

Sustainability Matters

20th July 2017

A fortnightly selection of topical **news and views** about economic, social and environmental issues.
Designed especially for accountants and those who use the services of accountants.

Sustainability Matters is;

- Compiled and published by Ray Skinner of *Sustainability Matters*, providers of specialist services relating to sustainability and business support. **Business achieving a tomorrow for tomorrow's children.**

A4S Essential Guide to Social & Human Capital Accounting

"This guide is a product of [The Prince's Accounting for Sustainability \(A4S\)](#).

"It aims to help organisations integrate social and human capital accounting into business decision making. The Guide focuses on practical examples and suggested tools and guidance for how social and human capital can be integrated into decision making in ways that develop resilient and sustainable business models, and contribute to the creation of a sustainable economy.

"The guide will help you to put numbers on the issues that will affect the future of your organisation. It has been developed by finance teams for finance teams, but will also be of interest to anyone seeking to understand the key challenges faced by organizations when undertaking social and human capital accounting.

"Practical tools for finance professionals are at the core of the Guide. It includes case studies to bring social and human capital accounting to life. The Guide is based on the challenges finance professionals have experienced and the solutions and benefits they have derived.

"How to use the Guide;

- It is designed as an interactive PDF, including buttons and links, and so works best on a computer or tablet, but can be printed
- The navigation bar can help you move back and forward throughout the Guide
- It can be used on tablet computers, but some features will work best on a desktop or laptop computer...

"..... The Guide has been developed by finance teams for finance teams, but will also be of interest to anyone seeking to understand the key challenges faced by organizations when undertaking social and human capital accounting.

More: <http://naturalcapitalcoalition.org/a4s-essential-guide-to-social-human-capital-accounting/> plus www.accountingforsustainability.org/social-and-human-capital 106 pages, 6.689Mb

Source: Natural Capital Coalition, 27th June 2017. ❖

Do You Derive Benefits from *Sustainability Matters*?

If you do, you may wish to consider making a donation to support the back-office costs and hours of effort☺. Every contribution is much appreciated. How much? You choose. As a suggestion \$46 would be very welcome. GST receipts provided. Bank account details are;

Sustainability Matters
A/c No. 123 011 0249104 00
ASB Bank, Queen Street branch, Auckland.

SUSTAINABILITY GROUP EVENTS

Next event – Date of webcast yet to be 'sorted'.



Announcements in 'due course'. ❖

Insights into Integrated Reporting

"This report examines the reporting practices of organisations in the International Integrated Reporting Council's <IR> Business Network. It highlights the concrete benefits and challenges that the early adopters have experienced, and gives practical recommendations to guide more organisations on the path to Integrated Reporting.

"It's clear from this report's findings that Integrated Reporting is enabling a range of companies to articulate more clearly and fully what truly drives them forward. This, in turn, is leading to greater clarity on, and management of, challenges and opportunities. In essence, integrated reporting is a means to an end, rather than end in itself – and that final destination is integrated thinking. The reporters featured in this report talk powerfully about the broader and more insightful approach to managing their organisation that <IR> has enabled. [Page 5]

More: http://integratedreporting.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/ACCAInsights_into_Integrated_Reporting.pdf 48 pages, 3.544Mb

Source: CSEAR, 27th June 2017, page 7. ❖

Essential Skills for Next-generation CSR Leaders

CSR and sustainability practitioners must focus on building capacity in systems thinking, social innovation and external collaboration.

"..... So, what is involved in leading a transformative, catalytic, capacity-building role?

- Become adept at creating capacity with every action you take....
- Improve your ability to catalyse conversations and behaviour change. ...
- Commit to working together.
- Show intention
- Finally, retool your team to become enablers vs. doers to shift focus from less harm to net positive.

More: www.greenbiz.com/article/essential-skills-next-generation-csr-leaders plus www.conferenceboard.ca/Libraries/PUBLIC_PDFS/crs_whitepaper4_next-gen.sflb 10 pages, 408kb

Source: CSEAR, 27th June 2017, page 9. ❖

Helping World Leaders Become Green Leaders

"Solar Head of State (SHOS) is a non-profit organisation formed by a worldwide team of grassroots activists aligned with solar energy social entrepreneurs from around the globe. Our model was inspired by a campaign initiated in 1979 by US president Jimmy Carter who had solar water heaters installed on the White House to conserve energy and set an example for the American public amidst an energy crisis.

