

Sustainability Matters

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Business achieving a tomorrow for tomorrow's children

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We Can Start Thinking in Centuries

"From technology designed to stop you from working and junk food made to only temporarily satiate you, much of modern life is startlingly oriented toward the short-term.

"In his new book, *The Long View: Why We Need to Transform How the World Sees Time*, BBC journalist Richard Fisher explains how this short-term mindset has come to dominate Western society, why that could spell disaster for our future, and explores historic and real world examples of those who are taking a long-term view.

"From the architects who began work on England's Wells Cathedral in 1175 knowing construction wouldn't be complete until well after their deaths, to an experiment at an Australian laboratory still ongoing a century after it began, and the Indigenous tribes whose ways of life are centred on intergenerational links, Fisher argues what makes humans unique is our ability to learn from the past and envision the future.

"As humanity faces unprecedented threats, from climate disaster to the collapse of democracy, Fisher believes 'recapturing' our long-term view of the world is a solution we can achieve.

More: <https://reasonstobecheerful.world/long-term-thinking-richard-fisher-the-long-view/> plus www.goodreads.com/book/show/117428536-the-long-view 417 pages March 2023

Source: reasons to be cheerful, 7th June 2023.

Climate Change Clause Bank

Lawyers for Climate Action NZ is hosting a webinar which introduces the New Zealand Climate Clause Bank – a practical tool for climate action by lawyers and their clients. Those who draft, negotiate, or enforce contracts will find it particularly useful although the webinar is relevant to anyone interested in promoting climate-conscious legal practice.

"Our presenter is Ian MacKenzie Head of Legal at New Zealand Green Investment Finance. Ian initiated the creation of the New Zealand clause templates. Through his initiative and building on the work undertaken by the Chancery Lane Project [UK], 11 New Zealand law firms contributed to producing the collection. These clauses address the priority areas of boilerplate provisions, supply chain emissions, Net Zero pledges and driving sustainable behaviour.

Ian will introduce us to the clauses, to how they can be used to improve sustainability characteristics of a contract, and their acceptability in the marketplace.

When/Where: Noon – 1:00pm, Wed. 12th July. Online

More: www.lawyersforclimateaction.nz/newsletters/lcanzi-newsletter-june-2023 and <https://events.humanitix.com/climate-change-clause-bank-with-ian-mackenzie>

Source: Lcanzi, 19th June 2023.

Editor: Could be useful for others in addition to lawyers.

Palmerston North Buses Will Go all Electric

More: www.stuff.co.nz/national/300845676/palmerston-north-buses-will-go-all-electric

Source: Gen Less, 6th June 2023.

Historic Treaty to Protect High Seas Adopted

"The United Nations has adopted the first-ever international treaty to govern the high seas and protect remote ecosystems vital to humanity, after more than 15 years of discussions.

"On Monday [19th June], UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres hailed as a 'historic achievement' the pact that will establish a legal framework to extend environmental protections to international waters, known as the high seas, which cover more than 60% of the earth's surface.

"Climate change is disrupting weather patterns and ocean currents, raising sea temperatures, 'and altering marine ecosystems and the species living there', Guterres said, adding that marine biodiversity 'is under attack from overfishing, over-exploitation and ocean acidification'.

"Over one-third of fish stocks are being harvested at unsustainable levels', he said 'And we are polluting our coastal waters with chemicals, plastics and human waste.'

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"The accord also establishes ground rules for conducting environmental impact assessments for commercial activities in the oceans.

"Such activities, while not listed in the text, would include anything from fishing and maritime transport to more controversial pursuits, like deep-sea mining or even geo-engineering programmes aimed at fighting global warming.

"A key tool in the treaty will be the ability to create protected marine areas in international waters. Currently, only about 1% of the high seas are protected by any sort of conservation measures.

More: www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/6/19/un-adopts-historic-high-seas-treaty plus <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/06/1137857> and www.highseasalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/HIGH-SEAS-TREATY-QA.pdf 8 pages 180KB. Especially see for deep sea mining.

Source: at *Advocacy News*, 21st June 2023

Revolutionising Safety Culture: With Belief Systems and the Power of Storytelling

"Four years ago, Fletcher Building's story was one of tragedy – multiple tragedies. Today, they have reduced recordable injuries by 40%, serious injuries by 90%.

