

# NZ Politics Daily: 7 November 2016

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**Labour Party conference****Claire Trevett (Herald): Andrew Little: No frills, but not budget brand**4:58 PM Sunday Nov 6, 2016 [Add a comment](#)

Lest there was any doubt Labour's conference was about jobs, leader Andrew Little announced the solution to youth unemployment was in an Andrew's Army of rat hunters and bush whackers and even gave himself a job.

Andrew's Army will come in the form of Labour's new policy to offer under-24 year olds on the dole a 6-month stint working in community jobs such as on the Conservation estate in pest eradication or path maintenance.

The job Little set for himself was to win the 2017 election.

On November 18 Little will mark his second anniversary as Labour leader.

At his first conference Little's aim was to reassure Labour's members they had made the right choice when they elected him leader.

It clearly worked - this year, the standing ovation started the moment he walked into the room.

Even his jokes went down well.

Those related to the infamous piece of rug-art depicting a naked and generously proportioned Little.

Little joked the artwork had made his arms look bigger than they actually were. He added the style of art was "socialist realism". "I'm just thankful it wasn't cubism. Or pointillism."

Labour's delegates have clearly decided he is ready to govern - and in Labour that is no mean feat.

The bigger problem is convincing the rest of the country of that.

This party conference was all about putting on a show of being ready to govern.

The Future of Work report, released at the conference, is a significant piece of work although its launch was overshadowed by the proposal of a training levy on businesses to try to get New Zealand workers rather than migrants into areas of skills shortages.

But overall the report provides a thorough diagnosis of a problem that does have to be dealt with.

There are some some loopy gimmicks - "creative thinking clubs" anyone?

There are the inevitable vast tracts of meaningless waffle such as recommendations to "develop a new vision for Pasifika in New Zealand", to "enable work for beneficiaries" and to "make New Zealand a magnet for talent".

But there are also proposals to boost training for both young workers and older workers forced to make a career change.

There are proposals to overhaul Work and Income into an agency that delivers more than benefits and corrals people into looking for jobs.

If there is a problem with the report, it is that it appears to put the primary responsibility for creating, finding and funding training and new jobs in the Government's hands and therefore on the taxpayers' pocket.

Labour finance spokesman Grant Robertson insisted business too would be expected to do their bit, something which will send quivers of horror through the business community.

But there are repeated references to the Government putting funding in for everything from technology, training, regional infrastructure development, to grants for businesses large and small, councils, and organisations.

Combined with Little's announcement for unemployed young people, the report has a distinct whiff of a modern version of Muldoon's "Think Big".

It is likely major spending items - such as a Universal Basic Income payment - will be put on ice.

That is because the problem for Labour is what it long has been has been - if it is to look like a Government in waiting, Labour must first and foremost be seen as being able to be trusted with the purse strings.

Countering every question about spending by pointing at National's signal of tax cuts will not quite do the job.

Labour's deputy leader Annette King described Andrew Little as a "no frills" leader.

He may indeed be "no frills" but judging from the lineup of policies in waiting, he is definitely not budget brand.

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**Claire Trevett (Herald): Look who's back: Sir Michael Cullen returns to duty with a warning for Grant Robertson**

6:27 PM Sunday Nov 6, 2016

Sir Michael Cullen has returned to the Labour fold after eight years of self-imposed exile as a Government appointee to NZ Post with a warning to the party's finance spokesman, Grant Robertson.

Sir Michael was at the Labour party conference over the weekend as a delegate.

Cullen said he had been wary of being actively involved while he was chair of NZ Post because it was a state-owned enterprise. However, his time had ended last Monday and he was now a free man.

Cullen had supported Grant Robertson in the last leadership campaign but said he was impressed with present Labour leader Andrew Little. "People are very happy we've got a stable, united caucus and remarkable lack of deep division."

Cullen played a part in a remit in support of euthanasia which was passed by the conference. He had proposed an amendment to acknowledge there were differing views on it among members to make them more comfortable about supporting it.

Cullen - whose previous Labour roles have included Deputy Prime Minister, Finance Minister and Attorney-General - said he personally supported euthanasia.

He said he was already being kept alive by medical science, courtesy of a pacemaker installed two years ago. However, if he lost his mental or physical functions he supported the right to choose to die.

"My own personal position is that if it was me, I don't want to get to the state where my mind deteriorated to the point where I might actually support the National Party. In other words, I've forgotten who I am and what I am."

Cullen said Robertson's "Future of Work" paper was a well-thought-out piece - but warned Robertson could expect to face a lot of demands for spending if Labour was elected to Government.

He said years of restraint and cutbacks by National had created pressure points in the public sector, such as in health.

"You've got all these issues starting to bubble up so the pressures are going to be very strong for increases in spending."

"No doubt many public-sector unions banging on doors looking for catch up pay increases after years of very, very little. But then, that is exactly what a

Labour Government has to cope with coming into office almost every time. There's nothing new about that."

He said that added to that would be the demands of coalition partners.  
[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=1&objectid=11743333](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=11743333)

**Claire Trevett (Herald): Andrew Little revs up party faithful: 'It's neck and neck'**

3:38 PM Sunday Nov 6, 2016

Labour leader Andrew Little has used his speech at the party's annual conference to rev up the party faithful, saying the next election would be "a straight fight and I'm up for it".

Delivering his second speech as leader to the Labour Party annual conference, Little said the last two years under his leadership been about getting Labour ready to win.

"The results of the local elections show we can campaign to win. The polls show it's a neck and neck race between the centre-left and centre-right blocs.

"This is a straight fight and I'm up for it, we're up for it."

The centre-piece of Little's speech was policy of a jobs scheme to put unemployed people aged under 24 into jobs in the community on the minimum wage.

Little said he had made that a personal priority for himself. "As a parent, as a politician, as someone who gives a damn, I won't give up on our young people."

However he reserved space to attack his rivals, saying the National Party had only one plan: tax cuts.

"That's it. That's their answer. After eight years, it's pretty much all they've got left. And look, I get that this government's never met a tax cut they didn't like."

He said National had offered tax cuts in 2010, saying it would help stimulate an economy under strain and wanted to offer them again now on the basis the economy was doing well. "The economy's on the rebound in 2016? Thank god! Now we can do tax cuts."

"Here's the reality about the last lot of tax cuts: it didn't actually make that much of a difference for most people while the ones already doing well got a big boost."

Little also reprised Labour's other priorities such as housing and the recent announcement to fund 1000 more police.

He said National was in denial about the housing crisis.

Little reprised Labour's policy to end tax breaks for property investors and to impose a capital gains tax for properties other than the family home which were on sold within five years.

"That's my message: no more free rides for the speculators and a fair shot for first home buyers."

He also pledged to end homelessness, saying people were living in cars.

"How the hell does that happen in a country like ours? When did we decide that was the kind of place we wanted to be.?"

Little also paid a tribute to former Council of Trade Unions' head Helen Kelly, who died from cancer three weeks ago.

[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/politics/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=280&objectid=11743255](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/politics/news/article.cfm?c_id=280&objectid=11743255)

**Richard Harman (Politik): Inside Labour's conference**

07 November 2016

A week ago Labour's former deputy leader Sir Michael Cullen set his party a challenge when he asked it to define its purpose.

On Saturday afternoon he told a closed workshop at the party's conference, to which POLITIK was invited that Grant Robertson's Commission on the Future of Work had done exactly what he wanted.

He wasn't alone; Robertson's presentation set the tone for the whole conference.

His document is a complex one but it sets out to address the impact that digital disruption and globalisation is having on the New Zealand workforce.

Labour is the first political party in New Zealand to address these twin issues.

Of course, the headlines have focussed on his proposal that businesses should pay some sort of levy if they don't commit to training worker or to have apprentices or interns.

In turn, that got slammed by business lobby groups.

But there was much more to Robertson's document than that policy.

It committed to an active labour market and floated the idea of assessing trials of a Universal Basic Income. (UBI).

In the closed workshop, there were questions about the UBI and a warning that it could easily lead not to work a work based but a welfare based society.

However, the document does focus on what happens to workers who lose their jobs because of technological change.

Robertson proposes that they would get up to six weeks of free retraining along with the already-announced entitlement to three years of post-school education or training over their lifetime.

Employers with workers likely to become redundant because of technological change would be required to have skill development plans to prevent them from becoming unemployed on redundancy.

And within schools teachers would be able to learn computer coding so they could teach that and all students staying at decile 1 to 5 primary schools would have access to their own portable digital device and schools would be encouraged to establish "code clubs" for young geeks to practice their craft.

School students would also be able to get their driving licence and be financially literate as well as having their own personalised career development plan.

The former Mayor of Otorohanga Dale Williams introduced a similar plan in his town, and it led to a much lower rate of unemployment among the town's youth.

There's a proposal for a wage subsidy for employers who take on apprentices but also encouragement for collective bargaining and a proposal to abolish secondary tax.

Andrew Little's speech to the conference highlighted a proposal to provide PEP-style work for young unemployed, principally working on the DOC estate.

(Little's speech did not mention John Key at all --- clearly part of a strategy to have Labour look positive and forward thinking.)

The jobs proposal looked like a move to bolster support for the party in the Maori electorates where jobs are scarce in the provincial hinterland.

(Labour knows it has got problems with its Maori vote and its Maori caucus are said to be unhappy that the Caucus will not agree them sending a delegation to Cannonball in North Dakota where Thousands of Native Americans have been camping out in since April to protest against a pipeline that is meant to cross sacred burial grounds and the Missouri River - the main water source for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.)

But perhaps the most interesting thing about the whole proposal was a section of Robertson's speech when he said that young people "talked to us not so much about the jobs they would do in the future but rather the work they would create.

"Many more New Zealanders are self employed, managing a portfolio of work that is built around their lives."

That is a fundamental break with Labour's long time regard of itself as a party largely of the employed.

In a way, it simply acknowledges the self-employed digital economy --- such as games developers --- some considerable time after the Greens embraced it.

But even so, it was part of what seemed to be a new approach to the private sector which was also evident in a panel discussion chaired by David Parker.

There's a suggestion that Labour has had to come to terms with the private sector because research based on the last election showed that the electorate had little faith in its ability to manage the economy.

So the party has been actively courting private sector leaders and it looks as though it is beginning to pay off.

Parker's panel included two faces you might have thought would be unlikely to show up at a Labour party conference.

Andrew Barclay, an investment banker from Goldman Sachs, told the conference that though superficially the New Zealand economy looked good, it had failed to deliver any real growth per capita and had mounted up a huge amount of consumer debt which would eventually cause a correction which would be "very very painful".

Michael Stiassny, a principle of Korda Mentha and Chair of Vector, argued that our dairy and meat industries in their present form would not provide for our grandchildren.

But much of the panel discussion was about wealth inequality.

Barclay said that the answer was not to have a discussion about personal tax rates.

"The big gain here is to be made from those people that are multi nationals in our country who are enjoying an exorbitant privilege because they are generally in a two player market where they cannot help but make a fortune," he said.

"We must make sure they pay the right amount of tax.

"It's not hundreds of millions of dollars; it's billions.

"By taking that money and then recycling it into the bottom; funding programmes, helping people, using it as the lever to give people a leg up is the way for us to be thinking about tax."

But there was still plenty of Labour's traditional; arguments for more state spending.

Deputy Leader Annette King's key note speech ticked off calls for more spending on health, education and mental health in particular.

And perhaps behind much of the debate was the question raised at the Fabians Forum the week before --- how would the next Labour Government restore democratic socialism to New Zealand.

There is a widespread view among the party faithful that much as they appreciated the Clark Government putting an end to Rogernomics they also felt that it had not reinvented democratic socialism for the age that we live in.

Cullen believes that Robertson's Commission goes a long way towards answering that question.

However they are clearly not there yet.

Their social policies are still ad hoc and though they like to link them together under the banner of the "Kiwi Dream" they have not been subjected to the intellectual rigour that Robertsons work policies have..

The ultimate question, of course, is can they win next year.

Andrew Little says they can; but it was perhaps a bit premature to use the "it's time" slogan which a video played to the conference did.

They have certainly cemented their relationship with the Greens and the presence of the Green leadership on Friday night was a successful move.

Beyond the friction with the Maori caucus, there seems to be little of the bitter dissent that has marked previous conferences though the party hierarchy made sure all of the remit sessions were behind closed doors to avoid any of that dissent (if there was any) percolating out into the public.

But then National deal with that problem by simply sanitising their conference remits so that there is no room for dissent.

In the workshop attended by POLITIK, there was a discussion about the party's history and the question was raised as to where the party was now compared to other election cycles.

It was suggested that in fact it was 1969 with a three-term National Government running out of ideas and beginning to look tired but with Labour not quite ready to take over.

There was surprisingly little dissent with that proposition.

Labour's gamble is that the electorate will tire of John Key and will seek a serious answer to the country's problems which with Robertson's Commission and Little's demeanour they showed this weekend they are ready to provide.

The only question is whether that will be next year or in 2020.

[http://politik.co.nz/en/content/politics/972/?ct=t\(POLITIKToday\\_07\\_10\\_2016\\_10\\_6\\_2016\)](http://politik.co.nz/en/content/politics/972/?ct=t(POLITIKToday_07_10_2016_10_6_2016))



**Jane Patterson (RNZ): Does Labour truly believe it can beat Key?**

Power Play - "I'm no show pony" declared Labour leader Andrew Little after his deputy Annette King described him as 'no frills', during her speech to the party's annual conference, held on the Auckland waterfront at the weekend.

Mr Little delivered standard Labour fare to grassroots members with a jobs policy for young unemployed, which would see them paid at the minimum wage for six months to maintain Department of Conservation (DOC) tracks or help out in the local food bank.

His speech traversed housing, National's possible tax cuts and poverty, and was a solid speech for his second conference as leader.

In the introductory video, Labour test-ran a campaign slogan, "It's Time to Change the Government", with echoes of National's 2008 "It's Time for a Change".

The jobs policy would be for those on the Jobseeker benefit for more than six months, and would not be compulsory.

But that's where the policy could get tricky for Labour as Mr Little said there were already sanctions in place for those on the Jobseeker benefit who did not fulfil their obligations; sanctions Labour has previously described as punitive.

When Mr Little was asked about how young people would be made to do the paid work if they flat out refused, he referred to the sanctions, and in the next breath reverted to the criticism of them as punitive.

Then he settled on young people being "actively managed" after their six months on a benefit, which left reporters none the wiser about whether those young people would have a choice about whether they would take up the six months work, or how much pressure they would come under to do so.

Another Labour Party proposal that proved somewhat difficult to explain was a recommendation in the Future of Work Commission, also released at the weekend.

Businesses not taking on apprentices or providing on-the-job training would be levied - not taxed, insisted Labour's Grant Robertson, as the proceeds would be put back into workplace training.

In his speech, Mr Robertson talked about local firms not relying too heavily on migrant workers.

Despite the party having run hard on the issue of immigration, the high numbers of temporary work visas and the impact on the job market, Mr Robertson was decidedly reluctant to link the levy proposal to immigration.

Labour Party finance spokesperson Grant Robertson gives details at the release of his final Future of Work report. Labour Party finance spokesperson Grant Robertson gives details at the release of his final Future of Work report. Photo: RNZ / Chris Bramwell

He did concede the policy was aimed at encouraging investment in training New Zealanders rather than relying on a steady flow of workers from overseas, but after several rounds of questions from reporters he clearly believed were deliberately misconstruing the proposal, he denied it was a policy aimed at cracking down on migrant workers.

The overall conference however was notable for the fact only the set piece speeches and a business panel were open to the media.

After the 2012 Labour Party conference, where party differences over how to elect the leader and over the leadership itself at the time were fought out in full view of the media, potentially more controversial parts of conferences have been sealed off in the ensuing years.

When it was riven with division and languishing in the polls the National Party conferences were much the same, but with the confidence of a party with still solid support, its conferences have progressively become more open, including the sessions over potential election campaign policy.

There were strong words from Mr Little during his speech about Labour winning the next election, but the party lacks the feeling of true confidence about its prospects of actually defeating John Key and his government - a feeling that was starting to build in the National Party ranks as they eyed the Clark government before its defeat in 2008.

Labour has not been able to break through past the early 30s in most of its polling, except for the odd spike, which puts it in about the same place it was this time last year.

If it is not starting to make some real gains at the start of next year and make inroads into National's vote, it faces an uphill battle if it hopes to win next year's election.

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/political/317460/does-labour-truly-believe-it-can-beat-key>

**Toby Manhire (The Spinoff): Andrew Little rolls out the rug for a Labour tilt at power in 2017**

November 6, 2016

**The Labour Party conference concluded with a fire-in-belly speech from Andrew Little. Toby Manhire went along to watch.**

While one nation in the continent of North America sucks up all the political oxygen on Earth, feeding a giant ball of pulsating fire, there is something reassuring about New Zealand Labour Party delegates gathering together on the Auckland waterfront for their annual conference, complete with raffles and home-knitting and the proverbial hardworking kiwis nattering over cups of tea.

I must have had America on the mind, however, because Donald Trump was the first thing I thought of when Andrew Little, during his [leader's speech](#) this afternoon, talked about a work of art that "made my arms look much bigger than they are". It wasn't, of course, a reference to small-handed leaders, but to the [framed, hand-woven rug](#) that depicted the Labour leader starkers. Little dropped a few gags about it ("I think the style is called social realism; I'm just thankful it wasn't cubism") and so did Jacinda Ardern when she introduced the big speech (when she had gingerly texted him to alert him to its existence, he'd replied, "It certainly adds new meaning to the term member of parliament"), but mercifully there was no sign of any similarly inspired works on the merch stand.

Fabric dicks notwithstanding, the challenge for Labour less than a year from an election was to attract attention but not for the wrong reasons. Since the nightmare of the 2012 conference, when the debates around redesigning the constitution were watched over by media, [feeding coup talk](#) which largely derailed the event, the press have had much less access. When I arrived just before the Little speech, members of the media bench were seething about having been forced to perform the "walk of shame", after being ejected following Annette King's speech earlier in the day. The prohibitions on press attendance have, I was told, become even stricter than National's.

The centrepiece policy announcement was “Ready for Work”, a programme to provide temporary employment for young people not in education, training or employment; and while parts of it seemed kind of woolly – the costings, the degree of compulsion, the vague models of similar success that Little cited – in the scheme of things it’s not a huge policy plank: ticking the right symbolic boxes without attempting to any almighty game-changing status.

I thought it was a solid speech. There were no wild rhetorical flourishes, but Little recognises that’s not his metier – just as John Key recognises it isn’t his – and registered a respectable fire-in-belly score, without lapsing into anything that might excite the National Party’s “Angry Andrew” monitoring corps. The declamation that “polls show it’s a neck and neck race between the centre-left and centre-right blocs” is debatable, but it’s not an outrageous thing to say, and the floor wanted to hear it. “You look like a party ready to win an election,” Little told them. I don’t know about that, but they were at least paying attention.

There was the Labour jazz standard emphasis on health and education, but the policy area that got the most emphasis was housing. (Curiously, there is no mention of climate policy in the [distributed speech](#), but when he delivered it Little said climate change was something that should be addressed in an improving economy; perhaps the Greens, who were attending in bloc support mode, had scrawled the line in late.)

On housing, the one thing that was missing – and it surprises me that they don’t bang on about this all the time – was that Labour were alert to the crisis years ago. Something like: “The idea that this is some sudden, unexpected, out-of-the-blue crisis is a nonsense, and that’s why, four years ago, we [announced a massive house-building policy, Kiwbuild](#), at that 2012 conference which otherwise was a bit of a clusterfuck for us.” Or maybe not the last bit.

What matters to the strategists in the short term, of course, is the way the conference and its climax speech play in the headlines and on the

6pm bulletins. On the NZ Herald site, at the time of writing (9.30pm on Sunday; I got distracted), [the story](#) takes a good few scrolls to arrive at, and it's a reasonably straight take that will encourage Labour's spinners.

**Claire Trevett**

Claire Trevett is the New Zealand Herald's deputy political editor.

✉ Email Claire

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## Andrew Little revs up party faithful: 'It's neck and neck'

3:38 PM Sunday Nov 6, 2016

On Stuff, this is the only mention of Labour or Little on the front page:



On the Sunday evening television news, the Labour conference sat beneath two major stories from the United States: Donald Trump, naturally, but even more importantly, the historic defeat of the All Blacks by the Irish in Chicago, and all conceivable angles on the result (happy Irish people at pub in New Zealand; happy Irish people at pub in America; happy Irish people at pub in Ireland). Little and Labour were third story off the rank on both One, or TVNZ 1 or whatever it's called, and TV3 or Newshub, or whatever it's called.

On 1, the thrust of the story was the policy, and questions over whether or not the costings were overly optimistic, with Steven Joyce, who was reliably [tweeting his rebuttal](#) to the policy even

before it had emerged from Little's mouth, shaking his head in disappointed delight.

Over on 3, the coverage was comparatively effusive, especially the sign-off: "With Andrew Little, it seems Labour has finally found a leader who can rally the troops to take on Brand Key."

The room didn't feel to me especially as though it was, to borrow a [Keyism](#), on the cusp of something special. But – notwithstanding some cataclysmic defeat in Mt Roskill on December 3 – Labour can be confident, to bastardise a [Joyceism](#), that while they have a long, long route to becoming a serious contender in the 2017 election, they are at least rowing in the same direction.

<http://thespinoff.co.nz/politics/06-11-2016/andrew-little-rolls-out-the-rug-for-a-labour-tilt-at-power-in-2017/>

**Vernon Small (Stuff): Labour puts storms behind it as Little navigates into calmer waters**

OPINION: There was a strange sense of calm over Labour's centenary conference in Auckland over the weekend.

Strange, as in unusual ... because in recent history they've been anything but.

From leadership white-anting to passive-aggressive clashes over policy positions on superannuation, man bans or trade, conferences in the recent past have been a seething mess.

Even last year in Palmerston North, when exhausted by years of in-fighting the party finally put on a united and convincing front, there was an underlying tension in the air as policies from the failed 2014 campaign were jettisoned.

It wasn't helped by Andrew Little's refusal to say a definitive yeah or nah to the Trans-Pacific Partnership in his first press conference.

This year, though, Little deserves some of the credit for the preternatural sense of order and relative serenity.

James Shaw described him as "unflappable" during the Green co-leader's symbolic cameo.

Little's deputy Annette King went for "no frills", though what to make of her revelation Little knows all the words to Bob Marley's Redemption Song? ("Old pirates, yes, they rob I", is the first line in case you need reminding.)

Neither that, nor the triumphant music that normally attends a leader's entry for a keynote speech, was on offer on Sunday.

instead it was a short Labour "values" video that hammered out the theme "time to change the Government", a standing ovation and Little was on deck.

