



The Roger Award

for The Worst Transnational Corporation
Operating in Aotearoa/New Zealand in 2009

Organised by CAFCA & GATT Watchdog
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ANZ WINS RIO TINTO ALUMINIUM NZ LTD 2ND; TELECOM THIRD AUCKLAND CITY COUNCIL & ITS OFFICIALS WINNER OF ACCOMPLICE AWARD

Finalists: **ANZ, BNZ, Infratil, Newmont, Rio Tinto Aluminium NZ, Rymans, Telecom, Transpacific** and **Westpac**. There were two finalists for the Accomplice Award – the **Business Round Table**, and the **Auckland City Council and its officials** (as part of the nomination of Transpacific Industries). Criteria: the transnational (a corporation which is 25% or more foreign-owned) which is worst in each or all of the following: Economic Dominance - Monopoly, profiteering, tax dodging, cultural imperialism. People - Unemployment, impact on tangata whenua, women, children, abuse of workers/conditions, health and safety of workers and the public, cultural imperialism. Environment - Environmental damage, abuse of animals. Political interference - Cultural imperialism, running an ideological crusade. Judges: **Paul Corliss**, from Christchurch, a life member of the Rail and Maritime Transport Union; **Christine Dann**, from Banks Peninsula, a writer and researcher; **Bryan Gould**, from Bay of Plenty, a former Waikato University Vice-Chancellor; **Joce Jesson**, a Senior Lecturer in Critical Studies in Education, University of Auckland and an activist in various community organisations; and **Wayne Hope**, Associate Professor, Communications Studies, Auckland University of Technology. The winner was announced at an event in Wellington on March 11th.

The *Judges' Statement* says that they had a tough time picking one out of the three banks which made the finalists but that: "ANZ has succeeded in winning the 2009 Roger Award because the ING funds fiasco is simply and plainly 'pure greed capitalism' at its worst". The *Financial Analysis* of ANZ adds: "If the ING frozen funds fiasco tells us nothing else, it should tell us loud and clear that the days of regarding bankers as trusted advisers are over".

Rio Tinto Aluminium was runner up (for the second year running) because of its "blithe disregard of the environment and its massive carbon dioxide emissions" (among other reasons) and **Telecom**, a finalist for every single year of the Roger Award, was third because it "really excelled itself in providing poor service and treating its customers like rubbish" (among other reasons). **Auckland City Council and its officials** won the **Accomplice Award** for "helping to contract out Auckland's waste management to Transpacific and therefore acting as a template for future transference of public assets into private hands".

Murray Horton