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In 2006 the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) moved steadily towards the goal of an appropriately resourced, capable and neutral ‘think tank’ that is well integrated with the School of Government, well-connected with the public sector and with stakeholders around New Zealand and the region, and usefully engaged with both pressing and longer term public policy issues.

The IPS as a Forum

Since 1983, the IPS has consolidated its position as a significant and useful forum for discussion and debate within the policy community. Numerous meetings, seminars and informal discussions with public sector agencies have been hosted, often run under the Chatham House Rule, including climate change, energy, the Kyoto protocol, immigration, health, nation-building, Afghanistan, innovation, the compatibility of industrial policy in states with an open international economic trading system, peace and stability in the Middle East, diversity, work-life balance, human rights, the Pacific, youth justice, the funding of political parties and a range of other topics.

The IPS also meets with and/or hosts events involving a wide range of international visitors and delegations passing through NZ, either at the request of government agencies or through university connections. During 2006, this included: Ambassador James A Larocco, the Director General of the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) in Sinai; Robert Wade, a Professor of Political Economy at the London School of Economics; Gerard Finin, Acting Director, Pacific Islands Development Program at the East West Centre; Professor Michael Grubb, Chief Economist of the Carbon Trust; Dr Eric Martinot, a specialist on renewable energy from Beijing. Additionally, Senior Associate Gabrielle Maxwell and the IPS arranged a study tour for Denise MacDermott from the Northern Ireland Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (NIACRO) covering organisations involved in restorative justice approaches to offending.

IPS staff actively participated in a wide range of seminars and conferences by presentation of papers, participation in panels, chairing of sessions, as well as regular public comment and advice in the media on current domestic and foreign policy issues on which they have expertise.

The IPS continues to convene an external panel as part of the 6-monthly review of draft Treasury economic forecasts before they are published.

Climate Change

With IPS Deputy Director Jonathan Boston leading the project, the IPS made a major contribution in March to climate change debate in NZ with the *Climate Change and Governance Conference: Critical Issues for New Zealand and the Pacific*. This explored the nature and likely impacts of climate change and the options for accelerated action by governments, business and the wider community. It attracted wide coverage partly because of the mounting international concern and also the video link contribution from British Prime Minister Tony Blair. A free DVD resource *Sleeping Giants: Climate Change – Science, Policy and Action*, which records some of the key messages and concerns that were discussed at the conference, is available from the IPS.

The conference was followed by a symposium *Climate Change: the Policy Challenges* held in October. It attracted many people concerned with climate change: business people, central and local government officials, academics, students, and those involved in the non-governmental sector. The Minister responsible



Maureen Revell
Executive Officer



Paul Callister
Senior Research Fellow



Nicola White
Senior Research Fellow

for Climate Change Issues, Hon David Parker, gave a significant speech and National's spokesperson, Hon Dr Nick Smith, released aspects of his party's environment policy.

Aside from these two major events, the IPS hosted a number of individual seminars on climate change by distinguished visitors. Dr Steve Hatfield Dodds, the convenor of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Organisation (CSIRO), spoke on *Australia's Climate Change Policies: Issues and Implications for New Zealand*, and Professor Michael Grubb spoke on *The International Economics of Climate Change*. The IPS also hosted a one-day colloquium, led by Dr Peter Read (Massey University), on a holistic approach to mitigating climate change.

Domestic Policy Contributions

The IPS's role within the School of Government provides a focus for public policy research, discussion and dissemination. We explore aspects of public policy and present the findings to the wider policy community.

Senior Research Fellow Nicola White concluded a major research project examining the administration of the Official Information Act to determine whether steps can be taken to improve administration in this area and to further the ends of open government. The results of this work will be published early in 2007.

The IPS co-hosted a symposium on Evaluating the Performance-Based Research Fund (PBRF) in February with the Ministry of Education and the Tertiary Education Commission. The symposium brought together many of those involved in the design, implementation and evaluation of the PBRF, including academic researchers, research managers, consultants and officials, and a number of overseas experts.

In collaboration with other parts of VUW, the IPS hosted wide-ranging discussions on aspects of Police Act Review in 2006.

The IPS co-hosted with the Roy McKenzie Centre for the Study of Families a work-life balance conference *Reconciling Work and Family: Research and policy perspectives* in April. This looked at work-life balance for families with dependent children. Underlying this broad theme are issues such as long working hours, productivity, child development, supporting fertility, gender equity in the home/ pay equity in the workplace.

Senior Research Fellow Paul Callister has also produced research examining ethnic classification systems for both individuals and families, the place of 'special measures' in overcoming ethnic based inequalities in NZ, the causes of the sex ratio imbalances that have emerged in NZ, the causes and implications of the gendered tertiary education transition, options for paid parental leave, how data collections can better reflect the growth of 'two household' children, analysing the gender balance of skilled migration into and out of NZ and whether New Zealanders are heading for old age richer, better educated and more likely to be employed.

