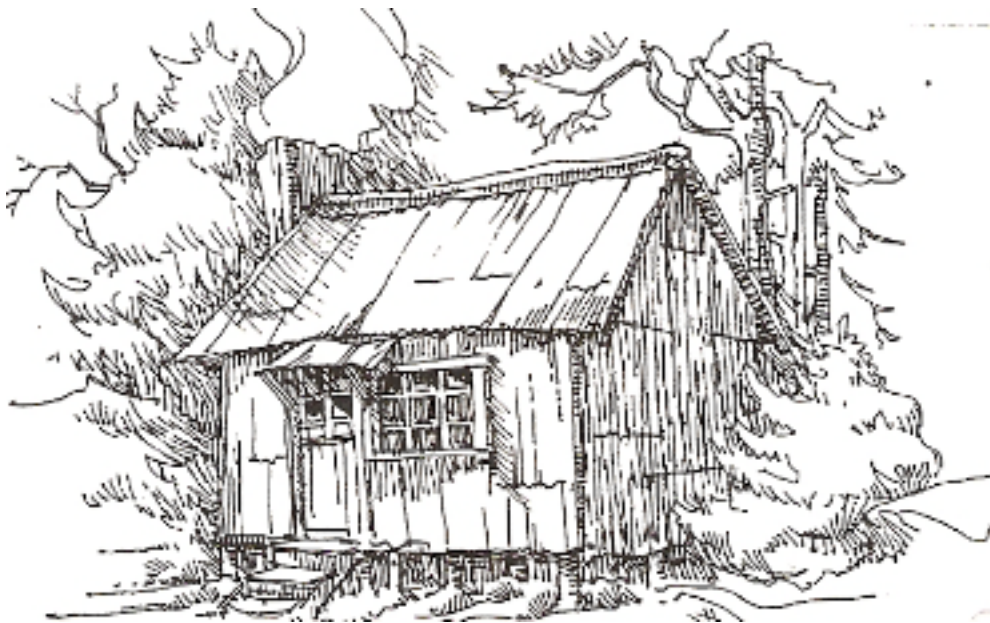


New Zealand Outdoor Recreation Charter Election 2011

**Council of Outdoor Recreation
Associations of New Zealand, P O Box
1876, Wellington**



The Quiet Crisis

'The race between education and erosion, between wisdom and waste, has not run its course---Each generation must deal anew with the raiders, with the scramble to use to use public resources for private profit and with the tendency to prefer short run profits to long run necessities. The nation's battle to preserve the common estate is far from run---The crisis may be quiet but it is urgent.'

The late John F Kennedy, President USA

Introduction - CORANZ

Many - indeed most - New Zealanders participate in the outdoors whether walking, tramping, fishing, hunting, driving, surfing, canoeing, mountain biking or other leisure activity. It has been estimated that more than one million New Zealanders have an active outdoor recreational interest.

New Zealanders greatly value the right to enjoy outdoor recreation, as part of the “Kiwi” quality of life. Outdoor recreation is a major component of the Kiwi psyche.

CORANZ is an advocate for the common interests of “the million plus” New Zealanders who fish, shoot, tramp, ski, canoe, climb, walk, mountain bike, botanise, photograph or relax in New Zealand’s great outdoors.

The Council was formed to advocate for and promote the **common interests** of outdoor recreation participants at the national level largely because of concern that in political and official decision making, it is not fully considered, and at times, not considered at all.

CORANZ member associations/affiliations include -

NZ Federation of Freshwater Anglers (trout)

