

Sustainability Matters

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Business achieving a tomorrow for tomorrow's children

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A New Beginning for Climate Reporting

"Could it be that the press, especially the US press, is finally waking up to the climate story?"

"It's been 30 years since Bill McKibben rang the warning bells about the threat of man-made climate change – first in a piece in *The New Yorker*, and then in his book, *The End of Nature*. For most of that time, the response from most quarters of the media, especially in the United States, has been either silence or, worse, getting the story wrong. Reporters and their news organisations sidelined climate stories as too technical or too political or too depressing. Spun by the fossil fuel industry and vexed by their own business problems, media outlets often leaned on a false balance between the views of genuine scientists and those of paid corporate mouthpieces. The media's minimisation of the looming disaster is one of our great journalistic failures.

"This piece is published in partnership with *Covering Climate Now*, a global collaboration of more than 250 news outlets to strengthen coverage of the climate story.

"It is heartening, then, to report the press may at last be waking up to the defining story of our time. At the end of April, *Columbia Journalism Review* and *The Nation* launched *Covering Climate Now*, a project aimed at encouraging news organisations, here and abroad, to raise their game when it comes to climate coverage. We weren't going to tell people what to write or broadcast; we just wanted them to do more coverage, and to do it better. Close the gap, we urged them, between the size of the story and the ambition of your efforts. Try it for a week, then report back on what you learned.

"We had a hunch there was a critical mass of reporters and news outlets wanting to do more climate coverage, and hoped by highlighting that critical mass, we could also help to grow it. That's exactly what has happened. Our initiative has been embraced by more than 250 news outlets from across the United States and around the world – big outlets and small, print and digital, TV and radio – with a combined audience of well over 1 billion people. Their response has been amazing, and gratifying.

"We believe *Covering Climate Now* is the biggest effort ever undertaken to organise the world's press around a single topic. You'll find a list of partners here**

More: www.thenation.com/article/climate-change-journalism/

Source: Editor, 17th September 2019

Editor: ** Includes seven NZ organisations. 🌱

Leadership NZ - 2020

"If you're a mid-career to senior executive professional in New Zealand who cares for the future of New Zealand, check out what the **NZ Leadership Programme** and the **Moana Programme** (for Pacific Leaders) can offer to grow you into a more influential and effective LEADER who creates individual, organisational and community change and success.

"BE CURIOUS / APPLY WITHIN

Applications Close: Soon!

More: www.leadershipnz.co.nz/programme/applications-faqs
plus www.leadershipnz.co.nz/applications-faqs

Source: Leanne Holdsworth, 5th Sept 2019. 🌱

UN Climate Action Summit September 2019

"This UN Climate Action Summit aims to raise the global level of ambition to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement and to galvanise action to keep the 1.5°C temperature goal within reach.

"[With summit pre-events on 21st and 22nd] starting 23rd September in New York, the Summit will bring together national and local governments, private sector, civil society, and other international organisations to develop ambitious climate solutions across the nine action areas. These include: a global transition to renewable energy; sustainable and resilient infrastructure and cities; sustainable agriculture and management of forests and oceans; resilience and adaptation to climate impacts; and, public and private sector investment in initiatives which contribute to a net zero global economy.

More: www.un.org/en/climatechange/index.shtml plus www.un.org/en/climatechange/climate-action-areas.shtml

Source: Tieke: *ECO Alerts & Events*, 4th September 2019

Note: *NZ Herald* has daily feature articles for the week commencing 16th September. Similarly, TV1 among numerous other media world-wide. There is a prospect there will be extended coverage for at least the week following alongside coverage of the Rugby World Cup in Japan. 🌱

School Strike 4 Climate NZ

"School Strike 4 Climate NZ are holding a third strike to demand our Government and elected members take urgent and meaningful action for the climate and our collective future. New Zealand students will be uniting with students from across the world once again but this time, in a general strike with the general population.

"We will not back down: we will continue to make our voices heard until all of our demands are met. Our representatives need to show us meaningful and immediate action which safeguards our futures on this planet. Nothing else will matter if we cannot look after the Earth for current and future generations. This is our home.

