

2010

November 22-25

# Asia-Pacific Coroners Society Conference

## INVITATION TO THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC CORONERS SOCIETY

E ngā mana, e ngā reo, e ngā iwi o ngā hau e wha, Tēnā koutou katoa.  
To the four winds, the people, their language and their integrity, we welcome you all.

### ORGANISED BY:

Asia-Pacific Coroners Society and the  
Coronial Services Unit, New Zealand

*What can a modern coronial system do to speak for the most vulnerable members of our society – our mokopuna – our children*



Auckland, New Zealand



MINISTRY OF  
**JUSTICE**  
*Tahū o te Ture*

# **Asia-Pacific Coroners Society Conference**

**FROM THE CHIEF CORONER OF NEW ZEALAND**



On behalf of the Asia-Pacific Coroners Society and the New Zealand Coroners, I encourage you to attend this conference in Auckland, North Island, New Zealand. This is the first conference hosted by New Zealand under the new Coronial System and will also be the 10th anniversary of the 2000 Law Commission Report, the catalyst for the Coroners Act 2006.

**His Hon Judge Neil MacLean**

## **THEMES OF THE CONFERENCE**

A celebration of the introduction and implementation of the Coroners Act 2006

A comparison of coronial systems – what we can learn from each other

The role of coroners and their responsibility to the public as watchdogs

What can a modern coronial system do to speak for the most vulnerable members of our society – our children

## **WHO SHOULD ATTEND**

As well as coroners, this conference will interest:

- Practitioners involved or interested in pathology and medicine and the forensic sciences
- Persons involved in the management and administration aspects of coronial work
- Other investigating agencies, such as Transport Accident Investigation Commission, Civil Aviation Authority, mortality review committees and the police
- Police Inquest Officers
- Legal practitioners
- Representatives from the Office of the Health and Disability Commissioner

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The AGM of the Asia-Pacific Coroners Society will be held on Thursday 25 November at 1pm at the Crowne Plaza.

## **ASIA PACIFIC CORONERS SOCIETY**

The society is primarily involved in education and the advancement of coronial law and practice. Membership is open to all coroners (full membership) and to anyone involved in, or associated with, the coronial jurisdiction (associate membership).

The benefit of membership is the value of belonging to a learned society with the opportunity to contribute to ensuring coronial best practice.

The fees:

- Full members – AUD\$50
- Associate members – AUD\$20

Membership forms can be obtained from the Society's secretary, Olivia McTaggart:  
[olivia.mctaggart@justice.tas.gov.au](mailto:olivia.mctaggart@justice.tas.gov.au)

# Programme



MONDAY 22 NOVEMBER

FROM 4 PM

REGISTRATION – Crowne Plaza Hotel

6PM – 7.30PM

WELCOME FUNCTION – Crowne Plaza Hotel

TUESDAY 23 NOVEMBER

REFORM

8.30AM

WELCOME – Judge Neil MacLean, Chief Coroner, New Zealand

OPENING – Hon Chris Finlayson, Attorney General, Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations, Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

9 AM

1. THE IMPORTANCE OF A MODERN CORONIAL SYSTEM IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Enquire and proclaim: the role of the Coroner in promoting the right to life.

Chair: Judge Neil MacLean

Speaker: Hon Justice Baragwanath, Court of Appeal, New Zealand

10 AM

2. CORONER REFORM IN TWO HEMISPHERES

A discussion of developments in England and Wales since the Luce Report in 2003, and a comparison with reforms in New Zealand, Australia and elsewhere.

Chair: Judge Neil MacLean

Speaker: Tom Luce, Chair of the Fundamental Review of Coroner Services and Death Certification in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (2001-2003)

11 AM

MORNING TEA

11.30AM

3. WHERE ARE WE AT AFTER 3 1/2 YEARS AND WHO DO WE THINK WE ARE?

Judge MacLean will reflect on over 30 years as a coroner and the development of the Chief Coroner concept in the context of the New Zealand reforms.