NZ Salmon Anglers Association

NZ Four Wheel Drive Association

Public Access New Zealand

NZ Bowhunters Society

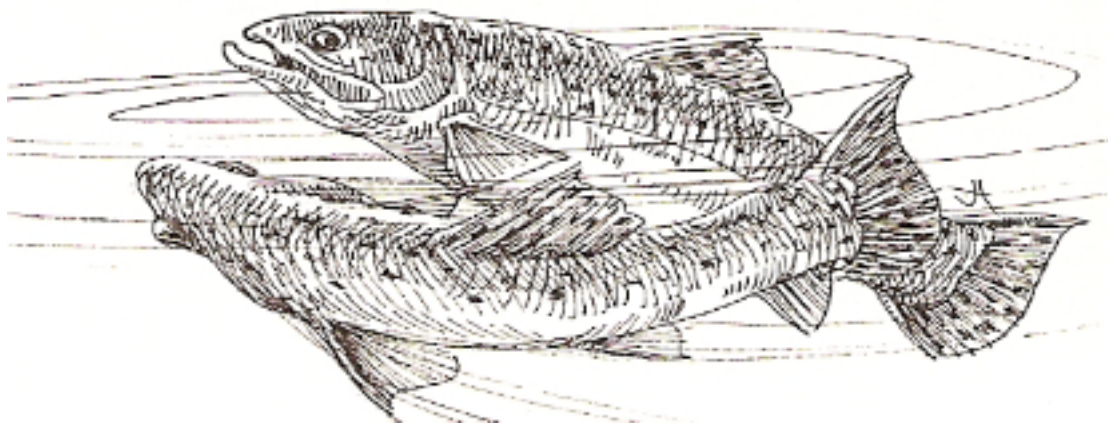
option4 (recreational sea fishing)

NZ Jet-boating Assn

NZ Bowhunters Society

Marlborough Recreational (Sea) Fishers

Sporting Hunters Outdoor Trust



CORANZ welcomes comments on the charter. In addition we urge individuals and clubs, regional and national groups to lend support to CORANZ by way of an annual subscription of \$25 (individual), \$100 clubs and regional groups and \$350 for national organisations. Send to CORANZ, P O Box 1876, Wellington.

Co-Chairmen: Bill Benfield (Wairarapa) Tony Orman (Marlborough)

Secretary Hugh Barr (Wellington)

Progress or Deception?

Extracts from an environmental address July 1972, by the late John B Henderson, conservationist and outdoor sportsman, to a Victoria University lecture series on "Man and His Environment." The words and message are even more pertinent today - some 40 years later.

I firmly believe that in a parliamentary democracy, the government has been charged with a solemn duty and given a mandate to fully protect the public's interests - if it fails, then it must take the consequences.

With the massive power that is today concentrated in the hands of industry, finance, the supranational cartel and many private commercial leeches, the citizen must look almost entirely to his elected representatives to protect him or her - and has every right to do so.

You see I believe New Zealand was founded by people who had deliberately abandoned a feudal society built on privilege and a pecking order to found one based on social equality and opportunity for all.

That kind of aspired society is strongly reflected in New Zealand outdoor sporting and recreation attitudes of the last one hundred years:-

- resistance to commercialising sport and the legal structures to prevent the sale of game, fish and access rights thereto
- The modest licence fees (Fish and Game) and equality of opportunity for all
- the democratic election of those who administer the rules
- the tradition of public ownership of fish, wildlife, mountains, lakes, rivers, sea coasts and associated recreational and scenic resources
- the large measure of freedom to camp, tramp, climb, ski, fish and hunt
- the friendly hospitality exchanged between town and country people

There is another system - the very antithesis of the one I have just described. Overseas, it is often founded not on rights but on privileges based on accident of birth or possession of wealth. Overseas the privileged minority buy or inherit and thus the fish, wildlife, mountains, lakes, rivers, sea coasts and their associated recreational and scenic resources are not publicly owned but are for the most part, private preserves.

Some will say - it can't happen here in New Zealand. Well I believe they are dead wrong.- it is already happening and glib-tongued entrepreneurs are selling this gimmick to New Zealand today under the guise of necessary development of commercial and especially tourist industry.

Protection from such damaging influences can be assured in the long term only by proper government action and legal safeguards. Our main danger today lies in the fact we have had money-grubbing governments dominated by men who have long been cross-eyed staring at dollar signs and who are prepared to convert anything to cash in return for the irretrievable loss, often to foreign interests of public resources, including fish, wildlife, minerals, land, water and social values associated with them.

I was brought up to believe Parliament was the Court of last resort - where the public and the public interest could get a fair deal.

I believe the public should continue to flush out the men who pull the strings and wield the power - flush them into the open where the spotlight of public scrutiny can be focused. If they are true and sincere, they have nothing to lose and nothing to fear.

I urge the public to be more determined to bring the debate to the public for its judgement and never to be duped into believing that politics and the environment are other than cause and effect.

