

# PERSPECTIVE

## Advisors Throw Themselves Into It...



Asela Atapattu gets into the swing of things

New Organisms Science Advisors Fleur François and Paula Jones, and Applications Advisor Asela Atapattu threw themselves into their work at the Queenstown Molecular Biology Meeting (QMB) in December.

The annual conference, organised by the Queenstown Molecular Biology Society, is considered the foremost New Zealand Conference for Molecular Biologists attracting around 250 scientists and students from across Australasia and Asia. The meeting aims to foster interactions between all scientists using molecular biological techniques in biomedical, horticultural and agricultural research. QMB is a very popular meeting with a reputation for friendliness and informality.

Surprisingly there are still many researchers who are unaware of the HSNO Act and ERMA New Zealand and its implications for their research. QMB 2004 provided a great opportunity for the New Organisms Group to provide information on the Authority, Ngā Kaihautū and the Agency processes.

By attending QMB 2004, the delegates were able to demonstrate that ERMA New Zealand is staffed by people with research backgrounds. Attending scientific conferences also keeps the Group abreast of the latest developments. The Group intends to send delegates to future meetings to engage with, and be considered part of, the New Zealand scientific community.

ERMA  
New Zealand



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## Executive Comment



The new calendar year 2005 is now in full swing and is going to see some significant changes on the HSNO front. The most significant change by far is the so called 'Macropatch' legislation. This has now been formally introduced into Parliament and the hope is that it will become law and be commenced on 1 July 2005.

There are two elements of the

Macropatch that I think are central to the benefits it will bring.

The first is the ability to generate Group Standards which create pre-defined 'packages' of substance definitions plus controls (or conditions). New substances coming along in future will usually fall into one of these existing 'packages' rather than requiring a new individual approval. The intention is that individual approvals will only occur for substances that genuinely warrant that attention. But the big gain immediately is in the process of transferring existing substances into the HSNO framework. A set of initial Group Standards will be created (and there may be somewhere between 20 and 50 of these) which will essentially remove the need for individual transfer.

The second big gain is in the ability to write controls (again through the Group Standard mechanism) in user friendly language without the problem of density of language, extensive cross referencing and redundancy which characterise

the present controls. While this might not seem like a big deal, it is expected to improve levels of compliance and make it easier to get HSNO controls accepted and implemented.

But these are what I would call the 'second tier gains' – very worthwhile if not essential, but not the ultimate prize.

The ultimate prize is the room that the Macropatch will create for all of us, in dealing with the relatively routine quickly and simply and enabling attention to be focussed on the areas of significant risk. If we can do this then risk reduction can develop some real momentum, and the risk reduction strategy which has been developed by ERMA New Zealand can begin to grab a more significant share of the available resources.

Exciting prospects in store? You bet! And while I may not be actively involved in making it happen in practice. I hope I will be able to bask in the satisfaction of being a part of the process of setting it up.

**Bas Walker**  
Chief Executive

Bas Walker will be standing down at the end of June this year. Bas has been in the role for eight years, having been appointed founding Chief Executive of ERMA New Zealand in June 1997. In his time as Chief Executive Bas has seen many significant changes, including the growth of the organisation from no staff at all to about 110. During that time the profile of ERMA New Zealand has dramatically changed as well and today its role is widely recognised.

## AUTHORITY PROFILE

### Neil Walter - Authority Chair



Neil Walter

Neil Walter has been a Member and Chair of the Environmental Risk Management Authority since February 2003. He has an MA (First Class Hons) in French from Auckland University and has spent most of his career with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

His diplomatic assignments have included: Second Secretary, Bangkok; First Secretary, New

Zealand Mission to the United Nations; Official Secretary, Tokelau Public Service; Minister and Permanent Representative to UNESCO, Paris; Deputy High Commissioner, London; Ambassador, Jakarta and Ambassador, Tokyo. He was the Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade from 1999 until September 2002 when he retired.

Neil brings to his position as Chair wide experience in public policy formulation, systems management and decision making.

'My job is to ensure that the Authority maintains the highest standards of integrity, professionalism, impartiality and openness in its decision making,' he says. 'The decisions we take are important to all New Zealanders. They must be approached with great care and be taken with due regard to New Zealand's particular situation and values.'

Neil has been the director of a number of organisations including the New Zealand Trade Development Board, the Asia 2000 Foundation, the Institute of Policy Studies, Victoria Link, the Indonesia/ New Zealand Council, the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Biosecurity and the Management Development Centre. He was made a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit in 2002.