His policy gambit was a plan to pay long term unemployed young people the minimum wage for six months to do community and conservation work.

It drove home the conference's emphasis on Labour's core message; jobs; which included the release of the substantial investigation into the Future of Work.

If there was a misstep it was the decision to have Little pre-release on TV3's The Nation the report's recommendation of a levy on free-loading employers to help pay for skills training.

The party's leadership is adamant it was not whistling to even the most sensitive of dogs, and i tend to believe them.

If a politician can't advocate training workers living in New Zealand in areas where we have skills shortages - evidenced by the demand to import skilled labour in those industries - there is something very wrong.

But some sections of the media, recalling Labour's earlier "Chinese-sounding names" home-buyers census and Little's comments about too many immigrant chefs, pounced.

Was the move to train local workers, as opposed to importing, say, asian chefs, an attack or levy on immigration?

It might have been wiser in hindsight to choose a less fraught appetiser, such as the guarantee of six week's paid training for workers who loses their jobs to technological change.

But that distraction aside, Labour activists can head home happy that this time around they have presented a shipshape party to the electorate.

It wasn't particularly exciting, but neither were there any mutinies or policy argy-bargy.

Now to see if public shows of unity and peace can deliver an electoral dividend in the Mt Roskill by-election on December 3.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/politics/86144862/Labour-puts-storms-behind-it-as-Little-navigates-into-calmer-waters>



**Herald: Editorial: Labour needs to look more like Auckland**

5:00 AM Saturday Nov 5, 2016

Long ago, Labour was the "city party" and National the "country party". Labour still holds its own in Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin but it is along time since it did well in Auckland.

It has safe seats in the south and west side of the city but National holds the north and east and centre, as well as the areas of rapid growth in the northwest and southeast. And in some of the electorates that return Labour MPs voters are giving their party votes to National, indicating they want a Labour representative but a National government.

Labour knows it needs to win Auckland to return to government. The task is bound to occupy the party's minds as it meets in Auckland for its Annual Conference this weekend.

It has an imminent byelection in Mt Roskill to focus all minds on the city. It will be celebrating the reason for the byelection, its success in the Auckland mayoral election. While Phil Goff stood as an independent, there was no point hiding his Labour pedigree and it did him no harm.

When it comes to local elections Labour easily commands all the main centres. It ensures a ticket on the left is better organised and unified than those on the right.

Not so at parliamentary elections. Labour has to compete with the Greens and New Zealand First for the vote against National. It is only when all three can combine their support, as they did in the Northland byelection, that they might take a seat from National. Labour's candidate appears to have a clear run in Roskill but it is leaving nothing to chance, offering light rail down Dominion Rd if it wins next year's general election.

But as Claire Trevett reports today, Labour's problem may be the rapidly changing ethnic character of the electorate and Auckland overall. Labour has no Asian MPs, National has several, one of whom is standing in the byelection. National appears to be gathering more support among the new immigrant groups than Labour and they already can be seen at National conferences. Labour has taken a less liberal position on immigration, which might work to its advantage in a general election though probably not in Mt Roskill.

To win Auckland, Labour needs to look more like Auckland. It's present leader, deputy leader and finance spokesman are all Wellington MPs. It's true that its three previous leaders, David Cunliffe, David Shearer and Goff, were all Auckland MPs and it made no discernible difference. But the party does need a more prominent figure in Auckland. List MP Jacinda Ardern looks to be Labour's most popular Aucklander though Te Atatu MP Phil Twyford is doing most of the heavy lifting on Auckland issues such as housing and transport.

It is easy to overstate Auckland's political significance, its views on most issues do not differ very much from the country at large. But increasingly the issues of concern to the whole country originate in Auckland. Immigration is heavily concentrated on Auckland, contributing to the house price explosion that has been felt in other centres. Auckland's increasing diversity sometimes sounds more unsettling to voters living far away from it than it is to Auckland.

Labour needs to show Auckland and the country it has the makings of a fresh, modern government, ready to step in when the country is looking for a change. It could be this time next year.

[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/opinion/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=466&objectid=11742051](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/opinion/news/article.cfm?c_id=466&objectid=11742051)

**Claire Trevett (Herald): Labour and how to win Auckland in 50 minutes**

5:00 AM Saturday Nov 5, 2016

On the eve of the annual Labour party conference, Claire Trevett looks at the party's battle plan to take back Auckland in 2017.

It might eventually take voters half-way down Dominion Rd, but there was nothing half measure about Labour's light rail announcement in the Mt Roskill by-election.

It was a promise to fund at least half of the \$1.3 billion needed to bring trams along Dominion Road all the way to Mt Roskill from the CBD.

The by-election campaign is a handy dress rehearsal for Labour as it prepares for the 2017 election.

But it has a lot more to lose than National has to win in the fight for the central city seat.

Mt Roskill should be a safe Labour seat after three decades under Phil Goff's tender care. But on paper, National has the edge. So Labour leader Andrew Little has been throwing out the promises.

First came \$180 million a year for 1000 more police, an announcement he targeted at Mt Roskill.

Then came the promise to put in at least half of the \$1.3 billion cost for light rail. Little has also boosted the proportion of homes in Labour's "Kiwibuild" policy which would be built in Auckland, from 30,000 to 50,000.

The gap between National and Labour in Auckland is stark. In 2014, the centre-right parties combined won 54 per cent of the vote in Auckland. The centre left got 38 per cent (not including NZ First).

Labour can not afford to get Auckland wrong in 2017.

Phil Twyford is Labour's campaign chair for 2017. "You can't win the country if you don't win Auckland. It's a third of the population, and it is critical."

He admits 2014 was a shocker. "We took a bath. The voters basically decided we weren't ready to be handed the keys."

Labour has lost more than 14,000 votes in Auckland since 2008 and its share of the vote has dropped from 33 to 27.7 per cent.

By comparison, National has picked up 28,000 votes and its share of the vote has stayed steady at 48.6 per cent.

The Greens and NZ First have picked up Labour's slack - the Green vote in Auckland has lifted from 5.6 to 9.7 per cent and NZ First's from 3 to 6.8 per cent.

On the bright side, Labour's support in South Auckland has remained rock steady, helping bolster the party against an even more disastrous result.

Ask Little the big three issues Labour will be focusing on in Auckland in 2017 and he picks four: transport, housing, crime and immigration.

"Crime because we know some of the biggest rises in crime happen in Auckland and also to some extent immigration in the sense Auckland is feeling the pressure of more and more people coming into the city that is ill-equipped to cope with such a rapid increase in population. So we have talked about better managing immigration."

Labour has been quiet on the issue of immigration in the Mt Roskill by-election but Little wants to peg back the numbers coming to New Zealand on work visas, such as for unskilled jobs.

This is dangerous territory - half of Mt Roskill voters were born outside New Zealand and 40 per cent are Asian - the second-highest percentage of any general electorate.

To rub it in, National's candidate Parmjeet Parmar is Indian and the new Peoples' Party is campaigning for the migrant vote.

Labour has Maori and Pasifika representation aplenty in Auckland. Jenny Salesa, Carmel Sepuloni, Su'a William Sio and Louisa Wall hold the fort across South and West Auckland, as well as Tamaki Makaurau MP Peeni Henare.

Thanks to what one MP delicately describes as Labour's "compressed party vote" in 2014, Labour has no Chinese or Indian MPs.

It has no MPs of Asian ethnicity at all. It had expected to get Raymond Huo and Priyanca Radhakrishnan in, but fell well short of the 30 per cent needed.

So the less said the better about immigration on the streets of Mt Roskill. Instead, Wood's campaign material talks about everything except immigration.

It talks about trams, "run-away house prices", work, wages, "the rising tide of burglaries", police officers, police stations, the environment, health, and schools.

The ethnic issue is not only a problem for Labour in Mt Roskill. It is a problem across Auckland.

By 2013, almost one quarter of all Aucklanders identified as Asian - about one third of whom were Indian and one third Chinese. Those numbers will have grown further since.

Yet since 2014 Labour has treated migrants to its attack on foreign property buyers by crude research based on Chinese surnames, which even Twyford admits damaged the party a bit despite a short-term boost in the polls.

More serious is the lack of Asian MPs, especially when National has a strong line up - Parmar and Kanwaljit Singh Bakshi are Indian, Jian Yang is Chinese and Melissa Lee is Korean.

One Labour Auckland insider said the National machine was also very effective.

"National has basically occupied the entire space because it has two Indian, one Korean and one Chinese MP. And Jian Yang has been working very hard in making John Key come across as 'a leader in your neighbourhood' - as approachable and friendly."

Xiaoying Fu, a business consultant and director who is on the Asian Leaders board, has lived in New Zealand for 20 years under both Labour and National Governments.

Fu said National was partly reaping the benefit of being in power, but Labour had not helped itself with the Chinese surnames or rhetoric about migrants taking New Zealanders' jobs.

"Based on talking to my friends, people just say 'oh, Labour doesn't like Chinese.' It tends to be a bit generalised. I keep telling them it was Labour who signed the [free trade agreement] with China. It was Labour that established the relationship with China in 1972. Labour did a lot of work.

"The newer migrants are wealthier and probably find National's policies are a little bit in favour of them. But people like me can see the big picture and in general Labour has been good to Chinese."

She said Labour needed to use its Chinese members more, such as Huo, an Auckland lawyer, who was in Parliament until 2014.

"They definitely haven't done enough in the Chinese community. To be fair, sometimes Chinese only want to talk to people in power right now. Probably that makes exposure [for Labour] harder, but they should try to communicate exactly what their policy is."

When Huo introduced Twyford to a meeting of the Chinese building industry representatives recently he made a joke of the Chinese surnames incident, encouraging them to come up with a Chinese surname for him of his own.

"There was a round of applause from the audience," Huo says. "From that moment, I could see the tension being eased and it gave Phil the opportunity to explain Labour's policy."

Neither Huo nor Labour will openly admit it, but there is another reason it is keen to get Huo back on board. Huo has been an asset for Goff in the mayoral campaign, helping with fundraising including a dinner at which Goff raised more than \$200,000.

#### TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

It has been a long time since Labour had a leader who was not an Auckland. David Cunliffe, David Shearer, Phil Goff and former Prime Minister Helen Clark were all Aucklanders.

Little is from Wellington as are his deputy Annette King and third-ranked Finance Spokesman Grant Robertson.

Little says he is well aware of Auckland's importance. It is why he dispatched Matt McCarten to set up an Auckland office.

He has also started regular sessions to schmooze local businesspeople over drinks.

Labour's main weapons in Auckland are Twyford and Jacinda Ardern - the Auckland spokespeople.

Ardern is Labour's "rock star" in the city, according to one MP. She is Labour's Justice and Children's spokeswoman and - critically for Auckland - Small Business spokeswoman.

A sign of the breadth of her effectiveness came in the Herald's Mood of the Boardroom survey of chief executives.

It was not Little or even Finance Spokesman Grant Robertson who topped that survey of Opposition MPs - it was Ardern.

Ardern was pleased she had cut through but also points to a recent MYOB survey of 1012 small business owners.

Labour had just 10 per cent support when asked what party was better to help business succeed. National had 57 per cent.

There was higher support for some Labour policies, such as research and development tax credits.

"Both surveys tell me there is work we need to do. When you break down the policies, Labour gets a positive response for some of the ideas we are putting up but we still have a disconnect that we need to work on."

A FALSE DAWN?

There is a sense of tentative satisfaction in Labour as it heads to its annual conference. It has just raised \$200,000 at one of its semi-regular art auctions in Auckland, courtesy of donated artworks from the likes of Karl Maugham and Stanley Palmer.

After struggling to attract big donors, Labour's hierarchy is hopeful it is a sign of greater confidence in the party's chances of winning.

The local election results, which saw mayors with Labour affiliations elected or re-elected in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch have also been a morale boost.

Twyford says he is feeling "chipper" this time round, a year out from the next election. "I think, on the defining issues in Auckland, housing, transport - and, increasingly, crime and community safety - the Government is on the back foot and we've got good positive solutions."

Which brings us to Labour's other problem in Auckland: National. National by far outguns Labour in terms of manpower and money in Auckland. Its coffers overflow and it has a strong grasp over vast tracts of central, northern and eastern Auckland in particular. It has snaffled up the growth areas as well on the city outskirts on all sides.

National itself is pondering offering a multibillion-dollar tax cut programme but Little's largesse for Auckland has not escaped campaign manager Steven Joyce's derision.

"They have got to be believable and I don't think they are. That's always Labour's achilles' heel. They start writing billion-dollar promises all over the shop and I get the impression so far that Andrew Little is going to do exactly that, and possibly more so than the last election. That starts to fail the believability test."

Joyce has a very different answer to Little when asked what the big three policy areas for Auckland are. He lists the economy, the economy, the economy, education, health and law and order.

The most notable omission from Little's list is the economy. The conference coincides with further good news for the Government on that front - it has a rosy surplus, the unemployment rate has dropped back below 5 per cent and New Zealand was ranked top in a list of countries considered a good place to do business.

At the Labour Party's annual conference today there is a workshop titled "How we win". It is a 50-minute session.

If it is indeed the economy that wins elections, it will take Labour a bit than a 50-minute brainstorm to blow National out of the water. Perhaps it is no coincidence that its annual conference coincides with Guy Fawkes Day.

Battle ground seats:

Of the 21 general seats in the Auckland region, National holds 12, Act one and Labour 8 - if it holds Mt Roskill. In 2008, Labour lost both Maungakiekie and Auckland Central to National as it swept into power. Labour still wants them back. David Cunliffe's announcement he would leave politics before the 2017 election has put the New Lynn seat into play as well for National to stage a reverse takeover.

- Auckland Central: the most marginal seat in the country - National's Nikki Kaye held it by 600 votes in 2014.

Ardern will have her third go at winning Auckland Central in 2017, having lost to the incumbent National's Nikki Kaye in 2011 and 2014.

That contest is in the air for the time being while Kaye takes time for treatment for breast cancer.

Ardern says news of the diagnosis came as a shock. "In lots of ways when you are a - I can't really use the term younger - but "youngish" person in politics there is a bit of an affinity with other younger politicians. So even though Nikki and I are in opposite sides of the House we've had a pretty good relationship. And her illness has really thrown me. Yeah. She's young."

She had called Kaye after her diagnosis and stayed in text contact since then.

At the time, Ardern had refused to comment about Kaye other than a brief tweet. "It was her diagnosis and it was not about politics. And it still isn't. The first and foremost focus is her health and wellbeing. Everything else is secondary to that. The politics are secondary when it is about someone's wellbeing."

- Maungakiekie: National's Sam Lotu-liga won the seat in 2008 after former Labour MP Mark Gosche retired from politics. His margin in 2014 was 2348 against Labour candidate Carol Beaumont, who had twice been defeated before. This time Labour is trying a fresh face. Selections will be on November 12 and those in contention are Priyanca Radhakrishna, Anahila Kanongata'a-Suisuiki, and Shanan Halbert.

Twyford is confident the seat will be "in play" and the combined party votes of Labour and the Greens outstrip National's by 1000. But incumbency is a powerful factor.

- New Lynn: New Lynn was the electorate in which National gained the most party votes compared to 2011. It's share of the party vote went from 36 to 39 per cent - up by 3.2 points. It got 1000 more party votes than Labour.

That was partly because of boundary changes. But National's candidate Tim Groser was about 4500 votes behind Labour's David Cunliffe - and Cunliffe was the leader of the Labour Party and the long-standing MP in the seat while Groser spent most the campaign out of the country at trade talks. That could see National in with a chance if they select a vigorous candidate. Even



Twyford jokes that Groser had made it quite clear he had no interest in being elected. "With the boundary redraw and a very well-known incumbent leaving, that will be an electorate we really have to work for. It's not a gimme for us."

[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=1&objectid=11741365](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=11741365)

**Newshub: Labour compulsory voting policy just a quick fix - expert**

Monday 7 Nov 2016 5:00 a.m.

A political expert says Labour's proposed scheme to make voting compulsory looks like an attempted quick fix to our low voter turnout.

Massey University politics lecturer Victoria Woodman says Government can force people to vote, but can't force them to be politically engaged.

"Whether or not that actually remedies any of the underlying problems that contribute to voters choosing not to turn out to vote when they have the choice, I don't think that there's an awful lot of evidence to suggest that it is going to solve those problems," she says.

The proposal, announced at the Labour Party conference, is aiming to boost voter numbers.

Ms Woodman says Labour could be trying to appeal to lower socio-economic groups, but the proposal isn't necessarily a strong one.

"I suspect that part of what the Labour Party is doing here is noting that people of lower incomes are less likely to vote, and thinking, maybe this will benefit us.

"Whether or not that's actually going to help them - I'm not convinced that it will."

In Australia's voting system, people are fined if they don't vote.

<http://www.newshub.co.nz/politics/labour-compulsory-voting-policy-just-a-quick-fix---expert-2016110620>

## **Adriana Weber (RNZ): Business critical of Labour's proposed no training tax**

Small companies could suffer under a Labour Party proposal to tax employers who are not providing training, Business New Zealand says.

no caption Labour plans to tax employers who are not providing training.

Photo: 123rf

The Labour Party has said the levy would be put back into workplace training and would encourage industries to provide training for the local workforce, rather than rely on workers from overseas.

It is one of 63 recommendations in the Future of Work document released at the party's annual conference in Auckland.

But Business New Zealand chief executive Kirk Hope said many employers couldn't get local staff in the first place, whether skilled or unskilled, and so couldn't train them.

"So the problem with the policy is that it's a fairly blunt instrument and it wouldn't go anywhere near addressing what is a fairly complex problem."

Mr Hope said small businesses also might not have the capacity to deliver training.

"If you think about a small- to medium-sized business that can't get the skills that it needs to grow it will then also be negatively affected by being taxed so that's not really a helpful solution to what is a growing problem.

"Given there are around 500,000 businesses in New Zealand, and only 2000 of them have 100 or more employees, it would be far better to provide some form training subsidy to the small to medium enterprises to help them access industry training and organisations to provide the training and capability building that we need."

Tourism Industry Aotearoa chief executive Chris Roberts agreed the proposal missed the mark.

He said most employers in his industry were already providing training.

"Any employer faced with this sort of levy would say 'We are training our staff, we are providing development opportunities for our staff, so don't tax us', and I think they would quickly find that there are very few employers in this category, so the whole thing would fall on its face pretty quickly."

He said the proposal wouldn't help fix the skill shortage problem, and more needed to be done to help train people before they get into the workforce.

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/political/317449/business-critical-of-labour%27s-no-training-tax>

**Alex Mason (Newstalk ZB): Labour's job policy "wrong policy at the wrong time" - Joyce**

Author Alex Mason, Section Politics, Publish Date Monday, 7 November 2016, 5:26AM

UPDATED 6.33am Labour's being accused of missing the mark with its vision for getting thousands of young people into jobs.

Andrew Little's promising six months, full time, minimum wage work for young people who have been on the Jobseeker's Allowance in the Work Ready category for six months.

But Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment Minister Steven Joyce is calling it the wrong policy at the wrong time.

He said unemployment among young people is back to pre-GFC levels.

"Of course we can do more, and you do that with a strong economy and getting people into the jobs that are there.

"You don't divert them off into a make-work scheme when there's employers crying out all over the country to get people into work," he said.

Joyce said it's the sort of policy you'd roll out in the middle of the GFC - not now when there are jobs that need filling.

"It's certainly not the time to be proposing a scheme where you would take these young people out of the job market effectively, and have them doing stuff for DOC when we could be proposing getting them into real jobs, that are long-term jobs and a long-term career."

Labour's idea to get young people off the dole and working in their communities is being welcomed by a local board member from Auckland's Manurewa.

Manurewa Local Board member Sarah Colcord said it will help build young people's confidence and get them involved in the community... and bridge the gap to permanent employment.

She's spoken to youth in the South Auckland community recently who have been struggling to get employed because they don't have the work experience a policy like this could help provide.

CTU president Richard Wagstaff said it's good initiative to get a lot of things done, and build up young people's work experience.

"Volunteer agencies need a lot more support. There's a lot more work that can be done in conservation and in other areas so it's a good initiative. Labour's putting two and two together saying we can give people experience of work in to the habit of work."

<http://www.newstalkzb.co.nz/news/politics/labours-job-policy-wrong-policy-at-the-wrong-time-joyce/>

**Jenna Lynch (Newshub): Did Labour plagiarise Newshub?**

Sunday 6 Nov 2016 7:40 p.m.

On Sunday Labour unveiled a campaign video, Backing the Kiwi Dream.

It's your usual inspirational message - their politicians and everyday New Zealanders sharing their vision for New Zealand.

But when Newshub saw it, it felt a bit familiar. In fact, it bore a striking resemblance to a video we produced earlier in the year - #100YearsofLabourin10Words.

So who did it better? Probably Labour, to be honest. But we'll let you decide.

Watch the video to see Labour's video, followed by Newshub's.

<http://www.newshub.co.nz/nznews/did-labour-plagiarise-newshub-2016110619>

**Claire Trevett (Herald): devilish detail puts Grant Robertson in a fresh hell**

4:55 PM Saturday Nov 5, 2016 [Add a comment](#)

"The devil is in the detail," a Labour adviser said of Labour's proposal to impose a levy on workplaces which were not training New Zealand workers up.

An hour later, Grant Robertson was indeed in a form of hell as he tortuously tried to explain how a policy which looked, smelt and quacked like an attempt to penalise companies for hiring migrant workers was not that at all.

The proposal had looked fairly obvious. It was in a section of the Future of Work report that spoke of "skilled immigration being used to compensate for our failure to train our own local workforce for the jobs that are available."

The levy was to apply to companies in sectors with skills shortages which were therefore reliant on migrant labour.

Earlier, Labour leader Andrew Little had rattled off the number of work visas given out to semi-skilled workers and said it "didn't make sense." The examples he had used of businesses which might be affected had been construction, chefs and IT - all of which are heavily dependent on migrants.

Robertson also emphasised that the aim of it was to train up the New Zealand workforce, the young ones without jobs, education or training opportunities.

So it was a fair assumption the levy was aimed at promoting local workers over migrant workers.

But no.

Asked if it was a crack down on migrant workers, Robertson said companies would not have to pay the levy if the workers they were training were migrants either.

The proposal which began life as a way of getting New Zealanders into skilled jobs instead had transmogrified.

It had turned into a proposal to get anyone into skilled jobs, whether they came from France, China, the Lower East Side of the Planet Melmac or Eketahuna.

Robertson even re-cast it as a business rights issue, rather than a worker rights issue, saying some businesses were "pissed off" because others were taking all their trained staff without training any of their own.