Paramount CORANZ

Aims

The CORANZ constitution recognises four main policy areas:-

- (i) Protection and wise management of natural resources
- (ii) Sustainable public ownership based management
- (iii) Responsible public access
- (iv) A strong outdoor recreational user voice



Key Priority Areas 2011

1. Adequate, credible, non-political, recreational representation in all decision-making of resource usage, the environmentally generally and in particular, land or water - with full consideration and allocation of these, for recreational requirements.
2. A National Environmental and Recreational Standard for Water and reversing the current degradation of fresh water.
3. (a) Full legal recognition sporting freshwater fish such as trout, salmon and perch are valued recreational assets, an established part of and compatible with the 21st century ecosystem, e.g. National Parks Act
(b) Full legal recognition game animal species (e.g. deer, wapiti, tahr, chamois etc) are valued recreational assets, an established part of and compatible with the 21st century ecosystem. e.g. National Parks Act.
4. Recognition of freshwater and saltwater fish, game and game animal resources as publicly owned with full, equal and proper public access to them. The principles of Section 23, Wildlife Act, that no purchase or selling of rights to recreation be allowed, shall apply to all and be clearly written into law.
5. Damming or diversions through private canals of river systems for hydro or storage be avoided in all situations and where necessary alternative storage/energy options be established. Residual river flows must be adequate for wildlife and fish and recreations such as fishing, jet boating, canoeing etc. Alternative energy options implemented.
6. Full statutory and practical recognition of the public's right of access to catching saltwater fish (and gathering shellfish) for sport and/or sustenance. The rights of amateur non-commercial sea fishing public be paramount or at least equal to other sectors and be written clearly into law and considered and clearly implemented in all fisheries management decisions. Sea fisheries management and implementation of the quota system must be based on the principle of "more fish in the water".
7. The aerial poison regime be curtailed and a full public enquiry, totally independent of government, DOC and AHB, be held. Aerial poisoning be immediately stopped. Encapsulated cyanide baits for possums and an export fur industry be encouraged.

8. Establish an Independent Environmental Protection Council independent of government or industry (akin to the Nature Conservation Council of the 1970s) as a public watchdog. No political appointments.

9. Reordering priorities of the Department of Conservation to:-

(a) First and foremost be conservation and the environment and not commercial undertakings.

(b) That its statutory obligation to outdoor recreation and access be incorporated in name (DOCR) and implemented in practice.

10. Impose stricter controls on foreign ownership of New Zealand land. Foreigners can lease land long-term with the mandatory proviso that any lessee purchaser must become a registered New Zealand citizen and reside in New Zealand for nine months of every year.

11. Full recognition by government of the public right to public resources of value for outdoor recreation with greater impetus and support to the Walking Access Commission Maintenance, enhancement and development of public access rights to public lands. Education of Local Authorities and other State institutions, on their respective roles in protecting the public interest, are needed.

12. Recognise the Treaty of Waitangi was about bringing two cultures together into one integrated society and work towards establishing New Zealand into a harmonious, egalitarian society in line with Article 3.

13. Establish a population policy for New Zealand. with full awareness and recognition, people put demands on resources, both land, water, fishery and other resources for recreation or commercial use and infrastructure.

14. The index for national prosperity, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) based on solely economic indicators, be replaced by a Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI) based on three kinds of capital - social, environmental and economic to thus fully measure the quality of life.

A Candid View

Performance Assessment of Government

Each election year CORANZ analyses and makes a performance assessment on government's previous three years for its members.

Successive governments have made claims as to "clean and green" and "100 percent pure" largely as a branding exercise for selling exports and attracting tourists. However these brand claims have been shown on closer inspection, to lack credibility and riddled with hypocrisy.

On a recent BBC Hard Talk interview, Prime Minister John Key looked very uncomfortable when the interviewer questioned the credibility of New Zealand's '100 percent pure' in the light of river water quality where the Manawatu was exemplified as a badly polluted river by world standards.

The main issues of concern to the public's outdoor recreation over the last 3 years, as perceived by a CORANZ panel, are:-

- **National's privatisation of public commons** eg Foreshore & Seabed privatisation legislation and a declared priority for water and rivers to be used to generate private wealth rather than a public or recreational asset.

