

# SIAN

## Issue 29

### October 1992

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Agenda 21: The Social Dimension

*Nizar Mohamed*

Consultation with the Tangata Whenua

*James Barnes*

A Practical Example of Assessment of Effects and Community Consultation under the Resource Management Act

*Dianne Buchan*

**The SIA Newsletter is compiled and published by members of the Association for Social Assessment (Inc.) and distributed free to SIA Network members. Its aim is to encourage contact and sharing of information between all those interested in social assessment in New Zealand. The views expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of their various employers or the Association. Further information on ASA can be found on the last page of this issue of SIAN.**

# Association for Social Assessment (Inc.)

## ASA CORE GROUP

From the Convenor

Dear Readers,

Hear we are nearing the end of another year. It has been a good year for the Association of Social Assessment and for SIAN. Both have developed, strengthened and consolidated.

The Association was formed out of the Social Impact Working Group in July 1990. Last year was hard work as the organisation struggled to develop from being a loose group of individuals with a common interest in social impact assessment to being a national organisation with a constitution, subscriptions, a code of ethics and an annual conference. A Core Group (executive) was set up to manage the organisation but with the eight members spread throughout the country, it was difficult getting a quorum at meetings and inevitably the major workload fell on but a few shoulders.

At last year's AGM at Tatum Park in Wellington, to deal with this problem it was decided that each of the eight members should have a back-up person - thus double the chances of getting a quorum. Also the number of Wellington members was substantially increased. It worked! The result has been a renewed energy and enthusiasm on the Core Group which has been a real joy to work with.

Redistributing the work load has meant that Jamie Newell has been able to put more time into developing SIAN without having to worry about balancing the books and I have been able to focus on facilitating the Core Group and bossing everyone around instead of also having to deal with secretarial duties and contacts with associated organisations (such as ASSR and FonZSSO).

The year got under way with a brainstorm session among Core Group members to work out what each of the five working groups established at the AGM should focus on achieving for the year. At the end of the session the group identified the common focus for the groups. This was 'the quality of social assessment practice including research, data collection, processing and distribution, monitoring and structures'.

Some of the working groups have had difficulty getting started due to overload on the part of group convenors. These groups include 'Iwi Issues', 'Social Monitoring' and 'Rural Issues'. We can reassess the need for these and the availability of energy to run them at the Waiheke AGM. The convenors of the working parties will be reporting to the AGM in detail on their group's activities but I will take this opportunity to provide a brief summary for those readers who are not able to attend.

The Resource Management Act Monitoring working party has produced a series of easy-to-read guidelines on the assessment of effects for the Ministry for Environment. These are currently being published and will be sent to all local and regional authorities. Noreen Barton as convenor of this group has done a great job and I'm sure the other members of the group would agree that

while it took much more effort than we had originally anticipated, the exercise was very rewarding for all involved.

Bob Williams, convenor of the working party on Biculturalism has held two meetings to look at how bi-culturalism can be better integrated into the workings of the Association. A similar meeting has been held in Christchurch. As a result there are some initial ideas and these will be submitted for discussion at the conference and AGM.

I convened the working party on Social Assessment in Government. The group has spent the year clarifying who is doing what and how much coordination and consultation is going on between departments. Departments focused on include Te Puni Kokiri (Maori Development), Social Welfare, Agriculture and Fisheries and Prime Ministers Department. We have also had a meeting with Hon. Clive Mathewson who is the Opposition's Shadow Minister for Social Policy. The working party has used these meetings to identify ways in which the use of processes and methods for assessing the social implications of proposed policies and programmes can be encouraged and improved. Much needs to be done next year.

During the year Canterbury, Auckland and Dunedin have established branches of ASA. David Haigh, Nick Taylor and Doug Craig have regularly attended Core Group meetings in Wellington keeping the rest of the Group informed of the branch's activities.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Core Group members for their support and hard work over the year - especially the Treasurer Ann Pomeroy, Secretaries Paul Lister and Doug Craig, and SIAN Editor Jamie Newell. All have indicated that they would be prepared to stay on the Group for another year but would welcome some fresh energy so please give this some thought before the AGM. After four years as facilitator/convenor first for the Social Impact Working Group and then for ASA, I have decided it's time to hand over the reins. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as convenor especially during the past year as ASA has grown in strength and clarified its direction. I feel confident that it will continue to grow and to influence the development of social assessment methods and practice in New Zealand. I will continue to enjoy being part of that but from a more leisurely position!

