



Council of Outdoor Recreation Associations of New Zealand Inc
P O Box 1876, Wellington
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11 September 2011

To Member Bodies and Executive:

CORANZ Annual General Meeting Sunday 18 September 2011

**Upstairs, Evans' Bay Yacht & Mtr Boat Club, 501 Evans Bay Parade, Wellington.
Tel 027 686 0063 Hugh. Rooms open from 9.00 am. Meeting starts 9.30 am
Evans Bay Members: 04 939 4170 to contact us at the Meeting**

Lunch will be provided. The AGM should finish by 3.30 pm. There will be a **teleconference from 11.00 am to noon**, for those who cannot make it to Wellington in person, to discuss important issues. Let me know by phone or email if you will be coming or ringing in.

See previous announcement for info about delegates, motions, travel arrangements etc.

The 2011 Agenda and Minutes of the 2010 AGM are attached, as are the 2010 AGM Minutes, and proposed changes to the CORANZ Constitution to allow regional voting members..

Any Council member or **member organisation intending to call in please let me know in advance.**

I ask delegates to please consider the following before attending:

- 1 Additions/changes to the CORANZ 2008 Outdoor Recreation Charter for the 2011 Strategy** – for those without copies, I can post you one on request. We are keen to start now on measures we do not support the National Government Coalition on eg stealing Canterbury water, Foreshore and seabed give-away for the **2011 Election Charter**
- 2 What actions CORANZ can take to stop National giving the Foreshore and Seabed to iwi.**
- 3 Priorities for CORANZ action in the coming election campaign.**

For associations not able to attend, please email me your thoughts on these three questions, or any other matter important to you, before the AGM.

Thanks and Best regards
Yours Sincerely

Hugh Barr
Secretary

Attached: 2011 AGM Agenda, 2010 AGM Minutes

Agenda : CORANZ Fourteenth AGM, 2011

Wellington, Sunday 18 September 2011

9.00 am - Coffee/Tea for 9.30 am start

Venue: Upstairs, **Evans Bay Yacht Club, 501 Evans Bay Parade.** (5 mins from the Airport) Tel 027 686 0063 for a ride.

1 Welcome and Apologies: Apologies - Alan McMillan (Chairman, Public Access NZ) (Teleconf); Ron Stuart (President, NZSAA), Lloyd Hanson (President, Marlborough Recreational Fishers' Assn);

Notified delegates:

NZ Salmon Anglers Assn: Tim Ellis (A = attending), Ron Stuart, Bruce Moody A)

Public Access NZ: Alan McMillan (Teleconf), Hugh Barr ((A) Secretary, CORANZ); Peter Vahry (A)

JBNZ: Clark Marshall, Clive Workman (Pres), Garth McMaster

NZ Freshwater Anglers Assn: Ken Sims ((A) Co-Chair CORANZ), Jim Hale ((A) FFA Pres). Tony Orman (A)

Option 4: Trish Rea, Jason Foord, Scott MacIndoe

NZ Bowhunters Assn: Andrew Duncan

Marlborough Rec Fishers Assn: Tony Orman (A)

Steve Veail ((A) Immediate Past Co-Chair); **Strato Cotsilinis** (Treasurer)

2 Approve Minutes of 2010 AGM (Attached). Please email any corrections before the meeting. Matters arising from the Minutes not on the Agenda

3 CORANZ Annual Report: Presentation, discussion: **Proposition:** This National government is a major threat to outdoor recreation on many fronts – Foreshore & Seabed, water allocation, desire to meddle with National Water Conservation Orders. – will be emailed by mid-week

4 Treasurer's Report: Presentation, discussion. Strato Cotsilinis. CORANZ expenditure has been minimal – through Hugh not charging many expenses. A small reserve has been built up, which gives a fighting fund.

5 Teleconference 11 am – 12 noon: for those unable to attend. **Please confirm if you will be ringing in.**

May be able to use another free system: If so I or Peter Vahry will notify you how this can be done.

Otherwise: Dial 083 032 then the pin number 599 401 Please ring promptly at 11 am.

