

Neil Edward Wells

BA LLB(Hons)
Barrister

Curriculum vitae

Summary

Neil is a barrister with qualifications in law, arts (history and political studies) and quality systems. He is currently Manager: Animal Welfare at Waitakere City Council where he is restructuring the Animal Welfare section.

His career has spanned international and national organisations including government, academic and not-for-profit sectors.

Until 2005 he was principal lecturer in law in the School of Natural Sciences and Associate Head of School. He established new qualifications in Animal Welfare Investigations and was co-writer of the Bachelor of Applied Animal Technology.

His career has spanned international and national organisations including government, academic and not-for-profit sectors. He was an adjunct professor of The Humane Society University, Baltimore US.

His career focus is on animal welfare law and ethics, animal science, He is currently working on a law text —*Animal Law in New Zealand* (Brookers)

Highlights

Unitec Staff Trust Award for Exceptional Service 2002

Citation —

"Neil Wells has made a huge contribution to the development of the School of Animal Health and Welfare and to the recognition and management of animal health and welfare issues in New Zealand. He provided leadership in the development of the Animal Welfare Act 1999 and subsequently ensured that Unitec became the national lead provider of education in this area. He has worked tirelessly to support the implementation of new programmes in the School. Through national and international recognition of his work with Governments, Ministries and NGO's, Neil has been able to promote Unitec and his School at the highest levels. Neil has made significant contributions to Faculty and interdisciplinary activities. Neil initiated a project to bring to Unitec a building complex to provide space to the School of Sport, College Sport and Air Training Corps which not only provided space at a very low cost to Unitec but also enhanced our partnerships with industry."

Dr J A Webster President/Chief Executive

Founder and Trustee of the Animal Welfare Institute of New Zealand.

- AWINZ was founded in 1999 as a response to the Animal Welfare Act 1999 which was then going through the Committee stages of Parliament. AWINZ is one of only two organisations approved by the Minister of Agriculture under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 – the other being the RNZSPCA.
- AWINZ is a multi purpose charity whose functions include:

- Being a partner with Waitakere City Council in the delivery of animal welfare compliance services.
- Administering the New Zealand Fund for Humane Research (the Lord Dowding Fund), which provided \$10,000 funding to Unitec for research into the use of animal mannequins in teaching, and \$25,000 to Massey University for leading edge computer modelling of the veterinary anatomy museum.
- Being the only New Zealand organisation providing independent monitoring of animal use in movies including The Lord Of The Rings, The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe, The Bridge To Terabithia.
- Assisting in the funding and organisation of conferences including the ARLAN/AWINZ/Unitec Workshop on animal welfare law and enforcement.

Adjunct Professor, The Humane Society University

- A collegial alliance of universities collaborating on international e-learning in certificate partners includes Jones International University, Johns Hopkins University (Baltimore), University of Missouri (Columbia), British Columbia University (Vancouver), National University of Costa Rica (San Jose), Trinity College (DC), Oxford University (UK) and Unitec.

Animal welfare and legal consultant to Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

- Set up pilot programme between MAF and Waitakere City to test the synergies between animal welfare compliance and animal control. This has become a national model.

Unitec Institute of Technology (1995 – 2005) – Lecturer, Senior Lecturer, and Associate Head of School responsibility for strategic development, School of Natural Sciences.

- The latter is a recent position working with industry and strategic academic partners establishing new qualifications at certificate level through to undergraduate.

Independent specialist adviser to the Primary Production Select Committee of Parliament for the consideration of the Animals Welfare Bills

- Wrote the Hodgson Bill in 1997 and then engaged by Parliament to advise the Primary Production Select Committee on detail of both the Hodgson Bill and the Government Animal Welfare (No 2) Bill, which was subsequently enacted as the Animal Welfare Act 1999 — (see *testimonial from Hon Pete Hodgson*).

First Strike Campaign

- In 2001 brought Dr Randall Lockwood to New Zealand for the first seminar on the relationship between childhood animal cruelty and violence in society generally. That has led to the spearheading of a consortium of welfare agencies (CYFS, Police, women's refuges, SPCA), which continues to explore ways to promote the connection and to initiate research.

World Society for the Protection of Animals: Regional Director (South Pacific)

- Set up the South Pacific Regional office and worked throughout the South Pacific on relief projects and establishing core organisations in the Pacific nations

Consultant to the Singapore Government

- Reviewed operations of the Department of Primary Industry and reported, with recommendations, on restructure of urban animal management.

Member, Animal Behaviour and Welfare Consultative Committee

- This committee brings together all institutions that use animals – universities, crown research institutions, government departments, producer boards, and animal welfare organisations.

Qualifications

University of Auckland: Graduated Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Laws with Honours, honours dissertation entitled *The Moral Status of Animals: Reform of Animal Protection Law*, 1983

Barrister and Solicitor of the High Court of New Zealand — current holder of practising certificate as a barrister

Quality Management Systems Assessor/Auditor – ETRS-Stebbing Quality Management Systems Auditor Training Course 1994

Quality System Development – MAF 1994

Certificate in Higher Education — Unitec New Zealand – 2007

Professional Experience

Current

- Manager Animal Welfare for Waitakere City

In practice as Barrister Sole

- Primary work has been in legal consulting to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the animal industry

Royal New Zealand Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals: National President, National Director, Advisory Director (1975–1993)

- Established the first National Office by bringing together 45 independent local SPCAs and establishing new organisations in districts not represented

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry: Animal welfare and legal consultant

- Set up pilot programme between MAF and Waitakere City to test the synergies between animal welfare compliance and animal control. This has now become a national model

Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Auckland: Executive Director

- Established the animal village near the Auckland International Airport in 1983

MacHarman Associates Ltd, accredited advertising agency: General Manager

- Managed (along with Bob Harvey – now Mayor of Waitakere) the 1972 General Election campaign that resulted in the election of the Norm Kirk government

Experience in real estate, advertising, the Police and Public Service (pre-1974)

Memberships — government/cultural/community

Government (1984–1999)

Founding member National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee – Deputy Chairman and founding member, Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, (government)

Head of New Zealand Delegation to International Organization for Standardization Technical Committee (ISO/TC191) on Animal Traps, Ottawa (1994), Denver (1995).

