

Sustainability Matters

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Business achieving a tomorrow for tomorrow's children

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Wild at Art: Threatened Species Art Competition for Kids

"Wild At Art: threatened species art competition for kids' is a collaboration between Forestmedia Network and the Australian Conservation Foundation. In 2021, over 3000 children from across Australia took part in the competition. The organisers would like to thank every single child who picked up their paint brushes and pens to help raise awareness of Australia's threatened animals and plants. With so many incredible entries, the judging panel had a very difficult time narrowing down to just 100 finalists. In fact, the standard was so high they chose to increase the number of finalists from 70 to 100.

"This virtual exhibition displays the 100 finalist artworks. It includes artworks from individual children aged 5-12, as well as groupworks created by groups of school children. Accompanying the artworks are written explanations and stories created by the artists.

More: www.acf.org.au/wild_at_art_winners plus www.artsteps.com/view/61233b92ffc8e0dd63bd9904
Take a tour through the virtual rooms so see the paintings.

Source: ACF, 22nd September.

Editor: Truly wonderful paintings. 

KiwiRail Gets World-first Green Loan Certification for New Ferries

"KiwiRail's \$350m loan facility to finance the purchase of two new Interislander ferries has become the first shipping loan in the world to be certified by the Climate Bond Initiative (CBI).

"The Climate Bonds Standard and Certification Scheme <<https://www.climatebonds.net/certification>> is used globally by bond issuers, governments, investors and financial markets to prioritise investments which genuinely contribute to addressing climate change. The scheme uses rigorous scientific criteria to label bonds, loans and other debt instruments to ensure they are consistent with the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement.

"The new ferries<<https://youtu.be/ob7EZDAs7hA>> themselves are a huge leap forward in design, efficiency and comfort", Mr Miller says.

"These ferries are making a 50-year advance in technology. We're going from ferries which are well over 20 years old, to state-of-the-art, future-proofed ferries which will last 30 years, and carbon emissions reduction has been a big part of the design.

"The improved and optimised hull design has resulted in wake energy reduction of more than 50% lower than the maximum allowed in the Marlborough Sounds, and means less energy is needed to power the ferries. The use of azimuth thrusters means the ferries are highly manoeuvrable, which improves safety and reliability.

"The first arrives in 2025 and the second in 2026,

More: www.scoop.co.nz/stories/BU2109/S00494/kiwirail-gets-world-first-green-loan-certification-for-new-ferries.htm

Source: Carbon News, 23rd September 2021. 

Catalyse Change in Your Supply Chain with Responsible Procurement

"An introduction to the building blocks of a responsible procurement framework and the companies that are putting them into action.

"Supply chains have become a focal point of conversations around a company's performance. Organisations and their stakeholders now want assurances that their values are reflected throughout the supply chain.

"A responsible procurement framework helps companies to mobilise positive change through the different tiers of their supply chain. By prioritising suppliers that align with their environmental and social values, they can encourage a much wider range of companies to shift the dial on those issues. This means working with companies that have similar values and are willing to put in the work to comply with the preferred supplier requirements – not just companies which already meet the requirements.

"We look at the companies putting responsible procurement frameworks into action and the three core components required for success: stakeholder engagement, screening, and supplier code of conduct.

"The first step is to understand the areas which are most important to your organisation.

"A responsible procurement framework guides and formalises this process. While the ripple effect will be felt most strongly by the top tier suppliers, this will soon extend to their suppliers, and it will go on to catalyse a supply chain transformation. Focusing on environmentally and socially responsible practices alongside profit, will help potential suppliers to remain attractive in a market which is increasingly value driven.

More: www.thinkstep-anz.com/resrc/blogs/catalyse-change-in-your-supply-chain-responsible-procurement/ plus www.thinkstep-anz.com/services/corporate/responsible-procurement/

Source: SBC Weekly Pānui, 23rd September 2021. 

Sharing Dreams of the Next 180 Years of Equitable Climate Progress

"Fix, Grist's solution lab, recently invited people to look beyond this moment in the climate crisis and share their dreams of the next 180 years of equitable climate progress. More than 1,100 people from eighty-five countries submitted stories which elevate diverse voices and bring new perspectives to the increasingly vital genre of climate fiction.

"In partnership with Grist, the NRDC, and the Columbia Climate School, Orion was granted early access to the twelve finalist stories, and we are honoured to republish 'The Tree in the Back Yard' by Michelle Yoon.

