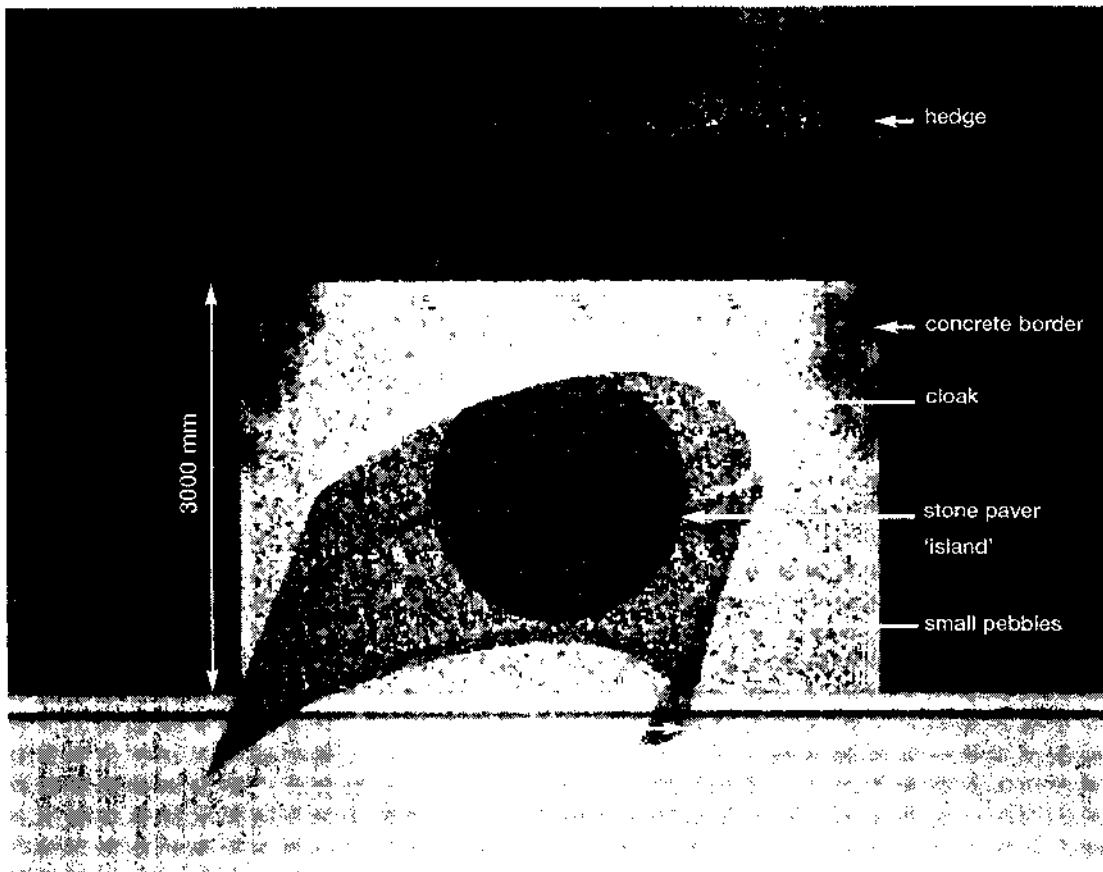
Telecom canopy pattern

3 Materials and Structure

The sculpture would be constructed of aesthetically attractive, strong, durable, high quality, low maintenance materials. It is not anticipated that there would be any public safety issues.

Korowai would be composed of 2 major elements:

1. a satin-finished stainless steel cloak with a laser-cut kowhai pattern
2. an 'island' of 'woven-patterned' Coromandel granite pavers surrounded by a 'sea' of loose gravel.



Plan 1:50

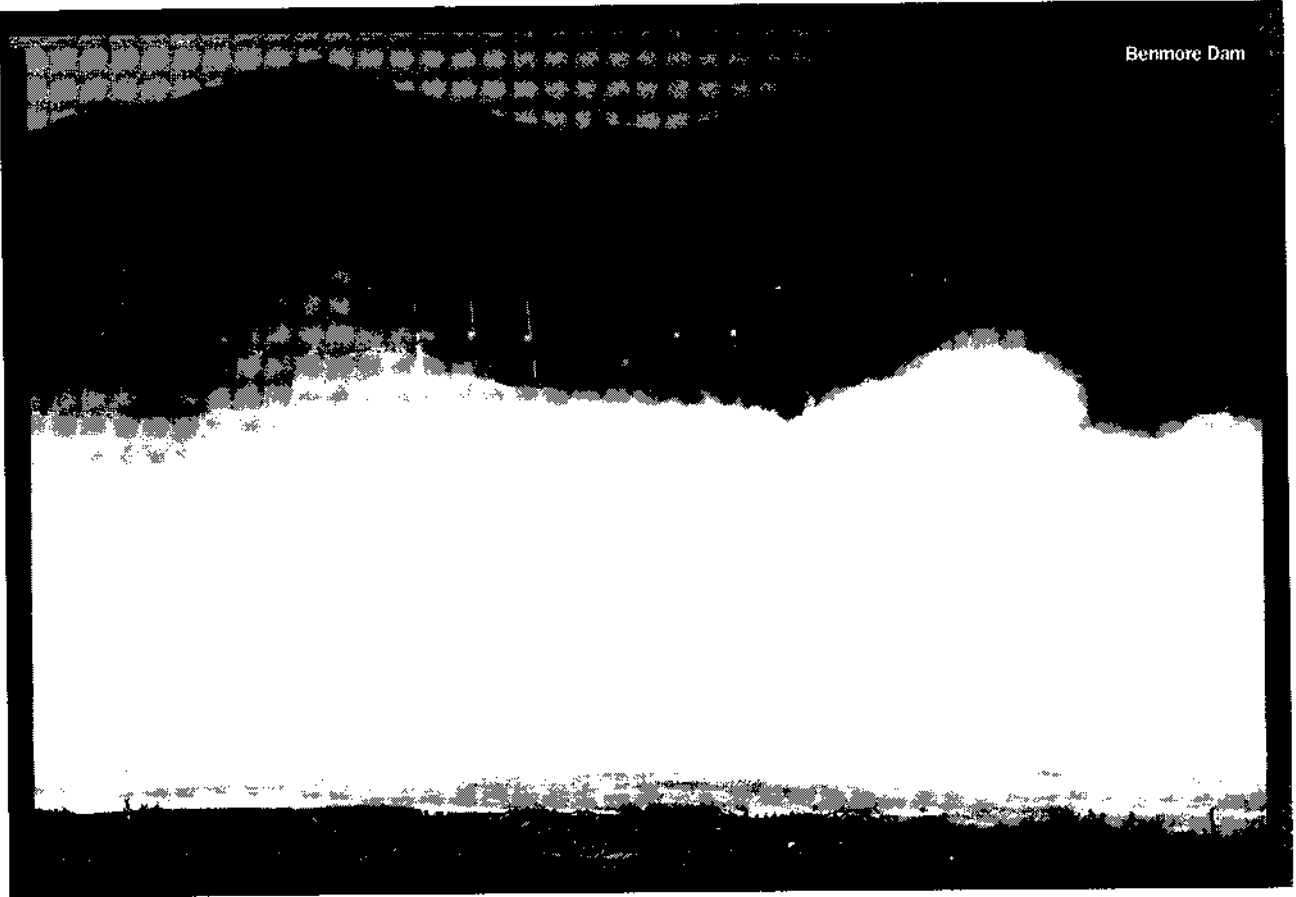
4 Artist's Profile

The themes of memory and remembrance, memorial, and loss and reconciliation are central to my art practice. How the design of memorials (and attendant issues such as siting) can contribute to reconciliation, and communicate and assuage a sense of loss to visitors is a particular interest. Other research concerns include the 'spirit' of a site, and the unique relationship and shared and distinct nature of Pakeha and Maori cultures.

My practice, while primarily in sculpture, demonstrates a wide variety of interests and media including collaborative landscape and urban design projects, installation, video art, and painting.

Recent Commissions

- 2005 *Tiller*, Dannevirke High School Centennial sculpture, Dannevirke, NZ.
- 2004 *Tomb of the Unknown New Zealand Warrior*, National War Memorial, Wellington, NZ.
- 2003 *Walking Sticks* (art canopy), Telecom forecourt, Tory Street, Wellington, NZ.
- 2002 *Won Art in the Heart of the Hutt* competition, Lower Hutt City, NZ.
- 2001 *New Zealand Memorial* (jv with Studio of Pacific Architecture), Canberra, Australia.
- 2000 *Kereru* sculpture, Tawa Village, Wellington, NZ.
- 2000 *Curtain* windscreens, Tawa Village, Wellington, NZ.