Neil's also a keen sports fan, having been a Slazenger Shield tennis player and captain of the Auckland University tennis team. He represented Thailand in rugby at the Asian rugby tournament in 1970, and has played senior club cricket and rugby. Neil also enjoys reading and gardening and is married with three children.

## Guest Editorial



Marian Hobbs

**In the wake of the Royal Commission on Genetic Modification, the Government established a review to ensure the Environmental Risk Management Authority had the capacity and capability to meet the demands placed on it by the HSNO Act, particularly for new organisms.**

**It has been almost two years since this review was completed. Environment Minister Marian Hobbs, considers the changes**

**that have happened at the Agency since the report was released.**

ERMA New Zealand plays a vital role in promoting and protecting the environment, and the health and safety of New Zealanders.

Public opinion, particularly in regard to new organisms is often fierce and divisive. It is critical that ERMA New Zealand demonstrate sound and scientifically rigorous decision making.

It is always a challenge for any organisation to undergo the scrutiny of a review team, but it also presents opportunities for change. While the review team found that ERMA New Zealand was up to the challenge posed by the HSNO Act, it also made a number of recommendations to strengthen the Authority's performance in various areas.

The Authority has strengthened its governance policies and processes. ERMA New Zealand has also strengthened its processes for decision-making and continues to make improvements in cost efficiency for applications a priority.

The Agency has seen a major restructure, which has resulted in a specialist New Organisms Group and a general strengthening of infrastructure. A scoping review of Organisms Present in New Zealand has been completed and the precedents database developed.

Relationships with other agencies and the wider community were a strong focus of ERMA New Zealand prior to the review and these have since been strengthened further. One example of this has been the development of formal relationship agreements with MAF, who are now the primary enforcement agency for new organisms in New Zealand. Continuing attention has been given to relationships with the whole range of stakeholders including industry, community and environmental groups, and the Māori community.

ERMA's Māori advisory committee Ngā Kaihautū Tikanga Taiao has now been given statutory status and stronger recognition. An excellent rapport between Ngā Kaihautū Tikanga Taiao, the Authority, and the Agency now exists.

Amendments to the HSNO Act, which followed the review, have allowed ERMA New Zealand to approve the 'conditional release' of new organisms. While an application for conditional release has yet to be received, the changes implemented following the review have ensured that the Authority is now prepared for the eventuality.

Another development has been the new provisions for project-based applications for low risk applications which have been actively implemented by the science community and have proven to be very successful

ERMA New Zealand plays a vital role in promoting and protecting the health and safety of New Zealanders. The changes that have been implemented following the review ensure that ERMA New Zealand continues to meet the demands placed on it by the HSNO Act. ERMA's task is not an easy one. Its task has become increasingly complex.

In his time at ERMA New Zealand, Bas Walker has seen, and been responsible for, many changes and developments. He has played a pivotal role in laying the foundations for the role ERMA New Zealand now has under HSNO and in the wake of the Royal Commission on Genetic Modification. I would like to thank him sincerely for his contribution and wish him well in the future.

### Charges for HS Compliance Related Approvals

ERMA New Zealand has decided to set prices to recover the cost of compliance related approvals. The approvals relate to the implementation of compliance requirements under Part VI of the HSNO Act. The transfer of existing hazardous substances to the HSNO regime, especially dangerous goods, has resulted in a range of compliance related approvals.

Most of these approvals are minor in nature but collectively they have a significant cost to ERMA New Zealand. A proposed fee schedule was put out for statutory consultation on 2 December last year and two submissions were received. Prices will take effect from 21 February 2005 and all applications lodged past that date will be covered by the pricing regime.

The new fees apply to all applications received on and after 21 February 2005.

A table of the applicable fees can be found on our website at <http://www.ermanz.govt.nz/resources/publications/pdfs/partvicharges.pdf>, or you can call 0800 376 234 (HS Compliance Line) for a copy to be sent to you.

## Guy Fawkes Display Impresses



ERMA New Zealand Advisors were impressed with the set up

In the lead up to Guy Fawkes last year, Amanda McKenzie, Peter Dawson and Tania Van Maanen visited Graeme Anderson of Event Pro Limited, the organisation responsible for the capital's amazing fireworks display. Graeme's display takes place from barges on Wellington harbour and the 2004 display was among the largest the city has ever seen. The ERMA New Zealand team were impressed with Graeme's set up and appreciated the opportunity to get out and meet with industry. Amanda, who is responsible for processing import certificates for explosives, was impressed by the operation.

'I was amazed at the sheer size of some of the fireworks and the amount of time and effort involved in both the design of the display and setting up of the fireworks on the barges.'