- **Government Interference.** Dismissal of Environment Canterbury Regional Council councillors, replacement with government picked appointees and interference with the Hurunui River National Water Conservation order;
- **Reduced environmental standards** with shocking examples of river pollution (e.g. Ellesmere, Waituna, Manawatu, Tukituki) while the “dirty dairying” voluntary agreement has failed and even no significant improvement with compliance to compulsory standards.
- **Wild Rivers protection** has lost ground despite a public Wild Rivers campaign, with rivers threatened by hydroelectricity exploitation by SOEs (part government owned) or corporate companies allowed under a previous National government’s privatisation of electricity “reforms.”
- **Treaty claims** rather than abating have become much more aggressive with the use of the public’s conservation land, Wai 262 - 20 Govt depts to be co-managed, not just DOC. National has essentially privatised conservation lands as part of treaty claim settlements: eg Kapiti Island, Island Bay Island
- **Poison Increase.** Use of aurally indiscriminate spread poisons (e.g. 1080, brodifacoum) often over the public’s lands for imaginary pests continues and has increased with the resultant by-kill of native birds and invertebrates, wild deer and other valued life, the creation of unbalanced ecosystems and a loss of biodiversity.
- **DOC has become a “department of commercialisation”** National single focus of monetary values has resulted in DOC favouring business rather than conservation and recreation values.
- **Public access** is under threat. There is little government support for the Walking Access Commission and voluntary public watchdog groups (e.g. PANZ) have become vital to researching and stopping the diminishing of existing public access. There is a combined government and industry agenda to commercialise public access to public resources.
- **Freedom Camping.** The new law designed to restrict or ban freedom camping whether with tent or camper van is draconian and pointless. Cars aren’t banned because of a few drunken drivers or speedsters.
- **Pastoral lease tenure review:** Still moving. Mainly a pastoral lessee retirement scheme, even though useful gains of land unsuitable for grazing to public conservation land.
- **Foreign Ownership.** Allied with the pastoral tenure review is that free holding lands often results in sales to foreign interests. The last two governments have done nothing significant to arrest the flow of New Zealand lands, particularly high country stations, into foreign ownership. Foreigners often come from non-egalitarian cultures and frequently do not want or appreciate the need for public access and values.
- **Privatisation of the Foreshore and Seabed:** The National-led government has set up the Marine & Coastal Area Bill, to provide a process for privatising NZ's foreshore and seabed to Maori tribal groups, that were in possession in 1840, with no requirements for proof (35% of NZ's land area), and allowing exclusion of the public over any part that is privatised, by allowing it to be declared a wahi tapu area.
- **Heli-hunting and Wild Animal Recovery Operators (WARO)** DOC in its eagerness for commercialisation has encouraged both tourist heli-hunting and wild animal recovery (deer, tahr, chamois etc) and ignored its obligations to recreational hunting. The “anti-exotic animal phobia” underlies these commercial activities in spite of increasing recreational hunter needs.
- **Privatisation of Game Animals:** Government has moved to setting up a Game Animal Council, dominated and funded by the commercial hunting lobby, to manage deer, chamois, tahr and wild pigs. The recreational public are heavily outvoted.



- **Privatisation of game bird shooting** has already occurred with Fish and Game NZ and DOC, against the intent of law, allowing the proliferation of commercial game bird shooting properties, designed to exclude all but the super-wealthy from access to these public resources.
- **Pest Syndrome.** The Canada geese, once a 'game bird to be managed', is now a pest by edict from government's Conservation Minister Kate Wilkinson. Paradise duck, ironically a native bird, seem likely to become "pest" too.
- **Exclusive Capture of Prime Trout Fishing** streams and rivers, usually back country has eroded the public's right of access - again contrary to the intent of law. It is a form of privatisation. No government action.
- **Recreational Sea Fishery:** Fisheries Minister Phil Heatley has been lax towards the public's recreational fishing rights and even has proposed sea fishing areas such as the Wellington Coast and the South Taranaki Coast, be available for commercial paua harvest, based on the spurious reasoning that somehow the commercial presence will stop poaching, something they have never done before. Events in Marlborough with a set net and blue cod fishing ban has only applied to the recreational public and therefore has been discriminatory. Government is legally obliged to allow for adequate allowance for non-commercial interests, e.g. "social and cultural values" of the people.
- **Recreational Sea Fishing Erosion:** Rules being changed to favour commercial and iwi fishers, at the expense of recreational fishers eg Wellington and south Taranaki coastal paua, Marlborough Sounds blue cod ban and east coast South Island recreational set net ban.
- **DOC goes commercial:** DOC's main goal is now patently seems to assist and encourage commercial sector exploitation of the public's conservation lands and its resources and values. Consequently DOC is jettisoning its RMA specialists under pressure from business eg Power companies wanting hydroelectricity schemes and mining companies wanting to mine public conservation lands.
- **Recreation funding:** Sport funding continues to ignore the public's sport and recreation needs, in concentrating on international champions and international teams. The result is an increasingly sedentary people with increasing obesity rates. Outdoor recreation is ignored.
- **Privatisation Ideology.** The National led government has shown a strong penchant for privatisation, even sacrificing publicly owned resources. Typical was the proposal to mine National Parks. Selling power stations is another - and they require the use of public water. Crown-owned exotic forests have been sold off with traditional public access to outdoor recreation, eroded or curtailed.