"In 2010, the President of the Maldives followed suit and in partnership with Sungevity we installed solar on the Maldivian Presidential Palace. This bold vision for implementing renewable energy was a catalyst for the creation of SHOS and

the impetus for our mission to increase global awareness of solar energy's potential by building an alliance of green leaders worldwide.

More: www.ecovoice.com.au/tasmanian-energy-hero-christine-milne-joins-global-campaign-to-help-heads-of-state-go-solar/ plus <http://solarheadofstate.org/>

Source: EcoVoice, 14th July 2017. ❖

Climate Change Presents Business Risks and Opportunities

"Climate change risk does not discriminate and organisations are feeling the heat.

"Cyclone Debbie was the never-ending cyclone. From far north Queensland to New Zealand's North Island, strong winds and flooding pounded communities and left clean-up costs in the billions.

"Unfortunately, such extreme weather events are 'playing out as predicted', says Ian Edwards CA, climate change adaptation specialist.

"While peril events – big disasters like Cyclone Debbie – make international headlines, it is the ongoing stresses of climate change such as droughts, sea level and temperature rises that 'really represent what is going on', says Edwards.

"The reality is organisations are feeling the effect of extreme weather events right now. Climate change risk doesn't discriminate."

"But where there is risk, there is always opportunity. If managed skilfully, and with appropriate strategies for adaptation governance, businesses can not only reduce climate risk they can also improve their reputation, investment portfolios and brand proposition. 'Accountants have a massive part to play', says Edwards.

"We are trusted client advisers, we are often seen as the voice of reason. These big trends are important to understand – how they are going to impact our clients' businesses.

"Mitigation or adaptation While mitigation focuses on the primary causes of climate change, adaptation covers a range of actions to help leaders and their organisations proactively address and capitalise on the opportunities that climate change itself creates.

"Good adaptation incorporates mitigation", says Edwards.

"Ultimately, how much we need to adapt is driven by how successful we are at mitigating.

"So if you look at energy efficiency, you can argue it's both mitigation and adaptation because it's both reducing greenhouse gas emissions but it's also reducing your exposure to potential regulatory changes in the future, such as carbon prices. They are inextricably linked."

"Since the 2015 catalytic speech of Mark Carney, Bank of England Governor, when he described 'climate change [as] the tragedy of the horizon', there has been growing international recognition of the magnitude of the challenges ahead....

More: www.acuitymag.com/business/climate-change-presents-business-risks-and-opportunities

Source: *Acuity*, June/July 2017, pp 82-84. ❖

Towards Carbon Neutrality Workshop

"Climate change remains one of the single greatest environmental and social challenges that we face. This workshop will provide detailed and practical insights on how your organisation can take positive action and be part of the global response.

"You will hear from a range of industry professionals working in the Tertiary Education, Council and Healthcare sector in Australia and New Zealand, including those working within certified carbon neutral organisations, specialist service providers and relevant government experts. The workshop will cover everything from developing a carbon emissions inventory, identifying solutions to reduce your organisation's carbon footprint, building the business case for certified carbon neutrality, selecting suitable finance options and tips on marketing your success.

"Designed to be highly interactive, all participants will have ample opportunities to unpack the specifics of their own situations and will leave the workshop with a range of opportunities that will be immediately applicable to their organisations.

When/Where: 14/15th Aug, Victoria University, Melbourne

More: www.acts.asn.au/events-2017/cpd-program/towards-carbon-neutrality-workshop/

Source: SBN, 13th July 2017. ❖

What You Might Not Know About Oxfam

Upon setting in place a project to move the international HQ of Oxfam to Nairobi, Kenya, Executive Director Winnie Byanyima (who recently visited New Zealand) outlines in a 20th July 2016 blog why the move from London and provides interesting insights into the formation, development and work of Oxfam.

More: <https://blogs.oxfam.org/en/blogs/16-07-22-oxfam-international-signs-historic-deal-move-nairobi-kenya>

Source: Oxfam, 8th July 2017. ❖

Without Feathers: Life Without Hope May be Our Best Chance for Peace

"Are you, like John Mayer sings, 'waiting on the world to change?' Or are you trying, as Gandhi advised to 'be the change that you wish to see in the world?' Maybe, like too many of us you're humming that old Dusty Springfield song, 'just wishing and hoping and thinking and praying. Planning and dreaming ...'