By this point the detail (what there was of it) was getting very devilish indeed.

There was no real need for Robertson to baulk at the migrant worker question - there is, after all, nothing wrong with a political party putting the rights and opportunities of New Zealanders over others.

But Labour had felt the sting of accusations of xenophobia over its Chinese surnames business.

Robertson had sensed swiftly where things were heading and hit reverse.

Labour must have known the proposal would get some attention. It had not spoken simply of training young workers, but had thrown the concepts of migrant labour versus 'New Zealand workers' into the mix.

It was the one measure of 60 recommendations that the party chose for Little to release on television on Saturday morning. It had crapped in its own nest.

The trouble is if you tap on the dog whistle, it doesn't take long for the entire orchestra to kick in behind it.

[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=1&objectid=11742918](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=11742918)



**Newshub: Has Labour got its youth work scheme numbers right?**

Monday 7 Nov 2016 11:27 a.m.

Labour leader Andrew Little has conceded his 'Ready for Work' scheme is a six-month policy that has been costed for four months.

Talking to Paul Henry, Mr Little said the programme would "cost a little more" if participants stayed on it for longer than the international average of four months.

The 'Ready for Work' scheme was released at the Labour Party's Annual Conference over the weekend. Under the scheme anyone under 24 years of age who's been on the Jobseeker's Allowance for six months will be offered a job by the Government.

Labour promises jobs for the unemployed  
Andrew Little expects 10,000 youths to sign up every year, around one sixth of young people who are not studying or working.

Mr Little says claims Labour has under-costed the policy is "National Party spin". He says the costing is based on the average time spent in similar programmes, which is four months.

"We've taken the information we know about these programmes from here and overseas based on evidence.

"We've looked at the cost now and we've taken into account all costs, the extra tax that would come from it as well. The figure of \$60 million per year is accurate, I stand by it, there's nothing wrong with it."

However if young people in New Zealand do not follow the trend then there could be a problem.

"In the unlikely event that that would happen - because it would be completely contrary to evidence of the way these programmes work - it'll cost a little more."

But Prime Minister John Key says Labour needs to do more work on the plan: "They just can't get their numbers right, it's not that hard, this is a pretty simple thing."

He says the party needs to change its attitude or it won't see any improvement in the polls.

"They are lazy. Go and have a look at the questions they are asking in Parliament, a lot of the time they are not terribly well-researched.

"They are not drilling down on a particular issue that often. It's pretty superficial numbers that you can shoot down."

But Mr Little says it's the Government that's not working hard enough to safeguard the future of the country.

"We've got a major problem; young unemployment is going up under this Government. They've got no sense of anything to do about it and we do and that's what this programme is about.

"It is about giving young people a chance and giving them hope."

<http://www.newshub.co.nz/politics/has-labour-got-its-youth-work-scheme-numbers-right-2016110711>

**Andrea Vance (TVNZ): Labour proposing new tax targeting business employing foreign workers**

Sat, Nov 5Share

Labour is proposing a skills shortage tax to target firms who employ foreign workers and don't train up their staff

The policy is designed to encourage businesses to train up Kiwis to fill the jobs.

Half the work on the frames has gone to a foreign contactor.

This new "skilled shortage levy" will target chefs, tour guides, construction, agriculture and ICT workers and other industries that are struggling to find manpower.

The cash will be used by the government to boost skills training.

"Firms that can demonstrate they are actively engaged in the training process would be exempt from such a levy," the recommendation says.

'I don't think it's a very sensible idea' - PM shuts down Labour's idea to target business employing foreign workers

It's contained in a report from their Future of Work Commission - a two year investigation.

Finance spokesman Grant Robertson is expected to announce further details this afternoon at the party's annual conference.

Around 550 party faithfuls are in Auckland as the party gears up for election year and tries to regain some momentum in the polls.

<https://www.tvnz.co.nz/one-news/new-zealand/labour-proposing-new-tax-targeting-business-employing-foreign-workers>

**TVNZ: Labour keen to embrace Greens under MMP**

Sat, Nov 5Share Source:1 NEWS

Labour's leadership is telling the annual party conference that it's ready to present a united front with the Green Party going into next year's general election.

The two parties signed a memorandum of understanding six months ago, committing to co-operate in the lead-up to the vote.

In his address to delegates today, Labour president Nigel Haworth said under New Zealand's mixed member proportional voting system, the party must embrace its relationship with the Green Party.

"Let me be clear, a party confident in its values and purpose and operating in an MMP environment must embrace fully the potential offered by such arrangements," he said.

"The MoU reflects the maturity and depth of our politics and is a very good thing."

Labour leader Andrew Little earlier invited Green co-leaders James Shaw and Metiria Turei to join senior party members on stage for the conference opening, while Mr Shaw was also invited to speak.

"When we signed a memorandum of understanding between the Green Party and the Labour Party six months ago we sent a message of hope to New Zealand that that change (of government) is coming," Mr Shaw said.

<https://www.tvnz.co.nz/one-news/new-zealand/labour-keen-embrace-greens-under-mmp>

**Claire Trevett (Herald): Grant Robertson: training levy not part of crackdown on migrant labour**

4:43 PM Saturday Nov 5, 2016

Labour's finance spokesman Grant Robertson has denied a proposed 'training levy' was a crackdown on the use of migrant labour or would disadvantage businesses for using migrant workers.

The proposal was included in Labour's 'The Future of Work' programme as a solution to train the local New Zealand workforce and aimed at industries which relied on migrant workers because of skills shortages.

However, Robertson denied the levy was aimed at penalising the use of migrant workers instead of New Zealanders.

"We are levying businesses that are not doing their bit to train up a New Zealand work force. Immigration, skilled workers will always be part of the mix but we've got to do a better job of training New Zealanders."

He said businesses would not have to pay the levy if they provided training to any workers - whether they were migrants or New Zealanders.

Prime Minister John Key said Labour was all over the place with the proposal, but it would disadvantage small business which did not have the money for extra taxes or to take on junior staff.

"Encouraging businesses...is the right thing to do, not discouraging them by putting on another tax. For small businesses the last thing they need is another tax. What they need is a government that let's them run their business, and the National government does that."

Key said New Zealand had just been ranked as the best country in the world to do business and imposing such levies would detract from that.

Robertson denied the proposal was business unfriendly, saying measures would be taken to support small businesses and it was likely 'micro' businesses would be exempt.

Robertson said companies which did not train new staff themselves were "freeloading" off other businesses.

"Most the business organisations we talk to already commit to training and, actually, they are quite pissed off with those other businesses who coat-tail off them."

The revenue from the levy was specifically for spending on training.

Labour had not yet decided whether to adopt it as formal policy or worked out details such as which industries would be charged the levy, what forms of

training would be exempt, or how much the levy would be. It would work with business and unions on the details.

[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/business/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=3&objectid=11742912](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/business/news/article.cfm?c_id=3&objectid=11742912)

**Vernon Small (Stuff): Labour offers six months paid work to young long-term unemployed**

Leader of the Labour Party Andrew Little highlighted youth employment in his conference keynote speech.

Labour will offer the long term youth unemployed six months paid community and environmental work, Labour leader Andrew Little announced on Sunday.

The policy, costed at \$60 million a year, would not be compulsory, but would be offered to those who were work ready and had been on the Jobseekers Allowance for six months.

It would target those aged 18-24 who would be paid at least the minimum wage. Labour is assuming 10,000 would be involved.

The proposal was the flagship announcement in his conference speech on the final day of the party's three-day conference in Auckland.

Little said there were 74,000 young people not in employment, education or training.

"We will help the younger generation get the work experience they need so they will be better prepared to re-enter the work force," he said.

They would carry out "work of public value", doing important environmental and community jobs.

"Right now the Department of Conservation is struggling to meet its goals in the face of funding and staff cuts. Councils and others are also crying out for help."

He said it was part of the party's larger plan for young Kiwis including three years fee free post-secondary education and paying the dole as a subsidy for apprenticeships and entrepreneurial grants.

Over time the policy would deliver large savings for the Government.

"It's an investment we need to make for our young and for society."

Work and Income would assist with training and preparing participants for work and help identify projects.

Meanwhile deputy leader Annette King has reaffirmed the party's 2014 "best start" policy as party policy,

When it was announced in early 2014 then-leader David Cunliffe said it would give all families with a newborn and earning less than \$150,000 a year, a payment of \$60 a week through to the baby's first birthday.

Parents on modest and middle incomes would receive the payment until their child turns three," Cunliffe said at the time.

About 63,000 families, or 56 per cent of all 1 and 2-year-olds, would qualify for the extended payment.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/politics/86144698/Labour-offers-six-months-paid-work-to-young-long-term-unemployed>



**Claire Trevett (Herald): Labour's \$60m plan for 6 months' paid work for youth on dole**

2:00 PM Sunday Nov 6, 2016

Labour will offer unemployed young people six months of full-time work at the minimum wage on environmental or community programmes if it gets into Government.

Labour leader Andrew Little has released the policy at the party's annual conference in Auckland, where the focus is on jobs.

Expected to cost \$60 million a year, it will provide unemployed people under the age of 24 with 'jobs' in the community and environment, such as pest control work or riparian planting with the Department of Conservation, local councils or non-governmental organisations.

Dubbed 'Ready for Work' it will be for those who have been on the dole for at least six months - but will pay the minimum wage of \$15.25 an hour rather than the dole.

"This job experience will help them develop strong work ethics and make them more attractive to employers. We will get them ready for work."

He said the cost would be recouped in savings to the Government over the longer term by improving the employment prospects of the young people. It would also help government departments such as Doc which had work such as track maintenance, planting and pest control to do.

"They will be carrying out important environmental and community work. Right now the Department of Conservation is struggling to meet its goals in the face of funding and staff cuts. Councils and others are also crying out for help."

It is in addition to Labour's policy to subsidise apprentices by paying employers for the apprentices they take on and a policy for three years of free tertiary education.

Little said 74,000 young people were not in work or training and there were now more than 10,000 unemployed people aged under 24 than a decade ago and Labour believed all young New Zealanders should be in work or training.  
[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/politics/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=280&objectid=11743211](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/politics/news/article.cfm?c_id=280&objectid=11743211)

**Newsire: Annette King: Andrew Little a 'no frills' leader**

Sunday 6 Nov 2016 1:41 p.m.

Labour can defeat National at next year's general election and Andrew Little is the "no frills" leader who will carry the party to victory, his deputy says.

The caucus is united and focused in a way not seen since Helen Clark led Labour to victory in three successive elections, Annette King told delegates as the party's annual conference in Auckland comes to a close.

"Andrew is no frills. He is what you see. He's a straight talker, a determined fighter, a man of principle," she said.

"Andrew has said we are ambitious. We are ambitious for all New Zealanders. We want Kiwis to get ahead and fulfill their ambitions whether it's in business, in sport or in the community."

Employment has been a feature of the three-day event attended by hundreds of the party faithful, and that theme is expected to continue when Mr Little takes to the stage later on Sunday.

The party released its Future of Work Commission report on Saturday, making more than 60 policy recommendations, with those featuring education and training likely to take priority in adopted as policy according to commission head and finance spokesman Grant Robertson.

Ms King hinted that youth would also be a focus.

"We also want opportunities for the 74,000 young New Zealanders who are not in employment, education or training.

"Bill English called them pretty damn hopeless, John Key called them lazy and drug addicts. You're soon going to hear from Andrew what our policies are because we are not going to cast them on the scrap heap of life."

Some of the recommendations on the table include a proposal to provide six weeks free training to employees made redundant by technological advances and automation and a levy on businesses who turn to overseas skilled workers to resolve shortages rather than training people already in New Zealand to do the work.

But the recommendations haven't got a thumbs up from everyone.

BusinessNZ says the proposed non-training levy would be a blunt instrument that would not fix skills shortages.

"The underlying problem is that many employers can't get New Zealand staff, whether skilled or unskilled - and if they can't get them, they can't train them," chief executive Kirk Hope said.

<http://www.newshub.co.nz/politics/annette-king-andrew-little-a-no-frills-leader-2016110613>

**David Farrar (Kiwiblog): Dodgy sums from Labour**

[Labour's](#) new policy [says](#):

*Under Labour's Ready for Work policy, all young people who have been on the Jobseeker's Allowance in the Work Ready category for six months will be offered full-time employment for six months on environmental and community projects.*

So six months paid work.

*Ready for Work jobs will pay at least the minimum wage.*

That's \$15.25 an hour for 40 hours for 26 weeks which is \$15,860 per person.

*With an estimated 10,000 participants per year, Ready for Work will cost \$60m a year.*

At \$15,860 per person and 10,000 participants that would be \$158 million not \$60 million. And this is before you even include any costs of administering the scheme which would be huge.

Labour's credibility on economic costings remains woeful.

Even if you take account of the current benefit payments of \$156 a week, that still leaves a additional cost of around \$120 million a year – before any admin costs.

[http://www.kiwiblog.co.nz/2016/11/dodgy\\_sums\\_from\\_labour.html](http://www.kiwiblog.co.nz/2016/11/dodgy_sums_from_labour.html)

**Chris Trotter (Daily Blog): Why I Won't Be At The Labour Conference This Weekend**

November 6, 2016

I SHOULD BE at the Labour Party's annual conference. I fully intended to attend. I'd received the usual e-mail inviting me to apply for media accreditation. But, with the deadline looming, I just couldn't do it.

Wearing a media pass around my neck this year would have felt hypocritical – inauthentic. Labour conferences have never been just another journalistic assignment for me. Ever since I cast my first vote (more than 40 years ago now, God help me!) Labour's cause has been my cause. Regardless of whether I was attending as a delegate, or a journalist, Labour conferences mattered.

It's why I worked so hard to get to them. As the only political organisation in New Zealand with a realistic prospect of actually improving the lives of working people, the internal life of the Labour Party has, for me, always been a matter of huge significance.

As a journalist, I never found the official conference speeches of much interest. What mattered to me were the conversations with rank-and-file delegates; the policy workshop debates on economics, trade and foreign affairs [all closed to media this weekend] and the chance to get some idea of who was on the rise and who was on the way out. I never got the impression that more than a handful of the journalists in attendance were remotely interested in any of these things, but for me this annual pulse-taking was invaluable.

I kept coming back for more because I never went away from a Labour conference disappointed. At the grass-roots level of the party there was always a sense of optimism. No matter what the setbacks, I never got the sense that Labour's forward march had been halted.

Even at the annual conference following the rout of the Fourth Labour Government in 1990, delegates could point to established leaders like Helen Clark and Michael Cullen, and to new MPs like Steve Maharey, Pete Hodgson and Leanne Dalziel, and tell me with considerable confidence that Labour's sun would rise again. And, of course, nine years later, with a lot of help from the Alliance, it did.

Even with the departure of Clark and Cullen, the party's confidence remained undimmed. Indeed, between 2008 and 2014 I detected an exciting groundswell of rank-and-file assertiveness. There were hundreds in the party who, with Clark safely ensconced in New York, were determined that their party should, once again, become the driving force of progressive change in New Zealand. These were great conferences to attend.

Two individuals stood out in this headlong rush for a Labour rebirth: Helen Kelly and David Cunliffe. Like those undaunted delegates in 1990, Labour

activists looked to them in confident expectation of another brilliant sunrise. It was not to be.

Maybe that was it – the reason why, on the afternoon of Tuesday, 1 November, I just couldn't fill in my accreditation form. Helen was gone, and now David was going. Labour's bright sunlit morning had turned into a grey rainy day.

Yes, the delegates will all be there in the conference hall this weekend. The workshop debates will splutter and stutter to some sort of conclusion. Party vacancies will be filled, reports presented, and Andrew will deliver his speech. Except, this time, the political drama's script will not have been written by a Kirk, a Lange, a Clark, or even a Roger Douglas, but by a committee.

Labour's villains have become banal, and her heroes are dead and gone. For me, the party's annual conference no longer beckons. Fortunately, there's plenty to keep me busy in my garden. This year's roses are a particularly vivid shade of red.

<http://thedailyblog.co.nz/2016/11/06/must-read-sunday-why-i-wont-be-at-the-labour-conference-this-weekend/>

**Claire Trevett (Herald): Labour renews 'baby bonus' policy for Election 2017**

1:22 PM Sunday Nov 6, 2016

Labour has confirmed it will offer the so-called 'baby bonus' and 26 weeks paid parental leave again in the 2017 campaign.

Labour's health spokeswoman Annette King said at the party's annual conference that the 'Best Start' policy which targets children under three had been reaffirmed by the party.

That package was announced at Labour's campaign launch in 2014 and included a near universal payment \$60 weekly payment to parents of newborn children until the child turned one.

Lower income parents would get the payment for up to three years but it would not be paid to those on paid parental leave or who earned more than \$150,000.

Labour's children's spokeswoman Jacinda Ardern hinted Labour could extend its policy package further, saying the decision to keep Best Start for 2017 meant it was the minimum Labour would offer.

"The basic principles of Best Start were an acknowledgement that the early years are incredibly important and we wanted to make sure we weighted some of the support for families into those early years.

"Particularly 0-3 is when families really struggle with the transition of a family but are also less likely to be able to be in work."

The policy package also included 26 weeks paid parental leave, free antenatal classes for all first time mothers, and extending early childhood education subsidies from 20 free hours a week to 25 hours.

In 2014 the package was costed at \$147 million in its first year rising to \$528 million by 2018/19. The child payments were costed at \$151 million in the first full year they apply of 2016/17, rising to \$272 million by 2018/19.

[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=1&objectid=11743186](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=11743186)

**Martyn Bradbury (Daily Blog): Labour's got 63 solutions but brevity ain't one**

November 6, 2016

Has anyone other than Grant Robertson read all 63 solutions?

It would be funny if it weren't so sad.

The trumpeting announcement from the Labour Conference was an eye rolling example of the banality of bureaucracy. The very intelligent and deep future of work conferences hosted by Labour have been boiled down to wonk speak wonk wonk. And the wonk was wonktastic.

Grant Robertson boomed that Labour has 63 solutions to the future of work! 63 folks, not one more, not one less. 63!

Wonktastic!

If Labour want to capture the imagination of the voters they are trying to actually win over, they must dump the wonk. Labour's got 63 solutions but brevity ain't one.

It's like Labour just can't get a break, they were eclipsed by the startling announcement that Gareth Morgan was forming his own political Party. It seems to me that his entry changes the political landscape in a very significant way.

Labour need to start thinking about where they should focus their strengths if they want to be the backbone of the next progressive government. Wonk wonk from Wellington Central isn't enough.

63 solutions to the future of work has all the enthusiasm deficit of cold porridge.

<http://thedailyblog.co.nz/2016/11/06/labours-got-63-solutions-but-brevity-aint-one/>



**David Farrar (Kiwiblog): Labour wants to remove work testing for beneficiaries if they volunteer**

The Herald [reports](#):

*Labour has proposed allowing beneficiaries to meet their work obligations by doing volunteer work instead of looking for a paid job.*

*The proposal is one of more than 60 recommendations in Labour's 'Future of Work' Commission report which was released by Finance Spokesman Grant Robertson today.*

*It proposed that the Government acknowledge volunteer work alongside paid employment.*

*"Beneficiaries would be able to fulfil their working obligations if they chose to do volunteer work. People currently expected to be searching for paid employment could instead do volunteer work for the same number of hours they are obligated to be in paid employment."*

Wow is this a bad policy.

Doing volunteer work is a good thing. I do lots of it. So do most people. But it should not be a choice of working or volunteering – but both.

Labour is saying that people can stay on a benefit for as long as they want, so long as they volunteer work (will canvassing for Labour count?).

They miss the point that children who grow up in a household with no adults in employment do worse on pretty much every statistic there is. [Welfare](#) is meant to be temporary.

[http://www.kiwiblog.co.nz/2016/11/labour\\_wants\\_to\\_remove\\_work\\_testing\\_for\\_beneficiaries\\_if\\_they\\_volunteer.html](http://www.kiwiblog.co.nz/2016/11/labour_wants_to_remove_work_testing_for_beneficiaries_if_they_volunteer.html)

**NBR: Labour considers tax on those who hire offshore to fill skilled positions**

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WEEKEND REVIEW SUNDAY NOVEMBER 6, 2016 [4](#)

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Labour is considering a plan to put a levy on employers whom it says would rather import skilled labour rather than upskill their own workers.

But leader Andrew Little denies it's a tax on immigrants.

Instead he calls the policy, which stems from his party's Future of Work Commission and was unveiled at its annual conference this weekend, a case of asking "industries to invest in training for their future workforces and future skills needs".

"We're just not producing enough people with the skills that we need," Mr Little told The Nation.

"There are some employers who do a great job - they take on apprentices - but there are others who don't. They get the benefit of a skilled workforce - they just take them from fully qualified people.

"If we want to make sure we've got the skills for the future... for those employers who don't take on apprentices, don't invest in training, you can contribute a levy and that'll help to defray the cost of those who are doing the training and other broader costs as well," he says.

"If you did no training, no education and people had to go overseas to get it, sure. The only way you're going to fill skills shortages... is to bring them in from overseas. "

On the other hand, he thinks there are still too many people being granted work visas to do jobs Kiwis should be taking, the Labour leader says.

"We have, according to our unemployment statistics, roughly 15,000 people who do labouring work who are unemployed. Last year we issued 6500 visas for people to do labouring work. That doesn't make sense. You manage immigration policy to deal with that issue.

"The number of work visas going to people on semi-skilled jobs and occupations that could be filled by people here, even with a little bit of training, that doesn't make sense."

**RAW DATA: Lisa Owen interviews Labour leader Andrew Little on The Nation**

*Lisa Owen: The Labour Party's in Auckland this weekend for a crucial annual conference. A year out from the next election, the party is still labouring in the polls. Even with its partner, the Greens, it couldn't form a government. But it's aiming to turn things around with a list of new policies and proposals, including a package focused on the future of work. Leader Andrew Little joins me now. Good morning.*

Andrew Little: Good Morning.

*One of the things under consideration is a skills shortage levy. Now, tell me, how would that work? What is it?*

We've all suffered in New Zealand in a lot of industries where we are just not producing enough people with the skills that we need. The construction industry is a classic example. There are some employers who do a great job; they take on apprentices. But there are others who don't. They get the benefit of a skilled workforce; they just take them from fully qualified people. So what we're saying is if we want to make sure we've got the skills for the future, whether it's in the trades, whether it's in other skilled areas, for those employers who don't take on apprentices, don't invest in training, you can contribute a levy, and that will help to defray the cost of those who are doing the training and other broader costs as well.

