
1998 Convenor's Report

1998 has been a big year for the ASA and the Core Group.

Most notable was the IAIA conference held in Christchurch in April. As an affiliate to the IAIA, the Association and individual members played a key role in mounting this very successful international gathering of over 400 impact assessment practitioners. Martin Ward and Julie Warren looked after the programme organisation and promotion, and Nick Taylor lead a Christchurch team (including James Baines, myself, Colin Goodrich, Mary Sparrow, Cilla Taylor, Kath Fitzgerald, and Brigid Buckenham) doing the conference arrangements and running things on the ground. On behalf of the Association I wish to express my thanks to each of these people for their supreme efforts, and for helping raise the profile of ASA and impact assessment in this part of the world. Particular support was received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade who brought some 40 people from around the Pacific to the conference. Individual members contributed conference papers on various aspects of social assessment, and Chris Cosslett organised a display on behalf of the Association.

In conjunction with the IAIA conference, the Association organised two forums in line with its objective of improving liaison with other groups and organisations.

The first of these called together New Zealand impact assessment practitioners attending the conference to discuss the future organisation and representation of impact assessment in New Zealand. Invitations were specifically issued to the NZ Planning Institute, Institute of Professional Engineers (IPENZ), and the Resource Management

Law Association. These organisations were also invited to join the ASA in mounting displays. Members of the ASA, NZPI and IPENZ attended the meeting along with representatives from the Ministry for the Environment, other organisations, and interested individuals. Those attending agreed that better integration of impact assessment was needed, and that the various interests should jointly explore how this might be achieved. This ultimately led to the proposal to broaden the ASA to include environment assessment, which was put to the ASA's AGM in early November.

The second forum brought together social assessment practitioners from Australia and New Zealand to discuss how to advance the relationship established in 1997. The meeting agreed that a joint meeting will be held in 1999 in New South Wales, and Australian colleagues agreed to investigate a Trans-Tasman Internet list server to promote dialogue and intellectual exchange.

Because of the huge commitment of the IAIA conference, the Core Group decided to not attempt a conference of its own in 1998, and opted instead for a one day workshop, held in conjunction with

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the AGM. This was achieved through the efforts of Wellington members Jamie Newell, Paul Lister, Hattie de Vries, Melissa Stewart, Julie Warren and Judith Davey. The theme of the workshop was *Social Indicators in Assessment and Policy Development*. Full workshop notes will accompany this issue of SIAN. Regional activities went into abeyance this year under the workload.

Though the initiative and efforts of Jamie Newell in getting a temporary Internet website running, the Association has hit the on-ramp of information super highway. The aim of this site is to improve our viability and communications, and help promote the Association and Social Assessment in general. It currently provides online access to the newsletter, core group minutes, AGM minutes, contact details, the articles of the Association and links to the IAIA. A permanent site is being investigated which will also provide access to a database of New Zealand publications in social assessment, and reports on conferences and seminars.

Administrative Functioning

The core group met four times this year with a typical turnout of eight or so members. Continuing on from last year, Chris Cosslett edited and produced two issues of SIAN (and this one makes three), and a special thanks is due to him for his many hours of work. The Core group had the services of a paid part-time administrative assistant (Karen Threadwell) until July when she moved on. Hattie de Vries was appointed to the administrative assistant position in October.

In addition to endorsing the two main objectives set in 1997, the Core Group added the objective of maintaining the viability of the ASA.

Activities carried out against our objectives included:

1. *Improve liaison with other groups and organisations in NZ and Australia:*
 - responsibilities established for liaising with IAIA, Evaluation Society, IPENZ, NZFVWO, FONZO, Local Government New Zealand, FRST, Royal Society, RMLA, ASSR, NZPI.
 - Mailing list established and newsletter exchanges initiated with most groups
 - Forums with NZ organisations and Australian colleagues at the IAIA Conference