"In her poem '*Hope is the Thing with Feathers*', Emily Dickinson's creates a metaphor of hope through a little bird 'that perches in the soul' and 'never stops – at all.' It's always there inside. It never asks for anything and it never takes flight. It never reacts or participates. That's the thing about hope. It just hangs out with us, especially during dark nights. Although hope offers encouragement, it rarely mobilises our energy or our actions.

"Woody Allen parodied this metaphor in his book *Without Feathers*, about his neurotic sense of hopelessness especially in regard to God and death. It's funny. It's counterintuitive and it made me wonder is the opposite of hope really despair? Or is it participation?

"As a young girl growing up in the heart of the Bible belt, hope was affiliated with the concept of victim. 'I hope God will hear me'. It actually lowered expectations and consciousness because hope became something that was always delayed or put on the shelf. It was about waiting for the knight in shining armor or some magical evangelical leader to be the change. In my early life experience, it taught me to give my power away. It put the responsibility on someone else – to live a life in the fading light of day.

"Energetically, hope is fading, a light pale orange, where expectation and participation rise exponentially at the other end of the spectrum like a bright orange sun.

"President Obama took hope toward the other end of that spectrum when he wrote about the audacity of hope to move us forward as a nation as citizens of the world. But if we are truly willing to take big risks – to be daring, fearless brave and courageous, we must act and act consistently.

"One way is to live daily what you say hourly – to really model all the things that are significantly important to you. Instead of hoping one day the animals' lives won't be taken needlessly, live in the world of being a vegetarian. When you demonstrate your path, others may choose to join you. This is how change happens. But positive change only works if you stay in alignment with the light and proactive in everything you do. In other words, are you the same person in your morning meditation or Wednesday evening yoga class or Sunday morning church service?

"Don't answer until you check your recent tweets or your latest comments on a friend's Facebook page. Too many of us are shouting out in a persona not worthy of showing up in person. Too many of us are looking to affirm ourselves and our opinions rather than inform ourselves. To listen and learn. To stand in each other's shoes.

"We must remember our words have everlasting power. They don't disappear in the ethers. They stick to us. They stick to others. Consider your message.

"In no way does that mean to stop being bold or audacious. I want you to live your truth out loud. I want you to grow beyond hope – to move from good to amazing!

"So give me your pluck and your grit. Your energised and your radiant spirit. Give me your light not your life experience. Give me your peace and I'll join you.

"We don't have to wait on the world to change.

More: www.reneweveryday.com/without-feathers/

Source: PeaceNow, 10th July 2017. ❖

If Trump Can't Handle the Paris Accord, He'll Hate This Bold Idea

"In perhaps the most significant call to action written by scientists and policy experts since the Paris Agreement, a new plan released on Wednesday aims to map out an achievable pathway to halting the increase in global emissions by 2020 – decades ahead of the current pace.

"There's an obvious shock value here: 2020 is only three years away – before Donald Trump finishes a full presidential term.

"That ultra-tight timeline is intended as an invitation to what the authors call a 'turning point', and its urgency follows from a study earlier this year showing that, at current emission rates, we'll be guaranteed 1.5 degrees C of warming by 2019.

"We are in the age of exponential transformation and think such a focus will unleash ingenuity', the proposal's architects write. [Graphic]

"Spearheaded by world-saver and former Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Christiana Figueres – and endorsed by dozens of prominent climate scientists and experts – the plan spells out bold yet practical near-term actions in six key areas: energy, infrastructure, transport, land use, industry, and finance.

"Earlier this year, Figueres called the three-year target 'completely crazy' but 'achievable'. On Wednesday, she expanded on her optimism: She said sharply falling prices for renewable energy means that for the first time, 'we have tailwind on climate change as opposed to headwind'.

"Some of the plan's proposals are already on track,

More: <http://grist.org/climate-energy/if-trump-cant-handle-the-paris-accord-hell-hate-this-bold-idea/>

Source: *SnippETS*, 13th July 2017. ❖

The Regenerators: A Better Way to Farm

"Our rivers are crashing. We urgently need cleaner ways of farming.

"Now is the time for solutions... And the good news? Solutions exist, and we can already see them in action.

"Watch our beautiful new short film: *The Regenerators: A Better Way of Farming*.

"Find out why Sam's grass is so long, see what Greg does with his milk and hear what brings a soil scientist to tears...

"But first, it's time to celebrate! Just as I was writing this email, we got news that the Ruataniwha irrigation scheme is dead in the water. Thanks to you, the local iwi and other Hawke's Bay community members, Forest & Bird and Greenpeace – the dam is dead.