Fireworks were transferred to the HSNO Act with other explosives in August 2003.

Importers of explosives, including all fireworks, must obtain an import certificate from ERMA New Zealand, for each shipment entering the country, as part of the Hazardous Substances (Tracking) Regulations 2001. ERMA New Zealand receives about 250 applications for import certificates for explosives each year.

'ERMA New Zealand intends to progress the development of a Code of Practice for Pyrotechnic Displays this year,' says ERMA New Zealand Principal Scientist Peter Dawson. 'One option being looked at is to model this on a Code recently adopted in Queensland.'

Under HSNO, the person in charge of any outdoor pyrotechnic display needs to obtain a test certificate prior to the display. This ensures that the planning for the display provides that certain prescribed safety requirements are met. The pyrotechnic substances also need to be under the personal control of an Approved Handler whose competency is certified for the height of the display planned.

The fireworks imported into New Zealand mainly come from China and, predictably, there is a rush on applying for import certificates in the lead up to Guy Fawkes each year.

**i** If you would like to know more about importing explosives please contact Amanda McKenzie on 04 918 4817 or email [amanda.mckenzie@ermanz.govt.nz](mailto:amanda.mckenzie@ermanz.govt.nz).

## Importance of Interacting

Hazardous Substances Manager Mercedes Lentz has a strong industry and regulatory background, having worked with grass roots people in primary industry as well as Government regulators prior to joining ERMA New Zealand.

She knows how important it is for industry to have a clear line of communication to Government and Agencies and to feel that they are being heard. At ERMA New Zealand, Mercedes advocates getting out and meeting people in the industries for whom operating under the HSNO Act is a daily reality.

'I've been on both sides of the fence, so I know the importance of interacting with stakeholders on a personal level,' Mercedes says. 'Developing close relationships with the people who have to work with the policies we write is essential to continually improving the way we operate.'

Mercedes believes that engaging with industry is vital for identifying impediments with policies early. Industry feedback plays an important role in helping ERMA New Zealand to move forward.

She is also striving to develop stronger inter-agency relationships.

'From industry's perspective there should be a seamless interface on issues relating to hazardous substances. We're working with other agencies to make this a reality.'

## Pukekohe Site Visit

Vegfed believe the best way to get an understanding of the issues faced by their industry is to don a pair of gumboots and get out in the field and meet the people involved.

ERMA New Zealand's Robin Toy (Senior Advisor, Ecotoxicology, Transfer), Haydn Murdoch (Advisor, HS, Transfer) and Bridget Cheesman (Public Awareness Advisor) recently attended a Vegfed tour of the vegetable growing industry in Pukekohe with a group of Government officials.

The idea was the brain child of Ron Gall, Vegfed Executive Officer and a former public servant, who decided that Wellington's policy writers and law makers could gain a better understanding of industry needs by visiting growers and listening to their concerns.

The group visited a range of growers, from expansive hot houses with over 300 employees to medium sized mixed growers with 12 permanent employees. All expressed concerns over labour shortages and the increasing cost of compliance.

An interesting issue raised by NZ Hothouse's Lex Dillion, from ERMA New Zealand's perspective, was the number of parasitic insects available in this country. Whitefly is the biggest to NZ Hothouse's operation and in New Zealand they only have one parasitic wasp available, compared to places like Holland which have up to ten parasites to choose from. Lex also raised concerns that there are not enough beneficial insects in New Zealand either.

The ERMA New Zealand attendees' experience of the trip was extremely positive. 'You can never underestimate the value of industry visits. The chance to observe industry activities and gauge the impact our regulations may have on these activities is extremely valuable,' Haydn Murdoch said. 'At the end of the day, we aim to seek a balance between our duties to protect people and the environment and the practicalities of the businesses using the various hazardous substances and new organisms we control.'


Organisers were happy with the day as well. 'There has been a tremendously positive response from participants. Typical comments were that the day's activities were well targeted and organised, providing significant understanding of the vegetable industry and the issues it faces. Obviously Vegfed is both pleased and encouraged by such feedback and we look forward to involving further government representatives in another tour to be held inside the next 12 months', says Sarah Bromley, Vegfed Executive Officer and one of the organisers of the tour.

## Staged Implementation

Staged implementation allows those who use substances that are transferred to the HSNO Act to become familiar with the requirements of the law. It is a transition period that also provides opportunities to work through any problems that arise and come up with practical solutions.

