

ESR Events 2002

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In a Land of Plenty - the story of unemployment in New Zealand

- **Date:** Thursday 21 November 2002
- **Time:** 7:30pm
- **Venue:** Room 3.407, School of Engineering, The University of Auckland, 20 Symonds Street

In place of our planned speaker, ESR will be showing a video of Alister Barry's new film *In a Land of Plenty - the story of unemployment in New Zealand*. From the Great Depression of the 1930s to 1984, the first objective of economic policy was full employment. But with the election of the Labour government in 1984 unemployment was made an instrument of economic management to be manipulated in the pursuit of other objectives.

This feature length documentary tells the story of how the policies and institutions which had sustained full employment were abandoned and reconstructed to maximise the effectiveness of the new policy. The film shows the political battles fought inside and outside government and the increasing effects on the cultural, social and economic life of New Zealand as a new poverty-stricken underclass developed. Using extensively researched archive footage and interviews with those close to the action, *In a Land of Plenty* traces the origins, the politics and the effects of New Zealand's policy of unemployment through to the present day. This compelling documentary cuts through the smokescreens and spin doctoring to reveal the heart of Rogernomics and the modern free market economy.

For further information contact:

Lawrence Carter

Web: www.ele.auckland.ac.nz/staff/academic/carter/

Email: lj.carter@auckland.ac.nz

Phone: 0-9-373 7599 x8177



SkyCabs Small Group Rapid Transit Monobeam Transport System

Event report available: [SkyCabs Small Group Rapid Transit Monobeam Transport System](#)

- **Speaker:** Hugh Chapman
- **Date:** Thursday 17 October 2002
- **Time:** 7:30pm
- **Venue:** Room 3.407, School of Engineering, The University of Auckland, 20 Symonds Street

A transport system which is non-polluting and sustainable, congestion solving, able to save Auckland up to \$11 billion over 25 years, and with the appeal of the Sydney Opera House.

Can Auckland afford to miss out on such a system?

For further information contact:

Derek Pringle
Email: annderek@actrix.co.nz
Phone: 0-9-489 3589



Small Water Power and Development

Event report available: [Small Water Power and Development](#)

- **Speaker:** Prof. Jack Woodward
- **Date:** Thursday 19 September 2002
- **Time:** 7:30pm
- **Venue:** Room 3.407, School of Engineering, The University of Auckland, 20 Symonds Street

Small water power has been a potent force for human development for over 2000 years, a period during which the people of Papua New Guinea (PNG) were largely isolated from outside influences. The earliest application of waterwheels was to milling grain, but they were applied to other productive agricultural and industrial processes as these developed. With the invention of the steel turbine, electrical machines and electric lighting during the nineteenth century, the range of waterpower applications was vastly increased. Waterwheels and early hydroelectric units were in the "micro hydro" range, up to 100 kW in size, but in NZ as elsewhere in the developed world much larger units quickly became the norm.

Micro hydro and associated small scale electrification has nonetheless been widely promoted as a means to accelerate the development process for rural people in the developing world, although it is not without its critics. Experience of micro hydro developments in PNG extending over almost thirty years is discussed, the many obstacles identified, a number of case studies presented, and acknowledging the unquenchable enthusiasm shown by village people, an attempt is made to look ahead.

For further information contact:

Neil Mander
Email: neilman@clear.net.nz
Phone: 0-9-625 9306
Fax: 0-9-625 9306



Clearing Landmines and Cluster Bombs in Kosovo

Event report available: [Clearing Landmines and Cluster Bombs in Kosovo](#)

- **Speaker:** Major John Flanagan, NZ Defence Force
- **Date:** Thursday 15 August 2002
- **Time:** 7:30pm
- **Venue:** Room 3.407, School of Engineering, The University of Auckland, 20 Symonds Street

New Zealand Army officer John Flanagan was Program Manager of the Mine Action Co-ordination Centre, the international group which achieved spectacular success in clearing all known minefields and cluster bomb areas from war-torn Kosovo, in 1999-2001.

Hear about this outstanding work from the Kiwi who directed it.