"This is great news and an important win because it means the writing's on the wall for all the other think big irrigation schemes that the Govt is funding to drive further dairy intensification and river pollution.

"But now back to normal programming - you're going to love this video!

"For the past two months Greenpeace has been travelling New Zealand talking to progressive farmers who are working hard to protect waterways and nurture soil.

"These 'Regenerative Agriculture' champions are using creative approaches to work with nature, not against it - and others around the world are starting to do the same.

"They're an inspiration because they have the strength to face the problems head on and they have the courage, creativity and determination to turn those problems into the solutions.

"In the film these farmers talk frankly about the role conventional agriculture plays in polluting our environment.

"But more importantly, they talk about how farming itself can provide solutions for clean rivers and lower greenhouse gas emissions.

More: <http://greenpeace.org.nz/theregenerators> plus www.greenpeace.org/new-zealand/en/press/Greenpeace-says-council-decision-means-dam-is-dea/ video 11:29.

Source: Greenpeace 13th July 2017. ❖

Best of: Winnie Byanyima

"The passionate and wise Winnie Byanyima, head of Oxfam International, came to visit New Zealand for the first time last week. [1st week of July]

"She spoke on everything from the huge number of displaced people around the world, the broken economic system and dangerous political power, to the devastating effects of the sale of arms, the unprecedented four famines across Africa and in Yemen, and the US withdrawal from the Paris Accord and climate change.

"Want all of that in a nutshell? You've come to the right place. Here's a collection of the top five things Winnie said on these important topics whilst here in New Zealand, part one.

"On the US withdrawal from the Paris Accord and climate change

"I think this American decision on the Paris Agreement is a real opportunity for the rest of the world to be angry and, therefore, more ambitious about tackling climate change... I'm seeing an opportunity to re-mobilise. And I think, New Zealand, you should lead. This is a region that's facing the consequences right now."

- [An Evening with Winnie Byanyima](#), Q Theatre event.

"This is a story that New Zealanders and people in the Pacific understand so well because you're already facing it. Everywhere I hear the stories of people who are being wiped out by cyclones, by hurricanes - you're at the forefront of this and you need to lead the world to demand that rich countries put down climate financing to help those who have not caused it, but who are facing the consequences."

- [Interview with Kim Hill](#), Radio New Zealand

"My uncle in my village in Uganda, who's just a herdsman, would take 180 years to emit the same carbon emissions as an ordinary American citizen would in one year. It's not fair for them to walk away."

- [Interview with Kim Hill](#), Radio New Zealand

"This is the greatness that's in humanity. What we are seeing today is that actually the poor countries, the developing countries, are showing more leadership on climate change than the rich countries who have the means to solve the problem and who caused the problem."

- [Interview with Kim Hill](#), Radio New Zealand

"On the refugee crisis

"Today my country, Uganda, very poor country, has more than a million South Sudanese refugees. We open our doors and we say 'come and share what we have, we are poor, but we can't let you die'. That is the principal of humanity, of humanitarianism, that all these countries signed on in the United Nations and are now turning their backs on... these are not people just escaping to look for a better future, they're fleeing for their lives."

- [Interview with Corin Dann](#), TVNZ's Q+A

More: www.oxfam.org.nz/blogs/2017/06/22/best-winnie-byanyima

Source: Oxfam, 8th July 2017. ❖

Can We Avoid Collapse?

"The problems we face as a global civilisation – from unsustainable population growth to the unprecedented destruction of natural environments – could mean we are on the edge of a cyclical crisis that will ultimately lead to our collapse.

"In Chapter 9 of the *Think Resilience* course, Senior Fellow Richard Heinberg explains the rise, faltering, and collapse of previous civilisations – and then considers where our current, global civilization is within that cycle.

"You can watch the first six chapters for free, or sign up to get immediate access to the entire 22-chapter course.

"Is it possible that with a greater understanding of the stages leading up to civilisation collapse and a clear path towards a truly sustainable future, we may be able to avoid the fate of those who came before us – or worse?"

More: <https://education.resilience.org/courses/self-directed-course/>

Source: Post Carbon Institute, 6th July 2017. ❖

Adding Sustainable Value Course

"Transform your sustainability initiatives into a plan that supports your business development goals

"Proxima have announced the dates for Adding Sustainable Value; an applied strategy and organisational development course that will give you the tools to develop a leadership approach to integrated sustainability

"This course [which runs over 19 weeks] is ideal for businesses that want to get much more out of their sustainability initiatives, and develop a plan to align them with business growth and development goals.