Finally, I am looking forward to meeting all those attending the conference and AGM on Waiheke. David Haigh and his Auckland team have put in a huge effort organising venues, formats, speakers and transport and as a result it is shaping up to be an event not to be missed and not easily forgotten. James Barnes will be bringing his guitar so let's hope the weather holds out for a bonfire on the beach!

Ka kite ano e hoa ma!

**Dianne Buchan**  
*Convenor*

## CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS COMING UP

### ASSOCIATION FOR SOCIAL ASSESSMENT 1992 "WAIHEKE ISLAND" CONFERENCE

Registrations for the 1992 conference which runs from Friday 30 October to Sunday 1 November are going well. It is being held at Club Paradise, Palm Beach, Waiheke Island, Auckland. The theme for this year's conference is Government Reforms and their associated social impacts, structural changes, responses and the opportunities that they present. This year's conference promises to be unique experience, enhanced by the atmosphere of sub-tropical Waiheke.

Further information about the conference can be obtained from:

ASA Conference Organiser  
PO Box 66 011  
Beachhaven  
Auckland 10  
phone (09) 483 9671

### PROPOSED SEMINAR ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT - A SOCIAL SCIENCE PERSPECTIVE

*Judith Davey*

The Foundation for Research, Science and Technology (FRST) is the New Zealand member of the Association of Asian Social Science Research Councils (AASSREC). The main activity of AASSREC, which is a part of UNESCO, and covers the Pacific as well as Asia, is a biennial conference, which stimulates international collaboration in social research.

AASSREC is planning its Tenth Conference in Japan, in September 1993. As for the 1991 conference in Manila, participation entails the preparation of a Country Paper, describing social science developments in the previous two years, and the holding of a national seminar. This time the seminar topic is

#### **"Environment and Sustainable Development: A Social Science Perspective".**

A paper summarising the proceedings of the seminar is also expected to be presented by the New Zealand delegate(s) at the conference.

Sustainable development is a topical issue, and such a seminar is

expected to attract considerable interest and enthusiasm in New Zealand. The Ministry for the Environment is working with FRST to organise a one day workshop on the AASSREC topic which will take place on February 18th, 1993, in Wellington.

My involvement is as Chair of the Social Sciences Committee of FRST. The workshop will cover both research and policy perspectives on sustainable development, and will be of value to policy makers in central, regional and local government, and the voluntary and commercial sectors. That meeting is an opportunity to hear about recent work in New Zealand on sustainability, share information and explore ways of integrating social, economic and environmental perspectives into policy making.

For further details, please contact :

Foundation for Research, Science and Technology, PO Box 12-240, Wellington, phone (04) 499 2559, fax (04) 499 2568

## BLACKBOARD

### SCIENCE RESEARCH REFORMS AND IWI

*Tania Rei*

Iwi have commenced discussions with the Ministers of Justice and Science Research and Technology about the transfer of assets to the newly created Crown Research Institutes and the changes occurring within the Science area generally.

Increasing Maori participation in Science research, improving access to science funding, protecting Maori interests in science, protection of Maori knowledge and taonga are some of the key issues which the National Maori Congress working party on Maori Science Research is investigating.

Here is a summary of Maori concerns about the science research reforms:-

1. To date Maori participation in the reform process has been limited.
2. The principle of partnership is relevant to CRI's and iwi.
3. There should be a clear goal agreed upon process for the disposal of all surplus Crown assets.
4. Earlier understanding and arrangements between iwi and CRI's should be reflected in CRI policies.
5. The relationship between funders and providers should be capable of facilitating iwi research development.
6. Research entitlements should acknowledge research risks.
7. Any competitive advantages unique to CRI's should be matched with compensatory provisions for Maori science research plans.
8. Guarantees beyond three years are needed for effective long term planning.
9. Potential Maori researchers will need assisted entry into the new research system.
10. A Maori Research Authority should be given similar status to CRI's.