The mine action program in Kosovo was resounding success. Nearly 45,000 lethal devices were destroyed and over 30 million square metres of land were painstakingly restored to their pre-war pristine state. The country is safe... The people of Kosovo live their lives confident that mines are the least of their problems.

The Program Manager demonstrated consistent vision and leadership to both the MACC staff and the wider mine action community.

-Kosovo Evaluation Report

For further information contact:

Neil Mander

Email: neilman@clear.net.nz

Phone: 0-9-625 9306

Fax: 0-9-625 9306



Professional Engineers and their Writing

Event report available: [Professional Engineers and their Writing](#)

- **Speaker:** Heather Silyn-Roberts, Senior Lecturer in Engineering Communication in the School of Engineering at The University of Auckland
- **Date:** Thursday 18 July 2002
- **Time:** 7:30pm
- **Venue:** Room 3.408, School of Engineering, The University of Auckland, 20 Symonds Street

Many engineers are spending an ever-increasing amount of their professional time in writing. However, the main complaint about professional documents is that the information in them is difficult to find and assess. Far too much time is spent in the production, correction and reading of ineffective documents. The material in this talk has been collected during more than 120 day-long programmes in report writing run by the speaker for engineering organisations in New Zealand. We will look at the following issues: the amount of time that engineers at all levels of seniority spend in writing; how they find and assess information in documents; the effect of the traditional placement of information versus that of current international best practice; and the use of words.

Heather Silyn-Roberts is currently writing an invited book on professional engineering documentation for the American Society of Civil Engineers. Her second book, published in 2000, is required or recommended reading in many graduate engineering programmes at major universities in the US and UK. The second edition of her first book will be published next month.

For further information contact:

Adrian Ferguson

Email: adrian.ferguson@rheemnz.co.nz;



The Politics of Community Sewage Schemes Today

Event report available: [The Politics of Community Sewage Schemes Today](#)

- **Speaker:** Joel Cayford, Councillor and Chair North Shore City Council Works and Environment Committee, Editor Water Magazine, Member MfE Steering Group Community Sewage and Wastewater Management Handbook Project
- **Date:** Thursday 20 June 2002
- **Time:** 7:30pm
- **Venue:** Room 3.407, School of Engineering, The University of Auckland, 20 Symonds Street

Poorly managed on site sanitation systems, and the Resource Management Act have come together forcefully at a number of beachside communities in New Zealand. Many are under pressure by territorial councils to accept and pay for centralised wastewater reticulation and treatment systems. Some inner city areas are planning new subdivisions and are now looking at environment and water sensitive infrastructure. But many District and City Councils, motivated by the need to provide long term and reliable solutions and suspicious of the benefits of alternative approaches, are still advocating traditional sanitation solutions which are prohibitively expensive. Fearing intensification and huge rate bills, many communities are resisting such schemes through ratepayer association campaigns. In a number of cases, District Councils are advocating a mix of approaches to reduce the financial impact of their proposals through private sector participation and through land rezoning which enables intensive development and rapid increase in revenues.

Joel will report his personal experience of such schemes - from the community point of view - at Cooks Beach, Ha Hei and Mangawhai, plus other case studies. Joel will discuss international investigations of decentralised cluster sewage systems and the use of small bore reticulation of effluent combined with on-site primary treatment of solids. Joel will report Ministry of Environment progress to date in producing advisory material and guidelines for communities needing to improve sewage and wastewater management systems.

For further information contact:

Adrian Ferguson

Email: adrian.ferguson@rheemnz.co.nz;



Development Interventions of RUCHI in Himachal Pradesh, India

- **Speaker:** Dharamvir Singh, founding Director Rural Centre for Human Interests (RUCHI), Himachal Pradesh, India
- **Date:** Thursday 16 May 2002
- **Time:** 6:00pm for WFS AGM, 7:00pm Dinner, 8:00pm Talk
- **Venue:** Poppadom Restaurant 471 Khyber Pass Road, Newmarket