*So who do you think would actually end up being levied? Who will pay?*

Where there are industries that say, 'Right, we want to get our volume of trainees and apprentices up, and we know there's going to be this demand for a skilled workforce in our industry in the future, so we want to start making steps now,' so they will say, 'Okay, we're all in this.' Some of you are capable of providing the training. Others of you aren't. Those of you who aren't, your contribution can be levied while we get the people into the industries and getting the training.

*So individual businesses or umbrella organisations?*

I expect it would be individual businesses, but you'd want to deal with industry bodies and industry organisations to get the thing set up. As you see, for example, with research levies in some of the agricultural industries, the individual businesses will pay towards getting, in this case, skills training.

*And how much? How much will they pay?*

I can't quantify it, but if you accept that we have had a constant and consistent problem of simply not getting enough of the skilled labour into a range of industries, then we want to make sure that the resources are there to allow that to happen. In the end, it benefits every business in the industry because they've then got the pool of skilled labour that they're drawing from. All businesses, or at least those who are typically doing the training, aren't taking the risk for the benefit of others. So you end up sharing the cost and sharing the risk.

*You mentioned the construction industry there, but what kind of jobs are you talking about? Give me some other examples.*

Oh, there'll be others as well. It could be in the IT industry. It could be in a whole swag of different industries. It's not kind of your classic trades. So many industries now... I guess one of the outcomes from the—

*So the jobs may be on the skills shortage list? Is that what you're talking about? IT jobs... Bringing in the people from overseas. The ones that we're having to bring people from overseas for.*

I think one of the conclusions from the Future of Work Commission project is that there's a whole heap of new skills going to be added either to existing jobs or to jobs that don't even exist at the moment. The level of skill required to compete in the workforce of the future is going to be a step different to what it is now, so we need to really step up the level of investment and involvement in education and training. Some of that the state can do. Some of that the industries are going to have to be doing as well.

*But you are talking about jobs that people are currently bringing in workers from overseas for.*

Sure. I mean, I think we've made the point already — that if you look at the work visas being issued, the number of work visas going to people on semi-skilled jobs and occupations that could be filled by people here even with a little bit of preliminary training, that doesn't make sense. That's a question about how we're managing immigration to meet workforce needs.

*So tour guides and chefs?*

Yeah. I don't see the training and the skills issue that we're talking about in our Future of Work Commission report as necessarily being related to that. I mean, if it all works, of course, and you're managing your immigration properly, then you will see fewer work visas being issued to people in the semi-skilled roles.

*Well, the thing is it's called a skills shortage levy, but it could equally be called an immigration tax in some ways, because you're talking about businesses who are short of workers so they bring them in from overseas. It's an immigration tax, isn't it?*

No. This is about making sure that we're doing... For people who are already living here, either because they've come here or they've been born here and grown up here, is that they're being given the opportunity to get the skills needed to fill the jobs that are here. We will always be dependent on a level of immigration, so there's no question about that. It's not about—

*But if you're having to resort to immigration, then there's not enough people trained here. And by your policy, you will be levied for that.*

Well, the issue with immigration we're seeing at the moment is that we're seeing work visas issued for positions and for roles that are semi-skilled, many of which could be filled by people already living in New Zealand. So you take the classic example of labourers. So we have, according to our unemployment statistics, roughly 15,000 people who do labouring work who are unemployed. Last year we issued 6500 work visas for people to do labouring work. That doesn't make sense. You manage your immigration policy to deal with that issue. The issue that the skills levy proposal that we're considering is about saying the level of skill required to do a whole heap of jobs in the future is going to be different. We need to be making that investment in skills in the future workforce now.

*Those two issues are inextricably linked, though, because if you're bringing in workers because you've got a skills shortage, it is, in essence, a levy on immigration and on skills.*

If you did no training, there was no training, no education and people had to go overseas to get it, sure, you'd say, 'Yeah, okay, well, the only way you're going to fill skills shortages and the high level of skills shortages, yeah, you're going to have to bring them in from overseas.' I don't see—

*Is this part of a deterrent, though, Mr Little? Is it part of creating a deterrent for bringing in those workers, a way to cap immigration without actually saying you're capping it?*

Well, it's about creating opportunities here for people who are here, working with business and industry to make sure that they're doing their bit. I mean, within a single industry, as I said before, you've got some businesses who are committing to training, investing in apprenticeships, getting the skills formation going for their particular industries. But they do it, and others in the same industry don't do it, and there are some employers who are saying, 'We're meeting all the costs, we're taking all the risks, and we are providing that kind of channel of future skills to the rest of the industry. How about as a matter of fairness, we share the cost, share the risk?' And the skills levy proposal is a way of doing that. It's not a counter—

*So you're saying you're not using it as a deterrent?*

It's not a counter to immigration. We're always going to depend on a level of immigration to meet skills shortages we have in New Zealand.

*Okay. So if it's not a deterrent to bringing in immigrant workers, then it's revenue gathering, isn't it? And what are you going to do with that money?*

Well, it's revenue gathering for industries to invest in training for their future of workforces and their future skills needs.

*But how are you going to distribute that money? Are you going to ring-fence it and send it to particular training organisations? Are you going to set up a chef school, if that's where the shortage is? How is the money going to be spent?*

We'll work with existing organisations and existing bodies. So you've got industry advocacy organisations, but you've also got industry training organisations who are already set up to work with industry to determine the future skills needs. What they don't have, necessarily, apart from what state funding they get, is the ability to ensure that the kind of costs and the risks are shared equally between businesses in a specific industry. So the kind of infrastructure is there to make this work, and for those who make the decisions about the allocation of the resources from the levies raised. You don't need somebody sitting in a minister's office to make those decisions. The industry can make that.

*I'm just wondering how much it's going to cost taxpayers, though, because you're going to have to levy a lot of government departments, because they are bringing in workers. The Department of Corrections is bringing in corrections officers from overseas. Hospital workers is another place where we have big shortages on the skills list; we bring people in from overseas. You're going to be levying government departments, and that's levying the taxpayer.*

Well, the government already invests in the training for Corrections officers, for example, and nurses and doctors and other health professionals. The private sector invests in the training for a lot of the aged care workers, for example, because it's largely a privatised industry. And you'll work with the ITO that looks after those workers and for that industry to make sure that the levy raised is going to allow us to meet the investment of the future workforce for those needs.

*But have you worked out how much it's going to cost?*

No, we haven't got down to figures. The Future of Work Commission report that we've got, this is the conclusion of two years' work of going out, consulting, looking at 20 years, looking at what we expect will happen with the workforce, what the demands and the challenges will be and coming up with a set of ideas to start to meet those challenges. So a high-level, highly detailed kind of policy level and prescriptive work hasn't been done. This is about a set of ideas to help us meet those challenges of the future.

*Okay, let's move on to Mt Roskill. You lost the party vote last time in that electorate. The support arguably is for Goff personally, so how worried are you?*

What I'm very pleased about is the campaign that we're running there. We've got a fantastic candidate with Michael Wood. We've got a great campaign team there. I've been out there a couple of times with Michael and with his team, and we are doing everything we need to do to win every vote, to earn every vote, to get Michael returned.

*Well, the thing is Phil Goff won by an 8000 majority, but in the party vote, National beat you by about 2000 votes.*

That's right. This is a by-election – slightly different. You only get one vote.

*Yeah, it is.*

But that's the reason why we take nothing for granted, and we have a good campaign team working very hard. Michael is working very hard every day. We're out there earning every vote we get. As I say, we take nothing for granted. This is a hard graft for us, but I'm confident with the campaign we've got there, the candidate we've got, the sort of feedback we're getting, that we are in with a good chance.

*Well, the thing is Mt Roskill is a very ethnically diverse suburb. Are you worried that, say, policies like the one you've just been talking about this morning might be interpreted as an immigration tax and you might be alienating those voters?*

In all the discussions I've had about an industry levy for training for future workforce needs, I've never heard it linked to immigration before. I think, with all due respect, that's frankly a bit of a stretch. The campaign in Roskill is about housing, it's about transport and traffic congestion, and it's about crime. Mt Roskill people and small businesses there are very concerned about the number of robberies and burglaries and assaults that many of those small businesses are witnessing or experiencing. They want a safer community. That's what Michael Wood and Labour are standing for. That's what we're advocating for in the campaign.

*Shortly on the show we're going to have the Equal Employment Opportunities Commissioner, Jackie Blue, and she wants every political party to pledge to a 50-50 cabinet of men and women. Would you commit to that?*

I'm not going to commit to that right now, because I don't know what the number's going to look like for us after the election next year, but what I can say is we are totally committed to pay equity. It was the project that we started several Labour governments ago. We're committed to it, and I think I agree with her when she says, actually, the state sector ought to be leading the way. The state sector ought to be the exemplar on this. What I can commit—

*But in terms of your own cabinet— I mean, Jan Logie is also on, and she says it's Green's policy, half and half, so how's that going to work if you guys are all in cabinet together? Are you committing to half and half as well?*

Like any government-formation process, you negotiate these things, and we can— you know, we can make commitments. We are totally committed to pay equity, and starting with the state sector, totally committed to—

*What about totally committed to representation in your cabinet?*



...to ensuring that we see more women in senior roles in the state sector – actually, and outside it too. You know, I look at the work that the New Zealand Institute of Directors is doing in terms of promoting women into board positions, into board roles. They do fantastic stuff. You know, the state sector has got something to learn from them about what we can do to get more women into senior roles.

*All right. Before we go — we're running out of time — the other thing that Jackie Blue says is we need to look at making private companies report their gender pay gaps, entrench it in law and fine them if they don't do it. Would you support that?*

Certainly support reporting it and make it as part of the annual reporting process. Whether you —

*As a legal requirement?*

Yeah, put it in the Companies Act. Make it one of the things that has to be reported on. Working out a penalty regime or a fine regime for not meeting whatever targets that will have to change over time anyway, I'm not sure that's going to be particularly helpful. I think the giving people information or requiring companies to report and disclose that information, totally acceptable and is necessary. Once you get the transparency, you're going to get the impetus to actually make the change.

*All right. Thanks for joining us this morning.*

<https://www.nbr.co.nz/article/labour-considers-tax-those-who-hire-offshore-fill-skilled-positions-196362>

**Greg Presland (The Standard): The Future of Work Commission report**

WrittenBy: [MICKYSAVAGE](#) - Date published:8:59 am, November 6th, 2016 - [4 comments](#)

Categories: [benefits](#), [economy](#), [welfare](#) - Tags: [future of work](#), [universal basic income](#)

Following on from [Grant Robertson's speech to the Labour Party Conference yesterday](#) the Future of Work's Commission's report has now been [released](#).

The document is complex and at 68 pages will take some time to analyse. No doubt the Government will be screening the report page by page for any weaknesses or proposals that can be spun out of recognition, such is politics.

There is a handy table containing all of the 63 recommendations, which include proposals to provide universal high speed internet to the more specific such as changing Government procurement rules so that local intellectual property owners will be prioritised. There are some that will attract attention in due course such as the proposal to establish a Young Entrepreneurs Plan providing \$20,000 towards starting a new business.

One of the more interesting passages in the report contains a tentative suggestion that the Government should work towards the implementation of a universal basic income.

From the report:

The increased insecurity in the workforce also prompts a discussion about the way the state provides access to the income required not just to survive, but to live. This could include investigating new approaches to ensure every citizen has a reliable income that provides a reasonable standard of living, no matter their circumstances, and is delivered equitably and efficiently.

An example frequently proposed to the Commission is a Universal Basic Income (UBI). This is a guaranteed basic payment made to all adult citizens, no matter their employment status. It would eliminate the need for many of the criteria-based benefits currently available. The idea found strong public support and could result in significant administrative savings for the Government.

While largely untested, trials have been undertaken in the past in Canada and India, and are currently being developed in Finland and the Netherlands.

As Professor Robert Reich said to our Future of Work Conference, while the time for a UBI has not yet come, we are heading towards a point where technological disruption will mean we can no longer provide stable incomes from work.

“Eventually we will talk about it because it is the only way of dealing with where technology is taking us.”

There is still significant work to do to assess how a UBI would actually work, how to pay for it, the interaction with the tax system, and how to ensure equity and fairness in such a system. These issues are all worthy of further investigation. For now, we are focused on improving income support for children and families, making changes to address stand-down periods, and reducing the administrative burden of going on and off benefits.”

The initial media response has been interesting. The proposal for a training levy for employers who use overseas trained labour and not locally trained labour has been highlighted. [From the Herald:](#)

Labour leader Andrew Little has proposed a tax on employers who rely on workers from overseas instead of training local workers saying it was a way to make sure businesses were “doing their bit”.

The ‘training levy’ would be imposed on businesses in areas of skills shortages, such as chefs, construction, IT and tour guides where migrant workers are used.

However, companies that could prove they were already actively training New Zealanders for such jobs would be exempt.

The proposal for a training levy is included in Labour’s ‘Future of Work’ Commission report which is being released at the party’s annual conference in Auckland today.

On *The Nation*, Little denied it was a measure aimed at deterring businesses from bringing in migrant labour, saying immigration would always be needed.

“It’s about creating opportunities here for people who are here working with business and industry to make sure they are doing their bit.”

He said in any industry some businesses were investing in training local workers and taking on apprentices.

“But they do it and others in the same industry don’t do it.

And there are some employers who are saying ‘listen, we are meeting all the cost, we are taking all the risk, we are providing that channel of future skills to the rest of the industry. How about as a matter of fairness, we share the cost, share the risk. And this skills levy proposal is a way to do that.’”

The other suggestion that has also attracted some attention is the proposal to allow beneficiaries to perform community work and retain their benefit. From the report:

We propose that the Government acknowledge volunteer work alongside paid employment.

Beneficiaries would be able to fulfil their working obligations if they chose to do volunteer work. People currently expected to be searching for paid employment could instead do volunteer work for the same number of hours they are obligated to be in paid employment. This would require a letter of support, and six-monthly updates from the organisation to ensure they are making a positive contribution.”

No doubt the proposal will be attacked by some. But in a world where traditional work is disappearing the proposal will allow people to make meaningful contributions to their community. Now all we need to do is share the world’s wealth around so that people can afford to make a meaningful contribution to their community.

<https://thestandard.org.nz/the-future-of-work-commission-report/>

## **RNZ: Labour's tax plan 'would fall on its face'**

A Labour Party proposal to tax employers who are not providing training is doomed to fail, and could hurt smaller businesses, industry members say.

Labour announced its plan for the levy yesterday, with the aim of encourage industries to provide training for the local workforce rather than rely on migrants from overseas.

The levy, which would then be used to fund workplace training, is one of 63 recommendations in the Future of Work document released at the party's annual conference in Auckland.

Firms that could show they were actively engaged in training would be exempt.

Tourism Industry Aotearoa chief executive Chris Roberts said most employers in his industry and many others were already providing training.

"Any employer faced with this sort of levy would say 'well, we are training our staff, we are providing development opportunities for our staff, so don't tax us'.

"And I think they would quickly find that there are very few employers in this category [of not providing training], so the whole thing would fall on its face pretty quickly."

Mr Roberts said more needed to be done to help people get the right skills before they moved into the workforce.

Meanwhile, Business New Zealand warned such a tax might mean smaller businesses would suffer.

Its chief executive Kirk Hope said many employers could not get local staff in the first place.

Mr Hope said small businesses also might not have the capacity to deliver training.

"If you think about a small to medium sized business that can't get the skills that it needs to grow, it will then also be negatively affected by being taxed, so that is not a helpful solution.

Mr Hope said a subsidy for businesses to help them deliver training would be more helpful.

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/political/317415/labour%27s-tax-plan-%27would-fall-on-its-face%27>

**Claire Trevett (Herald): Greens on the menu at Labour Party conference**

6:29 PM Friday Nov 4, 2016

After a spurt of unashamed flattery and a Gareth Morgan joke, the Labour Party members gave their tick of approval to the relationship between Labour and the Greens.

Green Party co-leaders James Shaw and Metiria Turei made a debut appearance at the opening of the Labour Party conference at the Viaduct Events Centre on Friday night.

In June, Little was the star act of the Green Party conference soon after Labour and the Greens signed their memorandum of agreement to co-operate until the election.

The standing ovation he received put paid to concerns that the membership of the Greens would balk at such a close alliance with a mainstream party.

On Friday night it was Labour members' chance to have their say as Shaw briefly addressed them in the opening of the conference.

Shaw did not get the standing ovation but was warmly received. He told the Labour members they could rely on the Greens both in the campaign and in Government post-2017.

In a reference to Gareth Morgan's overtures to Labour he announced his own "we also quite like cats".

The applause he received may have been smoothed by a bout of shameless flattery of Labour as a party of "vision" and of Little as a man with "great integrity, an unusual integrity".

He described Little as unflappable and able to stand his ground, as well as principled.

"I would say these are qualities you want not just in a Labour leader but in a PM."

Labour leader Andrew Little said the agreement recognised they were mature parties that could offer a strong, stable Government.

He said the parties were communicating well and had even started enjoying each other's company.

He spoke of the importance of the year ahead until the 2017 election. "It is about a fair shot, a fair chance, a fair go at the Kiwi dream. It is about telling New Zealanders 'better is possible'."

President Nigel Haworth also said the Greens attendance was part of the process of showing the "mature and respectful relationship" between the two.

In a rather less mature moment, Haworth also told attendees of the local attractions and exhorted them to "enjoy the fleshpot on offer across the Viaduct".

MC Jacinda Ardern said she would enlighten people as to what a fleshpot was but did not know herself.

The theme of the conference is "backing the Kiwi dream" and Ardern kicked off with a jibe at Prime Minister John Key, saying the dream in question was not one of those Key had about Planet Key - a place with an 18 hole golf course "and where everybody has a ponytail, especially Mike Hosking."

The focus of the policy announcements will be on jobs - although judging from the response of those gathered, Little's own job is not under question despite struggles to gain in the polls.

Auckland Mayor Phil Goff also spoke to Labour for his first time since leaving Parliament. He welcomed Labour's new policy on light rail "not simply to Mt Roskill but beyond" to help improve congestion.

"And now for the but. That requires a lot of money to invest. When we grow by 45,000 people a year - that generates a lot of tax. And where does that tax go to? It goes to central Government."

He said the costs fell on Auckland, which was being treated as a "borough or provincial city" and could not raise revenue itself other than by rates.

Labour's policy is to pay half of the \$1.3 billion cost of light rail and for the council to pay the other half.

[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/politics/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=280&objectid=11742392](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/politics/news/article.cfm?c_id=280&objectid=11742392)

**Claire Trevett (Herald): Labour to promise free retraining to workers who lose jobs to technology**

5:00 AM Saturday Nov 5, 2016

Labour is expected to outline a package of support to retrain workers who lose their jobs because of changing technology at its party conference today.

Labour's finance spokesman Grant Robertson is set to make announcement as he releases the final report of the "Future of Work" project at the conference in Auckland.

It is expected to relate to provide funding to retrain every worker who loses a job due to changing technology.

It will be in addition to Labour's previously announced policy of three years free tertiary education for school leavers and those who have not previously done a tertiary level course. That was estimated to cost \$265 million in its first year, rising to \$1.2 billion a year once fully implemented.

Robertson would not confirm details of the new proposal but said it was clear workers had to be supported through change.

"It's clear with the level of disruption being caused by technological change we need to make sure that workers whose jobs are either fundamentally changed or lost are supported to retrain."

It is likely Labour will also expect business to contribute to any such scheme.

The party has also shelved any immediate prospect of forging ahead with a controversial proposal for a universal living allowance.

That was put up as a proposal earlier in the Future of Work, but Robertson confirmed Labour would not go ahead with it - yet.

He said Labour would watch how pilots of the universal living allowance worked out in Finland and the Netherlands "but we are not proposing the UBI be part of policy at this election".

"Future of Work" was a two year project led by Robertson which included business, unions and other professional sectors. It looked at the impact technology was having on the workforce as well as changes such as the increase in self-employment and contractors.

It will set out a raft of recommendations - from big to small - such as providing drivers' licensing training to secondary school students.

Labour leader Andrew Little will deliver his keynote speech tomorrow and is also expected to announce a jobs policy.



Vast tracts of the party's conference are again being held behind closed doors, including debate on policy remits which had been open to media until the controversy that surrounded the party's vote to change its leadership election rules until 2012.

That year was dominated by former leader David Cunliffe's refusal to rule out mounting a leadership challenge against David Shearer under a new rule allowing only 40 per cent of caucus to pass a no-confidence motion following an election.

[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=1&objectid=11742338](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=11742338)

**Claire Trevett (Herald): Labour to business: train New Zealand workers or pay a tax**

10:26 AM Saturday Nov 5, 2016

Labour leader Andrew Little has proposed a tax on employers who rely on workers from overseas instead of training local workers saying it was a way to make sure businesses were "doing their bit".

The 'training levy' would be imposed on businesses in areas of skills shortages, such as chefs, construction, IT and tour guides where migrant workers are used.

However, companies that could prove they were already actively training New Zealanders for such jobs would be exempt.

The proposal for a training levy is included in Labour's 'Future of Work' Commission report which is being released at the party's annual conference in Auckland today.

On The Nation, Little denied it was a measure aimed at deterring businesses from bringing in migrant labour, saying immigration would always be needed.

"It's about creating opportunities here for people who are here working with business and industry to make sure they are doing their bit."

He said in any industry some businesses were investing in training local workers and taking on apprentices.

"But they do it and others in the same industry don't do it.

And there are some employers who are saying 'listen, we are meeting all the cost, we are taking all the risk, we are providing that channel of future skills to the rest of the industry. How about as a matter of fairness, we share the cost, share the risk. And this skills levy proposal is a way to do that."

He said it would raise revenue to train New Zealanders.

The Future of Work report says that the availability of skilled staff was the main concern of many employers.

"Skilled immigration is being used to compensate for our failure to train our own local workforce for the jobs that are available."

The report will be released by Labour's Finance Spokesman Grant Robertson this afternoon. It contains a raft of recommendations and Labour will consider whether to make them into formal policy.

[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=1&objectid=11742795](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=11742795)

**Claire Trevett (Herald): Labour considers levy on businesses hiring migrant workers**

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**Dan Satherley (Newshub): Labour to businesses: Upskill your workers, or pay up**

Saturday 5 Nov 2016 10:34 a.m.

Labour is considering a plan to put a levy on employers who'd rather import skilled labour rather than upskill their own workers.

But leader Andrew Little doesn't think it's a tax on immigrants, instead calling the proposal a way to force "industries to invest in training for their future workforces and future skills needs".

The idea has come from the party's Future of Work Commission.

"We're just not producing enough people with the skills that we need," Mr Little told The Nation on Saturday.

