

New Zealand & Australian



ISSUE No. 2

migration news



SPRING 1994

The New Zealand and Australia Migration Bureau introduces our clients to the new format of the migration magazine, The "New Zealand and Australian Migration News". We hope that you will all find an article of interest in this paper.

We will be working hard to improve the quality and layout of this publication and clients will see a real improvement over the coming year as we aim to give our European clients a little taste of Australasian information, both economic and general interest every month.

The New Zealand and Australian Migration News will feature information of interest to all persons considering migration. Suggestions are always welcome and should you at any time feel that a particular matter might be featured please do not hesitate to write to us and mention any aspect that you wish.

We welcome your contributions. For example, you may wish to share your experiences of the migration system with our other clients.

The Bureau is sadly losing the services of Ms Deborah Ross, our South Island TV star, who admirably represented the Bureau on Dutch Breakfast television last week. Deborah is forsaking Immigration for the Travel industry and we wish her well.

Clients will be introduced to the new members of staff who are joining the Bureau over the coming month in the March 94 version of "New Zealand and Australian Migration News".

Interest in Migration to New Zealand and Australia from The Netherlands and Europe continues to grow and the Bureau is extremely busy providing clients with the information, assistance and support that they require as they consider this significant move.

THE NEW ZEALAND
AND AUSTRALIA MIGRATION
BUREAU

February 1994

20-jarig jubileum in Victoria

door Erik Rubens

MELBOURNE - Op 19 en 20 maart a.s. viert de Hollandse gemeenschap in Victoria, en hopelijk ook vele anderen die in de loop der jaren hebben samengewerkt met de gelegenheid, alweer het 20e Holland Festival.

Na een zeer mager resultaat in 1993 hebben de organisatoren er alles aan gedaan om dit jubileum-evenement niet alleen de grootst opgezette tot nu toe te laten worden, maar ook een nieuw begin te laten zijn voor de toekomst.

Om te beginnen is het hele Festival verhuisd van de Dandenong Showgrounds naar het Sandown Park Complex in Springvale (ongeveer 5 km naar het westen langs de Princes Hwy.).

Met de meest uitstekende faciliteiten en voorzieningen denkbaar heeft Sandown alle aantrekkingskracht voor zowel deelnemers (standhouders) als bezoekers. Doordat de lokatie nagenoeg volledig overdekt is met een deels daglicht doorlatend dak, maar open aan weerskanten, is een ieder veilig voor het wisselvallige Melbourne weer.

Toegangswegen aan drie zijden vergemakkelijken en verkorten de afstand naar de hoofdingang, zelfs als je met de trein komt, is het maar 250 meter van het station. Auto parkeren (gratis) op een volledig geasfalteerd terrein, maakt het mogelijk om uw laarzen thuis te laten. Comfortabele en schone toiletten in Sandown Park doen nog een andere oude klacht in het verleden verdwijnen.

Nu hebben we het nog niet eens over het programma gehad.

Om deze speciale gelegenheid te vieren en meer kenbaarheid te geven aan het Holland Festival hebben de organisatoren vanuit Nederland, de grootste hetslucht-ballon over laten komen, die ooit in Australië heeft gevaren. De ballon, in de vorm van een Hollandse windmolen, heeft een hoogte van ongeveer 40 meter en een maximale breedte van bijna 25 meter.

Voor reclamedoeleinden is dit projekt natuurlijk uitermate geschikt, temeer daar reeds enkele tv-rubrieken interesse hebben getoond om opnamen te maken. Mocht u interesse hebben, bel dan op zeer korte termijn met Erik Rubens op 018-312916 of 03-584 2112.

Reserveren voor ballonvaarten in groepsverband van maximaal 4 personen per vaart zijn ook mogelijk.

De ballon is in de periode van 1 tot 16 maart beschikbaar voor verhuur zowel in New South Wales, South Australia als Victoria.

Wat betreft ruimte voor commerciële stands, deze is nagenoeg onbeperkt, doordat we zoveel ruimte kunnen bezetten als nodig is. Heeft u nog interesse? Bel dan 's avonds met 03-700 2269 (Emile Moeys) voor verdere inlichtingen.

Het entertainment programma is eerlijk nog nooit zo goed geweest, waarbij het accent is gelegd op veelzijdigheid van diverse nationaliteiten in dit jaar van Europa-viering. Inter-

ationale muziek, cultuur en dansgroepen uit Nederland, Portugal, Zwitserland, Finland, Griekenland en een speciale contributie vanuit Indonesië om een Tempo Doeloe sfeer te creëren, met o.a. een echte gamalan-groep en meer lekkernijen kraampjes.