"To recognise the significant threat climate change poses to all our futures, livelihoods and very existence we are calling on all New Zealanders to join us and stand in solidarity on 27th September for urgent action on the climate crisis. Student strikers are encouraged to bring their parents along to the strike and the general population are invited to get involved.

Where/When: Nationwide, Friday 27th Sept. Numerous other countries Friday 20th

More: www.schoolstrike4climatenz.com/

Source: Various. 🌱

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Sustainability Matters

A/c No. 123 011 0249104 00

ASB Bank, Queen Street branch, Auckland.

2040

"To celebrate World Green Building Week and the Festival of Architecture, NZGBC and NZIA present this free screening of *2040*, an inspiring, positive and uplifting film tackling the challenging topic of global warming and climate change.

"What's your 2040? Global warming, sea level rise, civil unrest, marine degradation – or a world that's healthier and fairer than the one we live in today? As reprieve from the usual doom and gloom stories about the future of our planet, Australian filmmaker Damon Gameau (*That Sugar Film*) jumps on a plane (offset with certified carbon credits) to travel the world in search of a better 2040. His daughter Velvet, whom we meet in the opening scene – they're planting a tree – will be 27 in 2040 and Gameau's narration – 'So, Velvet ...' – is addressed to her.

When/Where: 10:00am Sun, 29th Sept, Auckland. Also different venues and dates NZ and internationally

More: www.nzgbc.org.nz/upcoming-events/httpwww.eventbrite.co.nze2040-film-screening-tickets-69679642687 plus www.eventbrite.co.nz/e/2040-film-screening-tickets-69679642687

Source: NZGBC, 6th September 2019. 

Wooden Skyscrapers Sprout Over Concrete Concerns

"For more than a century, countries have raced to build the world's tallest buildings with concrete and steel. Now, a quiet contest in constructing tall wooden buildings, from Amsterdam to Tokyo, underlines growing environmental concerns over concrete.

"With rapid advances in engineered wood, and authorities relaxing building codes, wooden structures are sprouting across Europe, Canada, the United States, and in the Asia Pacific region.

"At 73 metres (240 ft), Amsterdam's Haut building is said to be the world's tallest wooden residential tower.

"Vancouver plans a 40-storey building it says will be the world's tallest, a title also claimed by Sumitomo Forestry's 350-metre skyscraper in Tokyo.

"The interest is definitely being driven by environmental concerns – the amount of damage we're doing with concrete is unbelievable', said John Hardy, a sustainability expert in Bali, Indonesia. ...

"The manufacture of steel, concrete and brick accounts for about 16% of global fossil-fuel consumption – and up to 30% when transport and assembly of the materials is considered, according to the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies. ...

"Concrete is also blamed for rampant sand mining, which has damaged the environment and hurt livelihoods in Southeast Asia. ...

"Innovations such as glue-laminated timber, laminated veneer lumber, and cross laminated timber – strips of wood glued together to make beams – are creating more uses for structural timber in residential and commercial projects, he said.

"Structural timber is much lighter than concrete, cuts risks in earthquakes and can create far more attractive interiors', he said.

"As tall timber buildings become more popular, the perceived disadvantages – fire safety, durability and the supply chain – are being overcome with good design, excellent case study buildings, and technology for engineered-wood products.'

More: <http://news.trust.org/item/20190821025223-v0bc3/>

Source: *Carbon News*, 23rd August 2019

Editor: Christchurch receives a mention. 

'You Protect What You Love': Why Biodiversity Thrives on Indigenous-managed Lands

"Recent study finds the number of unique species is 40% greater on protected land in Canada.

"What we're seeing in Canada is when indigenous peoples are part of the decision making, we have areas which are well protected and well managed', Courtois, who heads the Indigenous Leadership Initiative, ...

"A recent study from the University of British Columbia found biodiversity on indigenous-managed lands across three countries – Canada, Brazil and Australia – is higher than on non-protected lands.

"On average, indigenous-managed and protected lands in Canada are home to around 190 unique species of amphibians, mammals, reptiles and birds. That number drops to 126 on non-protected lands, according to the study.

"A separate UN report from May similarly found species of plants and animals were better protected on indigenous-led lands.