RUCHI is an NGO supported by Water for Survival since 1992. Dharamvir Singh and his wife were responsible for establishing RUCHI as a legal entity in 1983. In 1987 RUCHI decided to promote other NGOs and started encouraging young persons to join as volunteers. These volunteers and

other interested people were subsequently provided with back-up support to start their own NGOs. Health care was the primary need so a community health care program was designed and established with a focus on education. In 1991 they started roof-top rain water harvesting in Rajgarh area. Using low cost construction techniques while working with the victims of earthquake in Uttaranchal and during the construction of the new Technology Complex at Bandh village, RUCHI were recognised to promote construction techniques and upgrade the skills of concrete construction masons. The Ministry of Human Resource Development requested RUCHI to function as their District Resource Unit to promote non-formal education and promote micro credit through the formation of Self-help Groups of women. Realising the need to protect and conserve natural resources, RUCHI have been involved in watershed projects since 1992.

To book for dinner contact Mogie Pillay Phone 09 410 8079 (evenings) or email mpillay@tonkin.co.nz . The dinner cost is \$35 per person including a \$10 to help pay for the speaker's travel costs.

Sustainable Housing: From Hobbiton to Hockerton

Event report available: [Sustainable Housing: From Hobbiton to Hockerton](#)

- **Speakers:** Brenda and Robert Vale, Department of Architecture, The University of Auckland
- **Date:** Thursday 18 April 2002
- **Time:** 7:30pm
- **Venue:** Room 3.408, School of Engineering, The University of Auckland, 20 Symonds Street

The presentation will look at the first "zero-emissions" housing settlement in Britain, designed by Brenda and Robert Vale of the University of Auckland School of Architecture. The houses cost the same to build as conventional houses of the same size, yet they are self-sufficient for all their energy, water and waste treatment needs. They have no form of heating, yet in the cold English winter the indoor temperature never falls below 18 degrees. The lecture will provide an in-depth look at the design and performance of the houses. It is hoped it will stimulate discussion of ways in which similar performance might be achieved in New Zealand houses.

This lecture was written for the Australian Greenhouse Office's recent sell-out lecture series "Sustainable Housing: Moving to Mainstream" which was presented by the Vales in ten cities across Australia in the last two weeks of February 2002. Over 3,000 tickets were sold, and people were turned away from many of the venues because they were full to capacity. (Hear it for free at ESR.)

For further information contact:

Lawrence Carter

Web: www.ele.auckland.ac.nz/staff/academic/carter/

Email: lj.carter@auckland.ac.nz

Phone: 0-9-373 7599 x8177

ESR 16th National Conference - Real Technology: Innovation that Benefits Humanity

Event report available: [ESR 16th National Conference](#)

- **Date:** Saturday 23rd March 2002
- **Time:** 8:45am to 5:15pm

- **Venue:** IPENZ, Level 4, 101 Molesworth St, WELLINGTON

The ESR Annual Conference theme complements that of the following IPENZ Convention "Harnessing Technical Innovation for New Zealand" but focuses more on the way in which technical innovation arises. What drives technological progress - random or targeted commercial research or Maslow's hierarchy of human needs (Physiological Needs, Safety Needs, Connectivity Needs, Esteem Needs, Self-actualisation Needs)? Have engineers and engineering been captured by economic and ideological forces, rather than creating needed technology with universal benefits.

A range of exciting speakers is being arranged for the session panellists. Among those or confirmed so far are:

- Jeanette Fitzsimons MP & Green Party Leader
- Prof Howard Frederick, Director Centre for Innovation & Entrepreneurship, Unitec
- Ian England, TriDelta Consulting Pty Ltd
- Dr David Bibby, General manager-Science Policy, Industrial Research Ltd
- Dr Barbara Simpson, University of Auckland School of Business
- Dr Wren Green, Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment;
- Athol Yates, Senior Policy Analyst, Institution of Engineers Australia.

PROGRAMME

8:45am Registration

- 9:00am Welcome and Mihi
- 9:15am President's Opening and welcome

9:20am SESSION 1 - The driving forces of technology

Rapporteur: Gerry Coates - Founder of ESR

Panel: Dr David Bibby; Athol Yates

- 10:00am Group discussion and plenary feedback
- 10:45am Morning tea

11:00am SESSION 2 - Humanity's Needs

Rapporteur: John la Roche - President of ESR

Panel: Jeanette Fitzsimons; TBA.