Verder Big Band optredens en groepen die meer populaire muziek maken voor de huidige generatie, moeten het toch wel een zeer volledig aantrekkelijk gebeuren maken.

Op zaterdagmorgen 20 maart is er zelfs een zeer toepasselijk ochtendconcert met licht klassieke muziek door het 'Essental Strings' orkest, waar u zich met koffie en gebak tegen een speciale prijs genoeglijk kunt voorbereiden om de rest van de dag op het Festivalterrein door te brengen.

Meer toelichting over Nederland voor onze nieuwe bezoekers en veel meer attracties voor de kinderen, tezamen met een overvloed aan diverse lekkernijen (o.a. een echte wafeltjeskraam uit Nederland) en een zeer aantrekkelijke commerciële markt met gevarieerde aanbiedingen, moeten toch voldoende zijn om met de hele familie wederom een bezoek te gaan brengen aan het 20ste Victorian Holland Festival. Let op, want in de komende weken krijgt u nog meer informatie in deze krant.

zal die nog het Hoofd van Staat sieren? De Australische kroon is trouwens op zichzelf al symbolisch, want koningin Elizabeth II heeft eertijds maar één kroning ondergaan: die van het Verenigd Koninkrijk en

daarvan maakt Australië geen deel uit. Ik heb hier als eens geschreven, dat ik eigenlijk een monarchist ben, maar dan wel met een 100% eigen monarch. Laat nu 'The Australian' columnist Padraic P. McGuinness een paar weken geleden met eenzelfde suggestie komen! Hij zou die eigen kroon gelijk willen aanbieden aan Charles, dan hoeft die zich ook over zijn opvolgingsrechten in het Verenigd Koninkrijk geen zorgen meer te maken. *Opinie-onderzoeken hebben al uitgewezen dat Australiërs in meerderheid er geen moeite mee hebben dat de prins wat huwelijks-moeilijkheden heeft.*

★ IS ER GEEN SEX IN AUSTRALIË? vroeg een Engelse journalist aan zijn Australische collega, nadat hij hier gehoord had wat voor schandalen de politici bedreigen: een tafel uit Thailand, vogelreproducties, wijnverkoop, broodjesverkoop... In Good Old England kunnen de journalisten hun hart voortdurend ophalen aan politici en andere hooggeplaatsten, die lustig van het ene bed naar het andere hopen. Met zulke verhalen kun je tenminste wat 'doen'.

Australiërs echter maken zich minder druk over het zedelijke leven van hun regeerders, maar destemoreer over hun integriteit. Het wordt tijd dat de politici dat ter harte nemen en eventuele zakelijke belangen in een trust onderbrengen, alvorens een Dienaar van de Kroon te worden.

PUBLICATION SOURCES :

'Dutch Weekly'
'New Zealand Outlook'
'Australian News'
'The UBD - Market Forcaster'
'Australian Market forcaster'

Copies of these publications are available from our office.

Tourist facilities escape the worst

THE worst bushfires in Australia's history, doused last month after raging for over two weeks, have caused massive devastation to many areas around Sydney.

The Royal National Park, the second oldest in the world and just 36km south of Sydney, has been 90 per cent destroyed and some residential areas have been raised to the ground, but things are slowly getting back to normal.

"The crisis is over and it is a matter of helping those personally affected," commented a spokesperson from the New South Wales Tourist Commission.

"Most roads are fine, although there are some temporary closures. But throughout the fire, the airport never shut."

With most facilities up and running, state authorities are urging people not to change their holiday plans.

Although there are many tales of people having to take drastic action, such as leaping into swimming pools to avoid the

fireballs which were levelling their houses, tourists and tourist areas remain largely unaffected.

"We are fortunate to have so much on offer that tourists won't feel deprived of the great outdoors," said Pia Byrne of the Australian Tourist Commission.

"Tour operators to Australia have reported that there have been very few cancellations, and usually only where relatives have been directly affected by the fires," said Byrne.

Inevitably, though, there has been a big drop in business for local tour operators to places like the Blue Mountains and the Hunter Valley, despite their attractions being largely untouched by the flames.

"This is mainly because people were afraid to take the risk of leaving their homes while the fires were still burning," said a spokesman from the Fairmont Resort in the Blue Mountains.

"But realistically, we have been unaffected."

In 1961 a group of Dutch migrants from the southern provinces of Brabant and Limburg came together in Sydney and decided to introduce Carnival and its tradition in the State of New South Wales. They looked for a suitable name which preferably should have an Australian flavour.