- Affiliate status and liaison maintained with IAIA
 - Core group members attendance at NZPI, RMLA, ASSR, Royal Society and FRST conferences and seminars
 - Participation in FRST Foresight exercise
2. *Promote and support regional groups and their activities:*
 - Organisation of one-day Wellington workshop
 - Support for Christchurch group in IAIA conference organisation
 3. *Maintain the Viability of ASA*
 - Billing system for membership fees, and back invoicing for outstanding 1997 fees.
 - Followed up 1997 joint conference attendees with a membership invitation
 - Continued publication of SIAN, and sponsorships investigated
 - Investigated proposal to broaden the base of the Association
 - Continued employment of a part-time administrative assistant
 - Established a temporary Website to facilitate communication and stimulate interest in the Association

In addition the Core Group established working parties to:

- develop guidelines for social assessment in New Zealand (in response to growing concerns over the quality of assessments being carried out), and
- to develop a response to proposed changes to the RMA.

Gerard Fitzgerald

Research update – Resource Community Formation and Change

Nick Taylor, Taylor Baines and Associates

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This is a study funded by the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology, being carried out by a team co-ordinated by Taylor Baines and Associates. It is a four year programme of work, and the first two years have just been completed.

The aim of this programme is to develop the conceptual and empirical basis for social assessment in New Zealand. It will assist practitioners of SA through increased knowledge and understanding of the processes of social change in communities that depend directly on the primary production or processing of natural resources. The first two years have focussed on providing information and developing a conceptual understanding of community formation and change in the resource sectors of forestry, mining and agriculture. The next two years will focus on energy, tourism and fishing communities. Four major sets of tasks have been undertaken:

1. Experiences in resource communities in New Zealand and overseas were reviewed and examined for evidence of cycles of social and economic change related to factors such as commodity prices, technology development and labour productivity, and the role of the state and private sector. We have been particularly interested in updating the literature and experiences of communities since the initial burst of research on “boom towns” in the 1970s and early 1980s.
2. The contexts for community formation and change in the forestry, mining and agriculture sectors in New Zealand were examined, particularly their extra-local linkages and the effects of both state and private sector restructuring.
3. Twenty-eight communities were selected and profiled with a focus on their demographic character and population changes or cycles over time, using secondary data sources, mainly census data.
4. Comparative case studies were made of ten communities in more depth.

Summary of Findings

- Resource communities are vulnerable to the price cycles of a few commodities such as coal, gold, timber, pulp and paper, meat, wool and dairy products. Changes in commodity prices have major social and economic effects on the communities that rely on them for primary production or processing.
- Major technological changes have increased labour productivity substantially in the three sectors of mining, agriculture and forestry, both in primary production and processing.

Employment opportunities have been reduced, especially for unskilled (often older) workers.

- Technological change, improved transport systems, and increased capital demands have led to amalgamations and centralising of processing plant, such as timber mills, dairy and meat processing, with associated plant closures. Small mines and dairy factories have all but disappeared.
- Changes in the way work is organised has seen a shift to sub-contracting of labour and technical support, especially in primary production.
- There is some evidence of increased flexibility of individuals in moving between employment in different sectors, sometimes on a seasonal basis, e.g. shearing or meat processing to forestry.
- New patterns of work and employment have affected older people, who either shift out of or remain unemployed within the community.
- Government has centralised social services in health, education, social welfare and employment, leading to a loss of local services, employment opportunities and professional people who contribute to community organisations.
- Local government reform led to a loss of employment from many small centres.
- The loss of employment in the resource, local and regional government, transport, post office and other services sectors has led to vacant, low cost housing being available to newcomers who are often characterised by being low income, beneficiaries, single parents, unemployed or unskilled, and Maori.
- Many communities experienced a loss of population between 1981 and 1991. Most importantly, they lost many key people from the “middle management” level, who previously played strong roles in local community organisation.
- In many communities there has been a marked increase in the number of Maori as a proportion of the population. Often they come from non-local iwi and lack the support of their extended kin group and local marae.
- Other private sector rationalisation has involved banks, mercantile firms and retailers

that are tending to be concentrated in regional centres with local branches closing.