Costs are **54c/min per party connected**, so those of you with speaker phones should invite nearby exec members round to share the line. If you can't get connected, ring me on my cellphone 027 686 0063. If there is only one person ringing in, we will use a single connection, as this is much cheaper.

Teleconference Agenda:

Whatever matters those calling in want to raise. Please make a list of these before calling in.

Close off by 12 noon:

6 Subscriptions, membership and Budget

The present subscription, a nominal one of \$350/year for national associations, \$100/year for regional associations and \$25/year for individual supporters. CORANZ's expenditure was less than income this year. We need to consider running on more than the shoestring we have been accustomed to.

6.1 Amendments to the CORANZ Constitution to allow voting regional members

This change was approved at last year's AGM. A proposal, and proposed changes is attached, and has been circulated to members for comment.

Action: Discuss and approve the changes

6.2 New members: Sporting Hunters Outdoor Trust (SHOT): Application for associate membership.

6.3 Resignation: NZ FWD Association

Wellington Meeting Agenda, continued:

7 Public Access matters: Specific issues, Walking Access Commission. PANZ has had a very successful AGM a month ago, and now has coverage over much of New Zealand, and an active team of trustees. **Walking Access Commission** and improving public access –. (Alan McMillan, Steve Veail, Peter Vahry)

8 Govt's Foreshore and Seabed proposals (Hugh Barr) – The Coastal Coalition is circulating a Citizens Initiated Referendum, supporting repeal of the new privatising Act. The Green party wants iwi to have all of the territorial sea (foreshore and seabed), and all of the Exclusive Economic Zone and continental shelf. They want nothing for groups who don't have a Maori ancestor, even though these rights and privileges for NZers were only created in 1977 (or 1994).

9 Pastoral lease tenure review changes – National is trying to reverse what Labour has achieved, and pander to the lessees even more than before. A recent briefing from LINZ addressed soft lease rental charges, that were only based on unimproved grazing value ie leaving the lessees to gain income untaxed from non-grazing activities, and make massive capital gains when selling these properties.

10 Conservation Lands, and National Parks – a new blast of CMSs (Conservation management Strategies) are about to start. Massive expectations have been created, when their main goal seems for DOC not to commit to very much in its goals and targets, and keep away from any detail, as last time. Auckland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty-East Coast, Wellington-Havke's Bay/Ruahine/Kawekas, Whanganui/Taranaki.

11 Big Game Hunting Council Establishment Committee progress –commercial domination, but more representation of recreational hunters, claimed by United Future

12 DOC 2011 renewal of WARO (Wild Animal Recovery helicopter Operations) concessions on public lands and the scourge of heli-hunting.

13 Govt Use of poisons and toxins in the Outdoors – aerial 1080, Graf Boys DVD, DOC and AHB poisoning programmes. DOC kills 7 tagged Kea in Okarito/South Westland with 1080. Vandals shoot 5 at Klondyke Corner.

14 Update of CORANZ NZ Outdoor Recreation Election Strategy for 2011 – What additions or changes are needed. Given this Govt's unfriendliness to democracy, we need a strong Strategy, and a strong Election campaign (Tony Orman, Hugh Barr). Tony has completed a shortened version, that has circulated to political parties for comment. NZ First (Winston Peters) has responded. Few other parties seem likely to comment

15 Relations with DOC (HB) –DOC Biodiversity Strategy; DOC-NGO 2-monthly meetings, DOC combining Tongariro-Taupo and Wanganui-Taranaki conservancies, DOC firing key staff.

16 Option 4: Kahawai management(Trish Rea); Hokianga Accord, Blue cod management in the Marlborough Sounds, Co-operation with the NZ SFC

17 CORANZ Election Campaign and issues – The key issues that CORANZ and our members should hammer over the next two months.

18 4WD Policies on public land – review of progress. Where to from here (Peter Vahry).

19 NZ Conservation Authority – now dominated by people with no interest in outdoor recreation, or even conservation. The future of conservation boards looks shaky

20 Top five priority or action items for CORANZ for the year ahead, incl meetings with Ministers. **Please prepare your priority list before the teleconference.**

21 Building CORANZ's future – ideas for younger members (Tony Orman). Ideas for individual activist members. Most national associations can get blackmailed or white-anted. So are not particularly staunch in fights with strong opponents eg Federated Farmers, Commercial fishers, the national Govt. Ginger groups are needed if we are to get sensible management for outdoor recreation. Allowing voting regional members should better help us play an activist and change-agent roll.