"Find out here how Kiwi Experience, Opus, Miraka and a whole lot of other businesses have driven new growth and improved earnings with a strategic approach to sustainability.

Where/When:

- Auckland 3rd August – with subsequent workshops on 31st Aug, 5th Oct, and 2nd Nov.
- Bay of Plenty 23/24 August – with subsequent workshops on 18/19 Oct.
- Wellington To be announced!
- South Island To be announced!

More: www.naturalstep.org.nz/index.php/adding-sustainable-value-2/

Source: SBN, 13th July 2017. ❖

Two Home Related Events On the Same Day!

"..... The EnviroSpec Seminar is designed to run in conjunction with the New Zealand Green Building Council's Design, Define, Incentivise events which are followed by the launch event of the new *Homestar version 4 tool*. Attendance is FREE for both events which are taking place in the same venues

Morning: *Product Intelligence for Green Building Outcomes*

" This is a 1.5 – 2 hour training session and update on product environmental certification requirements and their related compliance pathways into Green Building Rating programmes. It will include a mix of presentations from Product Suppliers and EnviroSpec and will be structured to identify; life - cycle environmental impacts the best available on the market today for each product category and the specific environmental certification requirements for each product category ...

Afternoon: *Update on Sustainable Design for Homes*

- Regulatory and Non-Regulatory Measures To Facilitate Quality Buildings , Homes and Places Council incentives increase the quality of buildings in their districts in terms of sustainability and environment footprint
- Launch of the Homestar Version 4 Tool. Homestar has undergone a major review of the tool to ensure a simpler, quicker and more marketable verification of quality. ...

When/Where: Auckland 25th July. Wgtn 1st Aug, Tauranga 3rd Aug, Queenstown 8th Aug, Chch 9th Aug

More: <http://envirospec.nz/assets/certificates/EnviroSpec-Seminar-Series-Materials-Intelligence2.pdf>

Source: SBN, 13th July 2017. ❖

Festival for the Future

"What are the mega trends across biodiversity, the environment, climate change? Explore these and other rapidly developing trends in our 21st century world. Develop skills in leadership, fundraising, marketing, finding supporters and building teams.

"Look after yourself with workshops on mindfulness and wellbeing.

"Work with others on developing innovative solutions to some of our most intractable modern problems.

"Emphasis of the festival is on young people.

When/Where: 4th - 6th August, Auckland

More: www.festivalforthefuture.org.nz/

Source: Tieke: *ECO Alerts & Events*, 12th July 2017. ❖

Smart Office Guide

"SBN has launched its new *Smart Office Guide*, in partnership with EECA Business. It's a one stop shop for revolutionising your workplace. The Guide's editor Andy Kenworthy gives us a look inside.

"The new SBN *Smart Office Guide* provides the latest at-a-glance best practice in sustainable workplace management. Working through it will help you reduce the cost, waste and environmental impact of your workplace. It will help maximise the creativity and productivity of the people who work with you. It will help retain them and attract new talent. ...

"It is the brainchild of SBN project lead James Griffin.

"Our mission is to produce the best information on this for New Zealand businesses and beyond', he says. 'We have applied the expert knowledge in the SBN network, complete with the latest workplace design thinking. We've done it in such a way that you can pick this up and run with it from day one. Whether you are a large corporate or an owner-operator, there's a wealth of useful advice inside.'...

"The guide covers all aspects of office design and management, from energy efficiency to waste and recycling. Each section is divided into three phases. The Right Now section offers improvements you can make immediately with little or no budget. The Right Investment section details how to get the most for your money. The Leading Edge section provides a taste of where the latest developments in office design and management may be headed.

"Most importantly the Guide features comprehensive To Do lists in each area, and offers support from the experts in each area among SBN's member companies.

"This is very much a workbook', says James. 'It's designed to live on your desk and get used.'...

More: <http://sustainable.org.nz/sustainable-business-news/strategy-improve-your-office-with-the-smart-office-guide> and <http://sustainable.org.nz/smart-office-guide-download/> 40pages 2.82Mb

Source: SBN, 9th May 2017. ❖

New Philanthropy Capital (NPC)

"NPC spoke with around 400 charity chief executives and trustees to take the pulse of the sector. This research is part of their wider State of the Sector work and included qualitative and quantitative data from in-depth interviews, roundtable discussions and a survey of 300 charity leaders. It explores the challenges charities face and how they're adapting.