# CURRENT WORK

## Theme: The Environment / Resource Management

1992 is/was an important year for the environment. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) (the 'Earth Summit') held a couple of months ago was a forum at which the wise use of resources, and specifically issues such as human health, improving the quality of life, wise management of waste and toxic chemicals, poverty, population and over-consumption were considered. The media gave a lot of coverage to issues such as global warming, ozone depletion, efforts to protect biological diversity (especially the tropical rainforests ecosystems) from extinction etc. which were also part of the conference agenda.

A range of parallel international gatherings were held in conjunction with that event - such as the Global Forum (where Non-Governmental Organisations featured strongly) and the Indigenous People's Conference. Two major conventions on "Biodiversity" and "Climate Change" were signed by 153 nations. The United States made the media headlines by being the only major nation attending who failed to sign the "Biodiversity" convention. It is likely that both of these treaties will be widely ratified in the near future.

Where do we go from here? One of the achievements of the Earth Summit was agreement on "Agenda 21", a common framework for action for all countries in order to achieve sustainable development developed at the Earth Summit.

Nizar Mohamed was part of the New Zealand delegation to the Earth Summit, and also attended the preparatory meetings held in Geneva and New York. His brief as an employee of the Ministry for the Environment is to followup on Agenda 21. He presents us here with a summary of the social dimension to Agenda 21.

Dr Judith Davey gives notice elsewhere in this SIAN of a Seminar "Sustainable Development: A Social Perspective" which is being held on Thursday, 18 February in Wellington as a preliminary to the Association of Asian Social Science Research Councils meeting on "Environment and Sustainable Development : a Social Science Perspective" to be held in Japan in September 1993.

Soon after the Earth Summit, quite a sizeable New Zealand delegation went over to the International Association of Impact Assessment Conference in Washington D.C. Mary-Jane Rivers provides some news on that conference and the next one which is planned to be held in Shanghai, China in June 1993.

Community consultation processes are an integral part of the social assessment process. One unique and special feature of New Zealand society is the relationship between more recent arrivals and the indigenous peoples of the land. Under the influence of the Treaty of Waitangi, consultation with the Tangata Whenua (the people of the land) is an important statutory requirement in the Resource Management Act, and also of significance

in a range of other contexts. James Barnes is from Ngati Porou, and for the past five years has been involved on a consultancy basis in Maori as well as general consultation work. He outlines here the outlines of a general model for consulting with the Tangata Whenua that he has developed and uses in his work.

The backbone of New Zealand's recent efforts at reforming its system of resource management to achieve sustainable development has been the enactment of the Resource Management Act. It is now almost exactly one year since this Act came into force. The Resource Management Working Group of ASA of which Dianne Buchan is a member has been active in helping the Ministry for the Environment prepare an information kit of guidelines for the implementation of the new Act. Dianne Buchan shares some recent experience with applying the planning consent process under this Act to the Ewen Floodway Project in Hutt City.

*James Newell*

## AGENDA 21: THE SOCIAL DIMENSION

*Nizar Mohamed*

### What is Agenda 21?

*"Agenda 21 marks the beginning of a new global partnership for sustainable development."* Maurice Strong

The major outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) or the "Earth Summit" was Agenda 21, a common framework of action for all countries in order to achieve sustainable development. Although Agenda 21 is not legally binding, the commitment of over 180 nations helps to give it a moral standing at an international as well as a national level. Agenda 21 is a dynamic programme that will evolve over time in the light of changing needs and circumstances.

As expressed by the preamble to Agenda 21, it addresses the pressing problems of today and also aims at preparing the world for the challenges of the next century. It reflects a global consensus and political commitment at the highest level on development and environmental cooperation. Its successful implementation is first and foremost the responsibility of governments. However, it will also require the broadest public participation and the active involvement of all sectors of society, including non-governmental organisations (NGOs), business and industry, Maori, local government, and the scientific and technological communities.

Agenda 21 consists of four interlinked and interdependent sections which address the main environmental and developmental concerns facing all nations, as well as the means of tackling these problems and ensuring the full participation of all sectors of society in these endeavours. Taken together, the 40 chapters of Agenda 21 address practically all aspects of human activity in describing over 120 programmes.