Chair: Coroner Victor Yeo, Subordinate Courts, Singapore

Speaker: Judge Neil MacLean

12 NOON

4. THE IMPACT OF REFORM FOR POLICE AND FORENSIC SPECIALISTS/EXPERTS

- New dogs or old tricks
- The relationships between coroners, police and CSU with regard to the Coroners Act 2006
- The changes from locally-based police-coroner relationships to a three-way relationship between coroners, police and CSU on a national basis.

Chair: Coroner David Crerar, New Zealand

Speakers: Inspector Tom Ireland, New Zealand Police, Dr Martin Sage, Regional Forensic Pathologist – Christchurch, NZ National Forensic Pathology Service, New Zealand and Brenden Jacobsen, Ninness Funeral Home, Porirua, New Zealand

1 PM

LUNCH

2 PM

5. AUTOPSY RATES

- Coronial autopsy rates vary widely – why is that?
- Do we do too many or not enough?
- What are the alternatives?
- Use of new technology – scanners, etc

Chair: Judge Neil MacLean

Speakers: Coroner Michael Barnes, Queensland State Coroner, Australia and Dr Julie Teague, Forensic Pathologist, Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine, Melbourne, Australia



3.30PM

**AFTERNOON TEA**

4PM

**6. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN CORONIAL CASE LAW**

A discussion of recent decisions on coronial law from Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and elsewhere.

Chair: TBA

Speakers: **Belinda Baker**, Solicitor Advocate, NSW Crown Solicitors Office, Australia and **Dr Paul Matthews**, HM Coroner for the City of London, England

4PM

**7. CULTURAL IMPERATIVES**

Chair: TBA

Speakers: **Prof Dr Itaru Fukushima**, Criminal Defence Lawyer and Professor of Criminal Justice, Ryukoku University, Kyoto, Japan and **Naida Glavish**, Chief Tikanga Adviser to the Auckland District Health Board, Cultural Expert on Maori matters, New Zealand

5PM

**CLOSE**

6PM – 7.30PM

**GOVERNMENT HOUSE COCKTAIL FUNCTION**

Buses will take guests from the Crowne Plaza Hotel to Government House, leaving the hotel at 5.45pm and returning to the Crowne Plaza, leaving Government House at 7.30pm.

**WEDNESDAY 24 NOVEMBER**

**YOUNG PEOPLE**

8.30AM

**8. PROTECTING OUR MOKOPUNA**

Chair: **Judge Jennifer Coate**, Australia

**A. Sudden unexpected death in the young**

- Definitions: SIDS, SUDI, SUDC
- Problems

Speakers: **Professor Roger Byard**, Discipline of Anatomy and Pathology, University of Adelaide, Australia

**B. Issues for parents and organisations**

- SUDI versus Unascertained
- SUDC

Speakers: **Karen Faichney**, CEO SIDS and Kids, ACT, Australia and

**Leanne Raven**, CEO, SIDS and Kids, Australia

To comment: **Dr Nick Baker**, Chair of the New Zealand Child and Youth Mortality Review Committee

10AM

**MORNING TEA**

10.30AM

**9. SUDI DEATH SCENE EXAMINATION – TO DO OR NOT TO DO AND WHO DOES IT?**

Chair: **Alastair Hope**, State Coroner, Western Australia

Speaker: **Professor Roger Byard**

Panel: Police and forensic pathologists from New Zealand and Australia

11.30AM

**10. NEW EXTENDED INITIATIVES FOR FOLLOW-UP AND INVESTIGATION FOR SUDI**

Chair: **Coroner Gordon Matenga**, New Zealand

Speakers: **Professor Jane Freemantle**, Principal Research Fellow, Melbourne School of Population Health, University of Melbourne, Australia and **Barbara Wright**, SUDI Referral Advisor for Ministry of Justice, Coronial Services Unit, Ministry of Justice, New Zealand



Panel: **Dr Nick Baker, Karen Faichney, Leanne Raven** and **Ray Smith**, Deputy Chief Executive, Child, Youth and Family, New Zealand

**12.30PM**

**11. PANEL DISCUSSIONS – WHERE TO NOW?**

Chair: **Michael Barnes**, Queensland State Coroner, Australia

Panel: **Professor Roger Byard, Professor Jane Freemantle** and **Barbara Wright**