More: <https://orionmagazine.org/article/the-tree-in-the-back-yard> plus <https://grist.org/fix/series/imagine-2200-climate-fiction/> "The three winning stories and nine finalists create intersectional worlds in which no community is left behind. Whether built on abundance or adaptation, reform or a new understanding of survival, these stories provide flickers of hope, even joy, and serve as a springboard for exploring how fiction can help create a better reality."

Source: Orion, 25th September 2021. 

Modern Slavery and Sustainable Workplaces: New Zealand Considerations

"Modern slavery and labour exploitation is a significant problem internationally and in New Zealand. Addressing risks relating to human rights is gaining greater prominence alongside traditional economic concerns, due to public pressure and investor expectations. And further, countries like the UK, USA and Australia have enacted legislation mandating reporting on modern slavery matters.

"Accountants are gatekeepers of information about business, and can help improve transparency in this area. Accountants in business and practitioners can discover and disclose modern slavery practices and provide assurance to stakeholders in business that such practices are minimised in domestic and global supply chains.

"The first step is understanding what modern slavery is, how to address the risks present in the supply chain and what a sustainable workplace looks like.

"Join us for a session covering the fundamentals of modern slavery risk, sustainable workplace practices and the implications for businesses in New Zealand.

When/Where: 12:30 - 2pm NZT, **Thurs 30th Sept.** Online
More: <https://store.charteredaccountantsanz.co.nz/ONLINE-EVENT-NZ-Sharing-Knowledge-Series-Modern-slavery-and-sustainable-workplaces-New-Zealand-consi>

Source: CA ANZ, 24th Sept 2021. 

Value Reporting Foundation 2021 Symposium

"A tremendous amount has changed in the sustainability disclosure landscape during the last year, including the merger of the International Integrated Reporting Council (IIRC) and Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB) into the Value Reporting Foundation. That is one reason why we are so excited for this year's inaugural *Value Reporting Foundation Symposium*, which will be a two-day virtual event from 6th to 7th December.

"The *Value Reporting Foundation Symposium* will convene global businesses, institutional investors (both asset owners and asset managers), policymakers and advisors to discuss how to incorporate a holistic view of value creation into decision making and reporting. Founded on intellectual rigour, the Symposium convenes leading experts to discuss progress towards a comprehensive corporate reporting system and provides insights from businesses and investors using integrated thinking, the <IR> Framework and/or SASB Standards.

"Planned agenda topics* include:

When/Where: 6th to 7th December. Online

More: www.valuereportingfoundation.org/symposium/

Source: Value Reporting Symposium, 23rd Sept 2021.

Editor: Early bird bookings available until 15th October. 

Doughnut Economics and Being a Good Ancestor

"*What Could Possibly Go Right?* kicks off this fall with a three-way conversation between Kate Raworth of Doughnut Economics fame, Roman Krznaric, author of *Empathy and The Good Ancestor*, and myself [Vicki Robin], a student of all things resilience and re-localisation.

"How do we all fit together in one podcast? We look at the social and psychological side of sustainability, not just the geophysical or environmental. We have also spent our careers devising new and hopefully more effective heuristic devices (models, diagrams, teaching tools) to reveal to people that we are heading off a cliff ... but better paths are possible.

More: www.resilience.org/what-could-possibly-go-right-podcast-vicki-robin/ 1hr 6 min

Source: Post Carbon Institute, 22nd Sept 2021. 

Change of Date for Webinar

The webinar '*A Human Needs Approach to a Safe Climate and Sustainable Future*' by Ian Gough to be held 22nd September per *Sustainability Matters* of 16th September has been rescheduled to mid-October.

When/Where: 7:30pm Wednesday 13th October

More:

www.ourclimatedeclaration.org.nz/a_human_needs_approach_to_a_safe_climate_and_sustainable_future

Source: Our Climate Declaration, 14th Sept. 2021. 

Comparative Financial Analysis for Local Government

"CPR Consultants of Auckland have recently launched an updated suite of products (reports) which provide comparative analysis of a wide range of local government financial performance data by which individual councils [and stakeholders] can look at their own performance and also compare their performance with that of other councils. Among others topics covered are; property rates, staff and elected member salaries, debt levels, capital expenditure and more. A total of 376 standard reports are available across 95 measures.