Water has undergone massive privatisation by private power companies for electricity generation while draw-offs for large scale irrigation and monoculture of exotic pines, have depleted water flows. As a result only five major rivers in Canterbury flow to sea with others normally dry. Wild rivers such as the West Coast's Arnold, Mokihinui and Marlborough's Wairau are due for hydro-electricity exploitation, while Murchison's Matiri and Matakītaki and Otago's Nevis are under threat. Other rivers are being "eyed."

Consequently the CORANZ panel regards the National-Maori - ACT coalition government's performance as very disappointing. In the words of President J F Kennedy there has been an increased "tendency to prefer short run profits to long run necessities."

Economics are vital but so too is quality of life and the environment for the public.

After all, successive governments have conveniently made much of the brand marketing using "clean and green" and "100 percent pure" for export markets and to attract tourists. The much discussed recent BBC interview with PM John Key went part way to exposing the inherent hypocrisy and contradiction by government. What if the full truth is revealed?

Instead the economy is run on almost total dependence on a favourable dollar exchange rate, with uncontrolled expenditure with unnecessary imports, the free trade ethos dominating in deals and excessive regulation and costly bureaucracy - the economy is very

arguably poorly managed.

CORANZ does not believe that outdoor recreation, environmental and conservation values should be at the expense of an ideologically driven and poorly managed economy.

CORANZ urges all outdoor New Zealanders to take up these issues with their MPS and candidates in the forthcoming election. We urge individuals to consider raising these issues for debate in letters to the editor of newspapers and magazines and by attending political meetings and asking questions.

Action Individuals or Groups Can Take:

Contact Members of Parliament

(a) E mailing is easy!

General addresses: FirstName.LastName@parliament.govt.nz For example - john.blogs@parliament.govt.nz

Ministers addresses: First Name Initial.LastName@ministers.govt.nz e.g. j.blogs@ministers.govt.nz

(b) Write to a Member of Parliament!

Simply address your letter to MP at Parliament. e.g. John Blogs MP, Parliament, Wellington. No stamp is required.

Letters To Editor

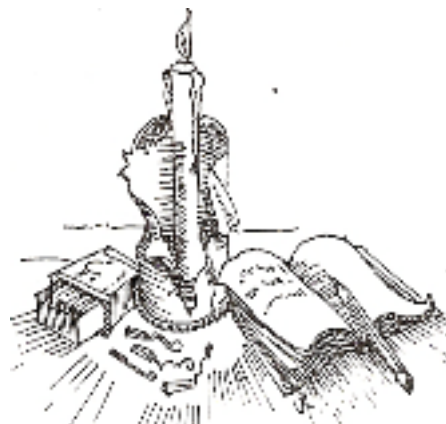
A letter to a newspaper, if published, carries much weight - it is potentially read by thousands of readers.

A metropolitan paper (e.g. Wellington's "Dominion-Post" or Canterbury's "The Press") can reach 200,000 readers. Usually a limit of 200 words is placed on length. Make your letter to the point and as brief as possible.

In fact shorter letters are more likely to be read.

Send by e mail or posted hand-written or typed with "double spacing".

The writer's name, address and phone number must go on.



Council of Outdoor Recreation Associations of New Zealand

P O Box 1876

WELLINGTON

July 2011