**1PM**

**LUNCH**

**2PM**

**12. YOUTH SUICIDE – WHAT WERE THEY THINKING? – THE USEFULNESS OF A PSYCHOLOGICAL AUTOPSY**

Chair: **Coroner Carla na Nagara**, New Zealand

Speakers: **Dr Simon Hatcher**, Psychiatrist, New Zealand and **Dr Louisa Walker**, Clinical Psychologist, New Zealand

**3PM**

**AFTERNOON TEA**

**3.30PM**

**13. YOUTH SUICIDE – THE CASE FOR MORE OR LESS PUBLICITY – WHERE DO THE MEDIA FIT IN?**

Those who study suicide and work with suicidal people generally accept the evidence that certain kinds of media coverage can prompt suicide and suicide attempts among vulnerable people. Health, government, and media organisations around the world have responded by developing guidelines to foster responsible reporting. However, the implementation of these guidelines has sometimes met resistance and claims of attempts to restrict press freedom. To move forward it is important to understand media perspectives on the issue. Dr Collings will speak about recent research where fifteen journalists were interviewed and the interview content was subjected to in-depth analysis to identify key themes in the journalists beliefs about and attitudes towards reporting of suicide. In this session she will describe her findings and then participate in a general discussion with a focus on implications for coroners.

The June 2010 National Centre of Mental Health Research document “Reporting of New Zealand Media” with an analysis of reporting on suicide will also be discussed.

Chair: **Coroner Garry Evans**, New Zealand

Speaker: **Dr Sunny Collings**, Associate Professor and Director of Social Psychiatry and Population Mental Health Research Unit and Associate Dean of Postgraduate Studies, University of Otago, New Zealand

Panel: **William Akel**, Simpson Grierson, New Zealand, **Dr John Angus**, Children’s Commissioner, New Zealand, **Professor Roger Byard** and others

**5PM**

**CLOSE**

**7PM FOR 7.30PM**

**CONFERENCE DINNER**

**AFTER DINNER SPEAKER – Sir David Carruthers**, Chair of the New Zealand Parole Board

His theme may loosely revolve around “Who do you Coroners think you are?”

**THURSDAY 25 NOVEMBER**

**8.30AM**

**14. THE ROLE OF THE CORONER IN A MASS DISASTER, AND REFLECTIONS ON THE WEEKEND OF 4-5 SEPTEMBER – THE CHRISTCHURCH EARTHQUAKE AND A NINE-FATALITY PLANE CRASH: WHAT IT COULD HAVE BEEN LIKE AND HOW PREPARED WOULD WE HAVE BEEN?**

Chair: **Coroner Peter Ryan**, New Zealand

Speakers: **Judge Jennifer Coate**, State Coroner of Victoria, Australia and



**Coroner Richard McElrea, New Zealand**

**9.30AM**

**15. TISSUE AND ORGAN RETENTION**

Chair: **Coroner Brandt Shortland, New Zealand**

Speakers: **Coroner Morag McDowell, New Zealand** and **Simon Stables, Clinical Director, National Forensic Pathology Service, New Zealand**

**10.30AM**

**MORNING TEA**

**11AM**

**16. THE ROLE OF COUNSEL ASSISTING**

Topics will include:

- Disclosure
- Case management
- Pre-inquest reviews
- Working with counsel for interested parties including Crown Counsel

Chair: **Coroner Gordon Matenga, New Zealand**

Speakers: **Fletcher Pilditch, Gordon Pilditch, New Zealand**

**12 NOON**

**LUNCH**

**1PM**

**AGM OF ASIA-PACIFIC CORONERS SOCIETY**

**1.30PM**

**CONFERENCE CLOSES**

**1.30-5PM**

**MEETING OF STATE, TERRITORY AND CHIEF CORONERS AT JUDGE MACLEAN'S CHAMBERS, LEVEL 7, AUCKLAND DISTRICT COURT, ALBERT STREET, AUCKLAND CITY**