"Fletcher Building employs over 15,000 people in New Zealand, Australia, and the South Pacific and its operations span manufacturing, distribution and retail, home building, and major construction and infrastructure projects.

"In this webinar, Wendi discusses how an organisation can revolutionise how it thinks about safety by creating a culture centred around a belief system and the power of storytelling.

"We will also hear from an Executive who led the strategic shift in culture, their secrets of success and the steps for continuous improvement.

When/Where: Tues. 18th July, 2:00 – 3:00pm NZST. Online **More:** www.ecoport.com/webinars/revolutionising-safety-culture

Source: ecoPortal, 20th June 2023

Editor: The underlying precepts could be of value beyond those of safety.

Finalists Announced for Mindful Money Ethical and Impact Investment Awards


"Mindful Money is pleased to announce the finalists for this year's Mindful Money Ethical and Impact Investment Awards. There were 40 entries in 8 different award categories, judged by 28 independent experts.

"Judging is the crucial step in the process of celebrating excellence in ethical and impact investing. We are thrilled for the finalists and hugely grateful for the time judges have put into selecting these worthy finalists. Now we eagerly await the announcement of the winners in each category

"The ethical investment market continues to grow and mature in New Zealand. Ethical and responsible investment has become a requirement for sound investment management, but there is a huge variation in what it means in practice. These awards are a way of not only celebrating the leaders but also demonstrating what high standards of ethical investment looks like in a sector that has few regulatory standards. The awards show the public have more choice and higher ethical standards, backed by stronger evidence and authenticity, than in previous years.

When/Where: 2:00 – 7:30pm Wed. 29th June. Auckland


More: <https://mindfulmoney.nz/learn/finalists-announced-for-mindful-money-ethical-and-impact-investment-awards-celebrating-the-leaders/>

Source: SBN, 7th June 2023. 

FutureFit in Business – New Version

"Auckland Council has rolled out a new version of *FutureFit*, an engagement package with resources to support staff to reduce their emissions. Already used by SBC members ASB and Spark, FutureFit comes with a bespoke URL, a secure business-wide reporting dashboard and templated resources that offer options for companies of all sizes to join in on climate action.

More: www.futurefit.nz/business and www.futurefit.nz/about

Source: *SBC Weekly Pānui*, 15th June 2023. 


Translating the Climate

"Climate Cardinals is an international youth-led nonprofit working to make the climate movement more accessible to those who don't speak English. We aim to educate and empower a diverse coalition of people to tackle the climate crisis. We have over 9,000 volunteers who are translating and sourcing climate information into over 100 languages. To date, this international movement spans 41 countries and has reached over 500,000 people with over 750, 000 words of climate information translated.

"Climate Cardinals was first envisioned by Sophia Kianni, who realised the need for climate translation while on a trip to Iran in middle school. Sophia was shocked when she saw the pollution in Iran was so bad she couldn't see the stars at night. The more she read online about the climate in the Middle East, the more alarmed she became. The Middle East is currently facing a climate crisis with temperatures in the region rising more than twice the global average. Sophia brought up these concerns to her relatives but was shocked when they informed her that they knew almost nothing about climate change.

"Determined to educate them, Sophia began to pore over climate research, but she had to translate information into Farsi to help her relatives understand after realising there was a lack of scientific literature available in languages other than English. After reading Sophia's translations, her relatives have changed their habits over the past few years, reducing their use of cars and shopping more sustainably.

More: www.climatecardinals.org/about

Source: Debbie Kandauw, CA ANZ, Weekly Digest for Climate & Sustainability, 7th June 2023. 

Degrowth: An Approach to Degrowth for NZ

"Join us for an open discussion of what we see as the core issues for degrowth, and plans for a project to promote degrowth here in NZ.

"This is an opportunity to ask questions about degrowth, provide feedback, and share your views on this important topic.

"Both Sahra and Jack are founding members of Degrowth Aotearoa NZ (DANZ) and current members of DANZ's Executive Committee.

"Sahra comes to this role from her position as a midwife, deeply concerned about the future for the children she delivers. She has spent 18 years working at the interface of social, cultural, and environmental complexity

"Jack has a long-time interest in ecological economics, sustainability and social justice. His academic career covers psychology, sustainable business and peace studies

When/Where: Mon. 26th June, 7:00 – 8:30pm. Online

More:

www.ourclimatedeclaration.org.nz/webinar_discussing_degrowth_an_approach_to_degrowth_for_nz plus www.degrowth.nz/

Source: Our Climate Declaration, 12th June 2023. 