- Government restructuring withdrew people from rural economies at the same time as private sector rationalisation was happening, leading to a multiple effect on local economies. There was reduced spending power and a shift to spending in regional centres, where centralised retailing was being established. Some communities were struck by multiple effects of restructuring across several sectors.
- Other communities were buffered by diversity in their local economy, particularly when they had activity that was not resource dependent, such as manufacturing, retirement and lifestyle settlement. But while diversity of resource bases helps a local economy, economic development activity needs to include alternatives that are not resource based and vulnerable to commodity cycles. In this respect tourism is far from a panacea. Similarly, added value should if possible be based on several sectors, and preferably on moving products as far from the influence of commodity prices as possible – e.g. furniture manufacture compared with timber milling.
- Communities are more diverse socially, culturally and economically, with greater levels of poverty and disparities of wealth. Locality-based social relations, previously focussed around the school and community hall, are becoming wider social networks that link into urban areas, with consolidation of activities such as sport teams and the demise of many “traditional” organisations.

The research has strengthened the model of resource cycles in communities, and added an understanding of the interconnections between sectors at a local and sub regional level (e.g. Western Southland and Bay of Plenty). Few rural communities in New Zealand are dependent on a single resource sector. This is a more sophisticated model than the uni-dimensional one with which the research started.

Internal workshop papers and a substantial set of community profiles have been prepared. The technical case study reports are being fed back to the study communities and the results are available to interested practitioners as they provide a set of baseline data useful to future social assessments in the study areas. The ten community case studies

and their working paper numbers are: for the forestry sector – Kawerau (WP6), Murupara (WP7), Tuatapere (WP8); for the mining sector – Waihi (WP9), Runanga (WP10), Ohai/Nightcaps (WP11); and for the agriculture sector - Katikati (WP12), Clandeboye (WP13), Waitaki Plains (WP14), Otautau (WP15).

Overall, the findings should assist with the development of natural resources policies and plans, and the assessment, monitoring and evaluation of resource consent applications. We expect that central government, local government and private sector providers will be better placed in their planning of social services for rural communities. Social assessment practitioners and social researchers will have substantive baseline information to draw on for future social assessments in the case study areas, as well as an improved understanding of the processes of community formation and change in these types of communities. The research has also provided an improved understanding of sustainability issues, and the relationship between people, communities and their natural resource base – as recognised (at least for now) in the RMA.

For further information or copies of material contact Nick Taylor (see details above).

Proposals to Amend the RMA

(Adapted from an article in Environment Update, MfE, September-October 1998)

Two reports on possible changes to the RMA have recently been released: an analysis of submissions on the McShane Report, and a report prepared by the Reference Group for the Minister for the Environment on recommended changes to the Act.

The Reference Group, an advisory group of professionals, has been discussing with the Minister and MfE options for amending the Act. These options are intended to improve existing practice and procedures, reduce duplication, costs and delays, and enhance implementation.

The Reference Group report has provided a significant input into the Government’s thinking on how the Act might be amended.

“The RMA is New Zealand’s key environmental statute. It touches the lives of all New Zealanders and protects our valued environment for future generations. As we look to make changes to improve the efficiency of process,

it is important that we keep in mind the principles on which the Act is based and make sensible changes that will go hand in hand with improvements in practice,” said Simon Upton in releasing the report.

The analysis of submissions on the McShane report analyses more than 750 submissions from individuals, residents’ groups, resource management professionals and business and industry groups. Main themes emerging from the analysis include:

- There is considerable support for retaining the RMA as New Zealand’s principal environmental management legislation and little support for restricting it to bio-physical matters only;
- Business and community groups are concerned about the costs of making major changes to the Act, especially if council plans will need to be amended;
- The greatest gains are likely to be made from improving practice, which submissions suggest may be encouraged by greater use of national guidance in the form of policy statements, standards and guidelines.

After considering both the submissions and the Reference Group’s report, the Ministry has developed formal proposals for amendments to the Act. These were presented in a report entitled *Proposals for Amendment to the Resource Management Act*, released in November. Submissions on this document close on 29 January 1999. Copies are available from the Communications Department of MfE, tel (04) 917 7400, PO Box 10362, Wellington.