"There are some employers who do a great job - they take on apprentices - but there are others who don't. They get the benefit of a skilled workforce - they just take them from fully qualified people.

"If we want to make sure we've got the skills for the future... for those employers who don't take on apprentices, don't invest in training, you can contribute a levy and that'll help to defray the cost of those who are doing the training and other broader costs as well."

But don't call it an immigration tax. Mr Little says it's to make sure Kiwis can do the kind of work that's going to be on offer in the future, rather than a disincentive to hiring immigrants. He says that's inevitable in some industries, and overseas labour will always play a role in the Kiwi workforce.

"If you did no training, no education and people had to go overseas to get it, sure. The only way you're going to fill skills shortages... is to bring them in from overseas. "

On the other hand, he thinks there are still too many people being granted work visas to do jobs Kiwis should be taking.

"We have, according to our unemployment statistics, roughly 15,000 people who do labouring work who are unemployed. Last year we issued 6500 visas for people to do labouring work. That doesn't make sense. You manage immigration policy to deal with that issue.

"The number of work visas going to people on semi-skilled jobs and occupations that could be filled by people here, even with a little bit of training, that doesn't make sense."

The proposal hasn't been costed yet, and the finer details - like who would pay, and exactly how that money would be spent - are yet to be determined.

"I can't quantify it, but if you accept that we have had a constant and consistent problem of not getting enough of the skilled labour into a range of industries, then we want to make sure the resources are there to allow that to happen. In the end, it benefits every business in the industry."

The Government made its first immigration cuts in years just last month, cutting residence approvals by 5000 over the next two years. It also boosted the points needed to get a skilled migrants visa from 140 to 160.

Government cuts immigration numbers

Immigration has been rising over the last five years, to record levels.

Mr Little's confident the Future of Work Commission's proposal, if it became Labour policy, would be backed by industry leaders - because it would spread the cost of training and upskilling across the board, rather than leave it up to a few companies.

"How about as a matter of fairness we share the cost, we share the risk?"

<http://www.newshub.co.nz/politics/labour-to-businesses-upskill-your-workers-or-pay-up-2016110510>

**Rob Hosking (NBR): Saggy centrism and an election to win (paywalled)**

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 4, 2016

There were six in the bed, and John Key said, “roll over, roll over! So they all rolled over and one fell out ...”

Well that might be a slight exaggeration – but then again, maybe not.

What is most striking about Prime Minister John Key’s lengthy interview with this newspaper last week is not so much the detail – such as there is of it – as the general direction in which the prime minister is rolling.

It isn’t quite right to say he is moving “left.” The prime minister can – rightly – highlight such moves as the partial privatisation of the electricity generators, along with the lowering of personal income tax rates offset by a lift in indirect tax rates as being solid, and actually quite daring political achievements in a liberal conservative direction.

And according to the received political wisdom either of those, let alone both, should have been too far for the electorate.

The fact they weren’t is testimony to two large factors: firstly Mr Key’s ability as a political salesman.

This has become such a dominant aspect of the political scene it has become almost taken for granted.

It shouldn’t be. It is unparalleled in New Zealand’s history and it really does border on the freakish – but it is going to make him a difficult political act to follow when he does, finally, decide to take things easier.

That may not be until sometime after 2021. As suggested here before, I suspect Mr Key would like to be the Richie McCaw of politics, and to set a record run at the top. Five election wins would do that.

But to get his fourth term, Mr Key is rolling, if not to the Left, then toward the centre of the political bed.

This bed is rather like one of those old fashioned wire-based jobs – the kind that sag soggily, messily and uncomfortably in the middle as time wears on.

The analogy with the National-led government’s current term should be obvious.

The party’s own support base is starting to feel a few twinges in the back of the kind those of a certain age might recall from saggy hotel beds, back in the day.

I don’t think Mr Key’s extremely emollient, centrist message to a business newspaper is a coincidence.

National is leaving plenty of room for the ACT Party to stake out a clear, coherent economically and socially liberal position.

The “plenty” is important. ACT can now develop its niche without having to move into more politically unpalatable areas. There is – or should – be no need for ACT to experiment with quite the kinds of extremism which has, in the past, prevented it developing a more solid long-term base.

Labour’s challenge

The second fact to help National has been an opposition that has demonstrated a chronic inability to tie its own shoelaces in the morning, let alone get together a coherent oppositional message.

There are signs the Labour Party is finally getting its act together. But then, there have been these bursts of comparative competence previously over the past seven or eight years.

Some have even lasted as long as six weeks or so.

Mostly this has been achieved by keeping out of the news and doing as little as possible.

In the immortal words of Lynn of Tawa: “It’s like a Vincent Ward movie. Its ex-kwuzzitly beautiful – but nothing’s happening.”

As soon as the pressure goes on – policy questions, say, or matters of party list selection or office appointments – and the movie shifts from the still and ominous Vigil to the frenetic, desperate, funny but doomed Goodbye Pork Pie.

The party goes into its annual conference this weekend. There is talk of a few policy announcements, along with the latest outcome of the much vaunted Future of Work Commission.

Whether this is going to lift Labour – and its oddly quiet partner on the Left, the Green Party – into credible alternative government mode is an open question.

The big trouble with the papers – and there are papers, loads of them – which have emerged from the Future of Work Commission thus far is they tell us little we do not already know.

They do represent a useful vehicle for the Labour Party to bring itself up to speed on how the 21st century business environment actually works. In that sense, they have been an extremely useful antidote to the almost terminal nostalgia that has often engulfed the Left.

This conference – and the forthcoming Mt Roskill by election – are critical for Labour.

<https://www.nbr.co.nz/opinion/order-paper-saggy-centrism-and-election-win>



**Vernon Small (Stuff): Green co-leaders Shaw and Turei seated on stage at Labour conference opening**

Green Party co-leaders Metiria Turei and James Shaw were invited onto the stage at the opening of Labour's annual conference in Auckland in a symbolic sign of the closer cooperation between the two Left-leaning parties.

Shaw was also invited to address the conference in a cameo speech on the first day of the three day conference.

The two parties have signed a memorandum of understanding to work together leading up the 2017 election.

Labour leader Andrew Little welcomed the Green leaders as special friends.

Shaw said the deal offered hope to New Zealand of a government based on values.

He said Labour leader Andrew Little had "great and unusual integrity" and was "unflappable, methodical, and negotiated in good faith" and was principled.

Former Labour leader - now Auckland mayor - Phil Goff opened Labour's conference

"Qualities you want in a prime minister."

And he said Labour could rely on the Greens.

In a side swipe at the new Gareth Morgan-led party, he said: "and we quite like cats".

On current polling, if support for Labour and the Greens are combined the two parties would be competitive with National. But both sides would rely on NZ First to govern.

The 550 delegates meeting at the Viaduct Events Centre for Labour's centenary conference will focus on preparing for next year's election and hear new policy and the release of a two-year long investigation into the future of work.

Finance spokesman Grant Robertson will release the future of work report on Saturday while leader Andrew Little's key note speech on Sunday is expected to unveil a new jobs policy aimed at those not in education, employment or in training.

The conference opened with short speeches from Auckland Mayor Phil Goff - until last month an MP for the party - party president Nigel Haworth and Little.

Little described the two Green MPs as special guests and special friends.

And he gave a sense of Labour's campaign theme, contrasting Labour's options with the "\$3 billion in tax cuts" National would offer.

Howarth said Labour and the Greens were in a "respectful" relationship but he seemed to throw delegates when he invited them to enjoy the "flesh pots" of Auckland's Viaduct.

Goff made a bid for Auckland to get a greater share of the tax take, because its needs could not be funded out of rates alone.

There had to be a change so that the city could afford to make the investment in infrastructure it needed, he said.

The first evening of the conference wrapped up with a karaoke evening - though media were barred from recording it.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/politics/86125915/Green-co-leaders-Shaw-and-Turei-seated-on-stage-at-Labour-conference-opening>

## **RNZ: Labour would tax skill-short industries**

A report into the future of work in New Zealand and a show of support from the Greens has kicked off the Labour Party's annual conference in Auckland.

The final Future of Work report lays out Labour's response to the changing dynamics in the New Zealand workplace.

Finance spokesperson Grant Robertson headed the two-year project, and said up to half of all jobs could eventually be lost because of automation.

He unveiled the party's plan with 63 recommendations to address the changing shape of the workforce.

They would include a levy on industries with persistent skills shortages - firms that could show they were actively engaged in training would be exempt.

"Change is under way and it's speeding up, and what the studies tell us is over the next 10 to 15 years we're going to see real job losses in a number of areas.

He said automation was already happening, and it was going to speed up.

"Robots, 3D printers, algorithms - these are the things that are starting to take away the clerical and process work. Obviously we're looking towards things like driverless cars that will change a lot of jobs."

But Mr Robertson said that could also create huge opportunities, for example, people could start a business from their phone, and technology allowed people to work from anywhere.

Other recommendations include providing training for anyone who loses their job because of technology, setting higher entry standards for teacher training and abolishing secondary tax.

He said New Zealand needed to prepare for that time, which would require a significant investment in skills and training.

Recommendations include a levy on industries with persistent skills shortages - firms that can show they are actively engaged in training would be exempt.

Speaking on TV3's The Nation, leader Andrew Little was asked whether that had anything to do with the high level of migrant workers coming to New Zealand, but he said that had not featured in the policy discussions.

Party conference launches with Green support

At the event's launch last night, Labour president Nigel Haworth, party leader Andrew Little and his deputy Annette King sat alongside Green Party co-leaders James Shaw and Metiria Turei, and Auckland mayor Phil Goff.

In his opening speech Mr Haworth told the party faithful it was important to show what an alternative government would look like.

"We are in a mature and very very respectful relationship with the Greens, which is part of a progressive alliance that will deliver to New Zealand," he said.

"And this is part of that process of showing that engagement, and recognising that respectful relationship which we are in."

Mr Shaw told the conference Labour could rely on the Greens.

"We are totally committed to ending child poverty and homelessness, we are totally committed to restoring and protecting our precious places and our native species, we are totally committed to a sustainable economy that works for everyone.

"We are committed to this in the campaign next year, and in Government following the campaign next year."

Labour's finance spokesperson Grant Robertson will tomorrow release the final report of the two-year Future of Work Commission.

Labour's leader, Andrew Little, will give his address to the conference on Sunday afternoon.

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/political/317370/labour-would-tax-skill-short-industries>

**Jacinda Ardern, David Seymour (Stuff): Jacinda v David: Time to turn alarm bells into opportunities**

OPINION: It is time to think seriously about the future of work.

When I was still at primary school, my family moved to Morrinsville and took over an orchard my grandparents had been running. It was a pretty diverse operation – we grew everything from tamarillos to nashi pears. It was really small but we had the basics in terms of fruit processing, including what was probably the oldest grader in operation, complete with old sacks that were used to stop the graded fruit from bruising. I thought it was the height of technology – I had no idea what was coming.

Fast forward a couple of decades, and visits to places like Zespri with their high-tech graders and packing systems blow my mind. It's both state of the art and only the beginning of what is possible.

The automation that is entering every level of industry is far reaching, and happening at a rapid pace. In fact, at a conference Labour held this year, Robert Reich pointed out that we have long had job losses and disruption from technology (think back to a time when elevators had full-time staff operating them) but it is the pace of the current transformational change that is one of the defining features of this next industrial revolution.

But the pace of change has not been matched by any sense of urgency within Government. Even in the face of estimates that automation and technological advances could see more than 40 per cent of existing jobs disappear within 15 years in New Zealand, there has been barely a peep from National. We are facing a giant alarm bell that needs to be turned into an opportunity.

Two years ago we decided to confront this challenge head on with something we called The Future of Work Commission. We were guided by a group of thinkers, those in the field of education and training, employers, and representatives of workers. We posed the question – how do we prepare ourselves for the future; a future where the difference between being a country where people can realise their potential and one that is further forced into low wages and even lower levels of productivity, will be our ability to keep training and educating our workforce.

This weekend not only marks the Labour conference, but the release of The Future of Work Commission report. It is a roadmap of sorts for how we can respond confidently to what Klaus Schwab of the World Economic Forum has described as a "technological revolution" that "will be unlike anything human kind has seen before". At its core must be the notion that education can no longer be a destination with an end point, but something that people dip in and dip out of, and that ensures our workforce is resilient and adaptable. That is what our announcement of three years free post-secondary school education was all about.

But that's only part of Labour's Future of Work map. If the future of work is changing, our advice to young people must change as well. It's time to give them access to professionalised career guidance. We also plan to offer financial support and mentoring to 100 young entrepreneurs to develop their ideas as our next generation of change makers, and improve access to skills and training throughout life for every Kiwi.

The report has many recommendations, and now is the time to start debating them. We have some bottom lines though – while we welcome the flexibility and opportunity offered by new technology, Labour will always be focused on the security and dignity of work. It is the core of what enables people to have meaningful and fulfilling lives, and the core of our party for one hundred years.

Ultimately, the Future of Work in New Zealand is bright – but only if we make the policies and plans that put people at the centre.

David Seymour responds

Labour loves to manufacture a crisis so they can push their favourite solution – more government. Yes, technology will bring challenges to New Zealand but the answer isn't politicians crystal ball gazing and creating new schemes and rules.

We need to simply allow innovative firms to thrive, and give workers the flexibility to grab new opportunities as they arise. That's why ACT would cut outdated red tape, whether it be transport regulations that prevent profitable ridesharing, or labour laws that are built around the nine-to-five workday.

That's where parties like Labour run into trouble – outdated laws that stifle flexibility are often supported by incumbent interests. Unions, for example, will lobby Labour to oppose reforms that make it easier for workers to become self-employed contractors.

And we've seen how Labour has followed the teacher unions in reacting hysterically to initiatives like online learning and Partnership Schools, which allow new flexibility and innovation in the education system.

Technology will solve most of the challenges it creates – so long as politicians manage to stay out of the way.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/politics/86047304/Jacinda-v-David-Time-to-turn-alarm-bells-into-opportunities>

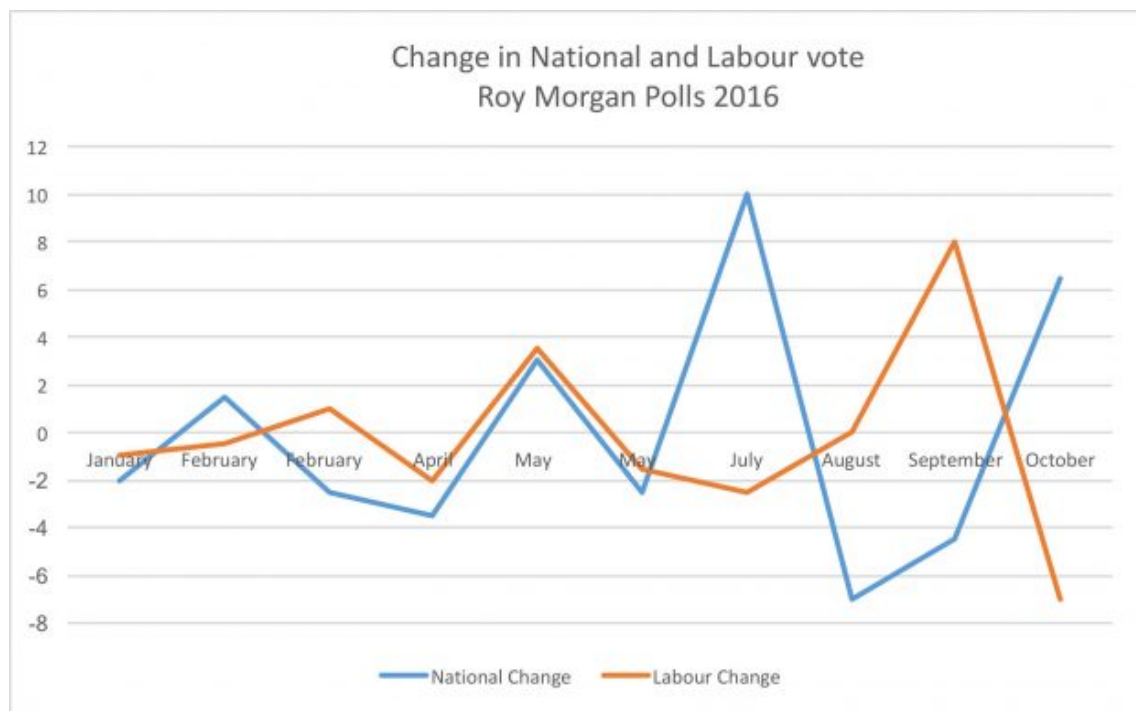
**Greg Presland (The Standard): Go home Roy Morgan, you're drunk**

WrittenBy: [MICKYSAVAGE](#) - Date published:7:53 am, November 5th, 2016 - [72 comments](#)

Categories: [Andrew Little](#), [john key](#), [labour](#), [national](#), [Politics](#), [the praiseworthy and the pitiful](#) - Tags: [political polls](#), [Roy Morgan poll](#)

The [latest Roy Morgan poll](#) has been released. Already the usual suspects are claiming that it is clear evidence that Labour is doomed and that Andrew Little should be replaced as soon as possible. But to my mind it shows that Roy Morgan needs to review its polling model. Because it is not working.

Below is a graph showing the changes in National and Labour vote this year. The changes are dramatic and very difficult to reconcile with what is happening in reality. The swings this year have been that large that there has to be something amiss with the polling method.



Whether it is the supply of data or the analysis I don't know. But I am aware that the latest result was originally promised for last Monday, then it was Wednesday but it was not until Friday that it was released.

And the commentary is always so pitiful.

This time apparently it was the highly successful trip to India by Key that caused the upswing. But I bet if you polled the population very few would have been aware that Key had even left the country. And this [obsequious piece aside](#), the trip has achieved exactly precisely nothing. There is no sign of a trade deal with India. And despite the extraordinary circumstances relating to the Sheepgate saga there is no free trade deal with Saudi Arabia either. Putting aside the dubious morality of the transaction the

trade deal is no closer to being signed. Can we get our \$4.5 million, our model farm and our sheep back?

Meanwhile if you want real life data have a look at the recent local government results. Particularly in Auckland the left was ascendant and the right was in tatters. Hopefully next year will be the same.

<https://thestandard.org.nz/go-home-roy-morgan-youre-drunk/>



**David Farrar (Kiwiblog): Shaw a hit at Labour conference**

Stuff [reports](#):

*Green Party co-leaders Metiria Turei and [James Shaw](#) were invited onto the stage at the opening of [Labour's](#) annual conference in Auckland in a symbolic sign of the closer cooperation between the two Left-leaning parties.*

*Shaw was also invited to address the conference in a cameo speech on the first day of the three day conference.*

And Shaw was a hit, getting more applause than Little it seems.



**Andrea Vance** @avancenz

James Shaw's speech is really stirring the audience. If applause & laughs are a gauge, he was a bigger hit than Andrew Little.

[6:59 PM - 4 Nov 2016](#)

And they seem worried over Gareth Morgan:

*And he said Labour could rely on the [Greens](#).*

*In a side swipe at the new Gareth Morgan-led party, he said: "and we quite like cats".*

Labour can rely on the Greens, but can the Greens rely on Labour? It is well known that Winston has said it is non negotiable that the Greens not be part of any Government he supports – not even Under Secretaries.

*On current polling, if support for Labour and the Greens are combined the two parties would be competitive with National. But both sides would rely on NZ First to govern.*

Actually on current polling Labour and Greens are 10% behind and National could form a Government again with ACT and United Future.

[http://www.kiwiblog.co.nz/2016/11/shaw\\_a\\_hit\\_at\\_labour\\_conference.html](http://www.kiwiblog.co.nz/2016/11/shaw_a_hit_at_labour_conference.html)

**Eva Hartshorn-Sanders (The Standard): For Senior Vice President**

Written By: NOTICES AND FEATURES - Date published: 10:31 am, November 5th, 2016 –

Earlier this year the Standard's authors offered candidates for the upcoming Labour Party internal elections the chance to guest post about why they're running. We're reposting them now ahead of tomorrow's vote. Eva Hartshorn-Sanders has been nominated for the position of Senior Vice President.

Every morning when I check the news I see another reason why we need a Labour-led Government; why we need to win in 2017. There is serious underfunding in education, health and the public services we rely on. Teachers, doctors, nurses, police officers and others working in the public service are undervalued, over-worked and under-paid. Schools need a serious boost in their operations' budgets and kids need smaller class sizes. Patients aren't getting the operations that they need and too many are being fobbed off from even getting onto a waiting list, let alone seeing a specialist. Workers are increasingly vulnerable and the Government is doing nothing to solve the holiday back-pay debacle.

I'm part of a generation facing the sharp end of National's poor government. They've let young people down by not keeping house prices affordable, by introducing youth rates and the 90 day fire at will trials, and by limiting access to higher education and apprenticeships. I finally finished paying my student loan off a couple of years ago in my early 30s. I want the next generation to be able to follow their passions and start their careers without the albatross of debt around their neck.

But first we have to win! And to do this, we have to work as part of a broader movement. Labour is the leading opposition party in Parliament and our MPs and staff work incredibly hard to make a difference there. As a Party, we also need to make sure that we hear the voices of those outside of Wellington. We need a Party that is well-connected to its members and the wider public. We all have networks and connections that we can tap into, and we need to start having those conversations now; listening to what people care about and understanding what needs to happen.

This is how we build a 2017 strategy that motivates our grassroots on core issues and inspires the next generation of voters who are looking towards a future with greater opportunity and security. Next generation politics for Labour requires courage and a collective agenda to achieve prosperity!

eva uk protestThe more we reach out, the more power we can build as a movement and the more change, good change, we can make together. Building these bridges, bringing Labour Party members, supporters, and other progressive New Zealanders together, that's crucial to winning. Not just winning for its own sake but winning meaningfully, with a real mandate to make progressive change for all Kiwis; whether it's building state houses or

26 weeks' paid parental leave, or three years' free tertiary study and a boost to apprenticeships for young people, supported by a real investment in careers advice at school.

I decided to stand for Senior Vice President because I want to step up what I'm already doing to help Labour through the election and after we win. It's not a glamorous role. It's about good governance, focused on strategy, policy, campaigning, understanding electoral regulations and identifying risk. The SVP needs to have a national focus, identify and solve problems before they become an issue, and have strong relationships with all parts of the Party to make sure we're on the same page. It means working effectively as part of a team, campaigning and fundraising leading into the election – supported by the Fraser House team, who are the experts in this area. And it means building our network of supporters outside the Party so that we have the momentum to win.

I grew up in Hawke's Bay and went to a low-decile high school with a big Māori and Pasifika population. Those formative years helped to cement my strong sense of social justice, the need to address inequality, the need for a partnership approach and inclusiveness – not just because it's the right and fair thing to do but because, in a post-settlement New Zealand, Māori will play a major role in shaping our future and Labour must be partners in that.