As the Australian boomerang returns every time it is thrown properly and the celebration of Carnival traditionally returns every year since 1100 B.C. the group of organisers decided to call their organisation the Dutch Carnival Society 'The Boomerangs'. Straight from the beginning the Australian people took a liking to the Carnival celebration and accepted this thousands of years old tradition, a tradition where one for once in a while can be oneself without being afraid of losing face.

Today in Australia Carnival has established itself very well. There are over 30 Carnival organisations of various nationalities spread all over Australia. The Dutch Carnival Society 'The Boomerangs', the oldest Carnival organisation in the State of N.S.W. is proud to have been able to play an important part in introducing the beautiful tradition of Carnival in Australia.

MELBOURNE - The Karnaval Club, Limburger Kangaroos, opened the Carnival 1994 on the 5th of February in the Polish Club in Rowville.

Their 1993 Prince, Theo I, was ceremoniously 'de-throned' in front of a once again full house. Many in attendance were in colourful fancy dress. Also in attendance were several visitors from Holland of whom two had been Prince Carnival in their respective home towns. In 1993, Prince Theo and his wife Rita had been popular with the Kangaroo Raad (Council) and with those who visited the many functions throughout 1993.

The outgoing Prince thanked the people involved, the guests and in particular his 'adjutant' Henk, and the three ladies in red, yellow and green (the club's colours).

The executive members of the council had accepted

Prince Theo for another term and he was 're-crowned' in the attendance of the guest club from the Latrobe Valley, K.C. Wombats.

The 1993 silver trimmings on the Prince's garment were replaced by golden ones, a fitting colour for a second consecutive term.

The entry of Prince '94 was under the cover of 'The Beehive' with bee-keeper and all. The popular band 'The Continentals' had no problem playing the appropriate tune 'het stikt hier van de bijen' (it is swarming with bees). A successful night marking a anticipated successful 1994 for the K.C. Limburger Kangaroos.

THE fires were snuffed out in the Blue Mountains before they could take hold.

Apart from the residential district of Winmalee in the lower mountains, the area was virtually untouched and the main attractions, such as Echo Point and the Three Sisters, were unaffected.

At the time of going to press, though, bushwalkers were being advised not to wander off until the "total fire ban" was lifted.

As a precaution, firefighters formed a barrier by burning a 100km line between Winmalee and Katoomba to Mount Wilson and the Hawkesbury area to prevent further outbreaks.

The K.C. Wombats will celebrate 2 x 11 at the long weekend in March. They will have a type of Mardi Gras street procession on Saturday 12 March in which the Kangaroos are invited to enter a float. It's believed some 20 clubs, several from interstate will 'flood' Traralgon for that weekend.

Holland Festival in Adelaide

door J. de Rooij

ADELAIDE - Op 5 en 6 maart a.s. organiseert de Dutch Social & Welfare Club Inc. (D.S.W.C.) in Adelaide haar inaugurele Holland Festival.

Het belooft een groot Hollands feest te worden. Al een jaar lang is een werkgroep, onder leiding van voorzitter dhr. J. Koek, druk bezig met de voorbereidingen. Nu is de D.S.W.C. in Adelaide wel één van de grootste Nederlandse clubs in Australië, met pakweg 800 leden en een eigen clubgebouw op een groot terrein.

"Toch zag ik er wat tegenop", aldus de heer Koek. "De gemiddelde leeftijd van onze leden gaat niet omhoog en we hebben dus eerst wat opiniepeilingen gehouden. Het verrassende resultaat was dat meer dan 90% van onze leden vol enthousiasme achter ons plan stond. Meer nog, we ontvingen donaties en aanbiedingen van vrijwilligers. Dus hebben we doorgezet en op 5 en 6 maart kunt u het resultaat zien."

De heer Koek prees ook de medewerking van de KLM die twee retourtickets Sydney-Amsterdam beschikbaar stelt als hoofdprijs voor de Festival-loterij. De KLM krijgt ongetwijfeld veel verzoeken voor tickets als prijzen in een loterij, zei de heer Koek. Daarom vindt hij het bemoedigend om zo'n mooie prijs toegewezen te krijgen.

Een ander bemoedigend aanbod kwam van de Nederlandse ambassade. Deze stelde 48 Van Gogh reproducties beschikbaar voor een tentoonstelling in het clubgebouw. In het kader van het 'Adelaide Festival of Arts' komt dit prachtig uit.

"Wij zijn erg tevreden", zegt de heer Koek, "als het weer nog meewerkt, zitten we goed."

We hebben ook een gesprek gehad met de heer H. Schriers, administrateur van het Holland Festival.