6 Election of Officers -

Chairmen (1 or 2 required): Nominations received: **Co-Chair** Tony Orman, and Bill Benfield nominated by NZSAA, PANZ,

Secretary – Hugh Barr (PANZ, NZFFA, NZDA) nominated by NZSAA, PANZ,

Treasurer- Strato Cotsilinis (NZFFA) nominated by NZSAA, PANZ

Auditor – to be appointed at the AGM if possible

7 Remits from members and Items for discussion: No remits have been received.

Views of member associations: What are the main priorities for each member body?

8 Council Programme and Priorities for the coming year **including the Outdoor Recreation Strategy for the 2011 Election:** Discussion

9 CORANZ Election Campaign priorities: Discussion and ranking

10 General Business: Any other business Thanks to Office holders and members

Close AGM by 3.30 pm

Hugh Barr
Secretary



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28 July 2011

To: CORANZ Member bodies and Councillors:
From Hugh Barr, CORANZ Secretary

Regional full membership - Proposed changes to CORANZ's constitution

At the 2010th CORANZ AGM, a motion was passed that CORANZ allow regional voting membership; viz

Moved (Barr/Hale) That the CORANZ Constitution be reviewed to allow regional recreational groups to have a vote. **Carried.**

This letter is to set out the Constitution changes that this leads to, so that the matter can be carried out at the CORANZ AGM on Sunday 18th September 2011.

Clause 4, Membership states:

4 MEMBERSHIP :

- (a) *There shall be two classes of membership - full and associate.*
- (b) ***Full membership** of the Council shall be open to any incorporated national Outdoor Recreation Association, Society or Charitable Trust, whose objects are compatible with those of the Council. Any association applying for membership shall forward a copy of its Constitution and rules to the Council. The Executive of the Council shall determine acceptance or otherwise of the application.*
- (c) ***Associate membership** is open to any organisation that is not eligible for full membership, or individuals who wish to support the Council. Associate members have no voting rights at General Meetings of the Council, but have speaking rights. The Executive shall determine acceptance or otherwise of the application.*

Full members that are national bodies, have a vote, namely three reps on Council, and three votes. The most appropriate way for regional recreational groups to have a vote is for them to be allowed as full regional members, each with one vote. This can be done by adding "or regional" after "national" in sub-clause (b). Regional members would need to be incorporated societies, or charitable trusts, with objects compatible with CORANZ. Regional branches or clubs of full national members cannot be full regional members.

Representation and Voting: I suggest regional associations have one voting representative on Council, appointed by the regional association, and that he/she have one vote. Issues may arise when a number of branches of a national association each joins CORANZ, but the national association does not. To get around the possibility of being swamped by the votes of a national

association in this way, I propose that regional associations with the same main primary outdoor recreational activity, have a cap on their combined votes of three votes, and that, if this case arises, they each share equally in the fraction of these three votes, when more than three such regional associations belong.

Alternatively the number of votes held by full national members could be increased, say from 3 to five. The Council should be targeted primarily at national associations.

Veto: Clause 4 (e) states that the Executive of the Council will govern by consensus (no dissenting national associations). Outside an Annual General Meeting, a veto on consensus has to be exercised by all representatives of at least one national association. However, no veto has ever been exercised at Executive Committee meetings, to my knowledge.

I conclude that it is not appropriate to provide for regional associations to exercise a veto.

Annual Subscription: Present Annual Subs are \$350 for Full National Associations, and \$100 for associate members. I suggest that a fair sub for voting regional associations be 40% of the National rate, which at present would be \$140.

Special General Meetings: At present at least three Full National members (9 votes) are necessary to call a special general meeting. I think the right to do this should remain only with national associations. In any case e-mail communication makes most matters be able to be discussed to a large extent without SGMs, and AGMs suffice.