### Is there a social dimension to Agenda 21?

Although many people originally saw UNCED as an environment conference, the "D" in UNCED very soon became as

important as the “E”. Again, there was a tension between the two phases of development - economic and social - with many developed and some of the larger developing countries more interested in the economics than in the social aspects. However, by the end of the UNCED process, the social threads were strongly interwoven into every chapter of Agenda 21. Therefore, although there are only half a dozen chapters that refer specifically to social issues, these are themes present in all other chapters of Agenda 21 ranging from those on trade and economics, the management of natural resources, to the means of implementation.

### **A holistic approach**

The preamble to the Rio Declaration recognises “the integral and interdependent nature of Earth, our home”. The structure of Agenda 21 then goes on to support the integrated approach with forty interdependent and interrelated chapters that attempt to examine the relationship between humans and nature and within society in a holistic manner.

The interdependent nature of economic, social and environmental dimensions is well illustrated by the chapters on population, poverty, consumption and health. Although superficially, these issues can be taken as social issues, the way they are dealt with in Agenda 21 illustrates the organic nature of human society and its interlinkages with the world around us.

The issue of human health is a good example of this. Improvements in health have resulted primarily from the fruits of development. There is a strong positive correlation between health status and economic well-being. Protection of human health is reliant on a continued healthy environment. This chapter addresses both of these issues.

### **Cooperation and partnership**

This is one of the major themes running through all the outcomes of UNCED. The Rio declaration is quite forthright in calling for a “goal of establishing a new and equitable global partnership through the creation of new levels of cooperation among states, key sectors of societies and people”.

Agenda 21 is the “beginning of a new global partnership for sustainable development”. Chapter 2 begins: “In order to meet the challenges of environment and development, States decided to establish a new global partnership. This partnership commits all States to engage in a continuous dialogue, inspired by the need to achieve a more efficient and equitable world economy...”. This new spirit of global cooperation is repeated time and time again throughout the chapters of Agenda 21, ranging from the management of the global commons (oceans and seas, and the atmosphere) to national resources such as forests and biodiversity.

### **Participation**

Agenda 21 not only calls for a global partnership, but also for partnerships at the national level between all sectors of society. The commitment and full participation of all stakeholders is recognised as the key to successful implementation in nearly all of the chapters.

The global partnership has to be fostered by the involvement of all sectors of society. The commitment and full participation of all stakeholders is recognised as the key to successful implementation in nearly all of the chapters.

The global partnership has to be fostered by the involvement of all sectors of society in decision making at the national level. This will require the full and informed participation of all sectors - women, youth, indigenous people, business / industry, scientific community, etc. - in a spirit of cooperation and consultation to form a partnership. The call for empowerment of all groups, and particularly those such as women, youth and indigenous people, who have been marginalised in the past, is one of the major outcomes of UNCED and clearly shows that sustainable development will require a “bottom up” approach rather than a “top down” one.

### **Conclusion**

UNCED showed that it is impossible to consider environment or development issues in isolation. Perhaps the main message of UNCED is summed up by the waita that the New Zealand delegation sang at the signing of the Biodiversity Convention in Rio:

“Hutia te rito o te Harakeke  
Kei hea to komako e ko?  
Ki mai he aha te mea nui o te ao?  
Maku e ki a tu  
He tangata, he tangata, he tangata, E!”

If we remove the central stem of the flax  
Where will the bellbird sing?  
Who is central to this world?  
It is people, people, people!

## **1992 INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT CONFERENCE**

*Mary-Jane Rivers*

The 1992 IAIA Conference was held in Washington DC in August. The title of the conference was: “Industrial and Third World Environmental Assessment: The Urgent Transition to Sustainability”. About 350 people attended and although the New Zealand contingent was small in numbers we were a noticeable lot.

Prior to the Conference, the trio of Hobson Bryan (an honorary New Zealander because of his social assessment work here, let alone his love of fresh-water fishing), Colin Goodrich and Nick Taylor - aided and abetted by “yours truly” - ran a much appreciated training course in social assessment. Course participants came from many different countries - Brazil, Japan, South Africa, the United States, Canada, and more. It was highly relevant to pass on to people the issues-oriented, consultative and proactive approach to social assessment which we have spent some time developing and practising in New Zealand. Equally important was to hear from others about their experiences in social assessment.