"Tja", zegt de heer Schriers, "als administrateur ben je zo'n beetje een manasje van alles. Je bent bijna dag en nacht in de weer, vooral nu de tijd korter wordt. We hebben bijvoorbeeld 40 stallen met Nederlands en buitenlands eten, drinken en zgn. 'specialty wares' zoals souvenirs e.d. Heineken

en Grolsch zijn vertegenwoordigd, de KLM komt en ik geloof dat ook de Dutch Weekly een promotiestal heeft. Alles op ons eigen terrein, waarvan de voorkant veranderd wordt in een mini-lunapark. De amusementsmuziek en speciale groepen worden door de heer Korver verzorgd, die grijze haren heeft van de zorgen om de beide dagen voortdurend met muziek te vullen.

De opening wordt gedaan door de heer Ouwens, de Nederlands consul in SA, op zaterdag om 2 uur 's middags. Ook zal er een Nederlands straatorgel aanwezig zijn. Zelfs kastraggers zijn van de partij. Eigenlijk te veel om op te noemen. Het beste is dat u zelf eens langs komt", besluit hij.

Tot slot een laatste vraag Hoeveel kost de entree? "Wel, we hebben de prijs laag gehouden, \$3.00 per persoon en kinderen tot 14 jaar gratis toegang", antwoordt de heer Schriers, voordat hij met een haastig 'daag!!!' verdwijnt.

Australian Economy

November 1993 may well be the month in which the Australian Economy finally put the recession behind it. After a healthy increase in October, the index of business activity increased by almost 2 per cent in November. This reflected good increases in most components with outstanding performances in both the production and registration of motor vehicles and a very good rise in retail sales. The only big disappointment in November was the fall of 6.4 per cent in the production of major domestic appliances.

While another rise of this magnitude cannot be expected next time, December should still be a good month. Many retailers reported record Christmas sales and the labour market strengthened. The December quarter should show a substantial rise in gross domestic product following the lack-lustre performance in the September quarter.

Motor vehicles led the charge in November with an increase of 10.5 per cent in production. This was the result

of a good performance in the production of passenger vehicles which increased by 9.6 per cent plus an outstanding rise of 20 per cent in the production of vehicles for goods and materials. This latter rise came after a strong rise in October.

Registration of new motor vehicles increased by 7.3 per cent and motor vehicles sales, along with sales of consumer durables, helped retail sales to grow by over 2 per cent in nominal terms and just under 2 per cent in real terms. This was the biggest monthly rise for 2 years. The rise in retail sales was probably due in part to the income tax cuts, which the Government brought forward to 15th November to spur the economy, but, coupled with comments from major retailers about good turnover in December, the large rise suggests that consumer confidence has returned and retail sales will continue to be strong and not fall back in the way they did after November 1992.

Production of bricks rose by 7.7 per cent in November making up most of the ground lost since the peak last August. While production of cement fell this followed a rise of 10 per cent in October. However cement production is still below its August peak. The good production figures are rounded off with healthy rise in electricity and basic iron and steel.

The surge in activity was not accompanied by an increase in imports, though this may still come. Although the current account deficit declined this was probably due to random monthly variations.

Economic Outlook

Our two leading indicators, building approvals and electricity production, are up on this time last year, suggesting that even after the big jump in our business index during October and November further growth can be expected in early 1994. If the present worldwide expansion moves at a fast pace the Australian economy could really take off, instead of growing moderately as at present. Early indications of this would be seen in the CRB index on page 1 and the Baltic Sea Freight Index on page 3.

Increase in business activity

THE total number of economic enterprises in New Zealand increased by 3.7 per cent between February 1992 and February 1993, according to the recently released Annual Business Directory Update Survey.

This brings the total number of enterprises to 174,736 at February 1993. Small businesses, with 5 or less persons engaged, make up 85 per cent of the total number of enterprises in New Zealand at February 1993, but account for only 24 per cent of the number of full-time equivalent persons engaged.

Number of Persons Engaged:

The number of full-time equivalent persons in work increased by 0.7 per cent between February 1992 and

February 1993. This compares with the 2.2 per cent decrease recorded between February 1991 and February 1992.

The fastest rate of growth was recorded by small enterprises (with 5 or less persons engaged), with the other size groups remaining relatively stable. Full-time equivalent persons engaged are full-time plus half part-time employees and working proprietors.

The number of part-time persons engaged increased by 4.4 per cent. Although all size groups recorded increases in the number of part-time persons engaged, large enterprises (with 100 or more persons engaged) showed the fastest rate at 6.7 per cent between February 1992 and

February 1993. Small enterprises recorded a 4.4 per cent increase.

The number of full-time persons engaged remained relatively stable between February 1992 and February 1993.