For the above changes, the required amendments to the Constitution are:

1 Regional voting membership:

4 (a) *There shall be two classes of membership - full (voting) and associate (non-voting).*

4 (b) (i) *Full national and regional voting membership of the Council shall be open to any incorporated national or regional Outdoor Recreation Association, Society or Charitable Trust, whose objects are compatible with those of the Council.*

(ii) Regional branches or clubs or regional groupings of clubs of full national members cannot be full regional members. But they can be associate members (Speaking and attendance rights).

National full member veto:

7 MANAGEMENT

(e) Each Officer of the Executive shall have one vote, except that when a full national member has less than its three representatives present, the remaining representative(s) can jointly exercise its additional vote(s). The goal of the Council is to promote the common interests of its member associations. To this end decisions of the executive shall be by consensus of the representatives of the member bodies present, (no dissenting associations), except that the Executive cannot veto a resolution of a General Meeting. To exercise a veto in other situations, all representatives of at least one full national member association must vote against a proposal. Full regional members have no veto rights.

Representation and Voting:

8 GENERAL MEETINGS :

Amend CI 8 (d), (e), (f), (h) as follows:

(d) Special General Meetings may be convened from time to time as the Executive sees fit, or shall be convened on a request in writing, stating particulars of business to be brought forward, from not fewer than three full national members, not less than one month after receipt of such request. Notice of such meeting, giving particulars of business shall be given to members within ten days of receipt of the request. At any such meeting the business to be transacted shall be **the** only ~~the~~ consideration of and if necessary taking action on, the matters referred to expressly, or by implication, in the request.

(e) Each financial full **national** member ~~association~~ may be represented at all General Meetings of the Council by three (3) delegates, **financial full regional members by one (1) delegate**, and associate member associations by one delegate. Members must inform the secretary of the names of their appointed delegates in writing before the General Meeting.

(f) Each financial full **national** member ~~association~~ may exercise three (3) votes, **and each financial full regional member one (1) vote, apart from when Clause 8 (g) applies**

(g) Where more than three full regional members undertake the same outdoor recreational activity, then their combined vote is capped at three votes (as for a national association), and each of the regional associations shares equally in its percentage of the three votes.

(h) The quorum at any General Meeting shall be seven (7) voting delegates or votes representing 30 % of the total full membership, whichever is the lesser.

(i) The annual subscriptions for full **national and regional members**, and associate members shall be set at the Annual General Meeting.

Please check out what I am suggesting, and let me have your comments back in the next few days. According to the CORANZ Constitution, amendments to the Constitution need to go out to members by 31 July.

Best regards

Hugh Barr
Secretary cc pdf of CORANZ Constitution



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13 September 2011

CORANZ 15th Annual Report: July 2010 - June 2011

Welcome CORANZ member Bodies and delegates. It has been a busy year particularly as it is election year and we believe a very critical one.

A thank-you to our member groups for support throughout the year from the NZ Federation of Freshwater Anglers, NZ Salmon Anglers Assn, Public Access NZ, NZ Bowhunters Assn, option4, NZ Jet Boating Assn and Marlborough Recreational Sea Fishers. On the subject of membership, NZ Deerstalkers Association resigned last year, and this year the 4WD association pulled out based on the perception that CORANZ's activity was not relevant to the association.

The relevance at times may not seem obvious at first glance. However effects can be either direct or indirect. Dams or irrigation extraction on rivers might be seen as affecting only trout fishers but it affects every river user such as rafters, canoeists, jet boaters and even passive swimming.

Similarly the use of poisons is not just the concern of hunters. It impinges on native bird values, some toxins on aquatic life and on outdoor recreation generally when poisoned baits and dead animals may be lying around and access is denied to the public.

The Department of Conservation's attitude to public access will affect every recreational sector not just hunters, but trout anglers, mountain bikers, trampers, others and 4 WD access.

Concerning membership of CORANZ., some thought should be given to getting additional members with perhaps an examination of subscriptions? There are enquiries from time to time from regional and national bodies giving cause for optimism and increased membership. And we have one new membership application the Sporting Hunters Outdoor Trust.

There are many issues, which at times makes it bewildering as to which takes priority for a voluntary organisation. It is important to underline the word "voluntary."