Emerging Issues Programme

In late 2005, departmental Chief Executives agreed to pool funds to enable the IPS to conduct policy related research and to stimulate discussion on long term issues of a cross cutting nature. It was agreed that there would be three themes of work during 2006 and four during 2007 and 2008.

The first project undertaken in 2006 dealt with the issues of energy sustainability, and in particular the question of whether NZ should follow the example of Sweden and endeavour to become much less dependent on fossil fuels for electricity generation and transportation. The project was coordinated by Dr Christina



Sir Frank Holmes
Professor Emeritus



Jessie Williams
Researcher

Hood, and involved a series of four roundtable discussions during June, July and August with a wide range of stakeholders, chaired by Colin James. A short book arising out of these discussions will be published by the IPS in early 2007.

Under the broad heading of public management, a wide reaching programme of activity for the three year life of the project has been mapped out. The first project is a series of discussions on the evolving role of Parliament in NZ and its relationship with the executive. At the close of 2006 research to support these discussions was well underway, and the first session on questions of 'e-representation' had been held. The remaining four sessions are scheduled for February-March 2007, with a publication to follow.

The project on population ageing commenced with a workshop examining whether sub-replacement fertility is an issue for NZ, and is being further developed in 2007.

Pacific

IPS Senior Associate Alastair Bisley is coordinating work looking at New Zealand's interactions with 'Pasifika' from a number of perspectives, including the Pacific Island economy in NZ, the economies of the islands themselves, trades, borders and migration. The 'weave' with the Pacific has implications for many areas of government in NZ, including, education, immigration, economic and social development, and sport. Some of the Pasifika working papers are available on the IPS website. The project will host a conference and publish the results, early in 2007.

The IPS, led by Director Andrew Ladley, is presently assisting the government of the Solomon Islands in developing a new constitution by conducting an audit of a draft that has been produced by their Constitutional Council. As part of this the IPS hosted the Technical Advisor to the Constitutional Reform Project, Tom Woods, and also a delegation from the Council. Andrew Ladley is also working with the government of Tonga to help them with the democratisation process.

RESTORATIVE YOUTH JUSTICE IN TONGA



Gabrielle Maxwell

In the wake of the Tongan riots of November 16th, IPS was asked to help set up a restorative youth justice process to deal with the many young people who had been caught up in these events in a minor way. Gabrielle Maxwell and Andrew Ladley sent a draft proposal within 24 hours which was approved by Cabinet. The following week Justice Eddie Durie and Gabrielle Maxwell travelled to Tonga to help set up a new Panel Diversion Scheme. The scheme enables young people involved in offending to have the opportunity to acknowledge their responsibility, take some steps to repair the harm they had done and to receive any help they need to rebuild their lives constructively while remaining in the community, thus avoiding a court appearance or a criminal record. Details of the scheme are described on the Ministry of Justice website for Tonga. It has already processed a number of the young people involved. It was a rare privilege to be able to make a practical difference so quickly and effectively in a situation where many young people were at risk of being processed under legislation which was highly punitive and could have risked alienating them from society at a critical stage in their development.

Publications

The IPS is a significant publisher of policy relevant work, which results from work within the Institute and the wider School of Government. An important development in 2006 was the creation of a full, searchable online database of all IPS publications on www.ips.ac.nz where orders can also be made online. This allows our policy research to be available to a much wider audience than was previously the case. The new website is also a vehicle for communicating up to date information on activities and staff.

Publications this year included;

- *Policy Quarterly*, a journal reflecting research and thinking within the IPS and the School of Government. It has steadily grown its contribution to thinking about the issues in the NZ public sector. The journal is available online on at www.ips.ac.nz
- *Being Accountable: Voluntary Organisations, Government Agencies and Contracted Social Services in New Zealand* by Jo Cribb is based on her recently completed doctoral work
- *Confronting Climate Change: Critical Issues for New Zealand* edited by Ralph Chapman, Jonathan Boston and Margot Schwass, which is based on the Climate Change and Governance Conference in March
- *Conceptualising the Border* by Andrew Ladley and Nicola White explores the connection between state sovereignty and border management and was a result of work commissioned by the NZ Customs Service
- *Opportunities and Risk: The Implications of Population Ageing* edited by Judith Davey and Jonathan Boston brings together the work of contributors exploring New Zealand's changing demography
- *Evaluating the Performance-Based Research Fund: Framing the Debate*, edited by Leon Bakker, Jonathan Boston, Lesley Campbell and Roger Smyth is based on the IPS symposium mentioned above
- *Indirect Taxes in New Zealand* by John Creedy and Cath Sleeman present the results of new empirical analyses relating to indirect taxation in NZ
- *Local Government Strategy and Communities* is the first major publication of the Local Futures Research Project, a FRST funded five year project on strategic policy and planning in local government, based at the School of Government
- *The Policy Implications of Diversity* by Jonathan Boston, Paul Callister and Amanda Wolf explores the various dimensions of diversity – its nature, meaning, measurement, ethical significance and policy implications.