The Conference itself ran for almost four days with some real highlights in the papers presented. The World Bank co-hosted the Conference with the IAIA and it is clear that the World Bank, at least, is placing increasing emphasis on environmental assess-

ment (including social assessment) as part of the criteria for Bank financing of projects. There was some very interesting input from non-government organisations on the importance of environmental assessment including the "real" and effective involvement of local people as part of decision-making.

Some high quality papers were delivered by Penny Schoeffel, Julie Warren, Colin Goodrich, Nick Taylor and Jim Clarke for New Zealand - ranging from: systems theory and its relationship to social assessment; social and environmental assessment as part of a forest resource inventory in the Solomon Islands; the NIMBY (not in my own backyard) syndrome, and the New Zealand Resource Management Act.

As with any conference there are too many highlights to comment on in a brief column in the ASA newsletter. But for me, some of the highlights included:

- the growth in interest and commitment to environmental and social assessment and some associated "institutionalising" of this interest in multi-national agencies as well as other countries;
- an interesting survey undertaken by Gallup (with the assistance of Riley Dunlap, one of the original US environmental sociologists) on local views about the environment in more than 40 countries. The survey showed that the levels of awareness and concern about environmental issues are extremely high among people in all of these countries. This is not simply in developed but also in developing countries which are dealing with considerably greater economic stress. The report was initially prepared by Gallup for the "Earth Summit" in Rio de Janeiro in June this year. Given a growing interest in environmental (and social assessment issues) shown by some leading industrialists - for example, the Business Council for Sustainable Development which also contributed to the "Earth Summit" on innovative and environmentally aware businesses which add maximum value while using a minimum of resources - there seems ample room for "bringing together" social, economic and environmental concerns;
- the awareness that the approach to social assessment which has been developing in New Zealand for the past ten or fifteen years is highly relevant and in many ways is providing a lead in terms of integrated methodologies such as community consultation and socio-economic analysis.

Next year's IAIA conference is in Shanghai, China from June 11 - 15. The theme for the conference is *Development and the Environment*. Posters and papers are currently being invited. If you are interested in presenting a paper contact either:

Prof Zhou, Liang-Yi  
IAIA '93 Meeting Chair  
Shanghai Institute of Science and Technology Management  
Shanghai 201800, CHINA

or

Prof Alan Porter  
IAIA '93 Programme Chair  
Industrial and Systems Engineering  
Georgia Tech  
Atlanta, GA 30332-0205

UNITED STATES

If you are interested in attending and would like more information about the conference, or IAIA in general, the contact person is:

Maurice Voland  
IAIA Executive Director  
PO Box 70  
Bellhaven, NC 27810  
UNITED STATES

## CONSULTATION WITH THE TANGATA WHENUA

*James Barnes*

### Introduction

1987 was a watershed year for consultation. All sectors of society were irreversibly drawn to consider what constituted consultation. Central to the issues involved was the government's desire to corporatise Crown assets. The 1986 State Owned Enterprises Act, and other associated Acts such as the Fisheries Act, which corporatised fish through a mechanism called the Quota Management System (QMS). Prior to 1987 consultation was an ill-defined concept, generally considered a fringe activity, not likely to adversely impact on the stated objectives and outcomes prescribed by those in control of the decision making process.

### Defining Consultation

The definition of consultation has been assisted by two recent court cases.

The 1987 Court of Appeal<sup>1</sup> decision established Crown obligations to consult with Maori as Treaty partners. This required active protection of Maori interests, partners acting with the utmost good faith and consultation to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. In particular, consultation was not presenting a *fait accompli*.

A 1992 High Court<sup>2</sup> decision concluded that a number of essential elements were involved in genuine consultation. These included not making a final decision before gaining a response to proposals and listening to what other parties have to say before making a decision on what will be done.

These two cases, along with others, reinforce the role that consultation has in resource management. Also implied is the need for a process that ensures consultation is genuine and meets established standards of satisfaction. It is obvious that a methodology is required that will facilitate the establishment of this process.