The Reference Group report is available on the web at: www.arcadia.co.nz/review/index.htm

The MfE analysis of submissions is available at:
www.mfe.govt.nz/management/rma/12qanalysis.pdf

Editor’s Note: Making Submissions on the Proposals to Amend the RMA

For discussion of the implications of the proposed changes for the environment (including people and communities) see the two articles by Martin Ward elsewhere in this newsletter. Martin is a member of Action for Community and the Environment (ACE), a group established to oppose the proposed changes to the RMA. ACE have prepared a guide to the Proposals for

Amendment to the Resource Management Act document discussed in the article above. This guide is intended to be used as a companion document to provide assistance in the preparation of submissions. Remember that submissions close on 29 January 1999. To obtain a copy of the guidelines document, contact Action for Community and the Environment (see advert elsewhere in this newsletter).

The address for posting submissions is:

Project Leader
Resource Management Amendments
Ministry for the Environment
PO Box 10-362
WELLINGTON

Changes to the Resource Management Act – The Devil’s in the Detail

Martin Ward

The long awaited proposals paper for changes to the Resource Management Act has finally been released by the Minister for the Environment, Simon Upton. Taken individually, the changes put forward for consideration and comment appear minor but look closer, the devil’s in the detail.

If approved, the package of proposals is likely to have a major impact on the public’s ability to access information about new developments and participate in the approvals process. The changes increase the wall of secrecy around subdivisions and other developments preventing communities’ contribution to ensuring they are compatible with neighbourhood character and environmental values.

The Minister proposes a new ‘Limited Notification’ procedure for resource consents and also intends amending the Act so that consultation on resource consents is not required. Proposed changes clearly tell developers they don’t have to consult with potentially affected parties.

Another change being advocated would put a high hurdle in the path of community involvement if they wanted to formally object to a proposal and participate in the hearing process. This is Commission rather than Council hearings with no opportunity to go to the Environment Court except on matters of law.

Already official figures confirm that over 95% of consent applications are not notified – that’s right, no-one but the applicant and the Council staff generally know what is proposed. The limited notification procedure will extend that by providing for many of the remaining 5% to be notified only to a limited number of nearby people.

In addition to this, and to help ensure the veil of secrecy around new developments is not drawn back, applicants do not need to consult with the potentially affected community. The requirement to consult is currently included in the Fourth Schedule of the Act which sets out matters to be included in the Assessment of Environmental Effects as follows:

1(h) An identification of those persons interested in or affected by the proposal, the consultation undertaken, and any response to the views of the consulted.

Now, the Assessment of Environmental Effects (AEE) is a key document in the consenting process. It is the basis by which affected individuals give their approval and an important foundation for councils’ decisions to notify or not notify. AEEs have already come under fire for putting a positive spin on proposals and downplaying the effects on the environment. Without inclusion of the views of interested parties and the wider community (obtained through consultation) they won’t be a reliable basis for finding if, when, and how a development should proceed.

In addition to proposing that consultation not be required, reference to interested persons is to be eliminated in one of the alternative proposals. If this proposal were to go ahead then Residents’ Associations, the Forest & Bird Society, and the local “Friends of the Bay/Estuary/River/Bush/whatever” would have reduced opportunities to bring important issues into the decision making process.

One of these possibilities, the proposal to have Commissioner-only hearings of objections without later appeal on environmental or related grounds to the Environment Court (as is the present situation) would be a huge blow to public participation. The new Commissioner hearings would be a ‘winner takes all’, once only forum for assessment of environmental effects to which the developer would bring heavyweight legal counsel and expert witnesses to out-gun the local voice. Hearings would be more formal and longer, putting

them out of the financial reach and time availability of the ordinary affected citizen.

There are other proposals, for instance for subdivision, that would have the effect of shifting more proposals into a non-notified process path.

The consequence of these and other more technical changes that are proposed is the steady whittling away of public involvement by keeping the community in the dark. To the Minister’s credit the proposals paper is open for public comment until the end of January. Citizens and community groups should waste no time in responding. This is not a time for arm waving or slogan calling. The paper needs to be responded to with facts and figures, experiences and alternation. Especially alternatives. Democracy is not lost with momentous change – just death by a thousand cuts. It’s your neighbourhood that may be affected and your rights to participate in shaping its future that are being challenged. It’s you that needs to act.