Staged implementation for the transfer of dangerous goods to the HSNO Act commenced on 1 October 2004. By now all organisations with the initial letter A and B, those handling tracked substances or those with high volumes of highly flammable substances (that is 1,800 litres or more of class 2.1.1A substances such as LPG or 50,000 litre or more of petrol, aviation gasoline, racing gasoline, class 3.1B and 3.1C flammable liquid), should be compliant or have an implementation plan. Organisations with the initial letter C to Z will be required to become compliant over the next eighteen months (see table below).

Company initial	Need to be compliant by
A to B	Overdue
Ca to Ck	28 February 2005
Cl to Cz	31 March 2005
D, E, F	30 June 2005
G, H	31 August 2005
I, J, K, L	31 October 2005
M	30 November 2005
N, O, P	31 January 2006
Q, R, S	31 March 2006
T, U, V	31 May 2006
W, X, Y, Z, Other	30 June 2006

 To find out more please contact a Test Certifier or call the ERMA New Zealand HS 0800 Compliance Line on 0800 376 234.

## Transfer Update: Veterinary Medicines

The Transfer of Substances Group is currently working on the transfer of veterinary medicines (formerly licensed animal remedies) to HSNO. Consultation on the classifications and controls for most types of veterinary medicines has been completed.

To date, the Authority has approved the transfer of parasiticides (such as ivermectin drenches) and other large volume products (such as bloat remedies), and small-dose form, finished-product veterinary medicines (such as vaccines and antibiotics). The main types of veterinary products still requiring consultation are the dietary modifiers and electrolytes. We are on track to meet the scheduled transfer date of 1 July 2005.

From the consultation undertaken on veterinary medicines over the past 12 months, it has become apparent that there is some confusion over certain HSNO controls. Concern has been expressed about the intent of some controls and what is required to be compliant with them.

One of the concerns relates to labeling and problems that may arise for products imported from overseas. These matters can be worked through, and a number of options are available for meeting the requirements, including the use of product inserts.

The requirements which apply to the storage of large volume products on farms and in veterinary clinics are also an issue of concern. We are continuing to discuss these matters through meetings with interested parties, such as the New Zealand Veterinary Association and at visits to farms organised by Federated Farmers. As was the case when pesticides were transferred, there will be a period of transition before the controls are required to be implemented, providing more opportunity to discuss and communicate workable solutions to the issues raised.


Other controls have been varied considerably to avoid regulatory duplication with the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines (ACVM) requirements. For example, the approved handler and tracking controls for many products have been removed, particularly if the products have Prescription Animal Remedy (PAR) status under ACVM.

There are two matters which are yet to be resolved. Firstly, a final decision needs to be taken on whether an Approved Handler should be required when ecotoxic veterinary medicines are sprayed. This relates mostly to ectoparasiticides. ERMA New Zealand has made it clear that the final decision is yet to be reached.

Another matter that requires further work is the processing of veterinary medicines that were not notified under the Toxic Substances Act. Because the transitional provisions of HSNO did not include veterinary medicines, these substances were required to be notified.

A strict view would be that if a product was not notified, it cannot be transferred and we have advised all manufacturers with non-notified products of the situation. There are a number of options available to bring these products under the HSNO regime, and we are currently working with companies on this.

The concerns being raised now with veterinary medicines are not dissimilar to the concerns expressed in the lead-up to the transfer of pesticides which, nine months on, have not resulted in any fundamental problems. New Zealand's agricultural sector continues to operate in much the same way that it has in the past. ERMA New Zealand is committed to ensuring that veterinary medicines are transferred with minimal disruption to manufacturers and end users.

 If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact Jim Waters on 04 918 4816 or email [jim.waters@ermanz.govt.nz](mailto:jim.waters@ermanz.govt.nz).

### VTA Permissions

The HSNO Act allows the Authority to require that permission be obtained for the use of a substance before it can be used. As such, permissions for vertebrate toxic agents (previously known as vertebrate pest controls) will come into effect on 1 May 2005, with the exception of 1080.

Under the previous regime, the Department of Conservation (DoC) and the Ministry of Health (MoH) were responsible for issuing these permissions. Under the HSNO Act the responsibility for issuing these lies with the Authority, but the Authority will delegate the issuing of VTA permissions back to DoC and MoH. As these agencies already have robust processes, it makes sense that they continue to use the already established procedures and the same experienced personnel.

This is a legal change and from the user perspective there should be no difference in the way VTA permissions are issued.

## Anniversary of HS 0800 Compliance Line



Jess and Scott answer your compliance queries

The hazardous substances 0800 compliance line celebrates its one year anniversary on 12 March 2005. The initiative was originally set up for three months to cover general enquiries about Dangerous Goods licensing and Location Test Certificates.