The Restaurant that Makes Mistakes

A CA colleague who had been a member of the then NZICA for 50 years had participated in numerous Sustainability Working Group events at which thoughtful and thought-provoking questions were posed, is one of eight volunteers in an experimental restaurant for those with Alzheimer's disease.

The 5 session TV programme about their adventures had its first showing on Sunday 18th June. Our colleague was, and remains, very affable, helped many entities specialising in strategies and was especially active in supporting social enterprise. Our colleague also taught university courses, was active in choral singing and had been the spouse of a now deceased and highly respected NZ MP.

More: www.stuff.co.nz/entertainment/tv-radio/132240951/the-restaurant-that-makes-mistakes-new-local-tv-show-shares-ales-of-restaurant-staffed-by-people-living-with-dementia and www.tvnz.co.nz/shows/the-restaurant-that-makes-mistakes 44:51

Source: Editor, 18th June 2023

Editor: Which of the eight volunteers is our colleague? 

15th Climate Change and Business Conference


"The Sustainable Business Council, Environmental Defence Society, and Climate Leaders Coalition are proud to again partner to deliver the Climate Change and Business Conference.

"The conference will provide a timely opportunity for business, government and civil society to tackle the tough questions the country is facing, and to share innovative thinking and new ideas about how we can collectively accelerate emissions reductions while building our resilience to the impacts of a warming world.

"Reflecting the shift towards implementation on the journey towards securing a climate resilient and carbon zero 2050 - this year's programme has a clear focus on identifying effective adaptation pathways while simultaneously maintaining our momentum on achieving real emission reductions at pace.

When/Where: 19th – 20th September 2023. Auckland

More: <https://web.cvent.com/event/92144de8-bb56-4fe2-a276-e1d71773c45b/summary>

Source: *SBC Weekly Pānui*, 15th June 2023. 

The First Corporate Science-based Targets for Nature Launched

"The Science Based Targets Network has released the first science-based targets for nature today [24th May] enabling companies to start taking ambitious and measurable action on climate and nature in tandem.

"Over 80 global NGOs and mission-driven organisations and their technical and scientific staff came together with the guiding question: what can a company do today to ensure it's doing its part for an equitable, net-zero and nature positive future?

"We can now provide companies with the initial methods, tools and guidance to start answering this question and a pilot group of 17 companies are planning to set the first nature targets this year. They were selected for their readiness and applicability and represent sectors and supply chains with a high impact on nature.

"While climate change has become a key focus of many companies' sustainability strategies, there is now clear scientific evidence that net zero is not possible without nature. This understanding comes amidst an unprecedented nature crisis, driven by unsustainable exploitation of Earth's natural resources and systems.

"Against the backdrop of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework – nature's equivalent to the Paris climate agreement – finalised last December, science-based targets for nature are a key mechanism for companies to raise the bar on ambitious and measurable corporate action on nature. Companies [and cities] now have the scientific guardrails to begin to take the critical action towards a net zero, nature positive equitable future.

More:

<https://sciencebasedtargetsnetwork.org/news/business/the-first-corporate-science-based-targets-for-nature-are-here/> plus <https://sciencebasedtargetsnetwork.org/news/news/lau-nch-of-the-worlds-first-science-based-targets-for-nature-to-mobilize-businesses-to-address-nature-loss-climate-change-together/> and www.responsible-investor.com/science-based-targets-network-release-first-nature-goals/

Source: *SBC Weekly Pānui*, 15th June 2023

Editor: "Nature: All non-human living entities and their interaction with other living or non-living physical entities and processes (IPBES Global Assessment 2019). This definition recognises interactions bind humans to nature, and its subcomponents (e.g. species, soils, rivers, nutrients), to one another. This definition also recognises air pollution, climate regulation and carbon are part of 'nature' more broadly, and therefore, when we talk about acting for nature, we are talking about acting on issues related to climate change as well. [Page 6 of *Science-based Targets for Nature: Initial Guidance for Business.*]

Call for a Climate Shift

"This morning [15th June], Greenpeace with over 30 other large and small organisations, is calling on New Zealand's politicians to support a climate shift.

