



MEDIA RELEASE

15 MARCH 2005

NEW TRUSTEE APPOINTED TO ENERGY TRUST

The Eastern Bay Energy Trust has appointed local business woman Lesley Immink to replace Mike Shepherd who has resigned as one of the two appointed Trustees. The Trust Deed allows for the appointment of two Trustees who possess particular skills that are beneficial to the Trust. These Trustees are appointed for a two year term.

Born and educated in Kawerau, Lesley Immink has an extensive background in the tourism and hospitality industry. Following her return to the Eastern Bay of Plenty she established a successful local company, New Zealand Educational Tours in 1992, providing a service to the increasing number of international students and other groups wishing to experience New Zealand. The professionalism of NZET was a factor in the company winning the New Zealand Tourism Award from 2000 to 2002, in the '*Organised Tours and Touring*' category.

Following the success of the parent company, Lesley Immink established two companion brand companies – New Zealand Educational Tourism School and The Chocolate Fern Company of New Zealand. The company continues to develop, with the regular launch of a variety of tourism industry resources and training modules.

Lesley Immink was named a North Island finalist in the New Zealand HER Businesswoman of the Year in 2001 and 2003. She was also selected by Massey University as one of the case study examples featured in the book '*Kiwi Entrepreneurs in Action*' that was released in May 2002.

A founding member of the Eastern Bay of Plenty Economic Development Board and a Trust Board member of the Central Bay Hockey Charitable Trust, Lesley Immink is also a board member of the New Zealand International Education Marketing Network and a member of the Maori Business Network. Lesley Immink is married to Walter Immink and they have four children aged between 16 and 11 years.

Eastern Bay Energy Trust Chairman Mrs Toni Owen announced the appointment and said "The Trustees considered several candidates, and selected Lesley Immink because of her commitment to the Eastern Bay and the people who live here. The contribution made by Mike Shepherd and the second appointed Trustee Robin Wray over the past three years has been invaluable, and we are sure that Lesley's considerable business and marketing skills will also assist the Trust to further develop in the best interests of consumers".

For further information contact

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