Because of its popularity, the service continues today and has expanded to answer a wider variety of queries including pesticides and vertebrate toxic agent licensing.

Jessica Smith and Scott Common manage the phones, and together they receive incoming calls, respond to phone messages, and answer email queries. August 2004 was the busiest month to date, with over 1,000 incoming calls recorded.

**i** If you have a query about an HS compliance issue please call one of our operators 0800 376 234.

## Notice Outlines Safe Storage for POPs

New laws have been introduced to manage the disposal of certain outdated agricultural chemicals that contain persistent organic pollutants or POPs.

In December, ERMA New Zealand published a notice in the New Zealand Gazette that provides for initial steps in the implementation of the Stockholm Convention in New Zealand. The notice, which is a form of regulation, specifies how to store these chemicals safely and securely so that land owners can legally store old stocks of POPs until they can arrange for their safe disposal.

POPs have been deregistered as pesticides and off the market for over 15 years, but many farmers may still have some of them stored in their sheds. The chemicals remain intact in the environment for long periods of time, and can become widely distributed geographically, accumulate in the fatty tissue of living organisms and are toxic to humans and wildlife.

Last year, New Zealand signed The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), which requires all parties to commit themselves to a long-term international effort to reduce or eliminate health and environmental risks from chemicals specified in the convention. The organochlorine (chlorine-containing) chemicals listed as POPs under the convention include aldrin, chlordane, DDT, dieldrin, endrin.

The Gazette notice specifies that POPs held by farmers must be stored in suitable containers and kept in places which are both secure and suitable and sited so that the risk of contamination is minimised. It also outlines the standards and controls that collectors of POPs must comply with.

ERMA New Zealand, the Ministry for the Environment, Federated Farmers and regional councils have been working together to determine how the safe disposal of these hazardous substances can be managed.

A number of regional councils, in partnership with the Ministry for the Environment, have established a free collection scheme to help rural property owners safely dispose of unwanted chemicals and hazardous wastes, including POPs. To find out if a collection scheme is up and running in your area contact your regional council.

**i** For a copy of the gazette notice please go to <http://www.ermanz.govt.nz/hs/gn174.pdf> or call ERMA New Zealand's Public Awareness Group on 04 918 4826.

## New Organisms on Ice



A US air force ski-equipped LC-130 at the South Pole - photo courtesy The United States National Science Foundation

The New Organisms Group recently processed an amendment to an existing transshipment approval that will assist researchers involved in prestigious United States National Science Foundation (NSF) projects to complete experiments in Antarctica. This research aims to improve the understanding of the microbial diversity and ecosystem function of those unique environments encountered in the Antarctic.

Transshipments are approved under section 51 of the HSNO Act and allow for the 'importation into New Zealand of a hazardous substance or new organism solely for the purpose of export within 20 working days to another destination outside New Zealand'. These kinds of applications are commonly received for hazardous substances but to-date the Antarctic approval is the only new organism transshipment approval.

The amendment was at the request of the original approval holder, Raytheon Polar Services New Zealand Ltd, who provide the NSF with a transit point for both scientists and cargo destined for Antarctica. Raytheon provide this service via their Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry registered transitional facility near Christchurch International Airport.

Sonia Whiteman, an ERMA New Zealand New Organisms Applications Advisor, visited the facility last November and gained an insight into the logistics of providing this vital link for researchers to Antarctica. Procedure and policy were observed to be a key to successful operation of the facility, with security measures evident throughout the process.

The original approval allowed samples collected in association with NSF programmes that potentially contained new organisms to be transhipped from Antarctica via Christchurch to destinations outside New Zealand. Raytheon requested an amendment to allow the reverse trip so that scientists could take organisms of interest originally isolated from Antarctica back to the continent for the purpose of further research. This amendment was approved by members of the New Organisms Standing Committee on 29 October 2004.

## NZ's GMO Regulations on World Stage

American journalist Stephan Herrera recently visited New Zealand to document our Government's stance on genetically modified organisms for the publication *Technology Review*.

In an article entitled 'New Zealand: Green Haven for Biotech?' Herrera says that in the USA firms developing GMOs are disadvantaged by rules that are frequently ill defined, difficult to implement, and hotly contested. Herrera believes it's New Zealand 'of all places' that may have the solution. He says that 'in order to produce more (and more valuable) dairy and forest products on less and less acreage' our Government decided to accept GMO technologies and 'manage them wisely with a transparent, enforceable, publicly accessible, and scientifically robust regulatory framework.'