Contestable Consent Processing under the Resource Management Act

Martin Ward

The Resource Management Act is facing criticism from a number of directions. But so are some of the proposals put forward to improve it. Already alarmed at being cut out of the decision making process by not having adequate access to information, communities are likely to face a new barrier to participation in Resource Management Act process. It’s called Contestable Consent Processing and its aim is to reduce costs. Like all contests there will be winners and losers and in this one the public looks to be on the losing side, along with the environment.

Consents for Resource Development

The Resource Management Act sets out the requirements and the process for Councils to prepare plans to guide resource development in their area. The district plans provide rules for everything from advertising signage to subdivision. Where activities are routine and have a minor effect on the environment they are permitted subject to any necessary controls which are set out in rules in the plan. For other activities such as sub-division, which may have adverse effects, resource consents are required.

To obtain a resource consent the applicant must proceed through a number of steps that help ensure that any possible adverse environmental effects are identified and any individuals or communities that might be affected have an opportunity to contribute to the decision. At present council officers manage this process. In the future consultants may.

At present Councils receive applications, process them and issue consents. In this process Council staff evaluate the application, review the Assessments of Environmental Effects (AEE), take the decision whether or not to publicly notify the application, and draw up conditions to be attached to the consent. They decide on the term and issue it. Occasionally some are declined.

The Government is proposing to change this – pressured by development interests, the rural lobby, and ACT. They want Contestable Consent Processing. They say it will bring the cost down.

The Assessment of Environmental Effects (AEE)

The AEE is a vital part of the process. It is prepared by the applicant and records the nature and extent of effects of the proposed activity on the environment – and that includes people.

Inevitably it is a bit biased in favour of the applicant and one of the important consent processing tasks is to check that its complete and fair. This may require provision of further information.

Contestable Consent Processing

Over 95% of all consent applications are handled by Council staff without recourse to Council Hearings or Environment Court processes. And as the majority of these are non-notified (i.e. not advertised), the public have no knowledge of the application and probably won't know it has been granted... until work starts.

But under contestable consent processing the proposal is to licence individuals or companies with appropriate skills to do most of the Council staffs' job for a wide range of applications. This work would include reviewing the AEE, taking the decision on notification or not, arranging meetings of the parties and drawing up conditions.

Modelled on the process for issuing building permits under the Building Act, the idea is that if there are two or more people /companies offering

this service in any Council area they will compete with each other, become increasingly efficient and reduce their charges – getting them lower than they are at present.

A new RMA professional will be born – the consultant resource consent processor. While the Council will licence these processors, individual applicants will choose the one they want to use. No doubt specialists will arise... “get your subdivision consent here!”

Not only is it unlikely to reduce costs it has other unacceptable side effects:

- It reduces the accountability of Councillors
- it puts a further barrier between the developer and the affected community
- it opens up the possibility for corrupt practices, and,
- the quality of resource management decisions will decline

Why This Is Most Unlikely To Reduce Costs

The change to contestable consent processing is likely to increase, not reduce, costs - and why?

Councils will have to set up procedures for selecting, approving and managing the consultant resource managers. Quality control systems, including auditing, will be needed to ensure uniform quality of process and outcome. This will be an additional cost.

The consultant resource consent processor will have to hold liability insurance and yes, fair enough, there will be their profit. This is not going to be cheaper, it can't be except by cutting corners and quality. In order to remain competitive consultants will employ young, inexperienced, cheap new graduates, who, working to strict time constraints, will make mistakes.

Why There Are Risks In This System For The Public

Individuals and small businesses doing this work will be much more susceptible to pressure from unscrupulous applicants and/or submitters than Council officers because of their financial exposure as small businesses. Deals will be done. Corners will be cut and the public will bear the cost.