More: <https://cprlifesaver.co.nz/> and <https://cprlifesaver.co.nz/blog/>

Source: Larry Mitchell, CPR Consultants, 17th Sept. 

Future-Fit Business Benchmark: Applied Learning Course

"In an increasingly volatile and unpredictable world, business leaders are being pushed to improve the accountability, transparency and authenticity of their decisions. Clients, customers and investors are looking more closely than ever at the sustainability performance of the brands and businesses they support.

"With an increasing number of management and reporting frameworks to choose from, how do you respond with confidence to manage risk and capture opportunities?

"The *Future-Fit Business Benchmark* is a strategic tool which informs decision-making by charting a clear path of improvement to 100% sustainable. Clear criteria enable consistent and comparable performance measurement and disclosure. And, it provides an evidence-based approach for talking about positive impact authentically, to avoid claims of green-washing and green-wishing. ... [Much more]

When/Where: Tues 19th - Wed 20th Oct 2021. Location TBA

More: <https://events.humanitix.com/future-fit-business-benchmark-2-day-applied-learning-course>

Source: Simon Harvey, 16th Sept 2021.

Editor: There are a range of pricing options, including pay-it-forward reductions for those who wouldn't otherwise be able to attend. This enables people to offer a social or environmental volunteer contribution as part payment.

Source: Simon Harvey, 16th September 2021. 

Attention Book Nerds!

"Orion has put together a shelf of nearly fifty [50] books for you to read this fall.

More: <https://bookshop.org/lists/recommended-reading-fall-2021>

Source: Orion, 17th September 2021.

Editor: For those who reside in the Southern hemisphere perhaps summer rather than winter reading – not forgetting reading possibilities during lockdowns! A mixture of genre – novels, essays, non-fiction, poetry, memoirs; recently published, soon to be published. Written by people from a range of ethnicities and cultures. 

South Pacific Passive House Conference 2021

"PHINZ along with APHA and AUT will host the next South Pacific Passive House Conference We invite you to talks, hands-on masterclasses, networking events, access to suppliers and more!

"Talks will cover a wide range of topics about Passive House and how it relates to people in the South Pacific, however specific topics to be covered this year are:

1. Passive social housing
2. Proven outcomes of Passive House projects
3. Intergenerational well-being and Passive House

When/Where: 25th to 27th November. Auckland

More: <https://passivehouse.nz/events/upcoming-events/spphc21/>

Source: NZGBC, 16th September 2021. 

Toyota Actively Lobbies Against EV Support

"Toyota has earned a place in the history of transport electrification. The Japanese automaker's introduction of the Prius hybrid in 1997 was a milestone. Since then, the company has sold some 15 million hybrids worldwide, and has gradually added hybrid powertrains to more of its offerings – a majority of Toyota and Lexus models are now available in hybrid versions.

"Considering Toyota's history, and its undisputed technological mastery, it's very puzzling the automaker has become the industry's strongest voice opposing the transition to electric vehicles.

More: <https://chargedevs.com/newswire/toyota-actively-lobbies-against-support-for-evs>

Source: ChargeSmart, 23rd September 2021. 

Morrisons to Launch Six 'Zero Waste' Stores in Scotland

"Morrisons' new stores will all have the ability to operate with zero waste produced by 2025 at the latest. Zero waste will cover both the store itself and from customers.

"The stores have been introduced through a partnership with Nestlé that will see all hard-to-recycle soft plastics collected in the stores and recycled in the UK, rather than shipped abroad – an issue that has led to increased pollution of the natural environment in some countries.

"Shop waste such as soft and hard plastics, cardboard, food waste, green waste, PPE, plus tins, cans and foils will be sorted by warehouse workers and collected by recycling specialists, while customer waste can be collected at instore points. These items include hard-to-recycle soft plastics like confectionery wrappers and pet food pouches, hard plastics such as yoghurt tubs, mixed materials like crisp tubes and coffee pods.

"Hard-to-recycle soft plastic will be turned into new board products in the UK, while bread waste will be turned into animal feed and cooking oil used to power Morrisons delivery trucks.

"Morrisons' sustainability procurement director Jamie Winter said: 'We're not going to reach our ambitious targets through incremental improvements alone. Sometimes you need to take giant steps and we believe that waste is one of those areas. We believe that we can, at a stroke, enable these trial stores to move from recycling around 27% of their general waste to over 84% and with a clear line of sight to 100%. ...