POWER PLAY

As we face fears of power shortages again this winter, the need to find alternative energy sources is getting urgent. BY ALISTAIR BONE

Even before any government-funded animation characters appear on TV telling us to turn off the lights and save electricity, a "virtual" power shortage has already arrived. The country's biggest power user, aluminium maker Comalco, has "voluntarily" reduced consumption by 11% to conserve water in dams that are drying up. At a time of high prices for aluminium and a low dollar, the reduction will cost them \$2 million a week in revenue.

The power industry is equally divided on whether the lights will go out this winter. The official word from Electricity Commission chief Roy Hemmingway isn't that reassuring. "If everything works reasonably well, we would need something worse than the worst drought on record to cause the reservoirs to empty.

But the situation could change if the weather stays dry and we have an equipment breakdown somewhere." Facing yet another winter of power cuts as hydro lakes fall in the face of rising demand, we need to make urgent decisions on alternatives.

Comalco is doing what the rest of us wouldn't. New Zealand's energy conservation strategy lies in a scrunched-up ball by the side of a dark road. Between 2001 and 2012, we are supposed to increase our energy efficiency by 20%. But the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Agency (EECA) says we are tracking between half a percent and one percent improvement per annum, or just over 2% total in four years. From here we would have to do better than international best practice to hit the target. Energy Minister Trevor Mallard has reacted by scrapping

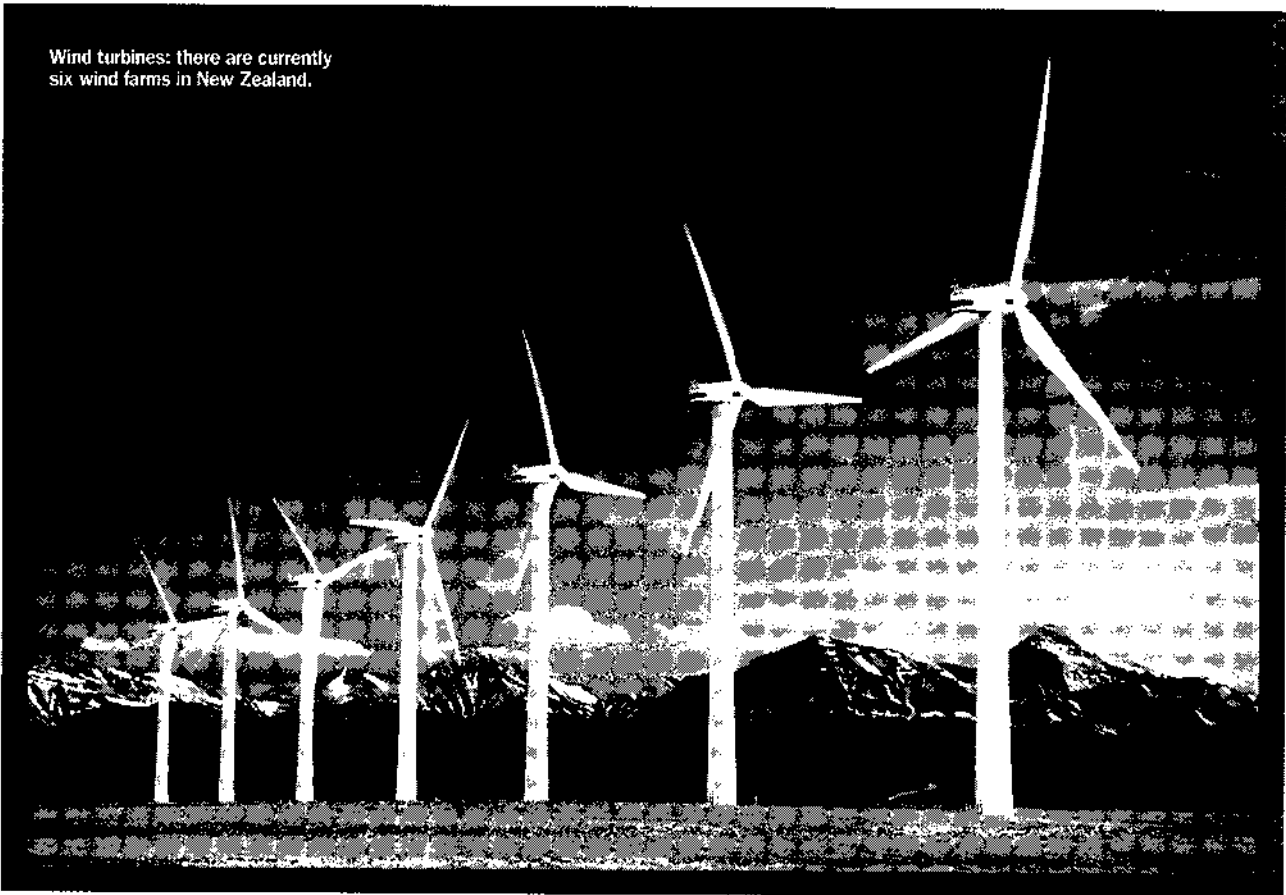
the strategy, offering a new plan by September, which the Greens and the government promise will be "more aggressive".

The CEO of EECA, Heather Staley, is disappointed with the failure of the original plan. "We identified the benefits that would arise for New Zealanders from achieving those targets. It was in the order of \$2 billion worth of benefits for \$1.1 billion worth of investment. And there were also environmental benefits both local and global, and social and health benefits."

SO WE WILL NEED MORE ELECTRICITY. The problem is, no one is certain about how much. The Electricity Commission predicts growth in demand will probably average 2% per year over the next 20 years. Electricity Commission chief Roy Hemmingway says we will need 800-1000 Gigawatt Hours (GwH) of additional

COURTESY MAUI/HIMAWA DAME

Wind turbines: there are currently six wind farms in New Zealand.



supply every year on average. That's something like 150MW. Hemmingway is not too worried, pointing to various projects, especially Genesis' 365MW e3p plant at Huntly, which will come on stream at the end of the year and handle two to three years' load growth all by itself.

Others have a different view. Energy consultant Bryan Leyland says that old plants will need replacing shortly. This means we will need 6000MW by 2025, or 320MW a year.

Then there are the facts. Statistics New Zealand says electricity use actually grew by only 0.1% last year. The best guess is that this was the effect of a mild winter and/or higher prices.

HOWEVER YOU LOOK AT IT, the traditional sources of power are dwindling. Once upon a time (1980), hydro provided 85% of our power. These days hydro supplies around 60%. New hydro is not very popular. The Project Aqua disaster is still fresh in everyone's minds. Meridian Energy pulled the plug on its 520MW scheme on the Waitaki River in 2004 after it ran into legal objections and political opposition. It was left with 29 dairy farms bought for the project and a \$31m loss. Energy Minister at the time Pete Hodgson declared large-scale hydro dead and said any new hydro would be "small to micro" in scale. Last year Meridian

nudged the scheme back into contention, at half the scale and producing electricity that will be 25% dearer – if it gets through the inevitable legal challenges.

Gas supplied 16.1% of our power in the year to March 2005. But with the Maui field running drier than South Island rivers, this percentage will fall, and gas will get more expensive. Production has fallen every year since its 2001 peak: 2005's gas production was 7.3% lower than in 2004. Local gas will probably not sustain our needs beyond 2012. Instead, a "virtual pipeline" of tankers is possible, mostly from New Guinea and carrying CNG and LNG, although the gas's eventual market price is near

So what are the alternatives?

Wind turbines are the saviour du jour. Wind is free and endless, and wind farms produce nothing in the way of by-products. There are currently six in New Zealand, capable of producing 168.3MW, enough to power 75,000 homes.

The possibilities look terrific. Although the sea around New Zealand is generally too deep and tricky for wind-farms to be built off the coast, according to the NZ Wind Energy Association, there are many great places to put wind farms on land. Banks Peninsula, the Central Otago high country, and pretty much anywhere north of Kaitiāia are just some of the prime sites.

Power available from wind farms has

IF COAL IS A POLITICAL FOOTBALL, THE NUCLEAR OPTION IS A CANNONBALL.

impossible to ascertain.

The Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment says the consensus is that "Peak Oil", the point from which oil production is expected to decline, will occur between 2012 and 2020. Production will decline by about 3% per annum and the price will increase. Globally, gas prices will increase in tandem. "Peak Gas" is expected about 10 years later, around 2019.

ballooned by 365% in the two-year period to the end of 2005. And at least 10 more are planned, yielding another 935.5MW and including two 200MW-plus giants in Wellington and Hawke's Bay. There is serious talk of 300 and 1000MW monsters in the South Island before too long.

The Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment thinks that "social limits" – people not wanting windmills in their backyards – will be met before

PHOTO: IAN BERRY

technical limits. But there are technical problems too – the wind doesn't blow all the time. As far as wind turbines are concerned, it blows about 45% of the time. So of that installed capacity of 168.3MW, only 45%, or 75.7MW on average, actually gets sent down the line. And no one really knows, despite Met Service's efforts, when that wind will blow.

The national grid needs certainty of supply, so until there is a way to store

Officially, it accounts for only 8% of our energy production. That figure may be out of date. As local gas runs down, Genesis is importing around a million tonnes of cheap Indonesian coal a year to run its four 250MW gas/coal turbines at Huntly. Mighty River Power's 320MW Marsden B station will also run on coal when it opens in late 2008.

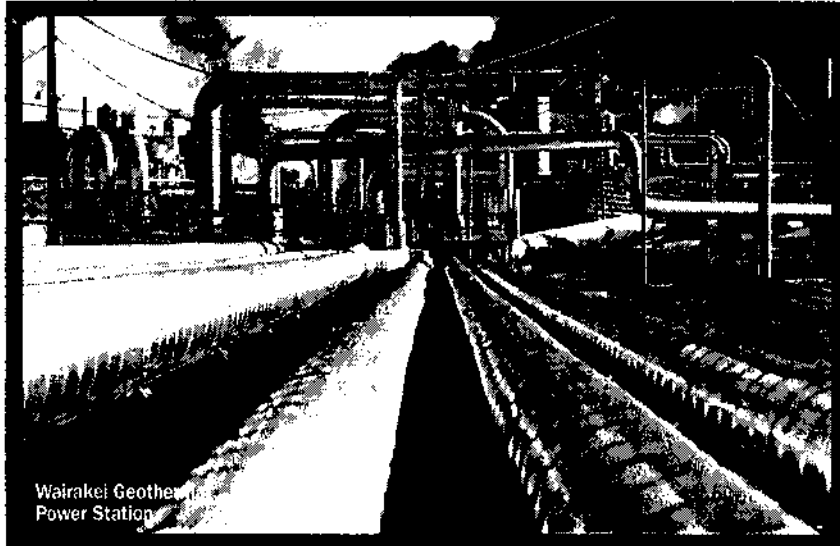
On the face of it, we have vast amounts of coal, enough to keep the lights and eve-

a coal-fired power station to give to them, I know what I am going to choose." The government scrapped the carbon tax that was supposed to apply from next year, permanently for transport fuels, temporarily for energy producers. No one knows when or at what level the tax will come on. Hemmingway says the industry is waiting on government for a firm number on the carbon tax. "I think there is quite a bit of concern among the people who propose coal plants. They probably all believe that eventually there will be some additional cost as a result of a carbon tax, but they don't know what it will be or in what form. I don't know that you will see a commitment to investment until those decisions are nailed down."

If coal is a political football, the nuclear option is a cannonball. Nuclear plants are usually on the large side, around 1200MW. Having more than a quarter of the country's power coming from one turbine would create immense issues if that plant broke down. However, cheap, modern and safer 300MW and 400MW reactors are under development and could be viable in about 20 years (much sooner, according to some). The beauty of these is that they produce no CO₂ and can be planted anywhere they are needed, avoiding having to transmit vast amounts of power around the country. When they are more mature, Hemmingway says, they are something we may want to look into.

With local gas increasingly out of the picture, geothermal could be the immediate new thermal power source. Currently 7% of our power comes from geothermal sources. This is planned to reach 15% by 2025. Leyland ranks geothermal first in the list of possibilities, arguing that "we could pick up another 1000MW relatively easily in a short time". Roger Fairclough, MED's manager of energy information and modelling, agrees with the 1000MW figure. But he points out that the Resource Management Act and issues of sustainability come into play. Expensive exploration bores also have to be drilled with no guarantee that they will find an exploitable resource. Hemmingway says there is new investment and exploration, at Kawerau (an 80MW plant) and Mokai (expanded to 100MW) and drilling at Mangakino, but cautions that existing geothermal plants such as Wairakei were easy to exploit and other geothermal sources will be harder to tap.

OF THE RENEWABLES, WAVE AND TIDE power is a non-starter at the moment. Hemmingway says that the technology is at about the same stage of development that wind was at 25 years ago. Leyland worked on a tidal power station in Australia: even with a larger tidal range than



Wairakei Geothermal Power Station

vast amounts of electricity (there currently isn't), the amount of wind we can safely rely on is limited. A 2005 Ministry of Economic Development report put this limit at 20% of our total needs. It is the widely accepted figure and equates to about 2000MW of installed capacity. The MED report also said it would have to be distributed around the country and not concentrated, as now, around Palmerston North. This is because large wind farms near hydro-stations on the South Island's Clutha and Waitaki have the potential to co-ordinate their generation with the dams. When the wind doesn't blow, the dams will pick up the slack; when it does the dams will back off. This could enable us to pipe more than 20% wind power

rything else on for 10,000 years, by some calculations. The problem is that it produces carbon dioxide (CO₂). The highest carbon emissions per unit of energy come from coal, and 70% of what we have is lignite – "younger" coal that produces even more CO₂ per unit.

Cleaner and much more efficient "supercritical" and Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle (IGCC) units are coming into operation around the world, but they still produce CO₂. The big hope for coal is in sequestration – basically separating the CO₂ produced and locking it into a hole in the ground thousands of metres deep. This can be done today, but it would more than double the cost of wholesale electricity. Billions are being pumped into

BIOMASS POWER LOOKS GOOD ON PAPER BUT THE NUMBERS DON'T ADD UP

into the grid and make the mega-farms more likely. The Electricity Commission's report on whether and how this could work is due later this year.

IN THE MEANTIME, THERMAL generation – gas, coal and geothermal – reached its highest ever recorded level in the December quarter. Environmentalists have painted coal as the ultimate evil. But its time may be coming again.

research around the world, and studies are proceeding apace, but the best guesses are that it is still 15 to 20 years off as an economic option.

The government recognises coal's possibilities, even its necessity. Under fire in the House from the Greens last month, Helen Clark said, "I would love to see us reduce our reliance on fossil fuels, but frankly, if it is a choice between New Zealanders going without power and having



Huntly Power Station

is found in New Zealand, they couldn't make it economical. Fairclough is more upbeat. He agrees that it isn't going to happen soon but says that once the threshold of hesitancy around investing in a new technology is breached, wave power may take off. "We went from one wind turbine in Wellington to it being a large part of our new generation mix just in the last couple of years."

Biomass power looks good on paper. But the numbers don't add up yet. Crudely put, it is the practice of burning trees and plants to power a turbine. It has almost zero net greenhouse-gas emissions, as the next crop of fuel absorbs the CO₂ given off during combustion of the first crop. It has real potential in the co-generation area – where it is providing electricity and heat at a site that is using it. But the cost of harvesting and transporting forests or purpose-grown crops exclusively for electricity generation are too high at current electricity prices. It'll take a carbon tax, pushing up the price of alternate forms of power production, for the sums to change.

The sun is another resource that may become more relevant in the future. But Fairclough says that although solar power is becoming cost-effective when used for water heating alone, running the whole house on solar panels is not economic. Fields of photovoltaic cells linked to the national grid would produce electricity four times more expensive than at present.

WHAT YOU CAN DO NEXT WEEKEND TO SAVE MONEY AND THE PLANET

The EECA says the average household uses around 10,000kWh a year. At an average of 19 cents a kWh, that's \$1900 a year.

Hot water and space heating are the biggies at about 30% of the bill each, followed by lighting at 15%. The fridge (10%) uses more than the stove (6%).

If the water cylinder is warm to the touch, get an insulation wrap for it and associated pipes from a hardware store. And fix leaky taps. Insulating the system will probably pay for itself in a year.

Plug the fireplace with plastic bags filled with newspaper stuffed up the chimney. (Leave yourself a note on the fireplace.)

Stop draughts under doors. An old sock is enough to do the trick.

Draught stopping and weather stripping doors can save up to \$75 on an electricity bill.

The EECA says energy efficient light bulbs use only 20% of the power and give off the same light.

Closing windows and curtains around sunset helps keep in the day's heat.

See www.eeca.govt.nz for a full set of ideas.

HEATHER STALEY SAYS WE ARE off track for the 2001-2012 conservation target because the economy took off and because of "takeback". Houses and businesses became more efficient, but used the same amount of power. Rather than cutting electricity use, we chose to make them warmer and drier and healthier, more productive and more fun to be in. In a perfect world, the EECA says we could use 50-80% less energy. But this is impossibly blue sky. It could only be achieved if just the most fuel-efficient hybrid cars were allowed, every house was fully insulated and had modern power-saving devices throughout, industry was run by energy-saving zealots and the population was eternally mindful of saving electricity. Practically, with great effort, we could make 20-30% savings. Realistically, we could make 7-10% savings over the next five years.