### The Nature of Consultation

Maori were the first to significantly challenge the way in which interested parties were being excluded from the process of decision making. For Maori the issue was more fundamental than that and involved rights guaranteed by the Treaty of Waitangi. Successful legal actions taken by Maori and their impact on legislation has made consultation an integral part of any activity





affecting Maori interests. Maori action has had a systemic impact on the definition of consultation and the standards by which it can be measured.

It is generally accepted that the role of consultation has yet to be established as a process that engages the aspirations of those obliged to consult with those who have a right to be consulted. Consultation in itself is not a negotiation process and may only assist negotiations by identifying broad mutually desirable outcomes. The two roles ought not to be confused.

The significant difference between Maori consultation and general consultation is that the Crown is obliged to consult with its Treaty partner over issues affecting Maori interests under article two of the Treaty of Waitangi. This distinguishes Maori rights from those of other interest groups in the community. The Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment has also determined that Local Authorities are part of the Crown, in terms of exercising Kawanatanga (the right to govern).

### Developing a Consultation Process

A consultation model that has been used to good effect is included with this article (refer to the two figures shown here) and may be of assistance to those who are either required to consult or have a right to be consulted. The model has been developed on the premise that consultation is a process that combines issues, procedures and skills to achieve satisfactory outcomes.

### References

<sup>1</sup> New Zealand Maori Council v Attorney General [1987] 1 NZLR641.

<sup>2</sup> Air New Zealand Ltd. v Wellington International Airport Ltd., High Court Wellington Registry, CP No. 403/91.

## A PRACTICAL EXAMPLE OF ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS AND COMMUNITY CONSULTATION PROCESSES UNDER THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT (RMA)

*Dianne Buchan*

### The Project

The Ewen Floodway Project is I have been told the first major public work to go through the planning consent process under the Resource Management Act. As a result, all parties involved in the process have been very aware of the new demands which the Resource Management Act places on the developers with regards to assessment of environmental effects and community consultation. Rivers Buchan Associates (RBA) has been working on the project since mid-1991 in various capacities. We have found the process exhausting, challenging and rewarding. The change in attitudes towards community involvement which I have witnessed among both Council staff and consultants (especially engineers) throughout the life of this project has convinced me that the processes enshrined in this new Act is the right way to go.

The project is a joint effort between The Hutt City Council and the Wellington Regional Council. It includes two major components:

- the replacement of the existing bridge connecting mid-Petone with the central business area of Lower Hutt with a new bridge which will be much wider and higher;
- the realignment of the river and the construction of new stopbanks to improve the level of flood protection for the city. The realignment requires the removal of 18 commercial outlets adjoining the river bank and buildings housing several community services.

### Scoping Exercise

The community consultation process began at the conceptual stage. When the project was first mooted, The Hutt City Council held a series of public meetings, began publishing a regular Ewen Floodway newsletter to all resident's and ratepayers, and called for submissions on issues arising from the proposal. The Council then began a major multi-disciplinary exercise to assess the effects of the proposal.

A draft terms of reference was drawn up for an EIR. The issues listed for inclusion were based on feedback from the public meetings and submissions. RBA was then employed to consult the community on the adequacy of the EIR brief. This was done through a series of meetings held in those areas directly affected and through face-to-face interviews with the commercial operators in buildings subject to removal. Numerous additions were made to the brief as a result of this exercise.

### The Social Impact Assessment

The assessment of social effects drew on the usual SIA methodologies - demographic analyses, surveys of shoppers patterns, vehicle and pedestrian patterns, recreational uses of the river and its surrounds, and interviews to ascertain existing concerns and concerns about the project. In addition a scenario of a major flood resulting from a breach of the stopbanks near the existing bridge was analysed in terms of its social impacts on Lower Hutt. Community meetings were held to find out how concerned people were about the current flood risk.

Three options, each offering greater or lesser levels of protection were developed by the Regional Council and at these community meetings opinion was sought as to which of these options was most favoured by the community. There was almost unanimous support for the option which has been adopted for the project. Two social impact reports were prepared - one covering the impacts of the bridge and associated changes to the roading network and the other dealing specifically with the flood issues and the impacts of the proposed river works. Limited copies of these reports are available from The Hutt City Council.