- 11:40am Group discussion with plenary feedback
- 12:30pm Lunch

1:30pm SESSION 3 - Technology planning: Matching needs and providers

Rapporteur: Rapporteur: Ian Brewer - Wellington ESR

Panel: Ian England; Dr Barbara Simpson

- 2:10pm Group discussion and plenary feedback
- 3:15pm Afternoon Tea.

3:30pm SESSION 4 - The Ideal Innovative Future: A creative vision

Rapporteur: Dick Carter - Wellington ESR

Panel: Dr Wren Green; Prof Howard Frederick

- 4:15pm Plenary discussion and any resolutions
- 5:00pm Summing up - Rapporteurs
- 5:15pm Conference closes

- 5:30pm ESR Annual General Meeting
- 6:30pm Join IPENZ Convention "Ice breaker"
- 7:30pm ESR dinner at Portland Hotel (approx \$40 additional cost)

Please download the [Conference Registration Form](#) (MS-Word 97 file)

Please download the [Conference Handbill](#) (MS-Word 97 file)

For further information contact:

Adrian Ferguson

Email: adrian.ferguson@rheemnz.co.nz;



ESR Annual General Meeting

Event report available: [ESR Annual General Meeting 2002](#)

- **Date:** Saturday 23rd March 2002
- **Time:** 5:30pm
- **Venue:** Duxton Hotel, Wakefield St, WELLINGTON

The business of the meeting will be to receive the ESR Annual Reports, items of general business and election of the 2002 Executive Nominations are called for Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.

David Roche, ESR National Secretary and Secretary of Auckland Branch for the past seven years has advised that he wishes to step down from this position. David has served the committee extremely well and his services will be greatly missed. David has kept minutes of committee meetings, looked after all the financial details of two national conferences and organised many other ESR activities. He was responsible for the ESR renewable energy submission to Government last year. We are very sorry to see David retire and thank him greatly for his many years of service to ESR.

John La Roche

Email: johnwfs@clear.net.nz

Phone: 0-9-528 9759

Fax: 0-9-528 9752

For further information contact:

Adrian Ferguson

Email: adrian.ferguson@rheemnz.co.nz;



ESR Auckland Branch Annual General Meeting

Event report available: [ESR Auckland Branch Annual General Meeting 2002](#)

- **Date:** Thursday 21 March 2002
- **Time:** 7:00pm
- **Venue:** Room 3.407, School of Engineering, The University of Auckland, 20 Symonds Street

The business of the meeting will be to receive the Auckland Branch annual reports and to elect the incoming Auckland Branch Executive, followed by general business pertinent to the Annual General Meeting.

Nominations are called for the positions of Auckland Branch Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee members. Prior nominations are preferred, but will be accepted at the meeting.

For further information contact:

Adrian Ferguson
Email: adrian.ferguson@rheemnz.co.nz;



Support Systems for indigenous minorities studying Engineering and their effectiveness

Event report available: [Maori In Engineering](#)

- **Speaker:** Kepa Morgan, Lecturer in Civil and Environmental Engineering at Auckland University, and performer with in the Royal NZ Ballet production Ihi Frenzy, who was responsible for establishing special programmes to help Maori and Pacific Island engineering students.
- **Date:** Thursday 21 March 2002
- **Time:** 7:30pm
- **Venue:** Room 3.407, School of Engineering, The University of Auckland, 20 Symonds Street

In this presentation Kepa will describe the initiatives introduced in the School of Engineering to provide academic and pastoral support for students of Maori and Pacifica decent. The effectiveness of these initiatives, the benefits and disadvantages of targeted programmes, and the need for a broader engineering curriculum which embraces the indigenous culture of Aotearoa and the Pacifica peoples in teaching and research which is the ultimate goal.

For further information contact:

John La Roche
Email: johnwfs@clear.net.nz
Phone: 0-9-528 9759
Fax: 0-9-528 9752