"We need serious change. Communities across the Pacific and here in Aotearoa are feeling the devastating consequences of climate change firsthand. Storms, droughts, floods, and cyclones have made it extremely clear that we need urgent climate action.

"There 10 Point Plan is guided by three big ideas:

- Real emissions reductions
- Supporting frontline communities
- Restoring & rewilding nature

More: <https://petition.act.greenpeace.org.nz/climate-shift>

Source: Greenpeace, 15th June 2023.

As Africa Loses Forest, Its Small Farmers Are Bringing Back Trees

"Contributing writer Fred Pearce reports on how Africa's small farmers are allowing trees to regenerate on their lands, leading to improved crop yields, productive fruit harvests, and a boost for carbon storage. The loss of forests across Africa has long been documented. But a recent study using artificial intelligence to analyse satellite imagery counted more than 400 million trees on African farms and other non-forest lands, and some researchers say the actual number may be significantly higher – closer to 1.4 billion. On a continent facing continued deforestation, the growth of trees on cropland is being hailed as a major success story.

More: <https://e360.yale.edu/features/africa-tree-cover-farmer-managed-natural-regeneration>

Source: *Yale Environment 360*, 16th June 2023.

Editor: There could be learnings here for other countries including Australia and NZ.

Carbon and Energy Professionals Conference

"2023 is the year the CEP conference is looking to foster resilience into Aotearoa. We'll still be bringing the best international ideas, innovations and speakers to the conference but will be challenging ourselves to shift behaviours and decision making to create a more sustainable world.

"The last few years have demonstrated we need to be more self-reliant, especially when it comes to energy. Critical to this will be clean energy, demand management and energy efficiency. These are paramount if Aotearoa is to achieve its domestic and international emissions targets. But resilience and self-sufficiency mean so much more, so we will also be looking at ways to encourage a circular economy and minimise waste.

"Once again we are partnering with the Bioenergy Association for the conference with expanded coverage of alternative and clean fuels and looking at ways we can accelerate the transition to cleaner and more sustainable energy.

When/Where: 27th – 28th June, Wellington

More: <https://forumpoint2.eventsair.com/cep2023>

Source: *Toitū's Take*, 15th June 2023.

Climate Risk Management and Reporting

"Most companies now need climate-related disclosures. If you are a privately owned company or smaller business, stakeholders like customers and clients often expect you to understand, manage and communicate your climate-related risks.

"Join us for a practical workshop and learn why the value of this reporting goes well beyond compliance and what your directors are looking for. We'll also show you how to use the information available to help you report and how to link your reporting with your wider sustainability programme and business strategy to have the greatest impact.

"Short presentations:

- The benefits of climate-related reporting
- A director's views and expectations
- The regulator's expectations (New Zealand's External Reporting Board, XRB)
- How to get ready for compulsory reporting
- The information publicly available to help you:
 - o The global Taskforce for Climate-related Disclosures (TCFD) guidelines
 - o The XRB's scenarios

When/Where: Wed. 28th June, 2.30 to 5 pm. Auckland


More: www.thinkstep-anz.com/resrc/upcoming-events/workshop-climate-risk-management-and-reporting

Source: thinkstep, 15th June 2023.

Breaking the Ice on Degrowth in Aotearoa

"To mark Global Degrowth Day on 3rd June 2023, Jennifer Wilkins asked well-known New Zealanders who hadn't necessarily engaged with degrowth before if they would contribute a short essay on their interpretation of it and its value (or not) to our country and others. In the resulting collection, leaders from a range of fields pioneer this urgent and important twenty-first century conversation, demonstrating an open-mind for economic innovation as we attempt to address the great polycrisis. Their words are breaking the ice on degrowth in Aotearoa New Zealand. I [Jennifer Wilkins] hope you will be inspired to join in the conversation they've started.

More: <https://heliocene.org/2023/05/31/breaking-the-ice-on-degrowth-in-aotearoa> 35 pages 605kb

Source: SBN, 7th June 2023. 

Final Report - A Fair Chance for All: Breaking the Cycle of Persistent Disadvantage

"The Government asked the New Zealand Productivity Commission to conduct an inquiry into economic inclusion and social mobility, to generate new insights about the dynamics and drivers of persistent disadvantage and develop recommendations for system changes to give all New Zealanders a fair chance to live better lives.