The article acknowledges that many environmentalists are dubious about the protocols surrounding GMOs, but points out that biotech firms consider the process costly and time consuming, but says New Zealand's GMO regulations are now considered among the world's most functional. He also quotes a veteran biotech investor from San Francisco 'Now anybody who is investing in agbio is paying attention to New Zealand.' Herrera also states that GMO research is not paralysed by legal action, but that organisations earn Government protection through public submissions, enforcement checks and regular status reports. 'No other country ensures comparable levels of public input, government oversight, or transparency,' he says.

The feared international backlash against exports from New Zealand has not materialised, according to Herrera. 'It's too soon to know whether New Zealand's new regulations will pay long-term dividends. New Zealand expects continuing growth in global demand for its leading exports, forest and dairy products.'

Herrera believes New Zealand's GMO regulations will likely be imitated by Europe, Canada, Australia, and Brazil, which could eventually bring business and jobs to New Zealand. 'European and American investors say they have noticed a distinct increase in business proposals from New Zealand,' says Herrera.

In the article, Herrera quotes Jeffrey Turner, CEO of Canadian biotech company Nexia as saying: 'There could be a huge advantage for some companies to develop their technologies in New Zealand now, because the country's regulatory protocol is seen as extremely robust and politically legitimate.'

**i** To read the article in full visit:  
[www.technologyreview.com/articles/05/02/issue/brief\\_newzealand.asp](http://www.technologyreview.com/articles/05/02/issue/brief_newzealand.asp)

Thanks to Stephan Herrera and Technology Review for allowing ERMA New Zealand to reproduce part of the article.

## STAFF PROFILE

**Sonia Whiteman**

### Ankle deep in black goo



Sonia Whiteman

In November last year another member of the New Organisms Group joined the doctoral ranks. Sonia Whiteman an Application Advisor since 2004 earned her PhD in plant pathology from Lincoln University. Her research investigated the decline of young grape vines caused by Petri disease or 'black goo'.

The disease is of increasing importance in wine production areas around the world. It is caused by the fungus *Phaeomoniella chlamydospora* which infiltrates the stem of the vine, causing deterioration in the quality and quantity of fruit and often killing the plant. Sonia concentrated on the epidemiology of the disease in particular the stage at which infection of new planting stock was likely to occur.

The results of her work show that grafted vines could become infected from the use of diseased root stock, infested soil, or from contaminated grafting equipment. This has led to the development of best practice recommendations designed to prevent infection in the grafting shed and in nursery beds by improved hygiene and crop rotation.

The choice of research topics was driven by Sonia's interest in viticulture and plant pathology, and a desire to take part in a practical and applied project in an increasingly important area of research. She was able to carry out this work thanks to funding received from the New Zealand Winegrowers.

Sonia also received funding from a Foundation for Research, Science & Technology Top Achievers Doctoral Scholarship which allowed her to attend the fourth International Workshop on Grapevine Trunk Diseases in January of this year in Stellenbosch, South Africa, where she presented a well received paper. Sonia was also able to fulfil one of her ambitions to see African wildlife with a visit to Kruger National Park.

*'Te Putara' is the conch shell, used in traditional ceremonies to call people's attention and make announcements.*

[www.ermanz.govt.nz/about/te-putara.asp](http://www.ermanz.govt.nz/about/te-putara.asp)

## Matire Harwood



Matire Harwood

Matire Harwood, Ngā Puhī, is the newest member of Ngā Kaihautū Tikanga Taiao. She decided to find out about joining after discussing it with Mere Roberts who is Matire's sister's master's degree supervisor and a past member of the committee. Matire applied, and became an official member in July 2004.

Matire works as a Clinical Research Fellow at the Medical Research Institute of New Zealand and is also a part time General Practitioner at Whai Oranga o te Iwi Clinic in Wainuiomata, Wellington.

Matire is enjoying learning more about how ERMA New Zealand manages the risks associated with hazardous substances and new organisms.

'Working in the medical field, where genetic modification often features, I am especially interested in how this technology impacts on people's health,' she says.

Matire was born in Auckland, but spent some of her younger years growing up in Victoria, Australia. She completed her Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery at the University of Auckland in 1993 and commenced her PhD in 2001 through the University of Otago. She is a member of the Wellington Regional Ethics Committee and provides advisory services to a number of organisations on the development of publications relating to Māori health. She currently sits on the executive committee of Te ORA, the Māori doctors association.

Her interests outside of work include basketball and touch rugby, but her main passion is waka ama. This year she competed in the National Sprint Champs with her team Wahine Purotu and won gold and bronze medals.