Workers' rights are important to me. Throughout University, I volunteered at the Workers' Rights Service – a not-for-profit organisation that provides free employment advice and advocacy for workers who don't have access to a union; and I continue to train new advocates of this service.

I also remember how vulnerable I was in my first few jobs as a young person, when I found out that I was being paid under the minimum wage or less than guys doing the same job, or when I had split shifts and was told to come back a few hours later when they would be busy again. I now work for a trade union and I'm a member of E tū, Labour's largest affiliate. I'm a member of the National Affiliates Council (the governing body for the New Zealand Council of Trade Unions) and Co-Convenor for the CTU Women's Council.

I have worked in law, policy, campaigning and organising. This includes nine years working in Government in NZ, two years as a senior legal and political adviser for the (Labour) Leader of the Opposition in the UK House of Lords, private practice and now at the PPTA as a public and employment lawyer. As part of my job, I travel the country speaking to union members about the issues that are important to them, in their schools and communities. I have strong links with women throughout the country through my pro bono work for the National Council of Women and the New Horizons for Women Trust. I have governance experience as a Board member of New Horizons, focussed on governance, policy, sponsors and donors, audit and risk, and for the State Sector Retirement Savings Scheme, where I helped to ensure that members were able to access their whole pension for the purposes of their first home loan.

Over the past four years I've been doing my bit for Labour by providing constitutional and legal policy advice to NZ Council and Fraser House. This includes writing the Labour leadership election rules and helping to run that process twice as the Deputy Returning Officer, providing advice to the Party, candidates and campaign managers through the General Election period, helping to run the selection process and campaign for the Ikaroa-Rāwhiti by-election, and co-authoring the plain-English rewrite and recent amendments to the Labour Party's Constitution. I've also had my fair share working at the grassroots level, knocking on doors, phoning voters, putting up signs, donating prizes and attending fundraisers.

Unity is more than just an accommodation. It's about being properly and actively inclusive of all of Labour's people. We are the Party that has always fought for the rights of all New Zealanders and I believe we are the Party that represents everything that is good about New Zealand and its progressive beliefs.

That's why, when I decided to stand for SVP, I met with as many parts of Labour as I could and asked what they wanted from the SVP and if they would support me. And it's why I have nominations from around the country including Hauraki-Waikato, Christchurch East, the Rongotai Women's Branch in Wellington, and Botany LEC in Auckland. The most important thing we can do as a movement is to look after each other and listen to each other. That's how we make things better, and that's why I'm standing for SVP.

The vote for SVP takes place at this year's Annual Conference in Auckland in November. If you or your LEC would like to talk to me about this before then, then flick me an email at [Labouroflove2016@gmail.com](mailto:Labouroflove2016@gmail.com). I really appreciate all the support you can give and am always here for a chat if you have any questions.

<https://thestandard.org.nz/re-post-eva-hartshorn-sanders-for-senior-vice-president/>

**Tane Phillips (The Standard): For Māori Vice President**

Written By: NOTICES AND FEATURES - Date published: 10:25 am, November 5th, 2016 –

Earlier this year the Standard's authors offered candidates for the upcoming Labour Party internal elections the chance to guest post about why they're running. We're reposting them now ahead of tomorrow's vote.

Ko Tane Phillips taku ingoa.

Post-settlement, Māori and their iwi are becoming a major influence on New Zealand's future. Not just in terms of our culture, but our economic development, and our environment.

This is an exciting time for Māoridom and for all of New Zealand. And it's a time that Labour, as the next government, needs to be involved in.

But to be a part of this important change Labour needs good relationships with Māori, and a strong and thoughtful Māori voice within our own party.

Together with our hard-working Māori MPs and Labour members I've been helping provide that voice as the Te Kaunihera Māori policy rep. Now, with Nanaia standing down, I'm seeking the opportunity to give Māori voice in Labour as Māori Vice President (and I know I have big shoes to fill).

I'm 53 years old and have been married to my wonderful wife Wendy for 30 years. We've got three beautiful children and four great-looking mokos. There's nothing like being a grandparent to give you a deep appreciation of the future and of the path that has led to the present. Kia whakatōmuri te haere whakamua.

tane phillips

On the front line with the next generation.

My life with Labour started when I was a moko myself – at our dinner table we grew up talking about politics and unionism. My whanau and I have been part of many Labour campaigns and I've long been a member and an activist. Right now I'm Chairman of Waiariki LEC as well as policy rep for TKM.

I am a Union Secretary of the PPWU which is based in Kawerau and covers production workers at the mills there. I've been a union member for over 30 years and have held positions inside the movement both within my Union and globally in Workers Councils. Together with my time on Labour's Policy Council this has given me a deep understanding of governance and how important it is to connect the decisions we make to what is needed and happening at the flaxroots.

The great passions of my life are my whanau, workers' rights and the advancement of Māori. The great challenges we face as a nation, like housing, the future of work, and climate change and the protection of our awa,

will be so much less difficult to address if we work together as Labour, as workers, and as Māori.

I have great hope for our future with a Labour-led government, and I want to be a part of building the better Aotearoa that we all deserve.

Ma whero ma pango ka oti ai te mahi.

<https://thestandard.org.nz/re-post-tane-phillips-for-maori-vice-president/>

**Beth Houston (The Standard): For Senior Vice President**

Written By: NOTICES AND FEATURES - Date published: 10:21 am, November 5th, 2016

Earlier this year the Standard's authors offered candidates for the upcoming Labour Party internal elections the chance to guest post about why they're running. We're reposting them now ahead of tomorrow's vote. Beth Houston has been nominated for the position of Senior Vice President.

Thank you to The Standard for the opportunity to write this post.

I am standing for Senior Vice President (SVP) of the Labour Party because I want to play a role in rebuilding our Party to win at the 2017 election and beyond.

We will win in 2017 if we lift our game

We owe it to New Zealanders who are suffering under this Government to build our Party so we can run inspiring campaigns and win. In the next election we will be going up against an incredibly well funded and very well organised National Party. We can beat them. We've done it before and we can do it again. But it will require us to lift our organisational game. I am totally committed to ensuring that Andrew Little is the next Prime Minister of New Zealand.

We will organise, fundraise, and campaign to win in 2017

If elected my focus will be on transforming our Party into a fine-tuned campaigning machine. This will require a sustained fundraising, campaigning and organising effort which I am committed to promoting and doing as Senior Vice President. I know Labour Party members and supporters are up for this too.

The SVP role is one without a formal job description so it's up to whomever gets the job to make it their own. Together with the Senior Vice President – Māori, the SVP is deputy to the President, sits on the moderating committee and on the election campaign committee. The SVP supports the President to do their work; chairing meetings and sub committees, liaising with caucus and members, and fundraising.

The first thing I will do if I'm elected is sit down with our President Nigel Haworth and General Secretary Andrew Kirton to review the Fundraising Strategy. I'll take ownership of as much of it as I can and work with them to deliver it like I have for a number of non-profits, including Wellington Zoo, where I drove the fundraising for five years and raised \$2.5 million for the redevelopment plan.

I have spent my life fighting for social justice

I was born in Scotland and my family immigrated to South Africa when I was two. As I was growing up, I realised that my privilege as a white South African was at the expense of the vast majority of black South Africans. Living under 1980s Apartheid affected absolutely every facet of our life and those subjected to poverty and racial hatred. I knew it was a disgusting system even in my early years. Sometimes you can just sense injustice – even if you can't describe it yet.

At University I became actively involved in the student union and multiple campaigns around the final dismantling of Apartheid. In 1994, in the year of South Africa's first democratic election, I saw for myself the life-changing, transformative nature of progressive politics. My Honours classmates and I wrote our dissertation on the local general election campaign, interviewing every political party leader in our province and participating actively in that election. We marshalled in rallies, ran workshops on the electoral system and on Election Day worked as UN election monitors. I voted for the ANC in that election and later became an active member at the branch level.

One memory will stand out for me for as long as I live. I'll never forget what it felt like to stand in a queue to vote on Election Day in South Africa in 1994. I won't forget the blind lady who told me she was 84, who I helped to cast her first ballot. Who, when I apologised for the long queues said, "I've been waiting my whole life for this, dear, I can wait a few hours more".

On the 20th anniversary of South Africa's election, I spoke to Radio New Zealand

about my experiences. If you're keen, you can listen here:

Audio Player

00:0000:00 Use Up/Down Arrow keys to increase or decrease volume.

I moved to New Zealand with my husband Kyle in 2001 to a strong, Labour Government. We'd met in London when we were both on our OE. As a doctor, he was happy to be working under a Prime Minister who valued health care for all, and as an activist, I thought had arrived in a great progressive paradise!

My involvement in Labour started in 2008

I wanted to get actively involved in politics here because it felt like all of the progress Labour had made was at risk in the 2008 election. A friend took me to my first Labour Party Congress that year. I was inspired to action and impressed with the high levels of organisation and genuine commitment and optimism I saw in Labour Party members.

I lived in Wellington Central and got actively involved with the Wellington Central election campaign that year. It was a grass-roots campaign with a new candidate and a swing against the then-Labour Government. We worked hard door knocking, talking on street corners, leafletting, sign waving and in



building relationships and connections between the Labour Party and the variety of communities in Wellington.

The campaign had so many young activists whose energy, fresh ideas and enthusiasm was motivating and inspiring. In Labour we are so lucky to have so many young people committed to our values with so much energy to campaign and win.

Since 2008 I've continued campaigning for progressive change

In 2011, I had the honor of running the successful national campaign to Keep MMP. I worked across our movement with unions, community organisations and churches to ensure we protected a fair voting system for New Zealand.

When I commit to something I get involved boots and all. I have done almost every job there is to do in the Labour Party – I've fundraised, door knocked, made phone calls, delivered leaflets, held local office, run meetings, drafted remits and of course organised many raffles!

I have been the Chair of my LEC, am currently the Chair of the Regional Council and I've been on the List Moderating Committee. This involvement in the Party means I know how it works and I have built great relationships with members across the country.

My experience on the List Moderating Committee and through active involvement in the Party means I have met many of the great Labour members who will become our future MPs – we owe it to New Zealanders to make sure our caucus increases significantly at the next election to see these great people in Parliament.

My heart lies in supporting others to represent our Party

I've made a conscious effort to support women to stand for internal positions in the Party, on the list and with fundraising for their list and electorate campaigns. I believe there is much more to do if we are to reach our target of equal representation in Parliament.

I think there's progress to be made on our Treaty commitments inside our Party. I'd like to see the Senior Vice President and the Senior Vice President – Māori work in real partnership with each other and I commit to working with whomever becomes SVP – Māori to do this.

I feel I should be clear – I have no aspirations to be a Member of Parliament myself.

I will bring my strengths in fundraising and campaigning

I am dedicated to using my technical fundraising expertise and my leadership skills for fundraising. The Party is currently recruiting a Head of Fundraising, but I know – as a fundraiser – we can't expect this person to do it all. We all

need to help unlock contacts, make more asks, coordinate our efforts and make sure we follow all the work through.

I know that Nigel, our President, and Ginny, our current Senior Vice President, have been working on creating good fundraising relationships and I commit to keep working on this with them.

There is no silver bullet. Anyone who has ever done fundraising knows – it is hard work. It needs to be done on a continual basis and sustained over long periods of time. There's never an end. There's always more to do.

Of course, I'm not pretending I can do this alone. As Senior Vice President my aim will be to do my best to support our Leader Andrew Little, our President Nigel and our General Secretary Andrew Kirton to turn our Party into the campaigning machine we must be to win in 2017.

The campaign to change the government has started already

With the right plan and people in place we can win. I hope to earn your vote over the coming weeks so that – together – we can change the Government. In the meantime, here are two things you can do right now:

Sign up to Victory for Labour

If you only have a small amount to give, this is the perfect way to make a difference. If we can get thousands of people to give even \$5 a month every month it all adds up to more people on the ground for Labour; more advertising, more organizing. You can do sign up here.

Get involved with the local body and DHB election campaigns in your area

There is still plenty of leafleting, hoardings, street corner meeting and other behind the scenes work to be done. Good wins for Labour candidates in the local body elections can help to build momentum for a change of Government in 2017. If you need to be put in touch with a Labour Party campaign, in your area, please email me and I will make sure you have a chance to help.

I am very happy to discuss this further with anyone who is interested. I would really appreciate the support of members to become the Senior Vice President and look forward to working with you all in the future.

Please feel free to email me at [beth.houston73 \[at\] gmail.com](mailto:beth.houston73@gmail.com)

Thank you.

<https://thestandard.org.nz/re-post-beth-houston-for-senior-vice-president/>

**Gareth Morgan's TOP****Liam Hehir (Stuff): Move from critic to 'arena' a daunting challenge for Gareth Morgan**

OPINION: Gareth Morgan is founding his own political party, but before we get down to making fun of it, we really should give him credit for putting his money where his mouth is.

A brave thing to do, given the size of the mouth.

Morgan is a successful businessman. However, he first began infringing the public consciousness as the father of Trade Me founder Sam Morgan.

But while he may have started out as a kind of celebrity dad, he has managed to cling to the spotlight by becoming the nation's most notorious know-it-all.

According to tradition, an oracle stated the philosopher Socrates was the wisest man on Earth. Socrates had a hard time believing this, because he did not consider himself to be wise.

When he then tried and failed to find someone wiser, however, was forced to conclude: "I am the wisest man alive, for I know one thing, and that is that I know nothing."

One imagines that the profundity of this paradox would be lost of Gareth Morgan. If his public pronouncements are anything to go by, he would be more likely to say: "I am the wisest man alive, because I am the cleverest."

Where Socrates was a gadfly because he asked questions, Morgan is a gadfly because he has all the answers.

Some of the intractable issues that could apparently be solved if we just acknowledged Morgan's superior sense of logic include race relations, native bird numbers, the welfare state, the healthcare system, climate change, global fish stocks, North Korea and the performance of New Zealand soccer.

It seems there are few problems that could not be solved by his doing a bit of thinking and then declaring some grand scheme as the obvious solution. All that is required is for the rest of us to surrender our own experience, philosophy and values so that we can bask in the irresistible glow of Morgan's rationality.

It is apparent that Morgan intends to bring this heroic self-belief to his political endeavours. You see, the reason he's decided to get his hands dirty is that the solutions to our problems are "easy". It's just that our current politicians don't have the guts to "disturb" voters by implementing them.

I actually reserve judgment on Morgan personally because a mutual friend has assured me that he is a good and decent man. There is also no doubt that

he had forged a successful career in business quite apart from his son's achievements.

Nevertheless, his propensity to bloviate makes him look like a dumb person's idea of a smart person – rather than the intelligent person he assuredly is.

What he is likely to discover is that there is a world of difference between being a critic and being what Theodore Roosevelt called "The Man in the Arena".

I might slag off Beauden Barrett's goal kicking the morning after a test, but that doesn't mean I could foot it in the black jersey. The same thing goes for the difference between politics and punditry.

Morgan may need to learn this the hard way. In some of his first public comments after announcing his new party, Morgan actually volunteered a statement likening himself to Donald Trump.

Then, obviously thinking better of the comparison, he said that he was nothing like Donald Trump. Then he reversed himself again by saying that maybe he was a bit like Donald Trump.

This was all in the course of the same interview.

"Gareth Morgan launches new political party: Compares himself to Trump" announced the New Zealand Herald. "Philanthropist Gareth Morgan launches political party, compares himself to Donald Trump" said Stuff. Is it gotcha journalism when the victim sets his own trap and then repeatedly walks into it?

I suppose the Trump comparison was inevitable. Both men are famous for being famous, after all, and owe their fame to the achievements of family members (in Trump's case, his father; in Morgan's his son's). But if there is a difference between them, it is that Donald Trump has achieved some stunning electoral triumphs (for better or worse). How Morgan will go remains to be seen.

He has set himself a daunting task. No new party has won Parliamentary representation without being an effective offshoot of an existing Parliamentary party or parties since Social Credit.

And it's not clear there's a market for another party. Despite attempts to hitch domestic politics to the narrative of discontent that prevails overseas, the last public poll showed that just 29 per cent of respondents think this country is on the wrong track. In a comparable survey, 56 per cent of Britons, 58 per cent of Australians, 64 per cent of Americans, 71 per cent of Germans, 83 per cent of Italians and 88 per cent of Frenchmen answered the same way when asked about their own country.

Morgan is taking a risk, alright. A brave man indeed.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/politics/opinion/86159395/move-from-critic-to-arena-a-daunting-challenge-for-gareth-morgan>

**The Press: Editorial: the more political parties, the merrier**

It took only minutes for the Internet to do its thing after Gareth Morgan announced he was launching a political party to contest the 2017 election. The jokes and memes started quickly. What is Morgan's policy on cats? How would Morgan look with a Donald Trump wig? Will he build a wall? What would he offer that earlier rich white politics-dabbling men, Colin Craig and Kim Dotcom, did not?

That last question was actually a serious one. And there is a serious answer. As an economist, Morgan has credibility and expertise that Craig and Dotcom lacked. Their political ambitions seemed largely self-serving. Morgan has already demonstrated, through his books and his Morgan Foundation, that he is eager to educate himself and the New Zealand public on such vital issues as the Treaty of Waitangi, inequality, Palestine, guaranteed incomes, and climate change.

We are still a month away from seeing any firm policies, but Morgan launched his Opportunities Party with clear intent when he released an image of himself at Parliament on the eve of Guy Fawkes Day with the slogan, "Let's light a fuse under this place". Unless he is arrested for treason first, Morgan's provocative statement shows that he can expect the support of those who are attracted to non-politicians and who find the existing political brands to be a bit tired. And as the backlash against Hillary Clinton in the US has shown, accumulated establishment experience is often a liability more than an asset.

The Opportunities Party's philosophy so far could be boiled down to two sentences within a vision statement on its website: "We object to policies that allow people to get rich at the expense of others or our environment. We are equally intolerant of any policies that prevent our economy from performing to its potential." That would put the party in a centrist, "blue-green" position, suggesting it might expect to take votes from both the soft side of National and less social justice-oriented Green supporters. It could also steal from NZ First's traditional protest vote.

Morgan's news also shows that the 2017 election campaign has well and truly started. There have been a handful of announcements from MPs who are making way for newcomers but the Opportunities Party is the first suggestion of what a contest of ideas might look like in 2017. Environmental damage and climate change, inequality and the housing crisis should be at the centre of discussions.

The Opportunities Party is the third new party to launch in time for the 2017 election. The others made a smaller media splash even though they aim to cater to sizeable minorities. The New Zealand People's Party launched in Auckland in August with ambitions to represent Indian and Chinese voters. The New Zealand Seniors Party was announced in June and has plans to run electoral candidates and put issues facing over-65s before the public.

Morgan's party has the greatest chance of crossing the 5 per cent threshold and making a difference, but all are to be welcomed for the light they shine on issues that might otherwise be undiscussed. The more the merrier in MMP. But we hope they also learn from the mistakes of the recent past.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/the-press/opinion/86093066/Editorial-the-more-political-parties-the-merrier>

**Dominion Post: Editorial: Gareth Morgan's party of ideas faces big obstacles**

OPINION: Gareth Morgan's entry into politics is risky and interesting. He is the philosopher who seeks to be a king-maker, but even minor parties have to jump the five per cent parliamentary hurdle. That's a huge barrier for a party with only a handful of members and no announced policy.

Morgan is already a noteworthy political figure. Uniquely, he is a tycoon as well as a doctor of economics, and he enjoys being a policy gadfly. Morgan is on the libertarian right and his basic values would be acceptable to any traditional socialist. In a sense he is so far right he is left.

And he is a deep green thinker whose critiques of the Government's climate change policy have been both learned and wounding. Has there ever been such a strange combination of green, blue and red?

Presumably Morgan has done some expensive polling - he can afford it - and discovered that he could take votes from left as well as right. It might also be that he has the appeal of the wealthy outsider and iconoclast. Donald Trump has shown how powerful that role can be. And the outsider need not be an ignorant barbarian and charlatan, as Trump is.

READ MORE: Philanthropist Gareth Morgan launches political party, compares himself to Donald Trump

The tycoon Bob Jones, after all, played the wealthy gadfly to some effect with the New Zealand Party. He helped bury the dismal old tyrant Robert Muldoon in his final years. Could Morgan do something similar in the twilight years of John Key?

That is an entirely open question. Morgan is a genuinely interesting thinker, and his party would be a small ideas party pitted against two big pragmatic parties. National has never been an ideas party, and isn't under John Key either. Labour has always been a party of change and traditionally of ideas, but Andrew Little has been busy squashing dangerous thoughts such as effective capital gains taxes or a reform of national superannuation.

Morgan is famous for his campaign against cats, and this campaign has had some effect on policy. Morgan is right that cats are a lethal threat to our native birds, and policy-makers are starting to follow his lead. At the same time the economist has infuriated cat-lovers everywhere.

That needn't harm a niche party, which is what The Opportunities Party seeks to be. But will it find a big enough niche?

Morgan's radical economic ideas include a very bold proposal for guaranteed universal income, which remains deeply problematic despite Morgan's economic sophistication. It still looks as though the idea is both too expensive and too blunt an instrument to serve everyone's economic needs.



But a party of ideas is wholly welcome in a political scene that looks increasingly stale and stuck. National's lack of new ideas is starting to matter. Its inability to make any difference to the housing crisis is causing lasting harm. So is its refusal to face the long-term budget issues raised by national superannuation.

National still cruises along in the polls, however, and might well win the next election with the aid of Winston Peters. And here is the issue. Who would be a better king-maker, the tired old populist Peters, or a radical ideas-man like Morgan?

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/comment/editorials/86122663/Editorial-Gareth-Morgans-party-of-ideas-faces-big-obstacles>

**Jane Bowron (Stuff): Cat man's claws out for main political parties**

OPINION: Hold on to your cats – economist Gareth Morgan, who brought the snipping and chipping of them to local body councils, has started a new political party called The Opportunities Party, or 'TOP' for short.

He wants to be fair, he wants to reduce poverty, he wants to improve environmental sustainability, he wants to make housing affordable, he wants to give his party, "a good honest go".

In his first interview with media, outside Parliament, he put himself in the same category as Donald Trump as in an outsider politician who wants to be a change agent.

After his policies are rolled out between the beginning of December and the end of January, if the party has enough support by March, "We'll go for the doctor", Morgan pledged.

Wearing a T-shirt underneath a jacket, and sporting a couple of offsideers, including the former face of It's in the Bag, Nick Tansley, for his campaign manager, Morgan was at pains to look like your average Kiwi joker.