Roger Fairclough's MED modelling unit is putting together a report on where we might go with energy. It's early days, but, given three scenarios involving energy efficiency, or a carbon charge, or heavy investment in renewables, energy efficiency wins out hands down. We get lower carbon emissions, lower import dependency and lower power prices. But, as the rider says, "The big challenge will be finding ways to make it happen." ■



When our leading environmental groups listed their top 10 danger zones and concerns, the results showed a remarkable unanimity with an urgent theme: "Must improve."

Flooding at Murphy's Motorcamp,
Matata, May 2005.

Deep in the canyons of Queen St, Auckland, the air is going bad. It is being poisoned by traffic. It is making people sick. But a government usually keen to intervene in everything from cleaning up the streets to smoking in cafés this time seems content to be the odd one out among developed nations. Ask what is going to be done to fix Auckland's air and the answer is, virtually nothing.

Auckland Regional Council pollution monitoring has now found nitrogen dioxide overload in Queen St for up to 13 days a month. Khyber Pass Rd is as bad – worse, because it runs past Auckland Grammar and St Peters College, and the effects of air pollution on children are only now being understood.

"The big move internationally over the last five years," says the ARC's principal air adviser Kevin Mahon, "has shown one of the huge areas of concern to be not so much the sick and the elderly, but young people growing lungs which may well be impaired during their lifetime if they're exposed to a lot of pollutants as they grow up in polluted city areas."

The Auckland region has one of the highest asthma rates in the world, but other people not previously known to be at risk have now been found to be endangered, too: "Diabetics are particularly sensitive. And it doesn't just affect people with lung conditions. It can be related to heart disease; bring on the early onset of angina."

Morning peak traffic is the worst, and it's not only people in Queen St or Khyber Pass Rd who are affected. The suburbs aren't safe, either. Air pollution has run into the red in Henderson, Pakuranga, North Shore, the top of Sandringham.

Unlike Christchurch, where winter smog from home-heating fires can smother the city, Auckland's pollution is sneaky. Pollution is high for 30-50 days a year, but much of it is invisible. Home heating can tip the scales in Auckland's winter, and the ARC is investigating the same kind of bans and restrictions common in the south. But traffic makes pollution a year-round problem for Aucklanders, and that is bad: studies have shown that a high annual average pollution is 10 times worse for your health than living with short, day-long bursts of it. Ministry of Transport research showed that air pollution caused at least 486 premature deaths in Auckland, 58 percent or 253 of them attributed to traffic emissions. And Auckland, says Mahon, has 140,000 domestic fires, 750,000 vehicles, "and with more than one million people exposed, you're going to have a constant problem".

Two problems, in fact.

Ten percent of vehicles produce 50 percent of the pollution. The ARC wants those vehicles screened out, repaired, maintained. And it wants second-hand and even new-car imports restricted to eliminate "dirty" vehicles. Mahon says the ARC has for years been lobbying the government for action on both.

But the government says it does not want to unduly penalise motorists. Judith Tizard, Associate Transport Minister and Minister for Auckland, says it investigated a screening programme last year, but flagged it because it was unreliable, ineffective and costly to motorists (who had to pay at least \$4-10 a test). But the government would continue with a proposed smoke test for warrants of fitness. As for imports, the government is investigating. Tizard says that she expects a report by September. For the last word, she quoted an ARC report which found that imported vehicles were cleaner than New Zealand-new ones.

Mahon remains unsatisfied. Most western countries already deal with both issues, he says, but here "you're looking 20-30 years behind in trying to deal with pollution from motor vehicles".

Fresh air. Clean water. Fertile land a little bloodied, certainly, but unbowed. Can we say that now?

The *Listener* found one clear answer: no.

We asked the nation's leading environmental groups and agencies to list their 10 top environmental concerns. The results showed a remarkable unanimity. They also produced a report card with one common theme: "Must improve."

The groups were Forest and Bird, Greenpeace, Fish and Game, and umbrella ecogroup Environment and Conservation Organisations (ECO). The Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, Morgan Williams, listed his most pressing worries. We added them to Vote Environment, a wish list compiled by several national environment groups before last year's election and mixed in the towering "State of the Environment" report, a full-scale environmental assessment of the nation by the Ministry for the Environment in 1997.

Internationally, the talk is of "tipping points", a mark at which the environment abandons gradual decline and goes over the edge into disaster. Prevailing thought here is that New Zealand may still be spared the worst of that. But environmentalists surveyed all agreed on the nation's danger zones. The order of importance varies, and some have concerns all their own, but the pattern is clear: we're rapidly approaching the abyss.

CARS

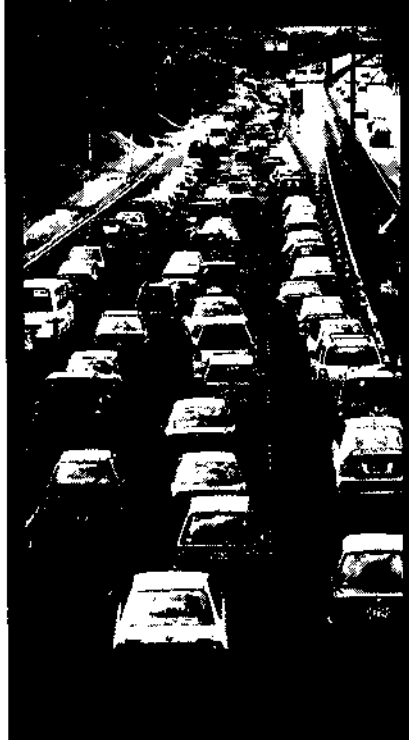
GRIDLOCK? AUCKLANDERS DON'T

know the half of it yet. New Zealanders now own an astonishing 550 cars per 1000 people. According to forecasts by Mark Walkington, a senior analyst with the Ministry of Economic Development, we're trending towards 700 cars for every 1000 people over the next three decades. Incredible? "America is talking about 776 cars per thousand," says Walkington. "They're the highest in the world, but we're not far behind. New Zealand and Australia are following an American lifestyle." Walkington believes that car numbers here are, proportionately, pulling ahead of Australia's. "Growth in cars over the last three years has been much more than Australia's. And 70 percent of Australians live in major cities with good public transport."

Transport uses 86 percent of the oil we consume, and most of that goes into the cars we drive. We're driving more of those cars, especially diesel 4WDs, all the time. Nothing, not the rising price of fuel or even old age will stop us: "The ageing population is going to kick in somewhere," says Walkington, "but it will probably affect the number of kilometres each car travels rather than the numbers of cars themselves."

Already Toyota and the Motor Industry Association reports a big shift towards small cars.

In a car crazy country, Aucklanders are rabid. Some 22,000 households in Auckland have more cars than they have people.



OCEANS

IN THE SAGA OF OVERFISHING, THE orange roughy swims sharply into focus. Seen as the bright new hope for the industry when it was first caught in New Zealand waters in 1979, the orange roughy fishery here grew into the world's biggest. The Chatham Rise to the east of the South Island is the biggest and longest-lived orange roughy fishery in the world. Catches peaked in 1989, but since then have shrunk to a quarter of that. Is it sustainable? The fishing industry says yes, despite conceding that it has been overfished. It doesn't believe stocks are as low as some estimate. Scientists such as NIWA's Malcolm Clark in turn concede that they need to know more. But seven of the nine orange roughy fisheries around New Zealand have steadily declined and there are doubts about whether the remaining two are actually rebuilding. Will they ever recover? "We simply don't know," says Clark.

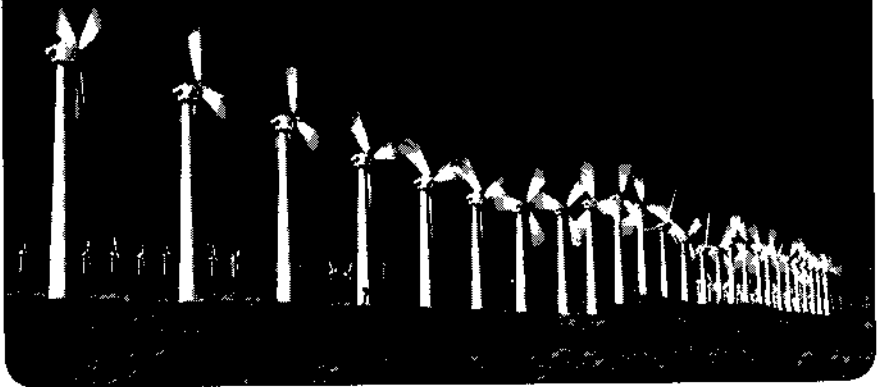
Meanwhile, conservationists such as Cath Wallace and Barry Weeber worry that the quota system here leads to "mining" fish stocks, that trawl gear is ploughing up and thus damaging the ocean floor, that the industry voice captures fish management and overpowers that of environmentalists. Says Wallace, "We keep telling ourselves our fisheries management is successful while letting stocks fall to rock-bottom and allowing huge damage to the ocean floor."

