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WELCOME

Welcome to the third Sustainable Future update. Since our last update we have made a great deal of progress toward the completion of our Project 2058, as well as recording a number of interviews (available on our website) and remodelling our homepage to provide more space for updates and new material.

Once again, a lot has been happening, both within our organisation and on the world stage. In 2009, New Zealand will, like every country, face the repercussions of 'The Three Gs': Global political change, Global economic change and Global climate change. Such crises increasingly point us towards the need to wholly commit to sustainable development.

All of our Reports and our 2008 Annual Report can be read in full on our website: www.sustainablefuture.info.

The screenshot shows the Sustainable Future website interface. At the top is the logo and a navigation menu with links for PROJECTS, PUBLICATIONS, HOT TOPICS, RESOURCES, BLOG, and ABOUT. Below the menu is a descriptive paragraph about the organization. The main content area features three highlighted sections: 'Latest Newsletter' with a landscape image, 'Latest Report' with a modern building image, and 'Latest Think Piece' with a graphic of three lines. To the right, there are two boxes for 'Conversations' (with a photo of a man) and 'Interviews' (with a globe image). Below these is a 'Site Tools' section with a search bar and contact links. The bottom section contains 'Latest Publications' with a list of articles from December, October, and November, each with a small image and a brief description.

CONVERSATIONS

Ideas about our future



We launched the Conversations project on our website on 9 December 2008, as part of Project 2058. Each of the five filmed conversations is available to either watch as a video or download as a podcast, from our website. We hope you will take the opportunity this summer to explore these Conversations online, or download the podcasts to listen to as you drive, walk or bike around the country.

Filmed in Wellington in June 2008, the five conversations address environmental, social, cultural and economic perspectives on a sustainable future for New Zealand.

Participants included: Race Relations Commissioner Joris de Bres; Roger Dennis from Innovaro Consulting; Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop, inaugural Director of Va'aomanū Pasifika – Pacific Studies at Victoria University of Wellington; Megan Hosking, multi-talented local designer; environmental economist Dr Suzi Kerr; playwright and director Jo Randerson and her father, Bishop Richard Randerson; Professor Jacqueline Rowarth, director of Agriculture at Massey University; High Court Judge, Hon Justice Joe Williams; and David Young, an author and historian.

THINK PIECES

Issues to think about now



Think Pieces are concise opinion pieces which aim to add to the wider dialogue on issues facing New Zealand. While our reports often have a long-term focus, we believe it is also important to engage with these issues in the short-term as well.

Over the past few months, we have published five of these Think Pieces: Weak Signals and Wild Cards, a discussion of insights Wendy had while at the recent World Future Conference in Washington D.C.; Hard Work, which looked at what pressures changing demographics and technology are placing on our work force; While AgResearch Fiddled, an opinion piece which looks at the decisions our Crown Research Institutes are making about what path New Zealand should take to solve problems of agricultural emissions; What is a National Sustainable Development Strategy?, an overview to accompany the publication of our government reports and our most recent, Magnifying Hope and Reducing Fear, which outlines our recommendations for the new government. To read these, please visit our [website](http://www.sustainablefuture.info).

PROJECT 2058

Looking towards a sustainable New Zealand



Project 2058 is an ambitious exploration of New Zealand's future, which is aimed at producing a National Sustainable Development Strategy. Initially, we thought that this would be a two-year project, however, we now realise that it will in fact stretch into 2009. This will ensure that the strategy we offer to New Zealand is the most definitive and relevant that we can provide. See our website for a copy of our Methodology (Version 3 is to be released in early 2009).

Reports 4 and 5: The completion of the New Zealand Government Reports

The recent publication of our Reports 4, 4a and 5 sees the completion of the section of Project 2058 we refer to as the 'New Zealand Government Reports'. Over the past few months, these reports have been read by staff at the United Nations and reviewed by external reviewers. The result is a thorough evaluation of the current status of New Zealand's institutional framework for supporting sustainable development, and how it measures up against international progress. See also Think Piece 7: What is a National Sustainable Development Strategy?

Report 6: Four Possible Futures for New Zealand in 2058

We have also recently published our scenarios paper, which is the result of a workshop held by the Sustainable Future team in April. Report 6, Four Possible Futures for New Zealand in 2058, describes four scenarios, alongside four timelines exploring possible events from 2009 to 2058. See also Think Piece 8: Magnifying Hope and Reducing Fear, prepared for the incoming Government.

INTERVIEWS

Insights from the World Futures Conference 2008



In July, Wendy attended the World Futures Conference in Washington D.C. While there, Wendy had the opportunity to listen to speakers from a wide range of fields, including the Chief Scientist for NASA, professional futurists and former presidential advisers. Wendy recorded interviews with a number of the speakers and we have since made these available on our [website](http://www.sustainablefuture.info).



COMING UP

Over the next few months....

Reports in Progress: Project 2058

Over the next six months we hope to be completing a number of reports, including *A History of Past Future Thinkers*; *The State of the State Sector*; *The State of Publicly Funded Science*; *The State of Infrastructure*; *The State of Natural Resources*; an investigation into *New Zealand Identity* and *Matauranga me ona tikanga Maori: Contributions to a Treaty Model of Sustainability*.

National Strategy Wiki: Project 2058

We are currently in the process of creating a wiki page for our draft strategy, which we intend to launch early next year on www.nationalstrategy.net.nz. We hope that by allowing the public to review our suggestions, and offer their own, we will be able to create an exciting strategy with broad appeal.

Reports in Progress: Project Genetic Modification

Following the publication of our two reports earlier this year, we continue to assess New Zealand's management of genetic modification. Subsequent to the finalisation of the proposed changes to HSNO (Methodology) Order 1998, we intend releasing our third report in this series, *The Future of Genetic Modification in New Zealand*. This report will build on our recent submissions to ERMA, including our response to the changes of the Methodology and the suite of transgenic animal applications made by AgResearch. Our recent Think Piece 6, *While AgResearch Fiddled* also outlines our concerns about the strategic direction of our Crown Research Institutes.

Thank You

Not-for-profit organisations could not exist without people committed to the wider public good. In our case, we are fortunate to have external reviewers committed to quality, and willing to offer their time to assist us in ensuring our publications are of a consistently high standard. We also have a number of individuals and organisations who have continued to support the team in other ways over the year, so many thanks to you all for your support in 2008 and all the best for 2009.

Sustainable Future

Sustainable Future is a non-partisan, not-for-profit research organisation specialising in complex issues affecting New Zealand. Our vision is to provide relevant and timely information that is complete and well-researched for those interested in exploring New Zealand's long-term future.



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