## Forest Research



A booklet produced by Forest Research to update iwi on the field trials of genetically engineered trees has been praised by ERMA New Zealand Māori Unit Manager, Linda Robinson.

Entitled *Te Maramatanga o Te Tipuranga*, the booklet begins by explaining the process of genetic engineering (GE) and looks at potential benefits of GE to Māori, as well as challenges and issues.

'This is a well balanced document that doesn't attempt to persuade either way on GE, but rather provides information so Māori can make up their own minds on where they stand', said Linda.

The main focus of the booklet is to inform hapu and iwi of Forest Research's work on the results of the field trial of genetically modified pine and spruce trees. Forest Research planted the field trials after obtaining permission from ERMA New Zealand. They also have approval to plant GE trees containing herbicide resistant genes and genes that may affect reproductive development. This work has not yet been undertaken as the main focus is currently on the

environmental risk assessment of GM trees using reporter genes.

Forest Research also received a blessing from the late Eria Moke (following endorsement from Ngāti Taeotu, Ngāti Hurungaterangi and Ngāti Te Kahu). The field trial is being carried out within the area of three hapu and is, therefore, likely to be of interest to local Tangata Whenua.

Forest Research recognise that this work has been the subject of much debate and that some people have concerns about using plant gene technology. For these reasons, they are proceeding with caution and the results are being evaluated by Forest Research scientists as well as monitored by the mandated representatives from local Tangata Whenua.

'Under HSNO, applicants are required to account Māori cultural values and the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi', says Linda. 'By producing this booklet Forest Research have shown that they understand the impact their work has on Tangata Whenua and they are committed to continuing to work with local hapu and iwi.'

Erina Hingston (Ngāti Manawa, Ngāti Porou, Tuwharetoa and Te Awara) produced the booklet as part of a three month University of Waikato work placement.

To obtain a copy of the booklet please contact Dr Julia Charity on 07 343 5441 or email [julia.charity@forestresearch.co.nz](mailto:julia.charity@forestresearch.co.nz).

## New Faces at ERMA New Zealand

### In Wellington

- ☺ Bevan Leever, Purchasing and Administration Officer, Corporate Services
- ☺ Philippa White, Acting Group Manager, Public Awareness
- ☺ Scott Common, o800 Compliance Operator, Public Awareness
- ☺ Mukesh Vakharia, Finance Officer, Corporate Services
- ☺ Asela Atapattu, Applications Advisor, New Organisms
- ☺ Chris Wilson, Analyst, Strategy and Analysis
- ☺ Tendayi Nyangoni, Senior Policy Analyst, Strategy and Analysis
- ☺ Robin Toy, Senior Advisor (Ecotoxicology), Transfer
- ☺ Del Clarke, Advisor, Corporate Services (Human Resources)
- ☺ Sarah McLean, Applications Advisor, New Organisms
- ☺ Tereza Mein, Personal Assistant, Hazardous Substances
- ☺ Barbara Olah, Advisor (HS), Transfer (L&S)
- ☺ Wesley Lagolago, Student, Transfer
- ☺ Rachel Helson, Policy Analyst, Strategy and Analysis
- ☺ Tony Johnson, Finance Manager, Corporate Services (Contractor)
- ☺ David Querido, Compliance Advisor, Hazardous Substances (Compliance)
- ☺ Doris Lo, Senior Finance Officer, Corporate Services



L-R: (Wesley Lagolago, Bevan Leever, Robin Toy, Sarah McLean, Tereza Mein, Barbara Olah, Tendayi Nyangoni, David Querido, Chris Wilson)

### In Auckland

- ☺ Briony Steele, Advisor (HS), Transfer (L&S) – Auckland
- ☺ Katrina Daysh; Advisor (HS), Transfer (L&S) – Auckland

We farewell Ingrid West, Graeme Dick, Loreen Chand, Timothy Strange, Paula Wightman, Ken Moselen and wish them well in their new positions.

## New publications from ERMA New Zealand

To obtain copies of these or any other publications, visit our website [www.ermanz.govt.nz/resources/alphabetical.asp](http://www.ermanz.govt.nz/resources/alphabetical.asp) or contact Donna Hickey on 04 918 4826.