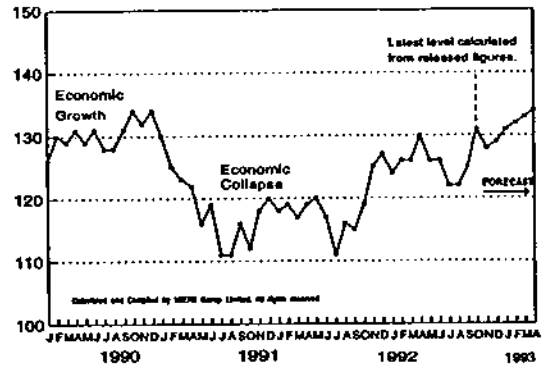
Large enterprises recorded a decrease of 1.7 per cent, full-time persons engaged between February 1992 and February 1993. Partially offsetting this was an increase in the number of full-time persons engaged by the small enterprises, which increased by 2.8 per cent.

Industry Contributions:

Most industries recorded increases in the number of enterprises at February 1993 compared with February 1992, with the exception of

small decreases in Mining and Quarrying, and Construction industries.

New Zealand Business Index



A Golden chance to ship your pet

TO most people the pet is very much part of the family so he should certainly be emigrating with you as well.

Unlike you he will not need a visa but an Import Permit prior to shipment. The application form for this is available from New Zealand House or a shipper.

Dogs must have been vaccinated against Distemper, Hepatitis and Parvo virus; and cats against Cat Flu and Feline Enteritis.

These vaccinations must have been carried out, at least 30 days but within 12 months of shipment.

Dogs must also be blood tested for Leptospirosis and Brucella Canis within 30 days of departure and provided the results are acceptable shipment can then take place.

A Statutory Declaration must be signed by the owner and assuming the pet is in good health and all the documentation is in order the airport vet will then, on the day of shipment, seal the kennel ready for loading.

British Airways and Qantas are the airliners which are

usually used, but some livestock shippers can offer space on special animal charters.

These flights primarily carry horses, but provided there is room they will also take pets.

However, they do not fly very often but they do offer a saving, especially for the larger pets.

On arrival in New Zealand there is no quarantine restriction. I can assure you that your pet will be very well

looked after by people who are totally dedicated.

Advice costs nothing and you should therefore certainly consider contacting some livestock shippers.

Not only will they be able to explain the finer details of the regulations and answer any questions you may have; but they may even be able to move your pet for less than you think.

Most importantly, they will make sure he travels safely.

by Chris Sorrenson of Golden Arrow Shippers

Unemployment drops

UNEMPLOYMENT fell to 9.1 per cent in the September 1993 quarter, the lowest seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate since the December 1990 quarter, according to the latest Household Labour Force Survey figures released recently.

There were 10,000 (6.2 per cent) fewer people unemployed in the September 1993 quarter when compared to the June 1993 quarter, when the unemployment rate was 9.8 per cent.

The latest results compare with an unemployment rate of 10.2 per cent in the September 1992 quarter.

The unemployment rate for males in the September 1993 quarter was 9.6 per cent and for females 8.5 per cent.

Labour force participation has also increased. The seasonally-adjusted labour force participation rate increased from 63.2 per cent in September 1992 to 63.4 in the September 1993 quarter.

The latest figures also show

the first signs of growth in employment since 1986. Seasonally-adjusted employment at 1,507,000 was 1.5 per cent or 22,000 higher than in the June 1993 quarter and 2.8 per cent or 41,000 higher than the figure one year ago.

Full-time employment, which rose by 3.3 per cent, accounted for most of the rise in surveyed employment in the year to September.

Among industries, the largest increases in employment were in the community, social and personal services and the manufacturing industries, over the year to September 1993. The business and financial services sector recorded the only fall in employment.

Life expectancy improvement

LATEST life tables indicate that New Zealanders are living longer than ever before.

A new-born boy can now expect to live 72.9 years and a new-born girl 78.7 years, these represent gains of 1.8 years for males and 1.6 years for females since 1985-87.

For males, over two-thirds of the increase in life expectancy was due to the reduction in mortality rates at ages 50-79 years, and another one-tenth due to the reduction in infant mortality, especially from sudden infant death syndrome (or cot death).

For females, over half of the increase was due to the decrease in mortality rates at ages 60-84, and another one-seventh due to improved infant mortality.

As a result, older New Zealanders have made further gains in life expectancy. A male reaching age 60 years can, on average, expect to live a further 18.4 years, and a female about 22.5 years. This represents gains of about 1.2 years for both males and females over the 1985-87 mortality experience.

The male disadvantage in life expectancy at birth is still pronounced, but the gender gap has narrowed slightly, from 6.4 years in 1975-77 to 6.0 years in 1985-87 and

further to 5.8 years in 1990-92.