Some of the issues in the past year have been

- Foreshore and Seabed.
- Game Animal Council.
- Government moves to mine National Parks
- Water Conservation Orders which includes the government take-over of Environment Canterbury (ECAN) and consequences such as postponing the Hurunui WCO .
- The heli-hunting issue and Wild Animal Recovery Operations (WARO)
- Tenure Review
- Marlborough Sounds blue cod mismanagement
- Aerial 1080
- DOC's swing to commercialisation and privatisation
- General trends to privatisation via commercialisation
- Rivers and dams.

These issues and several more take much voluntary time and effort.

CORANZ is apolitical, i.e. it does not align itself to any political party. But it reserves the democratic right to assess government performance, particularly in an election year.

An election charter 2011 has been prepared, printed and distributed to all political parties and all MPs inviting comment. Sadly the two main parties, despite employing staff via the Parliamentary system, did not reply although a brief acknowledgement of receipt was received. On the other hand, the minor parties in the main did respond and with some very good ideas of support.

In the charter, the National-ACT-Maori coalition government's assessment was rated as "disappointing." It has shown little interest in outdoor recreation. In fact, erosion of outdoor recreation opportunities has continued and the public estate has been under threat, e.g. mining in

National Parks, privatising the foreshore and seabed to coastal iwi, giving outstanding natural areas to iwi for Treaty Claim settlements, possibly even National Parks, and imposing "co-management.

Alarmingly DOC has swung to a commercialisation philosophy and policy showing more interest in big business than in its "employers" the public. And DOC has shown that it can be bought off by business, examples being the Wairau River in Marlborough and the Nevis in Central Otago where DOC withdrew opposition to hydro electricity exploitation proposals in return for cash!

Some might point to government agreeing to a statutory Big Game Hunting Council being a plus? Yet will it eventuate? The Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment in a bizarre report backing 1080, was critical of the hunting council concept. Was she being a mouthpiece for either Cabinet and/or DOC? Reading the fine print (ie detail) of the game hunting council draft, recreational hunting interests are well outvoted by commercial and bureaucratic representatives.

The new CORANZ Outdoor Recreation Election Charter for 2011 is much more concise. However the 2008 Outdoor Recreation Charter, should remain as the "full detail" version subject to minor updating amendments.

On the administrative and advocacy side, very big "thank you's" go to treasurer Strato and Carmen Cotsilinis and secretary Hugh Barr. Strato and Carmen meticulous and diligent of our purse, and Hugh not only as secretary but also as a brave and forthright public advocate have made great contributions. Hugh has spent countless hours as an advocate and has regularly attended DOC/NGO meetings as CORANZ's representative. Plus let's not forget his work (and book) on the Foreshore and Seabed issue.

Bill and Tony as co-chairmen, plus Ken Sims, have had letters published in provincial and metropolitan paper and magazines on key issues that have arisen during the year. We stress the need for supportive letters in such cases not only from member groups but individuals. Politicians nervously notice issues when several letters are printed!

CORANZ work and submissions include:-

- Foreshore & Seabed: CORANZ Submission on the Marine & Coastal Area Bill, to the Maori Affairs Select Committee 17 November 2010
- Hugh had published a number of opinion pieces on the Issue, including in the "NZ Herald" and Dominion/ Post, and provincial papers.
- CORANZ was a member of the Coastal Coalition. Newsletters to fishing and boating clubs on recreational concerns about the Bill.
- Pastoral lease tenure reviews

CORANZ made submissions on

- July 2011: Bog Roy Review Otematata, Access to the Hawkduns (North Otago)
- July 2011: Mt Dalgety, Hakataramea, Sth Canty. Govt repurchase of 5,816 hectares of steep mountain land.
- July 2011: Mt Chetwynd, South Canty 648 ha repurchased.
- Wilderness Area Management: Submission made to DOC, 10 September 2011
- Hugh attended DOC - NGO meetings. These have been reduced in number, because DOC is only interested in talking to people prepared to contribute to "conservation" as a volunteer activity.
- Treaty claims: Major concern that the Treaty Minister Christopher Finlayson is pillaging public property for iwi. eg Ngati Toa treaty claim, which includes massive compensation for Ngati Toa losing its "naval control of Cook Strait" when the Treaty was signed.