Having resigned from his position as foundation trustee of the Morgan Foundation, a man of the people was a suitable image for someone wanting to take the country back to a time when New Zealand was a fairer society with a chance of prosperity for all.

If the lack of housing policy continues, the philanthropist said he feared that his grandchildren won't be able to afford to rent a house, let alone buy one, leaving you to wonder if Morgan has done a Bill Gates and deliberately left his kiddies out of his will.

As the leader of the party, if TOP makes it to the required five per cent, Morgan will be looking for candidates "to come out of the woodwork" and he doesn't mean Gerry Brownlee.

Morgan said he was making his bid for political power a day before Guy Fawkes because he wanted to light a fuse underneath establishment career politicians who were merely trustees of the financial sector.

The profile of the TOP party voter would be "anyone who cared about New Zealand rather than themselves – and that rules out ACT".

The launch of TOP will be deeply irritating to NZ First, which had votes taken away from it at the last election by Colin Craig's Conservative Party. Morgan wants to sit on the cross benches and be an influence on the major political parties.

His role would be to "chivvy them along" to make progressive policy, he said, admitting that he likes and could work with both Andrew Little and John Key.

Wanting to get away from what he called a "Left/Right thing", this so-called agent of change maintains both parties have their positives, while he wants to be a man of influence. While Winston has cornered the market on the grey vote, any little old lady cat owners who haven't made their minds up come next November will be firmly voting for NZ First as a protest against the cat hater.

Morgan badly misread the public mood when he tried to throw his money round in the purchase of the buy-a-beach campaign at Awaroa Inlet. He offered to big-note the crowd-funding campaign, topping it up by \$600,000 on the proviso that he got to use the buildings, the public got to use the beach, and DOC would get the buildings given back to them after his family had finished with them.

The generous philanthropist, unable to stop putting his oar in and opining on any issue, was seen as an elitist trying to throw his weight around. Hurt by the public reaction, Morgan retaliated by slinging off at the crowd-funding initiators, calling them a bunch of amateurs.

Having only made his mind up a couple of weeks ago to launch his party and with his policies a month away from being rolled out, Morgan's latest bid for political power could be seen as hobbyist enjoying tinkering with the machinery of politics in a heady election year.

Winston has long held the role of king maker as his and his alone and will not take kindly to having to fight off yet another millionaire Johnny-come-lately contender to that throne. The Greens, too, will not thank him for taking away their votes if his environmental sustainability proves attractive to the electorate.

What Morgan's announcement has managed to achieve so far has been to take the heat off Education Minister Hekia Parata and her late timing over the closure of school seclusion rooms, and to put Foreign Affairs Minister Murray McCully's Saudi sheep scandal a little more in the shade.

So far Morgan isn't standing on law and order, even though he has form in wanting to lock up both cats and convicted serial killers at night and put them under curfew. Thankfully he isn't standing on family values, and has vowed that if his party doesn't float the public's boat, he will do the decent thing and bugger off.

But the author of the Big Kahuna is to be applauded for taking our minds off the horror of a possible Trump victory this Wednesday. With only two sleeps to go till we find out if orange really is the new black, Morgan's entry into politics is a happy and wholesome diversion.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/politics/opinion/86109716/jane-bowron-cat-mans-claws-out-for-main-political-parties>

**Chris Keall (NBR): Rich blokes (and Winston) creating their own parties: a brief history**

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 5, 2016

Blokes with big personalities (and often a lot of money, too) starting their own political party: it's been quite the thing in New Zealand.

Gareth Morgan is just the latest in a long line.

Here's how some recent efforts have fared, with marks out of 10.

Bob Jones 8/10

You'll remember, or course, that Labour won a landslide number of seats in 1984. But you might be surprised at the breakdown of the popular vote: David Lange's party received a relatively modest 42.98% support and National 35.89%.

Bob Jones came in like a wrecking ball with his New Zealand Party taking 12.25% of the vote (more than NZ First has ever received), helping Labour win a slew of marginal seats from the government.

Yet, Rob Muldoon was imploding in 1984. But Social Credit also did him damage, holding one National seat (East Coast Bays) and winning another (Pakuranga). If the New Zealand Party hadn't been around, it's quite possible that many National voters would have, as Lange put it, held their noses and voted Labour.

We'll never know.

But we do know that Sir Bob set himself one job: get rid of Sir Rob, and he achieved it. Mission accomplished, he exited stage left.

Winston Peters 4/10

Winston: so frightening on the campaign trail, but so placid once in office with National and Labour respectively. Yes, he scored cheaper public transport for his blue-rinse base, and politely objected as Helen Clark successfully pursued a free trade deal with China. But a focus on cabinet rank rather than policy during MMP negotiations has helped keep things tame.

The NZ First leader has proved masterful at firing up his core supporters, but he's failed to crossover to middle New Zealand.

NZ First has been stuck in a tight range, receiving below 10% of the vote in seven of the past eight elections. Sure, the tail can wag the dog under MMP, but that's where we came in ...

Colin Craig 4/10

He had the money, tipping more than \$5 million of his fortune into his own party. He had a ready constituency: social conservatives who found John Key too liberal. And he had some punchy cross-over policies, such as his plan to

seize land-bankers' sections on the edges of Auckland if they weren't developed into housing.

But whatever that regular bloke X factor is that John possesses, Colin lacks. And no amount of money can buy it (and there could be a lesson in there for Gareth Morgan, who also rubs a lot of people up the wrong way).

Still, he managed 3.97% of the vote in 2014, and probably only missed the 5% threshold as a last-minute scandal broke involving his press secretary. So he must earn a few points for coming so close.

Kim Dotcom 0/10

On paper, Dotcom is another example of you-can't-buy votes. I say "on paper" because NBR was never obvious to NBR where the \$5 million he donated to his Internet Party was spent. For a such a relatively brief campaign, the alleged pirate managed to cause an impressive amount of damage, overexposing his own "brand" which he himself described as "toxic" post-election, narking on his one-time fund-raising buddy John Banks, pushing partner Mana out of Parliament as Hone Harawira lost his seat and Internet-Mana got just 1.4% of the list vote, and destroying the credibility of various hangers-on (though Laila Harre is now making a concerted attempt to rehabilitate her political fortunes, this time with Labour).

Which brings us to Gareth Morgan

Gareth is often such an unloveable no-it-all. And yet, which his partner-in-crime Geoff Simmons (an ex-Treasury economist) so good stirring debate on so many issues.

Yesterday, his party launch was far-and-away the highest rating story on NBR. The same would have been true on Herald and Stuff and he utterly dominated social media.

At one point yesterday, Mr Morgan compared himself to Mr Trump. The comparison is bogus. Mr Trump pitches himself as anti-establishment. And some of his views are, such as his opposition to free trade. But that's incidental. The Republican's primary modus operandi is to run with populist policies, a la Winston Peters here.

Mr Morgan, on the other hand, is quite happy to put up unpopular ideas. He backs himself to win an argument, usually with a two-hour whiteboarding session from Mr Simmons thrown in for anyone who wants to watch (another big contrast with Mr Trump, whose policies don't extend beyond bumper-sticker one-liners).

My take is that if The Opportunities Party founder can focus tightly on a few issues, he'll have a shot at 5%. House prices, immigration and asset sales are notable areas where there's a lot of anxiety, but opposition parties have struggled to capitalise.

Be we could also see the messy, free-ranging Gareth, taking on too many issues (and the Herald has already tried to bait him with is Sun-like “Cate-killer” headline yesterday. He can be quite hard line on environmental issues – enough to alienate “blue-greens”, yet not quite hard enough for the Greens (who were opening hostile on Twitter yesterday).

And on issues like a universal benefit, Mr Morgan could be too progressive for the centrist voters, yet not enough to attract Labours.

Is there a place for him? Perhaps he doesn't care if he makes 5%. It could just be that he wants a bigger pulpit.

<https://www.nbr.co.nz/opinion/rich-blokes-and-winston-creating-their-own-parties-brief-history>

### **Chris Bramwell (RNZ): Who's left when Morgan's on TOP?**

Power Play - Economist Gareth Morgan has set a cat amongst the native birds with his sudden decision to set up a political party, just a year out from the general election.

The timing of Dr Morgan's announcement could be read as a challenge to the Labour Party, which has gathered in Auckland for its annual conference.

Dr Morgan held a press conference at 11am yesterday outside Parliament, as Labour Party members would have been happily nursing their flat whites in policy discussions in Auckland.

He insists his policies will overlap with both National and Labour, but given the direction of his Big Kahuna book on tax policy - capital gains tax, universal basic income and more fairness - the similarities appear more left-leaning than the status quo.

He says his party, The Opportunities Party, would aim to improve fairness, environmental sustainability and national pride, while reducing poverty and house prices.

That could be read off the Green Party manifesto, and Dr Morgan himself admitted on Nine to Noon yesterday, that he agreed with the Greens on almost all environmental and climate change policy.

Greens co-leader James Shaw, in his typically cautious fashion, warned Dr Morgan it was hard to build support for a political party and get it over the 5 percent threshold.

He said he thought, perhaps hopefully, that Dr Morgan's party was more likely to take votes off National than the Greens.

Given the Morgan Foundation has taken a tough line on environmental issues and been scathingly critical of the government's record on climate change, it seems unlikely National Party voters would tip Dr Morgan's way.

Gareth Morgan is not afraid to stir the pot, which, it has to be said, the Greens appear less willing to do under Mr Shaw's leadership.

Dr Morgan accuses political parties of being too afraid of losing voters to really say what they mean, and that may well be true.

The political risk for the left is the addition of another party makes it appear fragmented. As 2014 illustrated, that makes voters nervous and unwilling to trust their vote to what could be a messy stitch-up of parties.

The difference this election will be that Labour and the Greens are clear they want to work together - a far cry from David Cunliffe's decision to reject other parties on the left in 2014.

Labour and the Greens together already face an uphill battle to get the support they need to form a government.

The risk Gareth Morgan poses is, if he gets less than 5 percent, the votes that went his way could have made the difference to getting Labour and the Greens over the line.

Furthermore, if he does get more than 5 percent and into Parliament, a Labour-Green block could not rely on The Opportunities Party's vote for a governing block.

Dr Morgan insists he does not want to be in a coalition with National or Labour, rather, he wants to sit on the cross-benches.

That may be an easy way to be non-committal, but what message does that send voters?

Would they risk their vote to a spanking new party, with no track record, and a high chance it could be wasted should The Opportunities Party fail to hit the 5 percent threshold? If it does get there, what good can it do if it has no power?

The fact Andrew Little and James Shaw have been quick off the blocks to respond to the formation of The Opportunities Party shows how seriously they are taking it.

Gareth Morgan insists his policies run across the political spectrum, but it is Labour and the Greens who look wary.

The other aspect of Dr Morgan's potential appeal to voters could be the "Trump Effect", in that he is not an establishment figure. Given turnout in New Zealand is not as bad as in other countries, it is hard to know how disaffected voters are with New Zealand's system.

If we are going to go down the US-politics analogy road, Gareth Morgan is possibly more of a Bernie Sanders than a Donald Trump. He aims to be more of an agitator and a disrupter, forcing the established parties into more vigorous policy debate.

All of this aside, there are still no guarantees The Opportunities Party will come to fruition. Gareth Morgan has given himself a March deadline to decide whether there is any public appetite for a new party.

Should it not go ahead, there will likely be a red-green sigh of relief from the left.

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/national/317348/who%27s-left-when-morgan%27s-on-top>



**John Armstrong: Gareth Morgan's Opportuniities knocks**

NOVEMBER 4, 2016 ~

Tired of bleating from outside about what's going wrong in New Zealand, Gareth Morgan has worked out that he might achieve a whole lot more by being inside the political tent.

In setting up his own party, he is putting his large pots of money where his mouth has long been.

And every one knows just how big that mouth is. You will never die wondering what Morgan thinks about something.

His penchant for straight talking when it comes to dissecting New Zealand's ongoing economic and social problems is the biggest asset his rather oddly named Opportunities Party will have going for it.

His suggested solutions to those problems may get a lot less applause from the listening public, however.

But you You can only lecture people for so long before you sound like a cracked record. And Morgan had reached that point some time ago.

Setting up his own party was thus not just a matter of choice. It was a necessity.

It would be a supreme irony were his party to secure seats in Parliament by virtue of the current proportional voting system — the very thing he implicitly blames for the established parties becoming “champions of inertia and only ever reluctant proponents of incremental change”.

The prime reason for such inertia is that small shifts in votes from one party to another can have major repercussions as to who ends up governing the country.

But Morgan is absolutely right in inferring that politicians — especially those in the current ruling party — will not touch matters which are highly sensitive.

And the country is already paying a big price for that.

The National Party deserves every criticism it gets for a failure of leadership in not introducing a capital gains tax or some equivalent. The absence of such an impost has instead turned the residential property market into a speculators' paradise.

The same criticism applies to National's gamble that the country will be able to maintain the current level of state superannuation payments for long into the the future and regardless of the looming huge increase in demand for health services as the baby-boom generation ages.

Morgan says he wants to “light a fuse” under the current moribund parliamentary culture.

But if he really wants to be effective, his party needs to be part of a formal coalition with a major party, rather than sitting on Parliament’s cross-benches where the emphasis is on blocking change rather than initiating it.

But we are getting ahead of ourselves here.

The current political atmospherics are not sympathetic to a new entrant to an already over-crowded political marketplace.

Sure, Sir Bob Jones’ New Zealand Party overcame the in-built bias against small parties which made the old first-past-the-post electoral system to record an impressive 12.3 per cent of the vote at the 1984 election, as did Jim Anderton’s New Labour Party in capturing 5.2 per cent in 1990.

But both parties profited hugely from the chronic unpopularity of the incumbent governing party.

The reverse is the case now. National is still polling at high levels. Should the economy continue to grow at the current rate through next year, it is not immediately apparent what might emerge to dent National’s popularity.

There are no obvious signs of the kind of alienation from the political process felt by voters and which has driven Donald Trump’s presidential campaign as well as fuelling Brexit.

National will be hoping that Morgan’s party might break though the 5 per cent threshold and becomes a potential support partner for a National minority government and shuts Winston Peters out of post-election government formation talks.

National’s fear will be that Morgan’s party falls just short of the thresh and ends up wasting centre-right votes and makes National even more dependent on New Zealand First to remain in power.

Regardless, for all his money and public profile, Morgan will find that building a successful new party is incredibly difficult. He wisely kept yesterday’s announcement low-key, rather than have a flash launch. By doing that he has given himself an exit strategy if his new pet project, so to speak, flops.

In the meantime, the country’s feral cat can breath a little easier knowing his energy will be consumed by matters elsewhere.

<https://armstrongonpolitics.wordpress.com/2016/11/04/gareth-morgans-opportunities-knocks/>

**Nicholas Jones (Herald): John Key on 'super controversial' Gareth Morgan**

10:53 AM Monday Nov 7, 2016

Prime Minister John Key has had another crack at Gareth Morgan's chances of getting into Parliament - saying the "super controversial" entrepreneur is bound to come up with polarising policies.

"Everyone who knows Gareth knows he is super controversial and he won't be able to help himself being controversial. So if you think cats and eradicating them was controversial, he'll come up with a whole bunch of other stuff," Key told Mike Hosking on Newstalk ZB.

"It is come one, come all in terms of having a go. But history tells you getting 5 per cent is really tricky, and normally when a political party has made it they have had a leader that has left another big party - Winston Peters...Tariana [Turia] to the Maori Party."

Prime Minister John Key has talked down Gareth Morgan's chances of making it to Parliament. New Zealand Herald Photograph by Jason Oxenham. Morgan launched The Opportunities Party (Top) on Friday, saying problems like inequality and housing affordability could be solved but not by "establishment" politicians.

He plans to gauge public reaction to his campaign before registering the party next year.

Political parties need 500 financial members to register, and that mark was surpassed by Top within 24 hours of launching. As of yesterday afternoon the party had 886 members signed-up.

Continued below.

Related Content

Gareth Morgan 'overwhelmed' at support for new party as hundreds sign up

Gareth Morgan launches new political party: Compares himself to Trump

Gareth Morgan backs 'rich prick' on NZ tax system

"I've been really overwhelmed by the response," Morgan wrote in a blog post yesterday.

"I thought would take us months to get those kinds of numbers, particularly given I haven't released any policy yet!"

The reaction from established political parties has been mixed, with both Green Party co-leader James Shaw and Key saying it will be difficult for Top to get the 5 per cent of the party vote required to enter Parliament without winning an electorate.

At the 2014 election, Craig's Conservative Party received 95,598 votes and still fell short at just under 4 per cent of the party vote.

Top will release about six key policies, with the first a housing-related policy on December 8. If public support looked to be forthcoming, the party would aim to register in March.

An economist, Morgan amassed a fortune after selling his economic forecasting firm Infometrics in the late 1990s, later set up Gareth Morgan Investments, and received a windfall after a \$75,000 investment in Trade Me, set up by his son Sam, turned into \$47 million.

Morgan pledged to give away the millions earned through his Trade Me investment, and established the Morgan Foundation, which focuses on conservation and development projects as well as public policy research.

Most controversial was a 2013 campaign to eventually eradicate domestic cats - or "sadists" and "natural-born killers" - with Morgan wanting people to not replace the pets when they die.

Morgan has resigned as a trustee of the foundation to head the new political party.

[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=1&objectid=11743590](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=11743590)

**Nicholas Jones (Herald): Gareth Morgan launches new political party:  
Compares himself to Trump**

3:12 PM Friday Nov 4, 2016

Gareth Morgan says his cat campaign will help his new political party get votes - and has framed himself as an anti-establishment candidate like Donald Trump.

Green Party co-leader James Shaw was quick to warn that a vote for Morgan's The Opportunity Party (Top) would likely be wasted, given it would need to capture 5 per cent of the party vote next year to make it to Parliament.

Shaw also said Morgan's 2013 campaign to eradicate domestic cats would hurt his new party's prospects.

"There's quite a high risk that you will waste your vote there. I think Colin Craig and Kim Dotcom demonstrated that having a lot of money is useful but an insufficient condition."

That was dismissed by Morgan, who said it had led to successful campaigns by local councils to have cats microchipped and desexed.

"I'm feeling quite proud of what we did with cats now ... the whole cat thing now is in the hands of the regional councils and the district councils to implement. It's about having cats and wildlife compatible. It's not that hard."

Labour leader Andrew Little said Gareth Morgan was not a threat to Labour.

"It's great to see him in our corner. There are big issues going on, the issues we've been talking about. In the end if we want to get issues like housing, like education, like health fixed, there's only one way and that is to change the Government.

"There is only party that can lead a change and that is Labour."

He said he would be prepared to talk with Morgan, saying he had done some good work.

However, he was focused on what Labour had to do to change the Government in 2017.

Morgan was asked by media if he worried he could end up playing a similar role to that of Kim Dotcom at last election. Some political commentators concluded the Internet-Mana alliance and Dotcom's involvement hurt the left vote.

"Kim Dotcom? Let me think of something better. How about Trump. We just stand on our own merits and the people in New Zealand will decide," Morgan said.

He went on to clarify that he liked "nothing" about Trump's campaign, but saw himself as a figure outside of the political establishment.

"I think that New Zealand is really not fulfilling its potential. I see things like the level of inequality that we have got ... obviously poverty ... and the latest in this saga is the falling affordability of housing.

"Which has got to the point now where I would have to have doubts if this continues if my grandkids would be able to rent let alone bloody own a house."

It wasn't hard to fix these problems, Morgan said, but establishment politicians were more worried about change disturbing voters.

Morgan cited today's Guy Fawkes and said he wanted to "light a fuse" under Parliament. Shortly after his press conference employees left the building because of a fire alarm.

The businessman will not contest an electorate seat, meaning Top will need to capture 5 per cent of the party vote next year. He wanted to bring five or six MPs to Parliament next year, but said no candidates had been selected or lined-up.

At the 2014 election, Craig's Conservative Party received 95,598 votes and still fell short at just under 4 per cent of the party vote.

Top will release about six key policies, with the first a housing-related policy on December 8. If public support looked to be forthcoming, the party would aim to register in March.

Morgan has resigned as a trustee of his foundation in order to head the new political party. Asked what voters he would target, he said "anybody who cares about New Zealand as opposed to themselves".

"That rules out the Act Party...the Nats have done pretty well, I think, in terms of what has happened in terms of pure economic growth. But it does concern me the cost of that - which is the loss of affordability of housing and this persistent inequality."

National's campaign chair Steven Joyce said getting to 5 per cent wouldn't be easy for Morgan, "but good luck to him".

"Every election we get people coming along and it just adds to the colour and entertainment, and I'm sure Gareth will provide plenty of entertainment."

Joyce said the Government's strong environmental record meant so-called "blue green" voters weren't likely to go to Morgan.

"I think probably he is more likely to pick up votes from opposition parties, because he sees himself as wanting to promote change away from the existing status quo...I think he will certainly split some of the focus on the opposition side."

The Red Peak flag designers have criticised the logo of Gareth Morgan's new party as being too similar.  
Red Peak controversy

Gareth Morgan's political party was only hours old when it came under fire over similarities between its logo and Red Peak.

The logo for the new party is the winner of the \$20,000 competition to design a new flag Morgan ran in the lead-up to the first flag change referendum.

The flag - Wa kainga (Home) - was created by Auckland design business Studio Alexander. It is similar to the Red Peak design that was eventually included as one of the final flag options.

The creators of Red Peak said yesterday that Morgan's logo was too similar.

"The Opportunities Party did not give us any opportunity to discuss the potential conflict with Red Peak and it appears they have acted unfairly in co-opting Red Peak's hard-earned profile," reads the statement, retweeted by Red Peak designer Aaron Dustin.

Who is Gareth Morgan?

Economist, author, entrepreneur, philanthropist and now politician - Gareth Morgan wants to take his outspokenness to Parliament.

Morgan attended Putaruru High School, and after earning economics degrees he worked for the Reserve Bank, where he realised he had a strong aversion to hierarchy.

He amassed a fortune after selling his economic forecasting firm Infometrics in the late 1990s, later set up Gareth Morgan Investments, and received a windfall after a \$75,000 investment in Trade Me, set up by his son Sam, turned into \$47 million.

Morgan pledged to give away the millions earned through his Trade Me investment, and established the Morgan Foundation, which focuses on conservation and development projects as well as public policy research.

He is also part-owner of the Wellington Phoenix football team, and has previously hit out at fans who disagreed with his opinion that the team needed to play more attractive football as "pathetic".

This year he stepped in midway through a Givealittle campaign to buy a stretch of beach on the Awaroa Inlet in Abel Tasman, pledging to cover any

shortfall - so long as his family could have exclusive access to buildings near the beach.