"The lessons for me, from an Innu point of view, is you protect what you love and you love what you spend time with and depend on', Courtois said. 'That ethic of care and responsibility is innate in many indigenous cultures and certainly in mine.'...

"If you can have your economy a better reflection of the patterns of what's going on in nature around you, then that economy itself can be more resilient and respectful'

More: <https://naturalcapitalcoalition.org/you-protect-what-you-love-why-biodiversity-thrives-on-indigenous-managed-lands/>

Source: Natural Capital Coalition, 28th August 2019. 

Can New Zealanders Keep Flying and Reduce Their Carbon Footprint?

A thorough and thought provoking series of three articles by Wallace Rae which assess the current situation, outlines the challenges and considers some possibilities about long distance air travel. In summary New Zealand and New Zealanders face seemingly intractable challenges and at the very least have to heavily decrease outbound and inbound passenger and freight traffic – including inbound tourism – and/or pay significant sums for mitigation (offsets) which in reality do nothing to reduce carbon. Partial remedies would include zero expansion of airports and indirectly, for example, could avert the need for proposed heavy or light rail to Auckland Airport.

More: <https://pureadvantage.org/news/2019/06/18/can-new-zealanders-keep-flying-while-reducing-their-carbon-footprint-1-3/> and linked pages

Source: Pure Advantage, 12th September 2019. 

AgResearch Project to Determine Whether Dairy Cows Can be Potty Trained

"A farmer at an MPI agriculture gases meeting delighted in telling me about trials to train cows to pee and poo in the right place.

"It's happening, folks, in NZ and elsewhere.

"Alison Vaughan on TedX reports cows learning in 15 minutes (eat your heart out, parents!). Reduced nitrogen on pasture, lower stream pollution, fewer emissions, less milking shed management...

More: www.agresearch.co.nz/news/q-and-a-luke-cooney-on-potty-training-cows/ plus www.youtube.com/watch?v=n_fNdJT4Tk 11:52 video of April 2017

Source: Lindsay Wood, Climate Matters via Bruce Gilkison, 27th August 2019. 

Farewell to Plastic: Key Take-outs From SBN's Conference

"*The End of Plastic As We Know It*" brought together more than 300 people to learn how to tackle one of the biggest issues of our time. We came away with our hearts and minds stimulated, and inspired to act. Here's what we learnt.

"Plastic is the poster child for our throw-away culture. It has snowballed into one of human-kind's greatest challenges, and it touches us all. It affects almost every aspect of business sustainability – from waste and energy to supply chains, procurement, transport, carbon, wellbeing and more. It's an issue we can't ignore.

"At the Sustainable Business Network's 2019 national conference, we watched footage of microplastics in the ocean. We heard from government about upcoming policy. We learnt about scientific advances. We were inspired by businesses that have been plastic-free from the get-go. We heard about corporates tackling plastics in their supply chains. We took an early-morning walk to reflect on the ancient waters under Queen Street. We saw life in the waters of the Gulf and learnt about its mauri. We workshopped solutions. And we came away inspired and galvanised to work together to tackle this mammoth issue.

...
More: <https://sustainable.org.nz/sustainable-business-news/farewell-to-plastic-key-take-outs-from-our-conference/>

Source: SBN, 10th September 2019. 

Measuring up Impact Self-assessment

"*Measuring up* is a free, step-by-step self-assessment tool that allows you to review and improve your organisation's impact practice – that is, the way you plan, evidence, communicate and learn from the difference that your work makes.

"Over 2,000 individuals have already used *Measuring up* for their organisations.

"*Measuring up* is simple and straightforward to use.

"The self-assessment tool:

- Is best completed by one lead, with input from a range of other people who have different perspectives on your organisation
- Usually takes between 1-2 hours to complete
- Can be carried out at any point in a project or work cycle, to plan for future impact practice or to assess how your impact practice has been so far.

More: www.inspiringimpact.org/self-assessments/measuring-up

Source: SAN, 27th August 2019. 

Silence: A Social History of One of the Least Understood Elements of Our Lives

"A compelling history of silence as a powerful shaper of the human mind – in prisons, in places of contemplation, and in our own lives.