Orange roughy



ENERGY

WHEN PROJECT AQUA ON THE WAITAKI RIVER WAS PUT ON THE BACK-BURNER, we just had to take stock. The bar was lifted on new hydro schemes: TransPower is facing fierce opposition over its plan to run Marlborough's Waitaki River through canals and power stations. We have run out of big rivers to dam; attention is now focusing on smaller rivers, smaller schemes. Environmentalists are getting up for a series of skirmishes all over the country: for example, at Central Otago's sparkling Nevis River. The river could produce 430MW of energy. Environmentalists loathe it already. "Central Otago has been plundered over the years," says Fish and Game's Otago manager Niell Watson. "This is the last of the Motuekas in terms of rivers here. It deserves to be left alone." "We've got no covers sitting on it," protests Peter McViehill, Pioneer Generation's asset manager. "We have no concerns yet." But Pioneer is definitely interested: the company has bought 140 pastoral leases in the Nevis Valley. Hydro energy captures the two magic words: clean and renewable. Is there a clean, renewable alternative? You, grant environmentalists' wish. But when Meridian Energy won consent to build 70 wind turbines near Makarewa in Wellington forests, we're in despair about noise and construction damage. They are now appealing the decision. Wind farm proposals are springing up nationwide, however, with the latest in Central Otago and Waitaki.



THE TOP 10

1. CAN YOU SEE FOREVER?

Only sometimes. Late last year the government identified 42 areas (called "airsheds") where the air is too polluted to meet new air-quality standards. Many of them are startling, such as in country areas previously regarded as away from it all. For example, Kaitiaki, Kerikeri, Dargaville, Kapiti Coast, Wairarapa, Blenheim, three areas in Nelson, Geraldine and Waimate. Auckland has a chronic pollution problem, but for a different reason. Although many other areas pollute their air through home heating, Auckland's trouble is traffic. You may choke on Alexandra's air, but only in winter, when smoke is caught in an inversion layer and pollution peaks at higher levels than Auckland's. The Queen City's air is polluted year-round.

2. WATER: TOO MUCH OR TOO LITTLE?

We have either too much water, or too little. The growing number of droughts and floods strains water management. Demands grow daily. Urban demand and especially the growth of

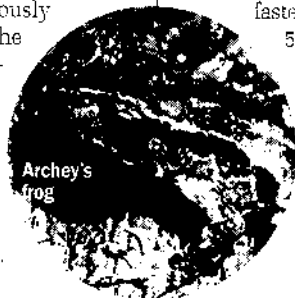
FROM A PACIFIC STOCK CENTRAL

dairy farming are straining rivers and groundwater supplies. The fight for Canterbury's water, for example, has become so intense that last week Ecan, the regional council, announced record low water levels. Even springs feeding Christchurch's treasured Avon River are drying up. Canterbury is literally running out of water.

But New Zealand faces a worse problem: polluted water, as animal waste, chemicals and nitrogenous fertilisers run into creeks and streams. Last week Morgan Williams released a report on the choked Rotorua lakes, saying that the worst was yet to come, that restoring them would take up to 60 years and, even then, they'd be saved only by a massive, long-haul effort. Estimated cost: \$200m. The Waikato District Health Board last month warned people to stay clear of Lake Karapiro and a stretch of the Waikato River. NIWA reports have noted that many lowland rivers are no longer safe to swim in, and drinking water supplies are contaminated. "It's now difficult to pollute the lowland rivers and streams in North Otago and Canterbury," says John Kent, author of five books on angling, "because most have dried up." He has charged the West Coast Regional Council with presiding over the ruin of New Zealand's finest streams, and has urged local dairy companies to refuse to process milk from farmers who do not comply with strict environmental standards. Says Williams: "Water is the scarcest thing on the planet, scarcer than energy. And it's not substitutable."

3 THE HOT SPOT

Climate change is now everyone's concern. Last week's climate-change conference focused attention on immediate issues: rising sea levels and coastal erosion, more storms and droughts. Critically, scientists at the conference focused on a shortened time-frame: it won't happen in our grandchildren's lifetime, but in our own. Last February, *New Scientist* reported that the "tipping point" at which climate change becomes both dangerous and unstoppable may be much closer than we think: in the past two years, two of Greenland's biggest glaciers have been falling into the sea at double their previous rate, threatening to raise sea levels much faster than previously estimated. Late last week the government backed a proposed law change from the Green Party allowing regional councils to consider climate change in resource consents, a power removed from the councils just two years ago.



Archey's frog



EVERYONE KNOWS CHRISTCHURCH IS WRESTLING WITH SMOG PROBLEMS, but Central Otago? The pristine mountain air now costs plenty to breathe as northerners and foreign buyers push up property prices in the nation's most spectacular boom area. But Alexandra, and surrounding picturesque towns such as Arrowtown, Cromwell, Clyde and Ranfurly, have a secret: when the weather turns cold, they get polluted. "It's because the climate is so good," says Otago Regional Council chief executive Graeme Martin. In the clear, still evenings, smoke from home-heating fires gets trapped in an inversion layer. The result: air pollution exceeding government guidelines for a good part of the winter. A pilot study in Christchurch found last September that air pollution from domestic fires, industrial and traffic pollution was costing the local economy \$168m annually and killing 158 people a year prematurely. The government's tough new standards came into effect the day the study was released. Now Otago, like Christchurch, is facing open-fire and wood- and multi-fuel-burner bans. And those huge open fires in the grand new homes so popular in Queenstown and Central Otago? "We're going to have to rethink," says Martin.

HERALD ON SUNDAY

"New Zealand is sleepwalking," says Williams. "We need to adapt a lot faster. What was once seen as a 50- or 100-year scenario is suddenly being seen as a 10-20 year one. You and I are still going to be around for it."

David Wratt, NIWA scientist and an international authority on climate change, predicts more drought. "For example,

instead of one every 20 years in Canterbury, they might occur once every five years." And heavy rain: "Most years we'll get a one-in-100 years flood somewhere in the country. The Manawatu floods were very severe. This is the direction we expect things to be going; that is, we'll get more events of that severity."

4 PROTECTING THE HAPPY

Settlement has been hard on them. Predators such as stoats and rats have



Dead eels from the Southdown Stream in Onehunga, Auckland

WATER

EVERYONE KNOWS THAT YOU CAN NO LONGER DRINK THE WATER WITHOUT checking it first. But when eels start choking on it, it's clear that the problems run deep. Joe Harawira once ate the eels he caught in the canals around Whakatane. Now, he says, "I'd never eat eels caught there." Phil Shoemack, the local medical officer of health, agrees. "Our advice," he says, "is that there are plenty of other places where you can catch eels." Signs warn people away.

The problem: the timber mill that used to treat wood near the Kopeopeo and Orini canals, whose site is now one of about 30 contaminated zones in the district. The residues, including dioxins, seeped into the canals. Harawira once worked at the mill, but is now spokesperson for Sawmill Workers Against Poisons (SWAP). He was bedridden for two years and now counts the cost among his former workmates: he claims cancer and deaths are rife. Environment Minister David Benson-Pope last month announced a grant to clean up the Kopeopeo Canal.

At Lake Forsyth, near Christchurch, eels are dying. The adjoining Lake Ellesmere is so polluted that it was declared technically dead at an Environment Court hearing last year. The eels? Says Environment Canterbury's Leo Fietje, "Either eutrophication [overfertilisation that kills aquatic life] or toxins."

now Carter's refusal to allow Solid Energy to move populations of the carnivorous *Powelliphanta augustus* have stopped the company getting at rich deposits of high-quality coking coal. "It's a disaster," says the company. Carter insists on waiting for an all-clear from scientists, but last month the prestigious Royal Society wrote to him arguing that the snails should be protected in their original habitat around the new mine site – both to save them from extinction and because "protection of unique New Zealand wildlife is important to New Zealand identity".

"The State of New Zealand Birds" 2005 report argued that although critically endangered birds had been pulled back from the brink, 11 species including the weka were in dire need and an "alarmingly high" proportion of species were still under threat of extinction.

The Ministry for the Environment identified biodiversity as our most pervasive environmental issue almost a decade ago. What did we know about it then? Very little. Ignorance was scarcely blissful, the MFE pointed out, with around 1000 species and subspecies in danger of being wiped out and a third wave of extinction on the way (the first two following the two main waves of colonisation, Maori and Pakeha). Loss of biodiversity means species are dying. That matters to those who survive. At the least, the world becomes less interesting. At worst, it becomes vastly more hostile to the survivors because sooner or later, it may be *their* turn in the queue.