Conflicts of interest are inevitable. Whereas the Council staff have a clear responsibility to the Council and the public, the consultants have to keep an eye on where their next job is coming from.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT UNDER ATTACK

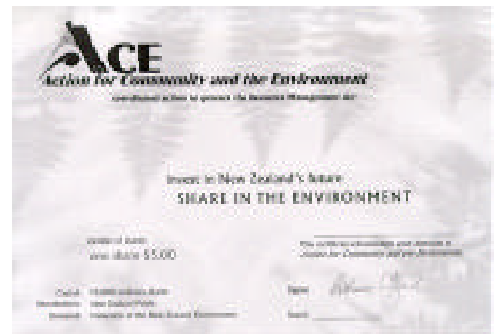
Drastic changes to the Resource Management Act are now being considered by the Government which threaten to downgrade environmental protection and undermine the public's right to have a say in decisions affecting their community.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Action for Community and the Environment (ACE) is a coalition of leading community, environment and heritage organisations which have joined forces to defend the Act. Our members include Environment and Conservation Organisations of New Zealand (ECO), Federated Mountain Clubs, Fish and Game New Zealand, Greenpeace, Maruia Society, New Zealand Historic Places Trust, Te Runanga o Ati Awa ki Whakarongotai and World Wide Fund for Nature. Together, we're campaigning to ensure New Zealand's unique environment and heritage are protected today and for the future.

JOIN US!

You can show your support for the campaign by investing in *Shares in the Environment*. Ten thousand shares have been floated at \$5 each to raise funds for our defence of the Act.



Yes, I want to defend the RMA!

Name: _____

Address: _____

I enclose my donation of \$_____ for the purchase of _____ shares

I want to receive regular campaign updates

**ACTION FOR COMMUNITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT
P O BOX 11 057 WELLINGTON PHONE (04) 385 9013 FAX (04) 499 2954**

... and the Environment

And what about the environment? There are some 'clues' in the title 'Contestable'. The 'contest' is to select persons to process consent applications, the prize would go to the contestant than can offer the best price. But there is a problem here, the contest, which would be a tendering-cum-self advocacy process, is won or lost before the outcomes arise. The contest is a bidding one not a performance one. The result of the bidding contest can be measured and the cheapest will get the business. But the winner's performance, that is, his or her judgement on environmental effects, may not be known for months or years.

Resource management decisions are much more complex and their consequences more far reaching than any to do with a building permit. We're talking about the natural character of the coastal environment; outstanding natural features and landscapes; relationship of Maori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands; intrinsic value of ecosystems; and much more. These are not factors that can be identified in absolute and precise terms.

This is highly specialised work requiring experience and skill to see that we are working towards environmental sustainability and ensuring community wellbeing.

Why This Isn't Needed Anyway

The pressure for this change comes from individuals and businesses that believe their projects are attracting too high a change in the consent process. Most of the 'expensive' consents are that way because of the longer time required for more complex or problematical applications. Less demanding applications are not expensive.

Under any contestable scheme only less demanding applications will be able to be referred to the consent processor agent. The complex ones will still be handled by Councils.

So the 'solution' will not address the 'problem'. It doesn't make sense.

TRACKING SOCIAL CHANGE IN NEW ZEALAND: FROM BIRTH TO DEATH IV

Judith Davey. Institute of Policy Studies, Wellington. 1998 / ISBN 0-908935-28-5 / Paperback / 309pp. / \$35.00.

Reviewed by Wayne McClintock

Over the past fifteen years there have been rapid social and economic changes in this country that have had dramatic impacts on the everyday lives of New Zealanders. Although some of these changes have arisen from global economic forces, others have emerged from government policies that have been influenced by the ideology of the new right. How historians will assess the success or failure of the structural reforms since the mid 1980s has yet to be determined, but their analysis of social and economic indicators will form an important component of that assessment.

Tracking Social Change is the fourth volume in a social monitoring series. Judith Davey, the author, is a Senior Lecturer in Social Policy at Victoria University. She has been involved with the development of a social monitoring programme since the 1980s when she worked with the New Zealand Planning Council (NZPC). Davey was associated with two publications, *From Birth to Death* (1985) and *From Birth to Death II* (1989), while working with the NZPC, and she ensured that the monitoring programme continued after the disbanding of the NZPC by writing *From Birth to Death III* (1993).