- Blue Cod. CORANZ submitted on the Blue Cod recreational no-take in the Marlborough Sounds. Basically government has discriminated against the recreational sector with bans and restrictions without equal restraints on customary or commercial.
- Set Net Ban. A ill-based ban on recreational set netting on the South Island east coast while leaving commercial and customary free to continue set netting was opposed with a submission.
- Commercial Paua - CORANZ is concerned about the intention of Fisheries Minister Phil Heatley to allow commercial paua harvesting around the Wellington and South Taranaki coasts, if National is re-elected. These areas are solely recreational at present. The argument that commercial fishers will dob in paua poachers has never happened elsewhere, and is simply a push for commercial to get a bigger take by muscling in on some of the recreational take.
- Public Access: CORANZ has maintained contact with the NZ Walking Access Commission and of course member Public Access NZ and continued to argue for public access rights to be protected.
- CORANZ Has been involved in cases where a number of councils, including Auckland/Rodney (Higham Road, South Kaipara Head), Ruapehu District Council (Erua Road), and Marlborough District Council (Akerblom's Rd, Endeavour Inlet). We joined the Court case to oppose the closure of Higham Road. This is still proceeding.
- 1080 and other poisons- CORANZ has spoken out on the 1080 issue. Bill Benfield had published an excellent book "The Third Wave" (Tross Publishing) exposing the folly and lack of justification for 1080.

There are other areas of activity too.

Privatisation of the Outdoors

We view with concern further continuation of the privatisation of fishing and hunting by way of game preserves and estates and purchase of exclusive rights to trout fishing rivers. The Federation of Freshwater Anglers has done sterling work on the exclusive capture issue. We have referred to DOC's business deals but such is its seriousness, it is worth reiterating.

We have been disappointed in National's Ministers of Conservation namely firstly Tim Groser and now Kate Wilkinson. Both appear to have little or no empathy with the outdoors. Kate Wilkinson made an archaic decision in formally declaring Canada Geese as pests. There was no need for that. They could have remained game birds under law with landowners given the right to take steps for culling on their own land.

Given hunters and fishers pursue acclimatised species, such as trout, ducks and geese, DOC has not shed its preoccupation with the "turn the clock back to 1500 AD" philosophies.

Pollution

We view with alarm the pollution levels in New Zealand waterways that have surfaced over the past year, a sad public example being the Manawatu. Another is Hawkes Bay's Tukituki River where urban sewage goes into waterways! Intensive farming and nitrate emissions are undoubtedly a major factor too. Lakes Ellesmere and Waituna have been exposed as badly polluted. For a country of just 4.37 million, not even the size of Melbourne, the pollution blight is shameful.

Government's National Policy Statement for freshwater management has, according to scientist Mike Joy of Massey University, been "guttled" of important clauses like maximum nutrient limits, a moratorium on further dairy conversions and others necessities.

Toxins

It is alarming the use of toxins for the supposed threat of animal "pests" such as the possum for the supposed threats of conservation values and bovine Tb levels. As mentioned earlier Bill Benfield's book shows the myths around 1080 use and the "gravy train" by DOC, AHB, regional councils and contractors.

Some basic facts:-

- 1080 was developed in 1917 as an insecticide. It kills or severely retards insects, invertebrates, indeed every living creature that breathes oxygen comes in contact with it.
- Possums, deer or any browser is not a pest in most situations. NZ's bush has adapted over millions of years to browsing by moa.
- Possums are a resource capable of earning export dollars from fur and meat (human and pet) products.
- NZ does not have a Tb problem. New Zealand's Tb infection in cattle is 0.3%. In the UK Tb rates are up between 5% and 8%. NZ's Treasury in 2002 said Tb was unlikely to be a trade barrier to exports and suggested stock trucks transmitted Tb far more than possums.
- 1080 has a profound adverse effect on native ecosystems and bird life - robins, tomtits, keas, wekas, moreporks, ducks etc

We ask is there a pest problem?