5 YOU SEE WHAT YOU SEE

Never particularly fertile, land in New Zealand has been overfarmed, overgrazed, overgrown. Around half of all forests and wetlands have been converted for farm or forestry compared with a world average of just over a third. More than half the country is affected by erosion, which is being aided by the growing frequency of drought. Fighting to stay on the right side of the ledger with fertilisers and irrigation, and combating weeds and pests with pesticides and herbicides, are extracting a toll yet to be fully paid.

Despite this overfarming, food is the most undervalued traded item on the planet. "Everywhere in the world farmers are paid grossly less than the ecological cost of their production," says Morgan Williams. "Supermarket chains dominate between us and food manufacturers and growers. Production has risen, but prices have fallen over the past 30 years – and we're paying a big price in soils, water and biodiversity across the planet."

6 DEEPER THAN THE SEA

Overfishing and seabed damage are

taken a dangerous toll. Forests have been felled, wetlands drained. Putting on the brakes and protecting our biodiversity can be unpopular. "It's a fragile environment, and it's under siege," says Conservation Minister Chris Carter. "The challenge is how to preserve what we've got left."

But conservation can be unpopular. Carter last month vetoed a new marina at Whangamata to protect tidal salt-marsh and shellfish beds, to the disgust of many locals. Currently, a native snail has cost Solid Energy \$7m in delayed production from its Stockton mine. Court battles and

affecting our oceans. ECO's Cath Wallace points out that the Resource Management Act extends only to territorial limits: beyond that, in New Zealand's exclusive economic zone (EEZ), much activity goes ungoverned. Williams: "We're losing fish stocks worldwide, with enormous consequences for protein supply." And Forest and Bird worries about the number of seabirds and marine mammals killed by fishing: "New Zealand is the albatross capital of the world," says F&B's Eugenie Sage, "yet fishing causes a high seabird mortality in New Zealand waters and the Southern Ocean."

7 TURNING ON THE LIGHTS

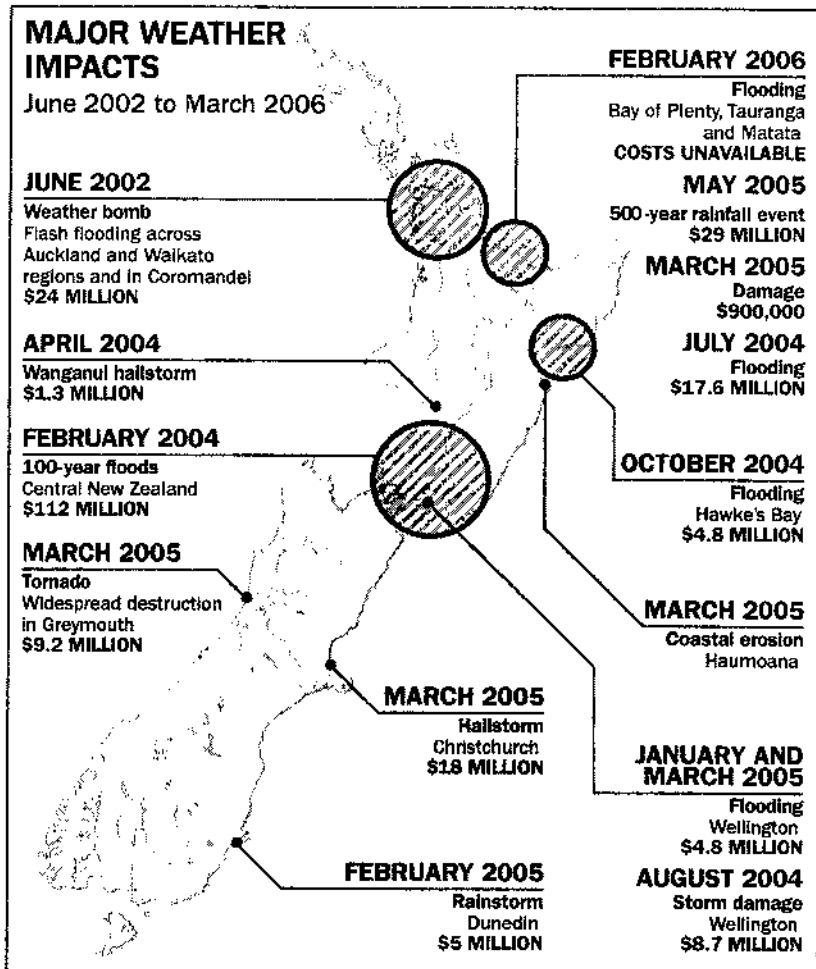
New Zealand will need an extra 3355MW of electricity generation in the years to 2025. (The aborted Project Aqua on the Waitaki would have provided 540MW.) Where's it to come from? Wind-power is growing rapidly, but hydro remains the biggest projected supplier, to Fish and Game's great concern: "A wild, free-flowing river has value beyond providing a fishery. When there are no more rivers to dam, what then?" The solution, according to Williams: ditch the more-power mindset, think energy efficiency. "It's about how we sustain the way we live with greater efficiency and reduction of our carbon footprint," he says. "Weaning off carbon energy sources has to be our No 1 goal. New Zealand is well-placed to go to a renewable, carbon-free electricity system in the next 30-40 years. We're 70 percent of the way there now." Meanwhile, Meridian Energy has announced that Aqua is back - smaller and, it hopes, more publicly acceptable.

8 IMPORTING BADDIES

The sudden appearance of the didymo algae, foully nicknamed rock snot, in pristine southern lakes and rivers, galvanised the biosecurity argument, but the "wanted" poster here is very, very bulky. From rabbits to gorse, wasps to the possums that eat 21,000 tonnes of vegetation in a single night, from white-tailed spiders to the Argentine stem weevil, it's a life-threatening issue. Forest and Bird has complained constantly about underfunding limiting DOC's ability to cope. From the entirely different perspective of tenure review, high-country farmers make the same complaint about DOC's management of the new, enlarged conservation estate. But biosecurity, stopping pests at the nation's frontiers, has become the critical issue. Didymo, meantime, is spreading rapidly up the South Island. Anglers now report that the Waitaki is covered in it.

9 FIXING THE MISTAKES

The treatment plants supplying



PHIL WELCH; SOURCE: IAG(NZ)

GLOBAL WARMING

NO ONE WORTH LISTENING TO IS QUESTIONING GLOBAL WARMING ANY MORE.

It underlies virtually all environmental worries. In New Zealand, global warming means less difference between winter and summer, more difference in temperature between the north and south. There will be fewer frosts, more heatwaves, more heavy rain and floods, more droughts, higher sea levels - and even baby boomers will notice those changes in their lifetimes. For David Smith, that is particularly bad news. Smith is chief executive of IAG (NZ), which, through NZI and State, is the nation's biggest insurer. Weather disasters have caused 19 of the top 20 insurance losses here since 1968. In 2004 alone, the weather cost the insurance industry more than \$145m. For IAG, climate change is very real. "In my five years here, I've experienced three 100-year storms," says Smith. "Someone's got the maths wrong." Hear hear, says Matata resident Antoinette Mountfort, whose road has been open for only a few weeks since the first floods there last May. "I'm a little cynical." So does IAG reverse the usual attitude of business and support the Kyoto Agreement? "I personally do," Smith says. "People in my industry say if you extrapolate this over 10,000 years, it's a mere blip. But this is over the last five years. Saying climate change isn't a factor is having your head in the sand. And it's happening on my watch."

the timber we used to build houses and fence farms have left a poisonous legacy at sites around the country. Mining has added its share, and other major industries such as farming have been slow to recognise the dangers. Contaminated sites range from the Tank Farm on

Auckland's waterfront, where no one knows how bad the toxic waste is or who will pay to clean it up, to Flat Bush, Manukau City, where homeowners were allowed to build on a dangerous asbestos dump, to the toxic land occupied by the Auckland Central Playcentre in