This latest volume examines statistics collected from four censuses – 1981, 1986, 1991 and 1996 – and adds an Asian group to its ethnic analysis. Davey continues the life cycle approach of previous volumes by analysing census and other statistical information by age groups (under 5 years, 5-14 years, 15-19 years, 20-39 years, 40-59 years, 60-74 years, 75 years and over, and death). She devotes a chapter to each of these age groups in which she discusses key sets of indicators – family and household circumstances, occupation/work and health, security and well being – and also disaggregates the data by gender and ethnicity. The chapter on death examines mortality by age group and causes of death, while the final chapter addresses the policy implications of her findings.

There are numerous graphs and tables accompanying the text, and fifteen appendices of additional statistical data.

In the final chapter Davey identifies a number of important issues that require the urgent attention of policy-makers:

- There is little evidence that ethnic disparities with regard to employment, household income, welfare dependency and health (generally to the disadvantage of Pacific Islanders and Maori) are narrowing.
- Financial pressures on families with children in which fathers have lower levels of paid work are not always compensated by mothers who have increased their participation in the workforce.
- There are few improvements in the indicators of well-being for young people and children.
- School retention and school achievement levels for young people have fallen.
- Growing female and declining male participation in the workforce, the increase in part-time employment and self employment, and continuing youth unemployment.
- The care and support required for the elderly, including their increasing levels of disability, special health requirements and protection from elder abuse.
- Preventative policies that address threats to the well-being of individuals and families (including accidents, gambling, alcohol abuse, smoking and family conflict) are a more constructive use of resources than remedial action.

These issues need to be widely debated so appropriate action can be taken to mitigate the negative effects of the rapid social and economic changes of recent years on future generations of New Zealanders.

Tracking Social Change should be read by anyone who is interested in understanding social change in New Zealand over the last couple of decades. It contains a wealth of information for policy analysts, planners, SIA practitioners and researchers; particularly the key sets of indicators which provide a valuable benchmark at the national level that can be compared with data collected at the regional and community levels.

Copies of this book may be obtained from the Institute of Policy Studies, Victoria University of Wellington, PO Box 600, Wellington. Tel: (04) 4715-307, Fax: (04) 4731-261.

BOOKS RECEIVED

ASIAN STUDENTS IN NEW ZEALAND

Neville Bennett. Institute of Policy Studies, Victoria University of Wellington, Wellington. ISBN 0-908935-30-7, paperback, 107 pp., 1998. \$18.00.

STUDYING ASIA: THE CHALLENGE FOR TERTIARY EDUCATORS.

Pauline Keating. Institute of Policy Studies, Victoria University of Wellington, Wellington. ISBN 0-908935-31-5, paperback, 94 pp., 1998. \$18.00.

If you are interested in reviewing either of the publications listed above, or have a publication which you think should be reviewed in SIAN, please contact:

Wayne McClintock, Social Researcher, Taylor Baines & Associates, 37 Stour Drive, Burwood, Christchurch 9. Tel (03) 3833-784, Email: w.mcclintock@chch.planet.org.nz

BOOKS AVAILABLE

The following publications, and many others like them, are available from UCL Press in London. For further information:

Email: graeme.chisholm@tandf.co.uk or visit the website: <http://www.tandf.co.uk> or Tel: (0044) 1256 813000; Fax (0044) 1256 320245. To order books: book.orders@tandf.co.uk

Social Impact Assessment

SOCIAL RESEARCH TODAY

Henk Becker, University of Utrecht, The Netherlands (1997 / 272pp)

Based on Henk's own experience of impact assessment as a component of policy-oriented research, this book provides a practical introduction to the methodology of social impact assessment. The coverage is comprehensive, well-balanced and up-to-date, with a systematic approach to the effective use of techniques designed to sharpen the formulation of public policy. The book features

case study and exercise material, and also incorporates useful summaries at the end of each chapter, making it ideal for teaching purposes.