"Additionally, Morrisons has revealed an ambition to become the first UK supermarket to use only farms certified as net-zero when sourcing products and ingredients from British suppliers.

More: www.edie.net/news/5/Morrisons-to-launch-six--zero-waste-stores-in-scotland/

Source: edie, 16th September 2021. 

New Zealand Food Network

"Body New Zealand Food Network is a not-for-profit organisation, founded to provide people in need with healthy food, through sharing bulk surplus and donated food.

"We collect quality surplus and donated bulk food from producers, growers and wholesalers around the country, and distribute it to food rescue organisations, iwi and charities across New Zealand, so that they may feed the communities they serve.

"We believe it is our collective responsibility to ensure everyone in New Zealand has access to healthy, nutritious food. While nutritious food is important to everyone, access to this food can be particularly challenging for those who may be disadvantaged, while food insecurity may have an impact on a range of physical and mental health issues.

"To help address this, the NZFN works with a range of food producers, manufacturers and wholesalers to source a range of fresh and healthy foods, including fruit, vegetables, and protein.

"Ours is a coordinated, nationwide effort, spanning the private, social and government sectors – brought to life through the generous support of a number of passionate and dedicated partners.

"New Zealand Food Network is proudly working with Kore Hiakai Zero Hunger Collective, Aotearoa Food Rescue Alliance and Ministry of Social Development to help build the capacity and capability of foodbanks, food rescue and community food services and prevent further shocks to food security in New Zealand.

More: www.nzfoodnetwork.org.nz/s/about-us plus

www.nzfoodnetwork.org.nz and

www.stuff.co.nz/business/prosper/125792253/what-ive-learned-swapping-law-for-food-delivery

Source: Clare Feeney, 16th September 2021.

Editor: "It started off as a personal need to move away from the model of feeling that you are having a successful career, to feeling that you are having a significant career. The usual measures of success, money, responsibility, knowledge, they did not automatically connect to my feelings of happiness and fulfilment. I realised there was no guarantee that being successful would make me happy, so I just had this mind shift to not look at success and start to look at significance. 

What Does Your Home Need to be EV Ready?

"So you want to buy an EV. That's great! If an EV suits your needs, it will be great to live with, but there are a few considerations you need to make around what you might need at home to get the best out of your EV ownership experience.

"So with that in mind, we spoke to Glenn Inkster, e-Mobility division manager of TransNet NZ, to get a better idea of what the typical Kiwi home might need, or need to be aware of with regard to EV ownership.

"According to Inkster the biggest thing to consider before switching from oil to volts is the obvious one: the time needed to charge a car. It's much slower than simply filling up with fuel at a petrol station, often taking hours instead of minutes.

"However, that shouldn't dissuade you. Just like we've all fallen into the habit of charging our mobile devices at night, even if they aren't flat, so to do EV owners charge their cars.

.....
More: www.stuff.co.nz/motoring/evs/126227832/what-does-your-home-need-to-be-ev-ready

Source: Forever Project, 24th September 2021.

Editor: If you have a flat in your house the supply of 60amps max might be split at the meter board to 30 amps to each, so some caution is merited. 

Born Into the Climate Crisis

"The climate crisis is changing the world as we know it, with grave implications for the rights of children now and future generations of children.

"Our latest research has revealed the millions of children born in the last year will face on average 2 – 7 times more extreme weather events than their grandparents – that means more heatwaves, flooding, droughts, crop failures and wildfires. This puts children's rights to a safe home, healthy environment, healthcare, food and learning are at risk.

"If we take ambitious and urgent action now to limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, children born in the last year will be significantly less exposed to extreme weather events over their lifetime.

"There is overwhelming scientific evidence the window to act on climate change is quickly closing. Current commitments for climate action, finance, and children's participation in decision-making, remain dangerously inadequate.

"We must act now to secure children's rights.

More: www.savethechildren.net/born-climate-crisis 50 pages 13.62Mb

Source: TV1 News, 27th September 2021. 

Who Will Lead the Charge?

Discusses issues which may arise for tenants and landlords regarding the provision of EV chargers in leased premises.

More: www.minterellison.co.nz/our-view/who-will-lead-the-charge

Source: MinterEllisonRuddWatts, 21st Sept. 2021. 