### Consultation Strategies

Throughout the consultation process over 100 individuals and agencies were consulted either individually or in small groups. Consultation with the Maori community was through the local Runanga which had been contracted to provide input to The Hutt City Council on major policy and land-use matters. This consultation took the form of meetings at the local marae and the Runanga executive provided commentary on the draft social impact reports.

In addition, four community resource groups were established for on-going consultation throughout the impact assessment

process. Membership of these groups covered all the major interests represented within the communities most affected were covered. These included all ages (from secondary students to retired people), residents and commercial operators, pedestrians, cyclists and commuters. Members were selected from among those who had made submissions or had attended earlier meetings or by personal invitation to fill specific interest gaps.

A Terms Of Reference was drawn up for the operations of these groups. This document was endorsed by the Mayor of Lower Hutt and the Chairman of the Regional Council. Among other things, the Terms of Reference gave formal recognition to the resource groups and gave them the right to request specific Council staff to attend meetings of the groups and to have access to all information necessary (including confidential information) for them to make an informed input to the decision-making. RBA was employed to facilitate and service these groups.

These groups met regularly throughout the impact assessment process and reviewed the draft impact reports. Once the impact assessments had been completed the groups decided to combine to form one group so that they could benefit from the cross fertilisation of ideas. They have continued to meet throughout 1992 to provide input to the detailed designs of the bridge, roading network and landscaping. All Council officers and other consultants have attended meetings when requested and although at times there has been a need for a certain amount of tenacity on the part of the members and the facilitator to ensure that members' suggestions have been taken on-board, the groups have achieved several major changes to the design details. Although their time is voluntary, members' attendance at every meeting has been high. This is an indication that they have found the process worthwhile.

#### **Conflict resolution**

RBA has also been given the job of acting as a 'bridge' between those with concerns or problems resulting from the Floodway Project and the staff or consultants concerned. The Ewen Floodway Newsletter was used to publicise this service and although it has not been widely used, it has been effective in dealing with frustrations over delays in addressing land purchase issues. It is expected that this service will be more widely used during the construction phase which is expected to commence early next year and continue for a two year period.

#### **Planning Hearing**

By the time this article is published the hearing will be over. The applications for resource consent are being heard by three independent commissioners - a lawyer, an engineer and a consultant planner. A small number of objections have been received. All are concerned with either the cost of the project (and the lack of necessity for this work in these difficult economic times), or are objecting to the proposed removal of the piers of the bridge built in 1904. These piers were left in the river after the construction of the present bridge and are considered by the engineers to be a hinderance to river flow. None of the objections are concerned with the environmental effects of the project. I consider that, given the scale of the project and the number of people who will be affected, the lack of objections is in no small part related to the extensive consultation which has been undertaken for this project, the early identification of potential impacts and subsequent changes made to the design to mitigate those impacts, and to the real opportunity which has been afforded the community to have input to the development of the project over the past 18 months.

## ***ASA (Inc.) Membership***

Please support ASA by becoming a member! If you are already a member - pass the enclosed membership form on to someone else who you think may be interested. Membership fees for 1992 were \$10 for those on low incomes and \$30 for others (including organisations). Membership fees for 1993 will be set at the AGM.

Membership is now about 140, but there are still quite a few unpaid subscriptions

This issue has been compiled and edited by James Newell and David Press. Lay out and typesetting were done by David Press in Wellington. As usual, we note that the copy and information in the newsletter is only as good as the network out there. In recent issues we have kept to the idea of a major theme, in this case the environment and resource management.

The next issue will report on the Waiheke Island conference amongst other things. As always, we would like to have any news about your activities, comments on practice, information on new reports, and if possible written summaries. **Deadline for the next SIAN is 1 December 1992.**

### **Communications and Contributions**

SIAN welcomes reports, news, reviews, and help with typing of written copy onto computer and creating artwork / illustrations etc. Contributions on Macintosh or MS-Dos formatted disks are best, but not essential. Communications and contributions can be forwarded to the following people.

Social Impact Assessment Newsletter  
P.O. Box 2581, Wellington, New Zealand  
Contact : James Newell  
Ph 04-479 1739, Fax: 04-479 2604 or  
Nick Taylor Ph or Fax 03-313 8458