



Update from the New Zealand Association of Resource Management

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Managing New Zealand's resources is a challenging task and an added complication is the fact that knowledge and experience in this area grows by the day. The New Zealand Association of Resource Management (NZARM), as a community of resource managers, is at the forefront of this rapidly expanding sector, with its aim of promoting the philosophy, science and practice of resource (particularly land and water) management in New Zealand.

The association has a long history. It first came into existence in 1953 when, as the New Zealand Soil Conservators Association, it provided a forum for soil conservators and associated fields. The Resource Management Act, which became law in 1991, emphasised sustainable management and so encouraged the association's change from soil conservation to the broader field of resource management.

Currently, the association has a membership of 240 people who are employed in a wide range of jobs: regional councils, research institutes, the fertiliser industry, planning and resource consultancies, and primary industry bodies to name a few. In fact, anyone with an interest in the field of resource management can join.

Each year the Association runs a well-attended conference on a topical issue. In 2015 the conference was held in Hamilton, and was about people and organisations 'coming together' to resolve problems with water. Issues of co-management, collaborative governance, sustainable growth, and policy challenges for farming were covered by a one day seminar. This was followed by a field trip to look at projects that are underway to restore the Waipa River. In 2016, in the Hawkes Bay, attention will turn to the increasingly complex and uncertain world that resource managers face, and look at what a resilience approach could

offer. Two well-regarded researchers in this field will be keynote speakers, both from the Australian Resilience Centre.

Besides the obvious networking advantages, a quarterly newsletter and branch events, the association offers members the opportunity to be part of a recognised professional group with its own Resource Management Certificate. This certificate provides evidence of an ongoing commitment to professional development, enabling members to receive career guidance and advice from some of New Zealand's most competent resource management practitioners.

If you would like to know more about the association, or to join, please visit the NZARM web page:

www.nzarm.org.nz