Why the Right to Repair is Big News

"It feels like repairing stuff has gone mainstream. And it's about time. Our current system sees far too many resources used for products which become landfill far too quickly. It's us, as consumers, who pay the price while manufacturers and retailers reap the profits.

"The Right to Repair has been everywhere in the news: US president Joe Biden has signed an executive order requiring it in the US; Steve Wozniak (the nerdier Apple founder) thinks it's important; Australian legislators say car companies must share repair resources with independent garages; appliance manufacturers in the UK now have to supply spare parts; and David Parker (our Minister for the Environment) has a broken fridge and wants a Waste Minimisation Act review to include a right to repair.

"You own the products you buy, so it's up to you what you do with them. You can paint them purple and tie them to a flagpole if you like. So, if something breaks, it's your right to choose to repair it, whether you attempt it yourself or call in an expert. You're more likely to get a product repaired if it's cheap and easy to do so.

"Manufacturers of tech devices, appliances and cars have been working to stop this for decades: sometimes intentionally, sometimes because it costs them more to make repair easy. It's also lucrative controlling who does the repair – an Australian Competition and Consumer Commission market study found Australian car companies make more than 60% profit on servicing and repair, compared to less than 10% from selling cars.

"Manufacturers deploy tactics to steer us towards buying new things:

More: www.consumer.org.nz/articles/right-to-repair-why-you-should-care

Source: Gerda Kuschel, 26th September 2021

Editor: See also the 21 comments. 

A River Reawakened: Ten Years of Rewilding the Elwha Watershed

"Ten years ago, a jackhammer began to take down the Elwha Dam, located on Washington's Olympic Peninsula, the largest dam removal in U.S. history. The Elwha River is critical habitat for anadromous fish, but had been blocked for a century due to two dams. Both dams are now gone. The Elwha now runs free.

"In this web exclusive, Jessica Plumb spent the past decade documenting the rewilding of this watershed. Travel upstream along salmon resurgence, Indigenous-led restoration, and regenerative hope.

More: <https://orionmagazine.org/article/a-river-reawakened/>

Source: Orion, 25th September 2021.

Editor: 'The first ten years of the Elwha experiment have been breath-taking in speed and scope, a testament to the power of nature and potential for renewal.' 

Life Cycle Costing - An Application Guide AS/NZS 4536:1999

"This standard is currently Proposed for Withdrawal with public/stakeholder consultation period ending 01/11/2021. Feedback is being sought by Standards New Zealand.

"Sets out a process for life cycle costing of a product as a component of an economic evaluation. The Standard is intended for use by both customers (users) and suppliers of products. Following the proposed methodology will give a dollar value representing the life cycle cost of the product. Appendices propose hypothetical worked examples which reflect the use of the outlined analysis, a sample spreadsheet indicating typical costs that may occur over the life cycle phases, typical cost-generating activities and an elaboration of real cost, nominal cost and discounted cost.

More: www.standards.govt.nz/shop/asnz-45361999/ plus www.standards.govt.nz/develop-standards/review-of-aged-standards/aged-joint-standards-under-review

Source: Standards NZ, 22nd September 2021. 

Beverage Cartons into Wall Boards

"New Zealand company saveBOARD has received a A\$1.74 million grant from the Australian and New South Wales Governments towards setting up a A\$5 million facility [in Hamilton] which will turn packaging waste into high performance building material.

"Australian builders will then be able to replace plywood, particle board and plaster board, with low carbon, environmentally sustainable construction boards made from packaging waste such as used beverage cartons and coffee cups.

"saveBOARD has the Asian Pacific distribution rights for waste-to-building material technology developed in the United States where it has been widely used for more than a decade. board can be ordered now for December 2021 delivery.

"The Australian and NSW Governments and the companies behind the NSW project expect the facility will create confidence in a new market for recycled construction materials, similar to roads made from recycled glass, and enable more packaging to become 100% recyclable, in line with national packaging targets.

More: <http://business.scoop.co.nz/2021/09/20/saveboard-gets-australian-govt-funding-to-build-nsw-facility-to-turn-beverage-cartons-into-wallboards/> plus www.saveboard.nz/

Source: Tim Marshall, 20th September.

Editor: In regard to flammability, fire spread and other attributes the product is stated to perform favourably compared to others. 