TOXIC WASTE

MAPUA, THE COUNTRY'S LONGEST-RUNNING, MOST POISONOUS,

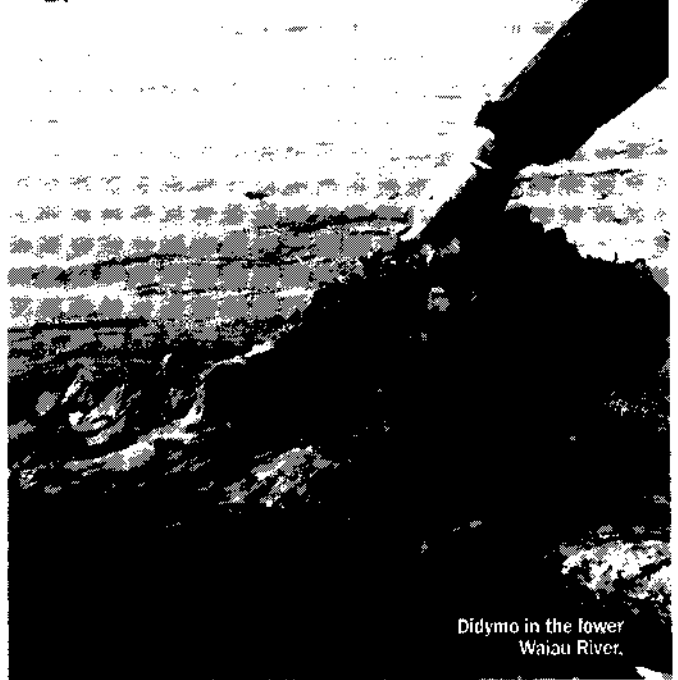
controversial and expensive toxic dump, is at last nearly cleared away. The former Inalgirowas' Chemical Company plant produced a cocktail of agri-chemicals, including virtually every badie in the book. The plant was sited beside the beautiful Waimea Inlet. Chemicals leaked into it and the soil around the 3.4ha site. When the plant closed in 1988, the whole mess landed on the public purse, which will fork out almost \$8m for the clean-up. Environment Minister David Benson-Pope has described the work as a success story, which seems ironic, given the nearly two decades taken to fix the site. "It was taken longer than we wanted, but we're getting there now," says Benson-Pope. "Criticism of the agency is not reasonable, or fair." But local environmentalist Helen Campbell remains doubtful: "The job's still out. The piles of dirt don't necessarily add up to a safe site."

Benson-Pope says a clean-up technology developed at Mapua may be used at New Zealand's myriad other contaminated sites, many of them left over from better treatment plants. Next on the agenda, though, is the old tin mine near Te Anau. Discharges from the mine and its tailings have polluted nearby streams, while arguments have raged over who should pay. Benson-Pope says the government is currently putting aside \$1.5m a year for clean-up, but "I don't know whether we'll get enough money to do a lot of it, or even some of it".



Treatment ponds at the Tasman Pulp and Paper Mill at Kawerau: environmentalists call these the Black Drain.

PESTS



Didymo in the lower Waiau River.

DIDYMO HAS SO FAR COST THIS COUNTRY A MERE \$5.3M,

but the institute of Economic Research last week predicted that it could cost as much as \$285m. Yet the slimy algae has attacked us in one of our tender spots, the formerly clear and clean rivers and lakes of the far south. The organism is spreading steadily northwards, threatening to eventually choke waterways throughout the country. The so-called rock snail even has potential for eco-terrorism. A Canterbury man contacted his local newspaper and claimed to have released the algae into the Waimakariri River near Christchurch to sabotage a controversial scheme by a huge irrigation company, Central Plains Water, to dam the river and divert water down canals. Hundreds of property owners would be affected. Biosecurity New Zealand investigated the threat and has now declared it baseless. But even the natural spread of didymo poses a huge threat to the southern hydro plants that generate much of New Zealand's electricity. Some scientists hope native snails and flies may deal to didymo. A more immediate, if fraught, solution: chemicals.

Freemans Bay and several other Auckland preschools.

The government is currently putting aside \$1.5m a year to clear contaminated sites, but with the Mapua clean-up alone costing \$8m, the backlog is huge. And the full extent of the problem is not yet known. Says Williams: "We're just starting to see the consequences of the enormous range of compounds we have created. They're going to play out more and more in terms of human concerns - air, water, food systems. Is the human body able to adapt fast enough to deal with this, or not?"

10 GETTING THERE, AND BACK Peak oil is only part of the problem. Says Williams: "Our car fleet has an average age of 12 years. It's fuel-

inefficient. We're not going to walk away from our wheels. So it's how we power them. For example, the compressed air cars emerging in Europe.

"We seem to want to lock ourselves in a 20th-century pathway to the future rather than do what we need to do in the 21st century to cope with climate change and ever-rising oil prices on the back of it.

"We're trying to learn from the past when the future is looking so different, being driven by the central machine of climate change. We need to discount the past and amplify the future."

Frogs have seen the future. They report that it is not looking good.

New Zealand once had seven

species of frogs. They were living fossils, enduring 200 million years with little change. But three species fell victim to successive waves of human immigration. Only one of the remaining species survives in any number. The others struggle on. One, the tiny Archey's frog on the Coromandel, hovers on the verge of extinction.

Why should we worry about frogs?

Because frogs are a litmus test of our own chances of survival. Their sensitive skins absorb changes in the environment. Poisons and pollutants hit frogs first. All over the world frogs are dying. It is, everyone agrees, a very bad sign.

Bruce Waldman, a Canterbury University biologist, suspects that the Archey's frogs are being poisoned in their

LAND

THE DAIRY INDUSTRY LAST MONDAY LAUNCHED AN AMBITIOUS new initiative they hope will lead to more sustainable farming. The recent boom has renewed farmers' claims to be the backbone of the country. But environmentalists allege they're bad business, that promises of farming sustainably are just window-dressing. Environment Canterbury, in the midst of the country's fiercest debate over farming, has admitted that if current practices continue, the province will run out of water. Dairy farmers there are held responsible for contaminating the land with nitrates and destroying rivers altogether.

Can they be entrusted with stewardship of the land? "Yes, we're seen as the dirty dogs," says Federated Farmers environment spokesperson Bruce McNab. "Some of that comes from urban estrangement from the land, a lack of understanding. We're an exporting nation. We have to provide food. We're the core of the country." But, he says, farmers have to demonstrate that they care about the environment. "People need to be patient. The country's growth of the last five years has reflected the dramatic growth of dairying. I'm not saying every one of our 14,000 dairy farmers is doing the best they can. But we're trying to get them to mitigate the effects on the environment. And we can do without the hysteria." Murray Rodgers remains cynical. Rodgers, who chairs Canterbury's Water Rights Trust, says, "The huge long-term effects of contamination on the environment is the big issue, and the hidden one. Their land management practices are absolutely and unquestionably unsustainable and all they're doing is deferring the day when our water can no longer be drunk."



environment. The Department of Conservation prefers a different theory, that frogs are being wiped out by a fungus: "Chytrid fungus is the most likely culprit," declares Avi Holzapfel, DOC's frog-recovery team leader.

The difference matters. Says Waldman: "Believing the frogs are dying because of this new fungus is a much more palatable scenario than that there's something poisonous in the environment and we don't know what it is."

For, somewhere in our future, what ails the Archey's may well nail us.

Nine years ago, the Ministry for the Environment totted up the environmental balance sheet. Its "State of the Environment" report was not pretty. David

Benson-Pope, the Environment Minister, described it to the *Listener* as dated and overambitious, although every environmental group we approached agreed with its conclusions. Almost a decade on, its leading concerns remain the nation's most compelling problems.

That report put one worry ahead of extinction, pollution, global warming and all the rest. Lack of information, it said, was New Zealand's biggest problem. We did not know how bad things were. And how were we going to tell whether they were getting better – or worse? What we needed was a set of indicators to measure our progress, and we required them urgently.

In 2006, we still have to make that first base. Leading scientists and

BIODIVERSITY

IF YOU'LL TAKE THE WORD OF A CABINET MINISTER FOR IT, the kiwi is safe. "There's no danger of the kiwi becoming extinct," declares Conservation Minister Chris Carter, emphatically. But: "I'm really alarmed about its situation."

The kiwi is taking biodiversity loss on the nose. Successive waves of immigration slashed its habitat and the stoat has proved such an efficient predator that only the Department of Conservation (DOC) and kiwi recovery projects now stand between the bird and oblivion. Nationwide, only 75,000 of the birds survive, according to DOC's kiwi recovery group leader Paul Jansen. The two rarest, the Haast and Okarito brown kiwi, are down to 500. Says Jansen: "They're in massive decline."

It is going to get worse before it gets better. The Conservation Authority has written to Carter demanding to know why DOC's so far unpublished new proposal for the kiwi can be called a recovery plan when it forecasts that the kiwi population will be halved by 2016? Worried, Carter has asked DOC for a full audit of kiwi stocks: "I want to know if what we're doing is working and if it isn't, what we need to do."

But Jansen sees little option. Trying to protect the kiwi over some 6m hectares of habitat is simply too expensive. The plan is, essentially, to protect core groups of each species within manageable habitats, then build up their numbers, with a few on island sanctuaries as a last ditch insurance policy. But the kiwi's cry will vanish from great areas of the country. "We won't lose any of the species," says Forest and Bird's conservation manager Kevin Hackwell, "but the risk of extinction over major parts of their range is absolutely real."



ornithologists late last year produced a report on the state of New Zealand's birds. A leading conclusion: we don't know how serious the threat of extinction is for many species, including kiwi.