Sea Fisheries

Fisheries Minister Phil Heatley has been a major disappointment. He seems obsessed with aquaculture which incidentally occupies public space and which is no substitute for proper, far sighted management of wild sea fisheries. The Minister still has not comprehended that under the ACT he has to have regard for social, economic and cultural aspects, i.e. recreational, commercial and customary. He seems to have a distinct bias for corporate commercial fishing interests.

The Marlborough Recreational Fishers Assn., has fought for the public's rights over bans on blue cod fishing and set netting for moki and butterfish, implemented by Labour's Jim Anderton as minister. However progress under National has been pathetically slow and error-ridden.

It should be noted in the blue cod and netting issues it applies to only to the recreation public. Commercial and customary are not subject to the bans. Unfair! Discriminatory!

Population

Environmental problems New Zealand faces should be seen in the light of a fact we mentioned earlier - New Zealand is a country of just 4.37 million, not even the size of just Sydney or Melbourne - yet we have threats to the public estate.

The little "clean and green" and uncrowded New Zealand is looking more attractive to the wealthy American, Chinese or other foreigner. Foreign ownership is of mounting concern to the public, in the face of governments' apathy - or is it support - for foreign investment/ownership.

This subject brings to the fore outdoor recreation stalwart John B Henderson who passed away a few months ago. John spent half a century fighting wayward and irresponsible governments from the Save Manapouri days of the late 60s and over successive decades. John s warned of the "people factor" back in 1970 as president of the NZ Deerstalkers' Association when he said:-"I have no hesitation in stating that I don't want to live nor my children to live in an overcrowded, irrational, polluted and exploited society split into wealth and poverty, so I state 5 million is my limit and I suggest to the Government that if it fails to discourage the increase of the New Zealand population or worse still if it institutes some witless immigration scheme to satisfy the profit motivated

industrialist, then it will buy inside of 10 years, a large measure of the public disorder and social collapse that is manifest in so many societies who have made these same tragic mistakes." John's experience, wisdom and sage advice will be sadly missed.

Population has relevance to all outdoor sectors. With access and recreation and outdoor values, if the population is double, (8 million) that in effects means double the present pressure on recreational resources.

Election

Last AGM a paper on election strategy was presented and adopted. NZFFA have adopted the strategy too. Basically it involves educating and encouraging voters about the importance of the party vote and because of decades of indifference to outdoor recreation by the two major parties, utilising MMP to get minor parties with solid outdoor recreation policies, elected. We make no apology for this bold action. Can NZ's outdoors afford another 3 years of downward slide under National and the Maori party? This may well be **THE** critical election, i.e. a watershed election.

Have New Zealanders the will, the motivation and the courage to call a halt to the slide? Can the voting public shed their apathy and indifference? Outdoor recreationalists number over one million. Of that one million plus there might be at a guess 700,000 voters?

There is immense potential for outdoor recreationists to have a strong say at elections.

Over the next several weeks leading to November 26, we must strive to make a political impact.

Emissions Trading System (ETS)

It might be seen at first glance as a tenuous link, but Kyoto and the free market based ETS can affect recreation. Shrilly vociferous Minister for Climate Change Nick Smith, has made it clear that under the Kyoto ideology hydro-electricity is "renewable energy". But rivers are not renewable. They are finite in number and are public resources.

And they are recreational resources for canoeists, rafters, jet boaters, trout fishers and picnicking/swimming public.

Schemes where river water is diverted through a private canal (e.g. Wairau) are particularly detrimental to recreational users fishers, jet-boaters, canoeists.

We do believe in environmental awareness and the need for vigilance of global warming.

However the process (ETS) being adopted by successive governments is flawed in trying to use a free market/market force approach to lessening emissions. A few traders will become wealthy by wheeling and dealing carbon credits.

And there is blatant hypocrisy by government in allowing the export of millions of tonnes of coal to China and India for their multitude of coal fired power stations to emit.

Perhaps New Zealand, in a contribution to Kyoto, should severely cut coal exports, and stop corporate and SOE power companies damming the public's rivers and denying jet boating, kayaking, trout fishing etc.,? Kyoto seems more about money making avenues for greedy traders than environment.

Bill Benfield and Tony Orman
CORANZ Co-Chairmen