"Through her evocative intertwined histories of the penitentiary and the monastery, Jane Brox illuminates the many ways silence is far more complex than any absolute; how it has influenced ideas of the self, soul, and society. Brox traces its place as a transformative power in the monastic world from Medieval Europe to the very public life of twentieth century monk Thomas Merton, whose love for silence deepened even as he faced his obligation to speak out against war. ...

More: <https://orionmagazine.org/review/silence/> plus www.goodreads.com/book/show/37569323-silence

Source: Orion, 30th August 2019. 

Think Globally, Act Locally?

"Today we are seeing an inspiring resurgence of progressive action at the local level, even as reactionary nationalist movements in Europe and beyond seek to position themselves as the true voices of a renewed localism. What are the prospects for such locally centred political engagement in a time of rising political polarisation and conflict? How can local action help advance personal liberation and social justice? More broadly, how can it further our goals for global transformation?"

"The current upsurge of local action by both progressives and radical municipalists is fueled by several complementary impulses. First, the limitations of national politics and contemporary international institutions have caused growing frustration. The stranglehold of corporate influences – from fossil fuel interests to the financial sector – over national and transnational institutions often overwhelms resistance, whether the focus is on the US government, the European Union, or comparable structures around the world. For people seeking meaningful action on the global climate crisis, rising economic inequality, or various immediate threats to people's health and well-being, local measures often allow the most attainable initial steps toward the broader transformations we seek. Frustration with the limitations of national or transnational politics can thus be channeled toward a pragmatic pursuit of attainable steps toward justice and community renewal. [Long article]

More: www.resilience.org/stories/2019-08-20/think-globally-act-locally/

Source: Post Carbon Institute, 31st August 2019. 

Ecobob.co.nz – Online Business for Sale

"Ecobob.co.nz requires new ownership! If you're passionate about the environment, eco-minded or just care about quality homes and eco-friendly products, this could be the new venture you've been dreaming about. This website can be managed from anywhere in New Zealand.

"Established in 2007 ...

More: www.trademe.co.nz/business-farming-industry/businesses-for-sale/internet-technology/auction-2274128020.htm

Source: Rob Skinner, 8th September 2019

Editor: Tempting! 

Science in Environmental Decision-Making

"Science is critically important to environmental decision-making. From U.S.-based laws such as the National Environmental Policy Act, Clean Water Act, and Clean Air Act to international treaties such as the Montreal Protocol, these science-based environmental policies are fundamental to protecting Earth's core ecosystem services. In today's world, where environmental challenges have grown more complex, the risks are greater, and the stakes are higher, the role of science in environmental decision-making remains as essential as ever.

"NCSE 2020 will help chart a course toward a future in which the science-policy interface is robust and foundational to environmental decision-making. The Annual Conference will bring together scientists, decision-makers, industry leaders, and subject-matter experts to effectively bridge the cultures of science and policy-making toward a more resilient and sustainable future. ...

"Science in Environmental Decision-Making to concrete outcomes is useful to scientists, government, industry, and non-profit leaders. ...

When/Where: 6th to 9th January 2020, Washington, D.C.

More: www.ncseglobal.org/conference/conference-vision

Source: NCSE, 13th September 2019. 

Action for Healthy Waterways

"Our water is suffering as a result of urban development, agriculture, horticulture, forestry and other human activities. There is also a lack of robust regulation, monitoring and enforcement.

"The [NZ] Government wants to improve the current management of freshwater.

"It is proposing new requirements which would:

- Strengthen Te Mana o Te Wai as the framework for freshwater management
- Better provide for ecosystem health (water, fish and plant life)
- Better protect wetlands and estuaries
- Better manage stormwater and wastewater, and protect sources of drinking water
- Control high-risk farming activities and limit agricultural intensification
- Improve farm management practices.

Close: 17th October, 2019 flexibility to 31st Oct

More: www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/fresh-water/action-healthy-waterways-discussion-document-national-direction-our

Source: *Tieke: ECO Alerts & Events*, 11th Sept. 2019. 

The Economics of Biodiversity: UK Treasury's Call for Evidence

"In March 2019, a new independent global review was announced by HM Treasury to assess the economic value of biodiversity and to identify actions which will simultaneously enhance biodiversity and deliver economic prosperity. ...