The 1990-92 life tables also indicate that the non-Maori population has a longevity edge over their Maori counterparts.

Life expectancy at birth for Maori males was 68.0 years and for non-Maori males 73.4 years, a difference of 5.4 years.

For Maori females, life expectancy at birth was 72.9 years and for non-Maori females 79.2 years, a difference of 6.3 years.

The Maori population refers to persons belonging to the Maori ethnic group, based on the concept of self-identification of ethnicity adopted at the 1991 Census of Population and Dwellings.

Australia in the World

Economic expansions in the past have been fuelled by an increasing demand for Australian resources, and with the outlook for the world economy now improving this is expected to happen again. Improved efficiency in the Australian economy brought about by the recent recession is another incentive to buy Australian resources. However, the recent run-up in the Australian dollar is a potential problem for resource exporting, as it increases prices to an offshore purchaser.

Australia Political

- Parliament revs up for action in the new year with an early Budget on the agenda

The Prime Minister Mr Paul Keating returned to Canberra on Monday January 17 to celebrate his 50th birthday. Mr Keating could well be setting a good work ethic for the Canberra bureaucrats who had to emerge from the Christmas break before the end of January to prepare for an early Budget. Bringing the Budget day forward was the last thing John Dawkins did before handing over the reins to incoming Treasurer Ralph Willis. The Treasurer, who may well make changes to the Dawkins economic strategy in a bid to put his imprimatur on the document, is scheduled to introduce the Budget in the beginning of May. With the first Cabinet meetings scheduled for the last week of January, the Government will be ready for action when the house resumes on the first Tuesday in February. While it will be a testing time for the Government with Minister for Social Security, Mr Graham Richardson's superannuation plans, Mabo, and industrial relations problems following the sad and untimely death of Commissioner Barry Maddern, it could well be tougher for the Coalition. Leader John Hewson who will be watching his new shadow ministers perform as well as Senator Bronwyn Bishop who is moving to the lower house after being selected as the candidate for the safe Liberal seat of MacKellar. This has contributed to her elevation to the shadow ministry together with her growing popularity in the community. She is also being touted as an alternate leader. Hewson himself will be measured by the possible swing in the Werriwa by-election where he has campaigned together Bishop in support of the Liberal candidate. Political gurus say a swing of less than 6 per cent for unpopular government mid-term would be poor showing Hewson and maybe enhance Bishop's prospects in any leadership challenge.

It's cheaper in Adelaide

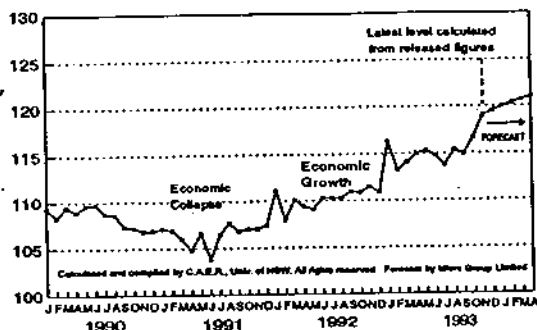
A recent survey showed that Adelaide is the cheapest city in Australia.

Here's what things cost compared to Sydney and Perth.

Item	Unit	Sydney	Adelaide	Perth
Milk, carton	1 lt	\$1.00	\$0.89	\$1.06
Butter	500g	\$1.76	\$1.47	\$1.74
Bread, white loaf	680g	\$1.60	\$1.16	\$1.58
Breakfast cereal	550g	\$2.90	\$2.76	\$3.32
Chuck steak	1kg	\$6.40	\$6.14	\$6.91
Chicken, frozen	1kg	\$2.87	\$3.01	\$2.93
Oranges	1kg	\$1.40	\$0.71	\$1.08
Tomatoes	1kg	\$3.26	\$3.36	\$2.52
Chocolate, block	250g	\$2.25	\$2.11	\$2.37
Eggs	65g, 1 doz	\$1.92	\$1.83	\$1.88
Sugar, white	2kg	\$1.72	\$1.64	\$1.90
Tea	250g	\$1.73	\$1.50	\$1.73
Coffee, instant	150g jar	\$4.06	\$3.97	\$3.95
Baby food	125g can	\$0.54	\$0.52	\$0.54
Toilet paper	4 rolls	\$2.88	\$2.92	\$3.02
Petrol, super grade	1 lt	\$7.8c	\$9.1c	\$8.0c
Beer, full strength	2 doz bot	\$23.99	\$24.64	\$22.78

Australian Business Index

Calculated by the C.A.E.R., Univ. of NSW for Equinet
Compiled from statistics on page 15