Environmentalists charge that we still have poor information and few of the essential indicators are in place. "It's a work in progress," says Benson-Pope. "I'm not sure how many indicators we need to tell us that we have problems with Taupo or Rotorua, or with water in Canterbury. The fact that indicators and measurement might not yet be in a state we're happy with doesn't mean that work is not being done."

The real question, though, is not if the work is going to be done. It is whether it will be done in time. ■

12 HERALD PHOTO; 13 MARKA TILLES APF

MAYORS' TASKFORCE FOR JOBS
Meeting of Core Group, Wellington 21st March 2006

Working towards the "zero waste" of New Zealanders

A youth guarantee – that all young people under 25 years be in paid work, in training or education, or in useful activities in our communities

A job guarantee – that all adults who are long-term unemployed have the opportunity and be encouraged to be in paid work, in training or education, or in useful activities in our communities.

Introduction

Attending the core group meeting were: Paul Matheson (Chair), Yvonne Sharp (Deputy Chair), Frana Cardno, Jenny Brash, John Forbes, Les Probert, Wayne Guppy, Waitakere Councillor Judy Lawley representing Mayor Bob Harvey, executive officer Jan Francis and LGNZ representative.

The Mayors' Taskforce for Jobs provides a national network that strengthens local efforts for employment. 68 (93%) of New Zealand's 73 mayors have joined the Taskforce.

Five items accompany this report:

- 1. Introduction to the 2005-06 Strategy*
- 2. "Our Youth Our Future" - document released at this meeting outlining three priority areas of work*
- 3. Summary of projects supported by the Employment Catalyst Fund*
- 4. Letter from Work and Income confirming additional grants*
- 5. E-mail message from Sally Gray re Industry Training Organisations graduation ceremony.*

Further information is available on www.jobsnewsletter.org.nz/mtfjobs.

Working with government

Today's meeting included a meeting with representatives from:

Ministry of Social Development including Work and Income, Ministry of Economic Development, Tertiary Education Commission, Te Puni Kokiri, Department of Labour, Ministry of Youth Development and Department of Internal Affairs.

On 20 March 2006 Mike Smith, General Manager Regional Operations for Work and Income confirmed the provision of \$500,000.00 for "collaborative initiatives that will be agreed between us." He further confirmed an additional \$15,000 for administrative costs bring the total administration support from Department of Labour and Work and Income to \$150,000.

Applications for the latest round of the **Ministry of Youth Development Partnership Fund** were sent to all mayors and chief executives in the last week of March. (Refer Waitakere City notes below).

A meeting with six ministers concluded the day: Hon Trevor Mallard, Hon Parekura Horomia, Hon Mark Burton, Hon Ruth Dyson, Hon David Benson-Pope, Hon Nanaia Mahuta. The mayors core group presented some key issues, such as the need for more work in schools to encourage young people into trades and the wish of the Taskforce to focus efforts in the regions beyond the main centres. Hon Trev. Mallard stressed that Auckland as the only metro city needs more resourcing – “we’re not about to neglect it in favour of the regions”.

The 2002 Memorandum of Understanding with Central Government is currently being updated and several more ministers have expressed a wish to sign, bringing the number of ministerial signatories to something like 10.

Sharing Best Practice

Sharing successful strategies for jobs is core business for the Taskforce. Success to date appears to be a mixed bag. For example:

- the core group decided today to keep things moving with the **website**
- the **Roadshow** pilot takes off in April in Waitaki and South Waikato
- a good attendance is expected for the **strategic planning session** of the Taskforce in May and for the **AGM** at the LGNZ conference in July
- the **Taskforce for Jobs Newsletter** published by MSD gives a thorough coverage and is receiving a 'new look'
- the **Youth in Local Government** conference takes place in New Plymouth 25-27 September (at present this concerns the Taskforce no more than that the Taskforce decides the venue. But perhaps this is an opportunity for the Taskforce to involve youth in "Our Youth Our Future" – attachment 2).
- all mayors have received copies of "**Guide to Industry Training Graduations**"
- an impressive example of good practice distributed at the meeting, was the 8 page newspaper of the Wairarapa Workforce Development Trust. Titled **Working in the Wairarapa Region, employment and skill requirements**, it is produced by the Wairarapa Times-Age and documents excellent examples of partnerships bringing real results.

On the other hand there have been difficulties getting going with:

- mayors portfolios/strategy champions
- mayors projects booklet and information guides
- comments were made regarding the ongoing challenge, despite projects such as the Connections project, of agencies working together to maximize good service and minimize duplication.

Mayors' Taskforce in Waitakere City

Introduction

The Mayors' Taskforce is an immensely sensible vehicle to be the lynch pin for bringing together and getting the best results from efforts for jobs across central and local government, the private sector and third sector organisations.

While it seems a majority of mayors on the core group want to see the taskforce placing emphasis on jobs in 'the regions' (beyond the main centres) this is not a unanimously agreed direction and is not supported by central government that recognizes the importance of growing the Auckland economy for the future of the rest of New Zealand.

*Looking at the various projects of the Mayors' Taskforce it is evident that Waitakere City already undertakes projects that are broadly similar in intent to most of the initiatives, the most notable being the **Waitakere Employment and Skills Project**. However, we have only scratched the surface of what can be done to provide the right local conditions for all young people to be in education, training or work that will lead them towards a satisfying future.*

Opportunities 2006

Waitakere City has much to give and to gain from being part of the Mayors' Taskforce – "the power of the collective and collaborative approach to leadership" (Bob Harvey: Nelson Forum, November 2005). The work of the taskforce must be led by mayors. The task is a large one connected to and supported by areas of work so diverse that the taskforce is frequently challenged to stay focussed on the core business of job provision.

The taskforce is effective because it is driven by mayors. There is acknowledgement however that mayors of large cities such as Waitakere need extra support from their deputy mayor or other councillor. I look forward to assisting our Waitakere mayor in this work and expect to be able to outline further opportunities for Waitakere City after the May meeting of the whole taskforce.

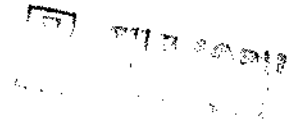
Meanwhile Waitakere has three areas to address now:

- *an update for Council of the **Waitakere Employment and Skills Project***
- *an application for the **Ministry of Youth Development Partnership Fund** – details sent CEO late March*
- *an **ITO Graduation Ceremony for Waitakere City, North Shore City and Rodney** – details in e-mail from Sally Gray attached. This is an excellent way to support skills in industry and can be undertaken at low cost to Council. Another example of TLAs plugging a gap.*



Waitakere City Council

Office of The Mayor, Bob Harvey



Paula Bennett
MP
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

February 27 2006

Dear Paula

I feel I must write to you to express my disappointment about your opposition to the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Bill. You must know we had a very strong mandate from the majority of Waitakere citizens to progress an extra layer of protection for the ranges (71 percent supported the proposed legislation) and that indeed we, along with the ARC, were invited by the government to draft such a bill.

I know you want a political future in this area however I don't think opposing something which has the support of most people is the way to ensure that!

You should know the protection of the ranges is of huge importance for Waitakere City and what you have in parliament reflects an enormous level of public consultation and input.

The enactment of the bill will be an historic step in the long history of efforts to better manage and protect the ranges. It also reflects a mature approach to metropolitan urban planning and defines forever the western edge of metropolitan sprawl.

The bill promotes a form of development compatible with the protection of the heritage features which make the area so loved by Aucklanders. It also helps the RMA deliver its purpose better in the area but most importantly it is future focused and works towards the long term retention of its precious characteristics and features.

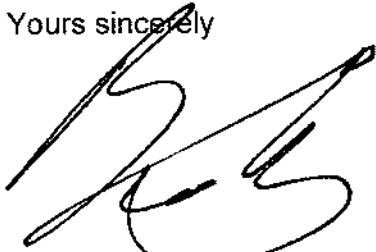
You mentioned in your speech to parliament that you would have preferred a National Park status option. I am sure you already know that we did explore that option but that such status for public land would not achieve the objectives of the proposed legislation.

Neither would it do anything to alleviate the growing concerns about the adverse cumulative effects urban growth is having on the whole area, particularly private land.

Paula, I am well aware of the National Party's opposition to this bill however I respectfully request you take on board the information outlined in this letter and that if you have any further queries you will contact Graeme Campbell in our Strategy and Development department.

I understand you will be on the Select Committee considering the bill and I think it's vital you have all the relevant information to hand.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Harvey', written in a cursive style.

ROBERT A. HARVEY QSO, JP
MAYOR
WAITAKERE CITY

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