"The review will report ahead of the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in China in October 2020. The evidence in the review aims to help shape the international and UK response to biodiversity loss, including the successors to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. It also aims to inform global action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals. The primary audiences for the review are economic and finance policy and decision makers who significantly influence the response to biodiversity loss through policy, finance and investment decisions.

"The review has been asked to examine the evidence on:

"The review has been asked, based on this evidence, to provide an assessment of:

"Read on and respond to the call for evidence at www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-economics-of-biodiversity-call-for-evidence

Close: 6th November 2019.

More: <https://naturalcapitalcoalition.org/the-economics-of-biodiversity-uk-treasurys-call-for-evidence/>

Source: Natural Capital Coalition, 28th August 2019

Editor: Twenty excellent questions are posed. 

AIG the All Blacks and Adani

Stories pointing to reputational damage and more. Pressure mounting on AIG to come clean on insurance cover for the proposed mega coal mine at Carmichael in Queensland.

More: www.insurancebusinessmag.com/au/news/breaking-news/all-blacks-dragged-into-adani-saga-178035.aspx plus www.afr.com/companies/financial-services/all-blacks-dragged-into-stop-adani-campaign-20190915-p52r9q and www.marketforces.org.au/tip-off-reveals-aig-is-adanis-insurer/ also www.scoop.co.nz/stories/BU1909/S00415/all-blacks-drawn-into-adani-mine-dispute.htm

Source: Various 17th and 18th Sept

Editor: And the 'winner' will be?? 

Universal Design – Make Homes Work Better

"We spend a lot of time at home, so it is important to ensure our homes suit our needs and can accommodate future changes in our needs. Universal design helps to plan for the future and enables you to incorporate strategies to proof your home.

"Universal design features can be easily incorporated in the design of your house while you are building or renovating. This will save you time and money in the long run as it becomes more difficult and expensive to start a new project specifically to add these features later.

"Universal design aims to support you throughout all the phases of life, whether you are raising small children or needing to ensure your home works for you as you age. Some things to consider include: access to your entrance level (no steps), and the width of hallways and doorways. These are useful for baby strollers as well as wheelchairs and walkers. ...

"Universal design is not just for people with limited mobility, it benefits everyone

More: <https://help.mycare.co.nz/hc/en-us/articles/360000406755-How-to-make-your-home-work-better-for-you> plus www.lifemark.co.nz/

Source: MyCare, 27th August 2019

Editor: In the last 12 months 990 Lifemark® certified homes have been built in New Zealand. 

Old Indian Technology Gets an Inspirational Lift

"Inspired by his daughter, this takeaway owner is trying to ditch plastic containers! 

More: www.facebook.com/BBCOne/videos/380354869559719/ 2:07 video

Source: SBN, 10th September 2019. 

Irish Teenager May Have a Solution for a Plastic-free Ocean

"A teenager from Ireland may have found a way to rescue our oceans from the growing plastic pollution problem.

"A walk on the beach led Fionn Ferreira to develop his project on microplastic extraction from water for the annual Google Science Fair. The project won the grand prize of \$50,000 in educational funding at this year's event.

"The 18-year-old said while he was out on a walk in his coastal hometown of Ballydehob, he ran across a stone with oil and plastic stuck to it – something he says he's become more aware of in recent years. ...

"Because of the tiny size of these microplastics, they're able to pass through water filtration systems and ultimately harm marine life and damage oceans.

"Americans alone eat, drink and breathe between 74,000 and 121,000 microplastic particles each year depending on their age and sex, according to a recent study. If you drink bottled water only instead of tap water, you can add up to 90,000 plastic particles to your estimated intake.

"Are you eating plastic? 01:30 video

"In the presence of water, ferrofluids – nontoxic magnetic liquids made up of oil and magnetite, an iron-based rock mineral – attract the microplastics because both have similar properties.

"For his project, Ferreira added oil and magnetite to water and mixed in a solution emulating plastic waste in the ocean.

More: <https://edition.cnn.com/2019/08/01/us/irish-teen-wins-google-science-fair-trnd/index.html>

Source: *SnippETS*, 29th August 2019. 