### New publications

- ☞ Bulletin #58, 59, 60, 61
- ☞ Statement of Intent 2003/2004
- ☞ Annual Report 2003/2004
- ☞ Policy Document No. ER-PO-NO-01 10/04 - New Organisms
- ☞ Policy Document No. ER-PO-HS-01 10/04 - Hazardous Substances
- ☞ User Guide No. ER-UG-NO30-1 05/04 – Making an Application to Develop in Containment Outside of a Containment Structure any Genetically Modified Organism
- ☞ Protocol Document No. ER-PR-01-2 11/04 – Incorporating Māori Perspectives in Part V Decision Making
- ☞ Information Sheet 24 – Signage for Premises Storing Hazardous Substances and Dangerous Goods
- ☞ Information Sheet 25 – Management of Agrichemicals
- ☞ Compliance Guides:
  - Turf Management
  - Printers
  - Chlorine Users
  - LPG Users
  - Electroplaters
  - Dry-Cleaners
  - Waste & Water Treatment Plant Operators

### Revised publications

- ☞ The HSNO Act and Māori Information Sheet #17
- ☞ Protocol 3, Series 2 - Interpretations and Explanations of Key Concepts (ER-PR-03-11 02/05)
- ☞ Protocol 2, Series 2 - Decision Paths (ER-PR-02-06 02/05)

### Reader Survey

Included in this edition of Perspective is the latest reader survey. It's important that we gauge our readers' views on the publications strengths and weaknesses so we can develop it to suit your needs.

The survey form is postage paid and doesn't even need an envelope. If you want to share your views on what you think of Perspective or how you think it could be improved please take the time to complete the survey and send it in - we'd like to hear from you.

If you have any queries please contact Perspective's Editor, Bridget Cheesman on 04 918 4865 or email [bridget.cheesman@ermanz.govt.nz](mailto:bridget.cheesman@ermanz.govt.nz)

## In the Pipeline

**When:** 16-18 March 2005


**What:** New Zealand Institute of Environmental Health National Conference - Finding Solutions

**Where:** Te Papa, Wellington

**About:** Sessions to include:

- Dealing with P Labs
- Prosecution workshop
- Food Safety & the Future
- Housing & Health
- Emergency Management Preparedness

**Web:** [www.nzieh.org.nz](http://www.nzieh.org.nz)

 Contact Arnold Regan on 04 801 3744 or email [conference@nzieh.org.nz](mailto:conference@nzieh.org.nz).


**When:** 8 April 2005

**What:** Environmental Law 2005 - Examining current issues in resource management and risk.

**About:** 2004 marked the introduction and enactment of a number of high profile legislative reforms with environmental implications. This conference focuses on current issues in resource management and risk, bringing you up-to-date with new legislation, proposed reforms and other key issues.

Hear from our outstanding panel of experts including representatives from ERMA New Zealand, Russell McVeagh, Simpson Grierson, Tamatekapua Law, Minter Ellison Rudd Watts, Mitchell Partnerships and more!

**Web:** [www.lexisnexis.co.nz](http://www.lexisnexis.co.nz)

 Contact Ellen on 09 486 9572 or email [seminars@lexisnexis.co.nz](mailto:seminars@lexisnexis.co.nz)

**When:** 18-19 April 2005

**What:** Managing Hazardous Materials and Dangerous Goods

**Where:** Heritage Hotel, Auckland

**About:** Expert advice, direction and industry insight for achieving HSNO compliance

**Web:** [www.brightstar.co.nz/2005/events/conferences/april/A22/A22.htm](http://www.brightstar.co.nz/2005/events/conferences/april/A22/A22.htm)

 09 379 5892

## Web Bites

### Transferred Substances in Online Register


As substances are transferred from old legislation to the HSNO Act they are now being added to the ERMA New Zealand online registers. So far all transferred pesticides have been added.

This means that you are now able to search by trade name or chemical name for substances that you need to find the hazard classifications and controls for.

Visit [www.ermanz.govt.nz/search/registers.html](http://www.ermanz.govt.nz/search/registers.html) and type the name of the substance into the top field and click search. For more specific searches you can fill in more information in the search form.

The results page will list possible matching substances. Clicking the title will give you more detail about that substance and also provide a link to its classifications and controls.

Substances transferred prior to pesticides (Dangerous Goods and Scheduled Toxic Substances) will be added to the online register soon. All future transferred substances will be also added to the online register shortly after they are transferred.

 If you have any comments or suggestions regarding the website contact Joseph Lindsay on 04 918 4864 or email [joseph.lindsay@ermanz.govt.nz](mailto:joseph.lindsay@ermanz.govt.nz).

## Your Details

If your address details are incorrect, please let us know by emailing [bridget.cheesman@ermanz.govt.nz](mailto:bridget.cheesman@ermanz.govt.nz) or phone 04 918 4865.

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Your comments and contributions are welcome.

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