"The inquiry *A Fair Chance for All: Breaking the cycle of persistent disadvantage* focused on the overall settings of the "public management system, taking a whole of system view, rather than assessing policies and services in one or two government sectors.

"The final report on the inquiry, found people experiencing disadvantage and those trying to support them are constrained by powerful system barriers. Barriers include siloed and fragmented government agencies and short-termism. These barriers make it very hard for those experiencing persistent disadvantage to escape and can even make single-factor or temporary problems worse. Most people can overcome setbacks by drawing on their personal and family networks, and community and government systems. But those systems don't work well for everyone.

"The main recommendations are:

- Gain cross-party agreement to develop and implement generational (20 to 30-year) strategic wellbeing objectives.
- Establish a social floor - a baseline standard of living and quality of life expected in New Zealand.
- Broaden the values within the public management system to give better effect to te Tiriti o Waitangi.
- Introduce a Social Inclusion Act and establish a Parliamentary Commissioner for Future Generations.
- Review and re-focus public accountability settings to address critical gaps and ensure they are fit for purpose to address complex challenges like persistent disadvantage.
- Build a more responsive, relevant, and accessible public management system that learns and empowers community voice, and values evidence from people and communities experiencing disadvantage.
- Commit to long-term funding to support more locally led, whānau-centred and centrally enable ways of working.
- Invest in data collection for measuring wellbeing and disadvantage over a life course, between generations, and within different communities.

More: www.productivity.govt.nz/publications/final-report-a-fair-chance-for-all/

Source: Productivity Commission 1st June 2023. Published 20th June 2023. 

Finally, Some Seriously Good News on Climate. And Some Not So Good

"Even the most optimistic renewable energy champions confess to being shocked by how quickly the world has built and deployed clean energy over the past year. The scope of the achievement is difficult to exaggerate.

"China alone, in just the first four months of this year, for example, deployed 71 gigawatts of solar power capacity. Which is to say, notes the energy analyst Tim Buckley, that in one quarter of one year China built, in solar alone, as much energy capacity as has been created in the entire history of Australia's National Energy Market.


"China is increasing solar power capacity at a massive rate. [See pic.]

"Buckley points to a chart published in recent weeks by the International Energy Agency to try to quantify the extraordinary recent surge in renewables.

"It shows in 2021, the world had installed just 29% of the solar manufacturing capacity the IEA predicted it would need to have in place by 2030 to put it on a path to net zero. By early last year, that figure had leapt to 40%. By year's end announced developments brought the figure to 103%. By the end of the first quarter of this year, the IEA estimated we had 165% of the solar manufacturing capacity needed to put us on a net zero path by 2030.

"The same chart shows a leap in the amount of battery manufacturing capacity needed to store all that new energy has jumped from 6% of what is needed for a net zero path, to 97%. ...

More: www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/finally-some-seriously-good-news-on-climate-and-some-not-so-good-20230608-p5df15.html

Source: SMH, 14th June 2023. 

2023 National Ambassadors for Sustainable Farming and Growing

"Steven and Kellie Nichol of Auldamor in Otago have been announced as the 2023 National Ambassadors for Sustainable Farming and Growing and recipients of the Gordon Stephenson Trophy at the National Sustainability Showcase [27th May 2023.]

"Steven and Kellie are constantly evolving their farming business through diversification and adapting production systems, all while considering environmental impact. Their 1,498ha property is located at Clarks Junction, Otago. The Nichol family has been farming in the area since 1871, meaning they have a strong connection to the land and consider improvements and guardianship a priority.

"The Nichols have focused on improving the farm's subdivision and infrastructure, with several initiatives to improve soil health, including a no-till drilling programme. This has led to improved pasture resilience, better yields, and improved stock performance and animal health. ...

"The National Sustainability Showcase event celebrated each of the ten Ballance Farm Environment Awards Regional Supreme Winners from across the country. Hosted by the New Zealand Farm Environment Trust, the event is held annually as the pinnacle of the BFEA programme, and connects primary industry representatives from across the sector.

More: <https://nzfetrust.org.nz/news/young-otago-sheep-and-beef-farmers-named-2023-national-ambassadors-for-sustainable-farming-and-growing/> plus <https://nzfetrust.org.nz/news/> for full list of 2023 awardees across all provinces and <https://nzfeawards.org.nz/award-criteria-2/>

Source: Editor, 20th June 2023. 