## Information

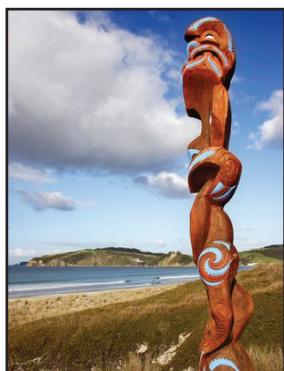
### VENUE

**22-25 November 2010**

**Crowne Plaza**  
**128 Albert Street**  
**Auckland 1030**  
**New Zealand**  
**[www.crowneplazauckland.co.nz](http://www.crowneplazauckland.co.nz)**

### AUCKLAND

Known as the City of Sails and nestled between two harbours and a gulf full of islands, Auckland is as much about the sea as it is about the land. As New Zealand's largest city, Auckland has a population of approximately one million people and thrives as a hub for a creative colourful local culture with an eclectic mix of people.



### FEE (INCL GST)

Please note: GST is currently charged on all transactions at 12.5%. On 1 October, this rate will change to 15%. Registration fees will not be changed after 1 October.

#### Before 26 October

APCS member \$895  
Non-member \$945

#### After 26 October

APCS member \$995  
Non-member \$995

This fee includes morning and afternoon tea refreshments and lunch, and the welcome function on Monday evening. It does not include the reception at Government House or the conference dinner, or the sports afternoon or any part of the social programme for accompanying persons.

### GST IN NEW ZEALAND

Currently Goods and Services Tax is charged at 12.5%. All costs shown on this document include GST at this rate. On 1 October 2010, the GST rate will become 15%. Registration fees will not change. Tours on the accompanying persons programme may be affected if they are paid for after 1 October.

### ACCOMMODATION

The Crowne Plaza is offering conference participants a special rate:

Superior King Room or Superior Twin Room – \$195 incl GST (12.5%). This rate does not include breakfast.

To make bookings at this special rate see –  
<http://tinyurl.com/39yuqye>

### SOCIAL PROGRAMME

#### Welcome function – Monday 22 November – 6-7.30pm

Start the conference on Monday evening at the conference venue – the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

Please note: this function is part of your registration fee, however, please indicate on the registration form whether in fact you will attend. You may bring a guest – cost \$40.

#### Cocktail reception at Government House Auckland – Tuesday 23 November – 6-7.30pm

Their Excellencies The Governor-General of New Zealand, The Hon Sir Anand Satyanand, and Lady Susan Satyanand, invite conference participants attending the 2010 International Combined Conference of the Asia Pacific Coroners Society and the Office of the Chief Coroner, to a cocktail function at 6pm on Tuesday 23rd November 2010 at Government House, Auckland, Savannah Street, Epsom.

Dress: day dress / jacket and tie

Buses will take guests from the Crowne Plaza to Government House, leaving from the hotel at 5.45pm and returning to the Crowne Plaza, leaving Government House at 7.30pm.

Please note: due to restrictions at Government House, only a limited number may attend this function. Priority will be given to conference participants. If you wish to bring a guest, submit his/her name and we will contact you if it is possible to include him/her.

Cost: \$30 per person, including transport from the Crowne Plaza Hotel to Government House and back.

#### Conference dinner – Wednesday 24 November

The conference dinner will be held at the Crowne Plaza – 7pm drinks followed by dinner at 7.30pm. The speaker will be Sir David Carruthers, chair of the New Zealand Parole Board. You may bring a guest. Cost \$100 per person.

#### Sports afternoon – Thursday 25 November

If a game of golf or tennis or a few hours sailing on Auckland harbour interests you, tick the relevant box on your registration form, and arrangements will be made for you. Please bring appropriate clothing. Gear can be hired. Normal costs will apply.

## Social programme for accompanying persons

Please note: GST is currently 12.5%. On 1 October it will become 15%. This is likely to affect pricing of these tours.

### Tiritiri Matangi – a stunning open bird sanctuary – Wednesday 24 November – 8.30am-5pm

30 km by boat from Auckland city, Tiritiri Matangi is one of New Zealand's most important and exciting conservation projects. After 120 years of farming this 220-hectare island was stripped of 94% of its native bush. Between 1984 and 1994, volunteers planted about 300,000 native trees and shrubs. The island is now 60% forested. The remaining 40% is being left as a grassland habitat.