Animal Ethics/Welfare Committees (1990–present)

Animal Behaviour and Welfare Consultative Committee

- This committee brings together all institutions that use animals – universities, crown research institutions, government departments, producer boards, animal welfare organisations

Animal Ethics Committees

Chairman, Department of Conservation Animal Ethics Committee; Auckland Zoo Animal Ethics Committee; Member, University of Auckland Animal Ethics Committee.

Trustee

New Zealand Fund for Humane Research, Auckland Air Cadet Trust, Animal Welfare Institute of New Zealand, Waikato SPCA Trust, Laingholm School, Laingholm Baptist Church (elder).

Environmental

President, EarthKind New Zealand (1995 – 1997)

- Collaboration between Humane Society International, and Earthkind UK. Projects included effects of global warming on small island nations.

Advisory committee to Maritime Safety Authority for marine oiled wildlife rehabilitation response (1994 –1995)

International

Advisory Director, International Society for the Protection of Animals, London (became World Society for the Protection of Animals in 1980) (1976–1986)

Board of the World Society for the Protection of Animals, London (1986–1989).

Advisor to Department of Primary Production, Singapore, on restructure of animal control division.

Fire Service

Civil Defence Co-ordinator, Huia Sector; Fire Controller, Huia Voluntary Rural Fire Force; District Chief Fire Officer, Huia Volunteer Fire Brigade.

Publications

Published Texts

New Zealand Universities Law Review – Index– Vols 1–17, 1963–1997, (editor) 1998, Brookers, Wellington

Guide to Environmental Law in New Zealand, (editor) 1984, Brooker and Friend for the Commissioner for the Environment, Wellington.

Dissertation

The Moral Status of Animals: Reform of Animal Protection Law, 1983, Auckland University, Honours Dissertation.

Refereed Publications

The use of animals in research, testing and teaching in New Zealand – a legal perspective, proceedings 5th World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences, Berlin, Germany, 21–25 August 2005, ALTEX vol 23, Special Issue 2006, 85–89

When is a manipulation not a manipulation: A guide for researchers, teachers and AECs in deciding which animal use requires AEC approval, 2003, Proceedings of ANZCCART conference, Christchurch, August 2003

Five plus Three: Legislating for the 5 Freedoms and the 3Rs, 2002, Proceedings 4th World Congress on Animals In Life Sciences, New Orleans, ALTA vol 32, supplement 1B, June 2004, 417–421

The Great Ape Project: Legislating for the Control of the Use of Non-human Hominids in Research, Testing and Teaching: Animal Welfare Act 1999, 2002, 4th World Congress on Animals In Life Sciences, New Orleans, ALTA vol 32, supplement 1A, June 2004, 329–333

World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences Absolutism or pragmatism – the animal welfare society perspective, Proceedings Australian and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching, 1994, ANZCCART, Glen Osmonde, South Australia

Where Do Members of Animal Ethics Committees Stand Legally, National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee Workshop Proceedings, 1993, National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee

Veterinarians as Guardians of Animal Welfare, Animal Welfare in New Zealand, 1992, Foundation for Continuing Education, Massey.

Non-refereed papers, publications and journals

Formal Training and Qualifications for Animal Control Officers, Animal Control Institute Conference, Hamilton 2001

Animal Welfare and Control — Coming together in New Zealand, Tenth N Z Companion Animal Workshop, Auckland, 1999

Animal Welfare Legislation—Textbook for Certificate Animal Welfare Investigations, Unitec Institute of Technology, Auckland, 1999

Animal Welfare Bill, Private Member's Bill introduced 1997

"Trapping Standard Impasse – A trade and an animal welfare issue" Standards New Zealand, Vol 40 No 5 May 1994

The Animals Protection Act 1960 and its Implications for Those Responsible for Farm Animals, 1994, Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, Wellington

Animal Welfare and the Changing Face of Farming, Beef and Cattle Society Proceedings, 1993, Palmerston North

The WSPA View of the Livestock Export Trade from Australia and New Zealand, SCA Workshop on Livestock Export Research, 1988; Bureau of Rural Sciences, Proceedings No 3, Melbourne

The Protection of Wildlife in the Environment, Auckland University Law Review Vol 4, 1983, Auckland University Law Students Society Incorporated, Auckland.

Writer statutory codes of animal welfare

Zoos, Animal Parks and Aquariums (adviser to MAF); Ostriches and Emus (adviser to Emu and Ostrich industries); Circuses (adviser to MAF); Pigs (adviser to NZ Pork); Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes (adviser to MAF); Transport of Animals Within New Zealand (adviser to MAF); Deer (adviser to Game Industry Board).