"Many charities are getting bogged down by issues mostly out of their hands. It's true the sector faces many challenges. The research found some examples of sector leaders taking ownership and using what's in their power to move forward. NPC think many other organisations can learn from this. By working collaboratively, thinking creatively, and looking afresh at their relationships and resources, there's an opportunity to flip the narrative.

More: www.thinknpc.org/publications/charities-taking-charge, 62 pages, 1.05Mb

Source: SAN, 4th July 2017. ❖

Warehoused

"PeaceNow.com urges all of you to host of a screening of the eye opening movie.

"An estimated 12 million people live in refugee camps worldwide and only 0.1% are resettled, repatriated, or integrated into normal society each year. The feature-length documentary, *Warehoused*, explores the plight of long-term refugees through a glimpse into the lives of those living in Dadaab, Kenya, one of the world's largest refugee camps. We see the camp's inner workings through one man's journey to do everything in his power to provide for his family. This man's story is not unique however; it accentuates the much larger problems that long-term refugees have faced for centuries.

More: <https://warehousedthemovie.com>

Source: PeaceNow, 10th July 2017. ❖

Webinar: How the Adoption of Financial Accounting Standards Informs Sustainability Disclosure

"It took 40 years for US GAAP and financial accounting standards to take hold, from five generally accepted principles of accounting presented by the American Institute of Accountants in 1932 to the founding of the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) in 1973.

"Today, we face a similar need for corporate reporting to evolve. The markets need standardised sustainability information in the same way they needed standardised financial information after the Great Depression. As SASB codifies its 79 industry standards in Q1 2018, how can the adoption of financial accounting standards inform sustainability disclosure?

"Join Robert Herz, former FASB Chair, Marc Siegel, FASB board member, and Jeffrey Hales, member of the FASB's Financial Accounting Standards Advisory Council (FASAC) and Vice-Chair of SASB, to learn more about:

"How the development of financial accounting standards restored investor confidence and improved market efficiency, providing a model for sustainability disclosure;

- How changing investor interests have led to an ongoing evolution of accounting standards that will continue into the future
- How the adoption of a market standard for sustainability disclosure can benefit companies, investors, and regulators

When: 10:00am PST, 21st August 2017

More: <https://registration.sasb.org/webinar/register.jsp>

Source: SASB, 13th July 2017. ❖

Did You Know? – U.S. Dairy

In USA the average distance from dairy farm to processing plant is 275miles?

Or that in a typical week an average American family of four purchases approximately 96lbs of food and of that 22lbs (about 23%) goes to waste in the home?

Much more: www.usdairy.com/sustainability/reporting/us-dairy-sustainability-report Pages 4, 11, 2016 *U.S. Dairy Sustainability Report*, 32 pages, 2.58Mb

Source: Report Alert, 12th July 2017. ❖

Open Government Partnership New Zealand National Action Plan 2016-18

The National Action Plan 2016-18 ensures that New Zealand will be more open, accountable, and responsive to citizens." The focus on open and transparent access to the Government's budget process and that there is an accountable process. Plus improved access to Government data including via the Official Information Act.

"From 19th July until 1st August 2017 feedback is sought on our mid-term 'self-assessment of progress' on the Action Plan. Citizens will be able to do that via <http://www.ogp.org.nz/>.

More: The current version of the Plan (October 2016) is available at www.ogp.org.nz/assets/publications/New-Zealand-National-Action-Plan-2016-18.pdf [22 pages 262kb]. Progress for each of the 7 subject areas is at www.ogp.org.nz/our-progress Links at the page provide details of submissions received to date and an outline of actions suggested in them.

Source: Tim Marshal, 6th July 2017. ❖

Governance and Climate Change Risk

The article outlines ten common elements to enable adaptation governance, which include considering risk transfer systems and risk assessment frameworks, assessing key information sources relied upon for decision-making, and evaluating an organisation's reporting and disclosure system.

[PDF file is protected from extracting text. See the conclusion.]

More: www.dibbsbarker.com/publication/Governance_and_climate_change_risk.aspx 63.72Kb, pages

Source: Ian Edwards, 3rd July 2017. ❖

Conservation Land Can't be Destroyed for Dam – Supreme Court

"The Supreme Court has ruled protected conservation land cannot be destroyed for the Ruataniwha Dam.