SIGRID RAUSING FELLOW



Benjamin Paradza

Benjamin Paradza joined the IPS in May as the inaugural Sigrid Rausing Visiting Fellow. Swedish philanthropist Sigrid Rausing generously funded this new and unique fellowship for two years. She has a particular interest in refugees and the guardians of human rights, like Benjamin, who are persecuted for trying to uphold the rule of law. Benjamin is a Zimbabwean judge who fled his homeland in early 2006 after what is widely regarded by independent commentators as the latest of a series of controversial examples which have seen the Zimbabwean government accused internationally of interference with the independence of the judiciary. Ben's arrival in New Zealand attracted considerable attention domestically and internationally, including lengthy interviews on national radio, articles in the press and specialist coverage (eg the Law Society journal *LawTalk*). He was invited to speak at a number of key events including the Beeby International Law Colloquium (on 'Law in the aftermath of conflict'). He completed two Master of Public Policy courses and focused his research on issues relating to the rule of law in Zimbabwe, including his own personal story.

Teaching

Staff in the IPS continue to contribute strategically to the teaching activity of the School of Government and the wider university and also to the ANZSOG programme. Andrew Ladley and Nicola White taught the ANZSOG EMPA course *Governing by the Rules* and also the SOG's MPM/MPP compulsory module *Law in the Public Sector*. Andrew also teaches the MSS course, *Conflict Resolution and Peacekeeping*. Jonathan Boston teaches a MPP course on *Politics, Philosophy and Public Policy* and *An Introduction to Public Policy* in the undergraduate programme. Andrew also contributes to a wide range of outside courses, including the Staff Colleges of both the Australian and NZ Defence Forces.

IPS staff are also involved in the supervision of post graduate research. Jonathan is supervising a doctoral student Siamah Kaullychurn who is working on performance-based funding in the tertiary education sector and Ryan Malone who has undertaken doctoral research on the impact of MMP on the legislature in NZ. Andrew Ladley is supervising Lisa Woods' Masters thesis on nation-building, and IPS researcher Jessie Williams has just began a PhD under the supervision of Andrew Ladley looking at post-conflict state building. Several other doctoral candidates are in the process of finalising their research programmes and applications.

Staff

Maureen Revell joined the IPS, from the Centre for Competition and Regulation, as our new Executive Officer.

Nicola White concluded her Fellowship in December, to take up a new position as the Assistant Auditor General (Legal), in the Office of the Auditor-General.

IPS Associates

Emeritus Professor Sir Frank Holmes continues to contribute greatly to the IPS including reflections on developments in policies with which he has been involved. He co-authored *Innovation and Independence:*

the Reserve Bank of New Zealand 1973-2002, contributed to an oral history being established by the Reserve Bank along with its new museum in Wellington and is currently finalising an article on the contribution of Henry Lang to public policy (and to the IPS as a founder Chair of the Board) for the *Policy Quarterly*.

Dr Gabrielle Maxwell continues her substantial input to the IPS in the field of restorative justice. Her research with Sean Buckley on restorative practices in schools has been completed and a summary report is currently being prepared for publication by the Office of the Commissioner for Children and the IPS. Under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Latin American Strategy Fund and Proderecho (a branch of USAID) Gabrielle visited Mexico to present information and provide advice on the NZ system of youth justice.

Senior Associate Ken Piddington was the co-coordinator of the *Climate Change and Governance Conference*. He is currently working with the network involved in the Youth Parliament and other youth organisations focusing on the climate change discussion.

David King, Director of Development Strategy at the Ministry of Economic Development, was a visiting associate at the IPS for three months. As part of this secondment, David gave a seminar on *Innovation as Behaviour Change – Implications for Economic Transformation in New Zealand*.

The IPS continues to forge relationships with a growing number of visitors and associates. New associates in part-time residence for 2007 include Len Cook (former NZ Government Chief Statistician, and Head of the United Kingdom Office for National Statistics), and economists Denis Rose and Ralph Lattimore. Greg Mitchell spent several weeks in the IPS writing up his papers on conflict resolution in Afghanistan, from where he recently returned to NZ. Professor Frans Nauta visited from the Netherlands, to research his project on public sector innovation in policy development in NZ.