In conjunction with the planting programme, volunteers have eradicated all mammalian predators, and successfully introduced a number of species of threatened and endangered birds and reptiles. Nowhere else in NZ can you readily walk amongst so many species in such significant quantities.

The boat to Tiritiri leaves Auckland city at 9am, and returns by 4.50pm.

What to bring:

- A sunhat and sunscreen
- Plenty of water, snacks and lunch (tea and coffee are available on the boat and on the island – but not food)
- Wear sturdy walking shoes
- Warm clothes, a light rain jacket, swimwear and towel - depending on the conditions

Cost – \$71

### Tour A – A short bus tour of Auckland city sights

Tuesday or Wednesday – 8.45-11.45am.

- Harbour Bridge
- Viaduct Harbour
- Queen Street
- Mt Eden
- Auckland Domain
- Parnell Village
- Tamaki Drive
- Michael Savage Memorial

You will be picked up at the Crowne Plaza.

Cost – \$71 (incl gst)

### Tour B – City sights, Kelly Tarlton's Underwater World and a cruise on Auckland Harbour

Tuesday or Wednesday only – 8.45am-3pm

Do Tour A above – see the sights of Auckland. Then visit Kelly Tarlton's Underwater World, where you will come face to face with sharks, penguins, stingrays and many other deep sea creatures. This part of the tour concludes at 12.45pm.

Then escape the city and take a scenic cruise on the sparkling waters of the Waitemata Harbour.

The tour concludes at 3pm at Pier 1 – at the end of Queen Street – downtown Auckland.

Cost – \$134



### Tour C – Waiheke Wine Tour

Wednesday – 1pm-5.30pm

(NB: this tour is appropriate for people aged 18yrs & over).

Wine on Waiheke is a deluxe vineyard tour combining world class wine set against the backdrop of stunning Waiheke Island. You will be transported by luxury coach travel to enjoy premium tastings at three of Waiheke's finest vineyards.

The four and a half hour tour includes a return ferry trip and an All Day Bus Pass (for Waiheke) to be used at your convenience.

Tour itinerary:

First stop is the stunning Mudbrick Vineyard, where you will enjoy your first tasting experience whilst overlooking the sparkling waters of the Hauraki Gulf.

Ridgeview Estate, the next vineyard on route, is one of Waiheke's newest and highest wineries. The views will take your breath away as you look across to Auckland city and beyond to the Coromandel Peninsula. Here you will enjoy tastings of beautiful wines and indulge in a platter of mouth watering nibbles.

The exquisite Te Whau vineyard is the last stop on the tour and their wine tastings are definitely worth the wait! Not only does Te Whau capture the essence of 5 star quality wine, it is also acclaimed for its restaurant, stunning panoramic views and outstanding architecture.

Your tour concludes by transporting you back to Matiatia Wharf. From here the choice is yours: hop on a ferry and reminisce on your memorable afternoon. Or treat yourself further: take advantage of the All Day Bus Pass to continue exploring the island, and ferry home later from Matiatia Wharf at your convenience.

Tour concludes (including return to Auckland): 5.30pm at Pier 1 – at the end of Queen Street – downtown Auckland.

Cost – \$115

For other tours by bus or boat see:

[www.greatsights.co.nz](http://www.greatsights.co.nz) or [www.fullers.co.nz](http://www.fullers.co.nz)

Continued over page

## SOCIAL PROGRAMME FOR ACCOMPANYING PERSONS CONTINUED

### Shopping trip

See what Auckland shops have to offer. Visit:

- Queen Street and environs – downtown Auckland
- Parnell – an attractive bit of early Auckland
- Ponsonby – trendy café zone
- Newmarket – serious shopping
- Devonport – a ferry trip across the harbour
- Remuera – suburban shopping village

We give you a map and some helpful hints and let you go. If you would like to be part of a group, we will provide you with a guide. You will need to taxi or bus between shopping areas. Go to all, or stay and enjoy one. Take your time.