"Forest & Bird challenged a deal between the Department of Conservation and Hawke's Bay Regional Council to acquire part of the protected Ruahine Forest Park so it could be flooded for the \$900 million water storage and irrigation project.

"The scheme would dam 22ha of formerly-protected land and give the Department of Conservation 170ha of nearby farmland in return.

"The council's investment arm appealed to the Supreme Court after the Court of Appeal last year ruled the process of acquiring the land would be unlawful.

"In its decision, the Supreme Court said the Conservation Act allowed the responsible minister to revoke protected status 'only where its intrinsic conservation values no longer warrant such protection'.

"The Court of Appeal was right to conclude that the revocation decision was unlawful because it was driven by the [Department of Conservation] Director General's view that there was net benefit to conservation ends to be obtained from the proposed exchange, which could be implemented only if protected status was revoked.

"That did not justify revocation under [Section 18(7) of the Act]."

"Forest & Bird chief executive Kevin Hague said the ruling confirmed the Minister of Conservation acted illegally when trying to swap the conservation land to make way for the dam.

"What that means is that conservation land - in this case the Ruahine Forest Park - that the public has always thought was probably protected, really is protected," he said.

"Mr Hague said the ruling meant the Ruataniwha Dam could not go ahead.

"The conservation group said the Supreme Court decision was a victory for protected conservation land across the country, which would remain unable to be sold or swapped for commercial ventures.

"Action on the dam was already on hold as the regional council conducted a review of the scheme.

"The council has spent \$20m developing the dam to this point without having acquired the land to build it on.

"It still has the option of seizing the protected conservation land under the Public Works Act to build the dam.

"Hawke's Bay Regional Council chairman Rex Graham said he personally opposed that option. 'Within our council there is a range of views. There are some people passionately for the dam and some people passionately against the dam, and a bunch of people in the middle. So they would have to sit down and consider that.'

"Regional councillor Peter Beavan earlier told Nine to Noon he thought seizing land under Public Works Act would be unlikely. The land swap was required to provide a big enough area to be flooded to form a reservoir and the scheme wouldn't be economically viable without that, he said.

"If the court says you can't do this, it'll be the end of the project - Peter Beavan from Nine To Noon. 'If the court says you can't do this, it'll be the end of the project. There is the possibility that you could take the land under the Public Works Act, but I think there's probably a feeling among councillors that they'd rather not go there.'

"Blair O'Keeffe, head of the council's investment company, HBRIC, said the decision was 'a setback for the scheme.

"Forest & Bird said the government could change the law to push the dam through but it would vigorously oppose this as well.

More: www.radionz.co.nz/news/national/334558/conservation-land-can-t-be-destroyed-for-dam-supreme-court

Source: Kevin Hague, Forest and Bird, Facebook Post, 6th July 2017. ❖

Listen to Naomi Klein on Her New Book *No is Not Enough* **Creating Living Buildings & Integrative Design Short Course**

"In this Guardian podcast. Naomi Klein unites all of her previous targets in her new book, warning readers to be aware of the pseudo-dramas created by politicians such as Trump. Our panic is harnessed and exploited by the elites, she argues, and neoliberalism's strongest impact has been to deprive us of the imagination to think up alternatives.

More: www.theguardian.com/books/audio/2017/jul/04/naomi-klein-trump-neoliberalism-left-failed-books-podcast-36:38, plus www.goodreads.com/book/show/34814047-no-is-not-enough

Source: Tieke: *ECO Alerts & Events*, 12th July 2017. ❖

'A Shoebox that Feels Bigger than It Is': Tiny Homes For the Homeless

"When pious architects choose to direct their talents toward a higher calling, they tend to do so in the form of towering cathedral spires, awe-inspiring sermon halls and grandiose vaulted ceilings.

"Derek Mah, an associate at NBRS Architecture, went for something a little more humble.

"At a Sunday sermon about two years ago at Community Church Hornsby, on the northern fringes of Sydney, he was approached about using his skills not to devise great big buildings in the name of God, but tiny houses for the homeless.

"The suggestion came from a friend in the congregation – David Woolridge, who, as Mah put it 'has always been passionate about trying to get guys off the street and helping them out. He came up to me and said he'd gotten an idea about how to solve homelessness.'

"It is a vision about to be realised in Gosford, on the NSW central coast, where three to four 'tiny homes' that each take up just 14 square metres will be completed next month as the first project of Woolridge's Tiny Homes Foundation, designed in partnership with NBRS Architecture.