HIGH ↑ STABILITY ▶ ↓ LOW	HIGH	Government policy is highly stable; economic indicators are favourable and call for no intervention or policy changes; government enjoys high support and is internally united.
	↑	Government economic policy is very steady with no real indication of policy shifts which might unsettle markets; government enjoys quite high approval; economic indicators are generally favourable.
	This month	Government economic policy is moderately steady, but policy changes are quite possible; economic performance is causing some concern; public support for government is marginal; financial markets are a little uneasy.
	↓	Government economic policy is under pressure amid widespread concern over performance; financial markets become jittery, anticipating policy shifts; economic hesitancy inhibits business activity; government trails behind in popular support, and is split internally.
LOW		Government is under great pressure, with a high likelihood of political instability (resignations, sackings) and major policy u-turns or market intervention; high public disapproval of government; interest rates rise, capital flows out, economic panic is evident.

New Zealand in the World

New Zealand faces its best prospects in years, with an expanding world economy wanting our commodities and our principal market Australia making a strong recovery. The days of shocks and horror statistics are over, making way for pleasant surprises. The significant fiscal improvement announced in January is typical of what we can now expect frequently over the next five years. But because we are still in the early vulnerable stages of expansion, any big hiccup in the major world economies could still cause a temporary blip to our recovery.

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	month	Government is under great pressure, with a high likelihood of political instability (resignations, sackings) and major policy u-turns or market intervention; high public disapproval of government; interest rates rise, capital flows out, economic panic is evident.

NZ Political

After the post-election rhetoric about working together and consensus politics, the time has arrived to make it happen, and pressure will be on prime minister Bolger this month to start performing in this new environment. It won't prove easy, and we expect to see some frictions emerge. But this should not cause too much problem for the economy, though Mr Birch will come under pressure to allow more funding for health in the coming budget. Meanwhile the opposition parties also have to learn how to work in the new situation. Labour under a new leader will have its work cut out as it also faces a major constitutional overhaul and a possible showdown with union affiliates in preparation for MMP. Both major parties will be concerned as the Alliance's astute Jim Anderton seeks to consolidate his high public rating. Maori issues may come to the fore as Maori voters effectively decide over the next few weeks whether they want increased parliamentary representation and possibly their own political party.

Women's incomes rise

NINE per cent of women have personal incomes over \$30,000 compared with 27 per cent of men, figures published in a new Statistics New Zealand report on women show.

Released by Deputy Government Statistician, Dennis Trewin, *All About Women in New Zealand* is a comprehensive volume which presents the latest information on New Zealand women and features chapters on subjects which include housing, work, crime, public affairs

and family.

The median annual total income for women aged 15 and over at the 1991 Census was \$11,278, compared with \$19,243 for men.

The median income of men climbs with age until they reach their early 40's.

By comparison, women's median income remains fairly constant from their early 20's through to the late 40's, peaking slightly between 25 and 29 years, and then again at 40 to 44 years when the highest level of median income for both men and women is reached.

Of all women over 20 years, those aged between 55 and 59 years have the least personal income. Their median income was \$9,232 in 1991, just 40 per cent of that of men in the same age group.

A chapter on housing in *All About Women* talks about levels of home ownership among New Zealand women. Amongst previously-married women living in private dwellings in 1991, widows had the highest rate of home ownership (79 per cent), while separated women had the lowest at 58 per cent.

Some 80 per cent of European/Pakeha women lived in owner-occupied housing in 1991, compared with 57 per cent of Maori women and 51 per cent of Pacific Island women.

Thirty-seven per cent of European/Pakeha women lived in freehold homes, whereas only 16 per cent of Maori women and nine per cent of Pacific Island women lived in a mortgage free dwelling.

Of sole occupants under 35 years of age, men are more likely than women to own the homes they live in. However, from age 35 to 80 years, a higher proportion of sole-occupant women own their homes, particularly among those aged 55 to 69 years, reflecting the impact of widowhood.

Just over one-fifth of New Zealanders aged 15 years and over who occupied private dwellings in 1991, lived in rental housing. Sole mothers were much more likely than sole fathers to live in rental accommodation — 39 per cent of sole-parent families headed by a woman lived in rental accommodation, compared with 29 per cent of families headed by a sole father.

Women without partners have a greater likelihood than partnered women of living in homes which are rented. In 1991, 12 per cent of married women lived in accommodation which was rented. This compares with 30 per cent of divorced women and 40 per cent of separated women.

Improvement in GDP

THE recovery in economic activity over the past year has been confirmed recently with the release of the provisional national accounts for the year ended March 1993.