Social Impact Assessment is also an invaluable professional resource for social and environmental scientists, for policy makers and consultants, and for those running management seminars on strategic learning, scenario-planning and action research. It is also intended as a textbook for upper-level undergraduate and post-graduate students of social and environmental science, management and policy studies.

COMMUNITY IMPACT EVALUATION PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE

*Nathaniel Lichfield, Dalia and Nathaniel
Lichfield Associates*

A major work summarising in one volume the pioneering and widely adopted approach of the author to public-interest decision-making in the field of urban and regional planning. Nathaniel Lichfield first introduced in his book *Economics of Planned Development* the concept that, in any use and development of land, the traditional 'development balance sheet' of the developer needed to be accompanied by a 'planning balance sheet' prepared by the planning officer or planning authority. Over the intervening 40 year period the author has brought to the operational level the planning balance sheet with many case studies, primarily for consultancy purposes. This book captures the essence of this concept in a single volume. 1996 / 230pp / Guilford Press.

DAN QUAYLE'S QUOTABLE QUOTES CORNER

- "For NASA, space is still a high priority."
- Quite frankly, teachers are the only profession that teach our children."
- "We're all capable of mistakes, but I do not care to enlighten you on the mistakes we may or may not have made."
- "[It's] time for the human race to enter the solar system."

INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

*John Blasso, Riki Therivel and Andrew
Chadwick*

A comprehensive, clearly structured and readable overview of the subject, the second edition of this book is considered a leading introduction to EIA. 1998 / 416pp

METHODS OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Edited by Peter Morris and Riki Therivel

Written by practising specialists who teach environmental assessment and management, and experts from a major environmental consultancy. Fully updated second edition. June 1999 / 400pp.

VACATIONSCAPE DEVELOPING TOURIST AREAS

Clare A Gunn

The third edition of a text for tourism and planning deals with critical issues such as protecting environmental assets as more people enjoy them; providing greater connectivity among all forms of development; enhancing rather than detracting from local ways of life; and guaranteeing that future generations will be able to enjoy the benefits of travel as we do today. 1997 / 196pp / Taylor and Francis Inc.

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Manaaki Whenua Conference: A Conference on Science for Resource Management

21-23 April 1999, Wellington.

Contact: Manaaki Whenua Conference, PO Box 1370, Christchurch. Tel (03) 379 0390, Fax (03) 379 0460, Email: landcare@conference.co.nz, website: www.landcare.cri.nz

Australasian Environmental Engineering Conference

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ABROAD:

United Kingdom Interactive Social Science Conference

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5-7 January 1999, UK.

Contact: Andy Cawdell, Executive Secretary, ALSISS, Tel/fax (0044) 181 693 0866. Email: andy.cawdell@alsiss.org.uk

The 1999 International Symposium on Society and Resource Management

Application of Social Science to Resource Management in the Asia-Pacific Region
7-10 July 1999, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia.

The ISSRM is an interdisciplinary forum, focussed on the interactions between society and natural resources, for researchers and practitioners to discuss research and management strategies. Themes include:

- Social and environmental assessment
- Community participation in resource management
- Environmental interpretation

- Social science of parks and protected areas
- Human-wildlife interactions
- Integrated resource management
- Watershed management and soil conservation
- Indigenous land and resource management

Contact: <http://www.geosp.uq.edu.au/issrm99/>; or write to Sally Brown Conference Connections, PO Box 108 Kenmore, Brisbane, Australia 4069. Fax: 617 3201 2809

10th World Congress of Rural Sociology

Sustainable Rural Livelihoods: Building Communities, Protecting Resources, and Fostering Human Development

30 July – 5 August, 2000, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

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Further Information: (please contact Frank Vanclay for all participation inquiries)

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World Congress Local Arrangements Chair: Sonia M.P.P. Bergamasco, FEAGRI/UNICAMP, Cx. Postal 60ll, CEP 13081-970- Campinas- SP- Brazil. Tel: +55-19-788.2066 or 788.2004, Fax +55-19-788.2090 or 788.2066, e-mail: sonia@agr.unicamp.br

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