



Council for Socially Responsible Investment

2010-2011 Annual Report

Dear members and supporters,

In 2010 we held a conference *Investment Solutions For A World In Jeopardy: How To Invest To Save The Planet Rather Than Destroy It*. Wayne Cartwright, Ron Mark and Andy West spoke about investment in the natural environment. Nick Collins, Ralph Sims and Rod Oram talked about the built environment. Chris Mulcare and Philip Mills presented clean tech options. Jack Bradin talked about the North American scene, while Lee Coates spoke about the European situation. Mark Bytheway described Asian and Australian investment options. I gave an overview about the financial sector. AUT University sponsored the venue.

The conference and ongoing discussion in the Board and other networks we have, focussed around the dilemma facing investors in New Zealand: many leading climate scientists see a 3-4°C increase in temperature now as a likely minimum that is unavoidable. But the choices facing investors who want to do something about this are limited. Despite the messages from Chris Mulcare and Philip Mills about the success of New Zealand endeavours in clean tech initiatives, and the need for Government support like that given by many overseas countries, the New Zealand political scene is geared to an outmoded 1970's economic and investment approach. An example of the current political commitment to looking after the ecosystems for which we are dependent for life, is the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme. In theory it is designed to move investment towards a low carbon economy. In practice it is both ineffective and unfair. It will not reduce emissions. It favours the main polluters and places the cost on those who are not causing the emissions and can least afford to pay for the Kyoto financial penalties for overrun of emission targets.

The investment community is still struggling to deal with the consequences of the managed fund industry meltdown started a few years ago and a fragile economy internationally and nationally. The Christchurch earthquake brings its different opportunities and challenges.

Despite this there are signs that some New Zealanders are aware of the turbulent future that we face and are open to thinking through the need for a fresh approach. I spoke at international conferences in Auckland in November and Hamilton in January: both resulted in published journal articles. An interview as part of a radio programme by Chris Laidlaw generated positive comment (available for listening at www.radionz.co.nz/national/programmes/sunday/20110320).

This year has been one of change for the Council. Margaret Crozier resigned as Chair to take up a position with Greenpeace International in Amsterdam. Wayne Cartwright ably

took her place for the majority of the year, until becoming Co-Deputy Chair with Stuart Auld, when I became Chair. We welcomed new members and the energy and perspective they brought: Ray Skinner, Joanne Tunna, Dorothy Wilson, Eva Lawrence, and briefly, Oscar Batucan. Both Kerry Coleman and Hori Awa retired from the Board and we are grateful for the support and effort they provided while members of the Board.

The new board took the opportunity of reviewing CSRI's vision and purpose. We agreed to adopt the following

The vision of CSRI is to inspire and contribute to the achievement of an economy which is fair and just and leads to humans living within safe planetary boundaries

and

The purpose of CSRI is to change the behaviour of investors so their investments are just and fair and lead to local and global economies that operate within safe planetary boundaries.

These will not be easy to achieve and will demand effort, ingenuity and perseverance. We invite you to join and support us in this endeavour.

Dr Robert Howell, on behalf of the Board.
Chair, CSRI.