New Zealand's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in current prices, is estimated to have increased by 5 per cent between March 1992 and March 1993. When the effects of inflation are removed, GDP in constant prices is estimated to have risen 2.9 per cent. This compares with a 1.6 per cent decline in the previous year.

The major contributor to the growth in nominal GDP in the 1993 year was operating surplus, which rose 10.2 per

cent. Operating surplus is an approximate measure of business profits before the deduction of net interest payments. In the March 1992 year, this item had grown by only 0.8 per cent.

The rise in operating surplus for the March 1993 year reflects the higher business profits earned by most industries, especially export-oriented industries such as agriculture, forestry and logging, and manufacturing.

Operating surplus' share of total GDP has risen consistently in the last five years, from 29.0 per cent in 1988 to 33.4 per cent in 1993.

On the other hand, payments to employees have decreased, falling from 48.9 to 43.4 per cent over the same period. In the latest year, compensation of employees rose by 2.2 per cent following a decline of 1.5 per cent in the previous year.

Higher profits and a reduced outflow of property income payments to the rest of the world contributed to a 6.4 per cent increase in national income. This, combined with modest growth in current expenditure, resulted in a significant rise in national savings, following five years of steady decline.

The ratio of national savings to disposable income increased by more than 3.0 per cent to reach 11.5 per cent this year.

Total household spending increased by 3.1 per cent with expenditure on non-durable goods and services each rising by almost 4.0 per cent. Despite a fall in vehicle purchases, expenditure on durables also increased — the first increase since 1990.

In contrast to the modest growth in current expenditure, investments in fixed assets recovered strongly, rising by 9.2 per cent. This compares to a fall of 16.1 per cent the previous year. Expenditure on transport equipment and plant, machinery and equipment was particularly strong.

Improvements in the domestic economy were also reflected in the external account. The current account deficit has continued to fall and now stands at \$671 million compared to \$4,197 million in 1990. A notable feature of the latest year was that New Zealand became a net lender to the rest of the world, the first time this has occurred since the early 1970's.

New Zealand Economy

October was a spectacular month for economic activity, with our business index up 6 points from 125 to 131. It was also up by 12 points from October 1992. We expect the index to bounce around during Nov/Dec/Jan in response to the election and its outcome, the anxieties over GATT and then its final resolution, the NAFTA agreement, the APEC summit and European access negotiations.

Obviously the successful GATT round will take many years to bring its full benefits to the NZ economy, but already this year it brings an increased economic focus on commodity-based nations like Australia and New Zealand. With CER firmly in place and over 30% of our trade going to Australia, any improvement in the Australian economy quickly benefits ours. We should see a big increase in international investment in Australia and New Zealand because of the GATT round, especially as there are not too many other good investment opportunities around in the world at present.

Many of the figures in our table show a numerical fall for the month and yet our business index is up. The reason is that the number of working days in October was only 21 compared with 22 in September, hence any figure with a fall of less than 4.5% was actually a gain when adjusted for the number of working days.

One of the sectors not yet showing strong signs of growth has been retail sales, up just 2.4% for the month of October and 7.8% for the year. This is to be expected as retail sales along with the property market and unemployment are the last to respond to an economic recovery. Dwelling permits dipped for the month after several good months, and vehicle registrations were mixed. Car registrations remained static for the month but up by nearly 10% for the year, while commercial registrations were down for the month and stable for the year, and tractors were up for both the month and the year.

The same rural optimism indicated by tractor registrations was also seen in fertiliser production in October. Likewise, increasing economic activity in the building and construc-

tion sector was reflected by cement production, up for the month and the year. Electricity production, like commercial vehicle registrations, is a short-term leading indicator. Both dropped in October, which suggests a weakening in economic activity in November and December. Once 1994 really gets going — from February on — both commercial vehicle registrations and electricity production are expected to recover to levels seen in mid-1993.

Continuing the slow growth in private sector credit during 1993, October's annual growth figure of 4.3% marked another small improvement. The monthly increase from September to October of 0.8% is also encouraging, as that figure annualised is nearly 10%.

Trade figures for the month were stable. Exports, imports and US dairy prices all remained little changed. US lumber

prices took off again and may have topped out towards the end of 1993. Last time we had a big rally in US lumber prices our forestry share prices followed, lagging three months behind. If this relationship holds again, it suggests forestry share prices here should peak near March.

The falling trend in unemployment reversed in October with an increase of 0.9%, but the figure was still down an encouraging 4.5% over the October year.

Economic Outlook

In October our business index reached 131, a level not seen since 1990. Once the economic hesitancy caused by the election result is out of the way the index should head up into new record territory, above the 135 mark. We expect to see such heady levels achieved when statistics for the early part of 1994 are in.