### Visual arts

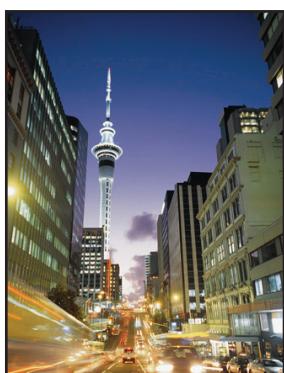
For those interested in the visual arts, there is much to see in the inner city of Auckland – within 15-20 minutes of the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

- Auckland Art Gallery
- Antoinette Godkin Gallery
- Fingers Jewellery
- Seven art galleries
- 4-5 very good bookshops – including one selling antiquarian books
- Auckland Museum – a taxi ride away

We give you a map and some helpful hints and let you go. Shopping companions will be available. You will need to taxi or bus between shopping areas. Go to all, or stay and enjoy one. Take your time.

### Sky Tower

Just round the corner from the Crowne Plaza, at 328m in height, SkyTower is the tallest man-made structure in the southern hemisphere. Take in 360° views from the top. Cost of the trip – \$25.



### Devonport return ferry trip

Enjoy a return ferry ride to the historical and uniquely beautiful village of Devonport – just 12 minutes across the water from Auckland. The ferry departs from Pier 1 at the end of Queen Street every half hour, and returns every half hour. Cost of return trip – \$10 per adult.

## WHAT'S ON IN AUCKLAND AT THE TIME OF THE CONFERENCE

Please note: GST is currently 12.5%. On 1 October it will become 15%. This is likely to affect pricing of these events. Please check details on the websites and make your own bookings.

### Glorious – by Richard Huber

She's the quintessential spoilt brat. He's an improverished writer/waiter. A mismatch made in heaven. Pratfalls, pastiche and a poor little rich girl – entertaining theatre.

When: Thursday 25 November to 18 December - 8pm

Where: Herald Theatre, Aotea Centre (5 minutes walk from the Crowne Plaza)

To book – [www.the-edge.co.nz](http://www.the-edge.co.nz)

### Grand Finale – Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra

Elgar's In the South (Alassio), Glazunov's Violin Concerto, Beethoven's 7th Symphony.

When: Thursday 25 November – 8pm

Where: Auckland Town Hall (5 minutes walk from the Crowne Plaza)

To book – [www.the-edge.co.nz](http://www.the-edge.co.nz)

### The Virtuoso Bassoon

Mendelssohn and Weber take the stage in this concert of popular classics – Ben Hoadley and the Auckland Chamber Orchestra.

When: Sunday 21 November - 6pm

Where: Concert Chamber of the Town Hall

To book: [www.the-edge.co.nz](http://www.the-edge.co.nz)

### Full moon, fire, dance and drum circle

When: Monday 22 November 7-11pm

Where: Tehaki Reserve, 250 Mt Eden Road

For information: [www.drums.mindbodyandspirit.co.nz](http://www.drums.mindbodyandspirit.co.nz)

### Acappella Harmony Singing

Join the weekly practice session of this award-winning City of Sails Chorus – a group of about 70 men who sing in the barbershop style. This is a great opportunity to hear this group sing and to learn acappella harmony. Audience welcome.

When: Monday evenings 7.30-10pm

Where: Balmoral Bowling Club, 12 Mont le Grand Road, Mt Eden

For information: [www.cityofsailschorus.com](http://www.cityofsailschorus.com)

### Bungy jumping or climbing the Auckland Harbour Bridge

See [www.aucklandharbour.net](http://www.aucklandharbour.net)

### Stride out

Head down Queen Street to the Quay, turn to the right and you can walk along the harbourside and out along the bays for hours.

## HELPFUL WEBSITES

[www.biglittlecity.co.nz](http://www.biglittlecity.co.nz)

[www.aucklandmuseum.com](http://www.aucklandmuseum.com)

[www.explorenz.co.nz](http://www.explorenz.co.nz)

[www.aucklandharbour.net](http://www.aucklandharbour.net)