"Think of the house as a shoebox', Mah suggests.

"Construction will be undertaken by unemployed people through training services provider the Skills Generator, which works with various programs including work-for-the-dole.

"The Tiny Homes Foundation says this is so the project can deliver an added dividend of helping those in need develop further skills. This is despite the fact that the work-for-the-dole scheme in general has attracted plenty of controversy, such as in April when the St Vincent de Paul Society described it as a 'punitive' scheme that risks creating 'a class of working poor' Tiny house projects for the homeless overseas have also prompted concerns – such ventures in the US have been criticised for housing people in substandard conditions,.....

More: www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/2017/jun/16/a-shoebox-that-feels-bigger-than-it-is-tiny-homes-for-the-homeless

Source: Editor, 29th June 2017. ❖

Climatologists Deny Existence Donald Trump

"Well over 500 climatologists, geologists and various scientific experts congregated in Paris for a special summit last week [3rd week June], entirely devoted to debating the existence of Donald Trump, the alleged 45th President of the United States.

"Even though the political phenomenon has featured more than prominently in the media over the last few years, and according to numerous sources at one point could even be 'observed' in Europe, many prestigious specialists remain skeptical with regard to the man's very existence.

More: www.hetbelegvanantwerpen.com/2017/06/06/climatologists-deny-existence-donald-trump/

Source: Mike Finlayson, Facebook, 28th June 2017. ❖

".... With the recent Certification of Tuho's Te Whare Kura at The Living Future Conference 17 in Seattle this year, NZ Aotearoa is demonstrating global leadership and a visionary path to the future we need. The *Declare* eco-label program is now up and running too, as our manufacturers embrace a future on zero toxicity for our people and buildings.

"Join this Professional Practice short course, aiming to share valuable information, great experience and inspire you to play your part in creating a sustainable future for Aotearoa.

"Graduates from previous years have been designing Net Zero Energy homes, building Flagship Living Education Centres or modeling Net Zero Energy Airports.

"The course is offered to clients, architects, construction professionals, design professionals, engineers, government and community workers enabling diverse and rich dialogue whilst learning to create authentic sustainable projects and outcomes.

"This is a two day block course on the Living Building Challenge and Integrated Design Process for people who want to transform their practice of sustainable construction and deliver restorative projects.

"As a Practitioner course, students are encouraged to apply the learning to a real project.

"The course offers deep understanding and practice of;

- How can we live sustainably on this planet?
- The Living Building Challenge goals as drivers for positive change of our buildings and communities
- Lots of case studies
- The challenges and solutions to achieving the goals in NZ
- How do we work together to create the best outcomes for the budget, time and quality constraints?

"The course tutor is Jerome Partington, a leading NZ advocate and sustainability professional with 25 years of experience in transformational architecture, education and construction. Guest tutors include Caroline Robinson of CABAL

Where/When:

- Christchurch Tues + Wed 15/16 August 2017
- Auckland Wed +Thurs 23/24 August 2017
- Dunedin February 2018

More: www.op.ac.nz/study/sustainable-practice/creating-living-built-environments/

Source: Living Future NZ Collaborative, 5th July 2017. ❖

Plastic Straws Usage Becomes a Public Debate Issue

"500 million straws are used and discarded every day in the United States alone. That's 175 billion a year filtering into landfills and littering waterways and oceans, according to some information provided by The Last Plastic Straw.

"This global movement strives to educate the public about the 'absurdity of single use plastic, its effects on our health, our environment, and our oceans'. Its main aim is to eliminate from the source, the use of single use plastic. To achieve this ambitious goal, they invite all bars and restaurants to be part of the movement to eliminate plastic pollution from the source by simply stating on menus 'Straws available upon request'.

More: <https://actions.sumofus.org/a/mcdonald-s-is-polluting-our-oceans-2/> plus <http://nonprofit.xarxanet.org/news/plastic-straws-usage-becomes-public-debate-issue> and <http://thelastplasticstraw.org/>

See graphic – US daily consumption sufficient to wrap around the world's circumference 2.5 times/day.

Source: SumOfUs, 15th July 2017. ❖

Contributions and feedback are welcomed.

Send your news items, handy hints, case studies, suggestions, comments and questions to Ray Skinner of *Sustainability Matters*.

eMail: ray@sustainabilitymatters.co.nz Phone: +64 (09) 443 0773 Web: www.sustainabilitymatters.co.nz