The offer was rejected, and Morgan later claimed it was a scheme to push up donations.

Most controversial was a 2013 campaign to eventually eradicate domestic cats - or "sadists" and "natural-born killers" - with Morgan wanting people to not replace the pets when they die.

Not minding that heat, he has continued to speak out on a range of issues including inequality, climate change and tax reforms (Morgan was dubbed "arguably New Zealand's biggest know-all" in a newspaper profile after the cat controversy).

He has until now resisted politics, but told media yesterday the pull had become too great.

"It's just so easy, really. I've sort of worked on this stuff for so long. You sit back objectively, and I've got a reasonable amount of confidence I know what to do."

[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/politics/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=280&objectid=11742157](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/politics/news/article.cfm?c_id=280&objectid=11742157)



**Nicholas Jones (Herald): Gareth Morgan 'overwhelmed' at support for new party as hundreds sign up**

12:32 PM Sunday Nov 6, 2016

Gareth Morgan's new political party already has more than 750 paid members - with the entrepreneur saying he has been blown away by the response.

Morgan launched the Opportunities Party (Top) on Friday, saying problems like inequality and housing affordability could be solved but not by "establishment" politicians.

He plans to gauge public reaction to his campaign before registering the party next year.

Political parties need 500 financial members to register, and that mark was surpassed by Top within 24 hours of launching.

"I've been really overwhelmed by the response," Morgan wrote in a blog post today.

"I thought would take us months to get those kinds of numbers, particularly given I haven't released any policy yet!"

The reaction from established political parties has been mixed, with both Green Party co-leader James Shaw and Prime Minister John Key saying it will be difficult for Top to get the 5 per cent of the party vote required to enter Parliament.

At the 2014 election, Craig's Conservative Party received 95,598 votes and still fell short at just under 4 per cent of the party vote.

Top will release about six key policies, with the first a housing-related policy on December 8. If public support looked to be forthcoming, the party would aim to register in March.

A trained economist, Morgan amassed a fortune after selling his economic forecasting firm Infometrics in the late 1990s, later set up Gareth Morgan Investments, and received a windfall after a \$75,000 investment in Trade Me, set up by his son Sam, turned into \$47 million.

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Morgan has resigned as a trustee of the foundation to head the new political party.

[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=1&objectid=11743166](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=11743166)

**Kim Dotcom (The Spinoff): 'Change always requires pain': Kim Dotcom's advice to Gareth Morgan on starting a party**

November 4, 2016

Ahead of New Zealand's 2014 'Moment of Truth' election, millionaire Kim Dotcom launched the Internet Party, in an attempt to disrupt the political orthodoxy. Today, millionaire Gareth Morgan launched the Opportunities Party, in an attempt to disrupt the political orthodoxy.

We asked Dotcom if he'd indulge our 'slightly silly idea' and offer some advice to Morgan. 'It's not a silly idea,' he replied, 'and here's why ...'

Do it for the learning experience. Know the ugliness of politics first hand. See the media bias and the elites pulling the strings. Watch the selfish nonsense in-fighting within your party and them backstabbing each other. Have all your little flaws amplified on social media and get crucified. Lose some friends, make lots of enemies and get some death threats.

And then the lies, the lies and more lies, so many lies. See how none of your policies or achievements matter. Nobody cares. Talk about what you stand for and then watch your message get diluted to a joke. Show the voters how corrupt, dirty and dishonest the current leadership is and then shake your head at the stupidity of the masses, how gullible they are to manipulative media spin, how little they understand, how they simply don't give a shit.

And then ask yourself, was it all worth it? And to your surprise you'll say yes, because you have learned so much, you have widened your horizon and you understand much better how the world works. You may try again and apply the lessons you have learned to the next election. Or you watch the country collapse under its national debt and corruption and think to yourself, "you fools, I told you so." The lemmings don't care until they are hurting financially. And as long as the government can borrow money to pretend everything is OK they will likely stay in power.

Unfortunately change always requires pain. John Key is very good at one thing: Prescribing pain relief with borrowed money. But that only works short term. Enjoy your journey, Mr Morgan :-)

<http://thespinoff.co.nz/society/04-11-2016/change-always-requires-pain-kim-dotcoms-advice-to-gareth-morgan-on-starting-a-party/>

**Jenna Lynch (Newshub): Andrew Little just doesn't want to talk about Gareth Morgan**

Friday 4 Nov 2016 7:04 p.m.

Labour Leader Andrew Little isn't scared of Gareth Morgan, but he doesn't really want to talk about him.

At the opening of Labour's annual conference Mr Little wanted to be talking Labour - so he did.

In fact, in the space of a 12 minute press conference he managed to say the phrase "change the government" more than 25 times.

Every question about Mr Morgan and his newly formed political party, "The Opportunities Party" was answered on message.

"No it's great to see him in our corner," he said briefly before moving on to the message he'd repeat throughout the entire media conference.

"In the end if we want to get issues like housing like education like health fixed there's only one way and that is to change the government there's only one party that can lead a change of government and that's Labour."

Every question ended with a variation of the following:

"We have to change the Government - there's only one party that can lead a change of government and that's the Labour Party."

Mr Little did praise Mr Morgan's work - before swiftly moving back on message.

"He's done some great work and he's got some good people and the ideas or the issues that he's talked about are the very top issues that are the problem with New Zealand today. And if we want to fix them, we need to change the government."

<http://www.newshub.co.nz/politics/andrew-little-just-doesnt-want-to-talk-about-gareth-morgan-2016110419>

**Stephen Keys (UnframedNZ): The Gareth Morgan show**

November 4, 2016 · by [Stephen Keys](#) · in [Economy](#), [Journalism](#), [New Zealand Politics](#) ·

It was only a matter of time before Gareth Morgan entered the political sphere with the Opportunities Party. As a wealthy philanthropist, one time economist/kiwisaver fund manager and author of [The Big Kahuna](#) he has the time, resources and intellectual firepower to make a mark on New Zealand politics. It would be a shame if his advocacy for restricting the activities of our feline companions, in the interests of native wildlife, prevented a reasoned debate of what are likely to be key components of the new party's platform – A Universal Basic Income and a Comprehensive Capital Tax. Given the [facile nature of most of the New Zealand media](#) I wont go holding my breath. Red Peak. Who cares.

Probably Morgan has recognised the zeitgeist of the moment, the growing discontentment and appetite for change to neo liberal economic policies of the last 30 years as evidenced by the [not so surprising](#) rise of Bernie Sanders, [Jeremy Corbyn](#), [Podemos](#) and most recently, the [Pirate Party](#) in Iceland. Syriza in Greece promised much but [ultimately submitted](#) to the existing global status quo. Bernie Sanders also rolled over at the last hurdle and banked on influencing Hillary Clinton rather than running as an independent candidate.

It is not clear at the moment whether the Opportunities Party will be the Gareth Morgan show or a genuine movement of like minded individuals equally able to influence policy. Morgan is quite a forceful and brusque individual, characteristics which polarise many and may not be amenable to the consensus building required of a broad based political movement. Balanced against this is his undoubted drive. Having a healthy personal bank balance also gives him “fuck off” money, to be able to advocate for unpopular policies that others shy away from.

Besides advocating for the extermination of feral cats and other pests (and putting his money where his mouth is) he has also been outspoken on [Maori rights and the Treaty](#).

He has also raised red flags about private debt, the obvious property bubble and the need to prick it, something Key and Little have openly resiled from.

As a supporter of [radical tax reform](#) and a Universal Basic Income I remain unsure about his other economic beliefs and skeptical whether a university educated economist can really advocate for [overdue reform of the banking and entire financial system](#) that bought us the GFC. He rightly criticizes Labour and National as tinkerers but without addressing the global financial system and how it impacts on New Zealand he runs the risk of being reduced to a tinkerer himself.

If nothing else having another national platform from which to raise important issues should be good for the political health of New Zealand. If the media doesn't reduce him to a trite, one issue cat killing caricature, in perpetuity. He has the resources and the chutzpah to shake things up. Bring it on.

<https://unframednz.wordpress.com/2016/11/04/the-gareth-morgan-show/>

**Martyn Bradbury (Daily Blog): Labour Conference eclipsed by Gareth Morgan and how Little resets**

November 6, 2016

Poor old Labour just can't get a break, on the eve of their Auckland Conference they get eclipsed by a momentous rumbling in the political landscape with the announcement by Gareth Morgan launching a Political Party.

Labour had even rolled out the Greens for awkward photos.

I think Gareth Morgan's announcement of a Party vote only Party focused on pragmatic solutions over riding dogma would have a huge appeal to urban male voters who vote National by default. They are educated and uncomfortable with the inequality around them but wouldn't vote Green or Labour.

Morgan's electorate vote National and if National can't see that, they're in for one hell of a shock.

The Party will appeal to NZ First voters as well and it will appeal to a chunk of the missing million voters who don't vote because of their cynicism towards the political system.

Morgan is the perfect anti-establishment voice who would appeal to many male voters who are locked into voting National because they don't feel welcome inside Labour or the Greens.

His success however will mostly come from National and in this, Labour should capitalise.

Labour's strengths which I believe they should play to are women, Pacific Island, Maori, public servants, working people, Auckland.

With National, NZ First and Morgan's Party fighting over male voters, Labour should drive very hard for Pay Equality, maternity leave, early child education and do it using their strong Women MPs to front it.

Greater focus on a two tick Auckland campaign. Use Kiwibuild affordable homes to appeal to working class, Maori and Pacific Island voters in Auckland.

More Pacific Island, Maori, Women and Unionists on the Party List.

Labour need 30% to have a chance of forming the next Government. They have to start maximising the vote they have from the base they've got rather than trying to appeal to voters who aren't voting for them.

63 solutions indeed.

<http://thedailyblog.co.nz/2016/11/06/labour-conference-eclipsed-by-gareth-morgan-and-how-little-resets/>

**Lincoln Tan (Herald): John Key: Gareth Morgan 'very unlikely' to get into Parliament, unless Labour and Greens implode**

3:53 PM Saturday Nov 5, 2016

Prime Minister John Key thinks it is very unlikely that Gareth Morgan will make it to Parliament in the next election.

The philanthropist yesterday launched a new political party, saying he wanted to "light a fuse" under Parliament and break the stranglehold that career politicians have.

Morgan resigned as a trustee from his Morgan Foundation and now heads the Opportunities Party, which will release policy proposals in the coming months.

"It's very unlikely that he'd win votes from us...if he won any would be from Labour and the Greens," Key said.

"I think it shows you that he's pretty dissatisfied with what they're saying and the way that they're performing."

But the Prime Minister said like many "big personalities" who have tried in the past, it wasn't easy to get into Parliament.

"There are plenty of people who have come into politics with quite a bit of cash and a big personality and haven't really got there," he said.

"I think it is very unlikely that he'd get above 5 per cent, but I mean if Labour and the Greens really implode he could. That's where his target market is with getting votes."

Morgan told media outside Parliament yesterday that he decided to enter politics because solutions were "just so easy, really".

"I've sort of worked on this stuff for so long, and you sort of sit back objectively," Morgan said.

"I've got a reasonable amount of confidence I know what to do, and then I say, 'Why the hell don't they do it?'"

He blamed "establishment parties and career politicians" for high levels of inequality and falling housing affordability.

"They give priority to no change, they do not like disturbing voters, they feel, I feel that they look at their career prospects above all else.

"They act much as trustees do in the financial sector which means that they don't take appropriate risks, and obviously as a result of that we don't get the level of returns that we should."



When asked if his party would follow in the footsteps of Kim Dotcom's Internet Party in handing the election to National, Morgan answered: "Kim Dotcom, I can think of something better - how about Trump?"

"Well I guess in the sense (we are similar) that I haven't joined an establishment party, that we are coming in here to push whoever the Government of the day is," Morgan added.

He previously made headlines for his campaign against cats, saying wandering domestic felines were "the biggest predator by a mile" in urban areas.

Morgan also made an offer to help buy Awaroa beach in Abel Tasman as part of a crowdfunding campaign provided his family could have 15 years of exclusive access.

The crowdfunding campaign was eventually successful, but the offer was turned down.

His party will start releasing its policies from next month.

[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/politics/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=280&objectid=11742870](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/politics/news/article.cfm?c_id=280&objectid=11742870)

**TVNZ: Kiwas split on Gareth Morgan's tilt at Parliament**

Outspoken businessman and philanthropist Gareth Morgan is already drawing a mixed reaction from Kiwis, hours after he launched his new political party. The 63-year-old launched The Opportunities Party at Parliament, saying, "It's nearly Guy Fawkes so I'm here to sort of light a fuse under this place." The party will target issues like poverty, housing affordability and the environment.

"What I want to see us do is nudge, push, shove the establishment parties, whoever the government is, to making a real difference on the prospects for New Zealanders," Mr Morgan said.

He has a reputation for being outspoken, particularly on his controversial anti-cat campaign.

In his home town of Wellington, reaction to his foray into politics was mixed. "If it's going to be anything to do with his policy on cats, God forbid he's got anything to do with Treasury," said one woman.

But another said: "I like the man, I like his views, I like what he's got to say." The party will be list only, its leader saying he would be happy to work with either National or Labour.

His tilt at the Beehive quickly drew comparison to fellow rich lister Kim Dotcom's attempt to get into politics last election.

"He isn't tainted in the same way that Kim Dotcom was. Yes he's well off. So was Colin Craig. So was Bob Jones," said Jennifer Curtain, political scientist. Mr Morgan said: "Kim Dotcom? I can think of something better - how about Trump?"

The leader is already facing criticism over the choice of the new party's logo and its similarities to the red peak flag, the designers quick to distance themselves, saying they weren't consulted.

The Opportunities Party's specific policies won't be announced until next month, but just hours after it launched it already had over 200 people registering themselves as members.

<https://www.tvnz.co.nz/one-news/new-zealand/kiwis-split-gareth-morgans-tilt-parliament>

**Kiwifirewalker: Thank you Gareth Morgan, thank you!**

Friday was a long day at work. I started at 7AM (as is my norm) and I was just coming out of a rather tense meeting at 5.30PM, heading towards my desk in the hope of quickly checking my work in-box, scan the web and get out of there before 6.

Emails cleared, coat on and just a quick check of the news on Stuff when something caught my eye.

It was an article that Gareth Morgan, billed in the article as "philanthropist" (which I suppose he is but most of know him as an economist, the guy who runs a Kiwsaver fund or that "nutter who wants to kill all cats") had formed a political party (The Opportunities Party - TOP for short) and was planning to "light a fuse" under Parliament (the symbolism of uttering such a statement on the front steps of Parliament on the eve of Guy Fawkes was undoubtedly known to him).

There are not a lot of articles on NZ politics these days that can get my pulse racing but Sam Sachdeva's article certainly did that (although I am really enjoying Tracy Watkins semi gonzo reportage out of the US at the moment - keep it up Tracy!) and by the time I had finished reading and was heading for the door it was just after 6PM.

So here I am on a relaxed Sunday after doing some odd jobs round the house sitting here with a beer and some good broken beat wafting down the hallway as I write this and its been a few days for me to mull things over because Sam's article was absolute gold in terms of quotes and information.

Think about it; Gareth Morgan is going to form a political party, "light a fuse" under parliament and he has all the solutions to NZ's problems because they are "just so easy, really." If that's not a clarion call to an exciting next 12 months till the election then I don't know what would be.

The only more exciting alternative to the coming election would be if John (father of inutilus playboy Max) Key was to pull the fleshy rubber mask of his face at a Beehive press conference and stand revealed as a Lizard Person from Rigel 6 and then announce to a stunned press gallery that National were renaming the party the Rigelian Reptile Party (RRP) and would be running on a platform of fattening up the people for "their new overlords" and that we would be all invited to a feast on the mother ship when it arrived.

He would then utter a guttural hiss when asked about "the actual details" of that plans before retreating from the light while his press secretary would try desperately to put a positive spin on things as angry chaos reigns among the assembled reporters.

But no, Key would never do that, he is much too cold blooded to loose the plot now before the mother-ships arrive, he wants us docile and unprepared for

whats coming so we will just have to entertain ourselves with what Mr Morgan has to give us.

And Gareth has been bountiful in his entertainment offerings. To start he delivered in one press conference a wealth of quotes which just scream for further analysis and I note that Sachdeva was very careful to use quotation marks around every utterance he (Morgan) used lest we think he (Sachdeva) was taking things out of proportion and casting Morgan in an incorrect light.

To give Morgan his credit though he appeared to know what he was saying as when asked about the situation he likened himself to a NZ Trump, which shows a higher degree of self awareness than Trump would ever have but does little to change the fact that what he was saying sounded a lot like many of the core narratives that Trump has been uttering (just getting things done, knocking out the establishment politicians, how easy things are etc).

Now lets pause here for a second before we dig into the meat of the situation and note two key points.

The first is that I while I am not writing post purely in the vein of "politics as entertainment" that's where we are in the world today.

When the elites start perpetuating their own broken system to such an extent that the waters keep rising and they just yawn and go back to their petty squabbles the populace either starts to take power in to their own hands or succumbs to their powerlessness and begins to mass hallucinate, treating the whole experience with the kind of detached attitude of watching reality TV ("its ok, its only on TV, it cant hurt us") rather than a matter which needs addressing urgently.

Net result: a political climate perfect for an individual to come in and start saying the things like Trump, and now Morgan has done.

The second is that while we have been laughing at whats has been going down in the US of A we may not be laughing in 12 months time.

Not because Morgan will turn out to be the anti-Christ in the same manner that Trump has been demonized but that we (the collective we as a nation) have been unable to recognize what is happening to our society and even if we do, we (the collective "we" again) remain unwilling to do anything substantive about it and thus we (still collective) will not to take the power back from our elected representatives and instead wait with baited breath for a person to come out and tell us they have the solution to all our problems and that those solutions are "just so easy, really".

Of course NZ politics is not the same as US politics, we have MMP to prevent the lunacy of a two party diktat but we do seem to have a more than a few pressing problems to which the government (or other parties) wont do anything about which are just crying out for a solution, final or otherwise.

And that's where we are today, politics as entertainment and an electorate low on voting moxie and burnt out on a secession of lying scumbags in Wellington that we don't believe anything they say and to which we would happily give over power to a person who has the solution to all our problems and not "afraid to make the hard calls" (that last quote is taken from the Opportunities party website).

So don't say "it cant happen here", don't say "not in NZ" because it just has happened here and its been happening all round the rest of the world (the US, the UK, Greece, France, Spain, Austria, the whole Middle East with the Arab Spring and many others) so you can either roll yourself back into the comfort of your delusions or crack open both eyes and take a look around at what is knocking on the front door.

Its not the Mormons or Colin Craig, its not Forrest and Bird, its not some aggressive vacuum cleaner salesman or even the cops (come to bust your euthanasia cult), no its Gareth Morgan and what he has to offer is far more appealing.

Now back to the analysis.

Morgan may face the same problems that the Conservatives and Mana/Internet faced but I think its safe to say that Morgan is not playing the same game as either of those two parties.

To start Colin Craig and the Conservatives came close but in the end it was their conservative religious flavor which kept the electorate from buying in wholesale while Mana/Internet had just the opposite problem by being far too radical and talking just shy of revolt at times.

Morgan is unlikely to be taking either such path and unlike Craig or Dotcom (also both also rich men trying their hand at politics) he already has positive brand recognition (though his investment and economic backgrounds) and cuts a lot closer to our own Millionaire PM, John Key, so he can already claim some legitimacy to the throne (in a world where economics is religion).

Also Morgan is already media tested and while some of his media exposure in the past is less than favorable (think cat culling) he also has his philanthropic background to buttress that in terms of brand equity so unlike Dotcom or Craig he is not just a faceless moneybag trying to muscle into parliament. He has credibility and enough history to be the face of something larger without being sunk by a wave of voter reservation killing his polling from the get go.

That does not mean he is going to sweep into parliament but it does mean that in an electorate which is jaded from the same old worn out politics and politicians he may be able to gain enough traction in 12 months to break 5%.

But where will he get his votes from I hear you cry, where?

Good question, voice in my head, good question.

The answer is either one of the following sources:

Morgan and TOP can either follow the normal route and try to take them off other political parties which is likely to see him move to fight it out for the middle voter with National, Labour and NZ First (because he would not survive on either the far left or right given that the Greens and Act have those spaces locked down) or try for what Mana/Internet intend and tap into the 25% plus of eligible voters who don't vote. Or he could go for both.

No matter what path he chooses its an uphill slog and given his intent to light a fire in parliament and upset the establishment it seems likely that he is going to try for both but with a tactical emphasis on muscling NZ First out of the center and then cobbling together enough votes to get a seat in parliament either via an electorate or the 5% threshold.

Both are paths fraught with danger but there is also that mood in NZ which, like the US, he can tap into and to which established NZ parties cannot; he can play the underdog outsider card for all its worth and even a political rock star like Winston Peters cannot swing that beat the same way because it is essentially a one time technique, it can only be used once as the party or individual enters the political sphere (or in Winston's case broke ranks in such a way as to essentially make him an underdog/outsider again) and plays on their unique position to gain votes as a form of protest.

Therefore come November 2017 Morgan could have mustered enough support to make the election a very interesting spectacle.

I don't think we will see a lot of Trumpism going round but neither will we see a lot of Clintonesque behavior. Instead it will be NZs own particular brand of sycophantic lolly scramble as politicians do the hustings and parties desperately try to outbid each other in promises while denouncing the other with Morgan in the middle sucking up just enough votes to create an even closer race than we were already likely to get.

Where Morgan will get his votes from will primarily be from NZ First territory but also from Labour and National. Winston Peters has had the political rebel space to himself for so long that its going to be a shock for him to potentially share it with another person playing the exact same card as he did in the early 90s. Winston of course has his niche voter bases (like the elderly) which will remain loyal to some degree but again its a fair guess that Morgan will be targeting such a demographic as a good source of votes and again playing of his sound economic image.

And the TOP website, while currently very sparse, gives us some clues as to what Morgans likely political viewpoint will be with references to individuals and the afore mentioned "making the hard calls" indicating (along with his economic background) a likely conservative twang to his middle of the road stance (again something to worry Winston).

Morgans biography and life history indicate a possible libertarian viewpoint, albeit filtered through the lens of life in New Zealand. His self made millionaire story has all the hallmarks of a man believing in self reliance and while its too early to be sure I sense that Morgan will be closer to the right than the left when it comes down to things (again prime NZ First territory).

But amid all this speculation it would be wrong to either write him off or take him to the bank. Morgan is treading a hard road and new political parties have come and gone before and not just in recent memory so the next 12 months is going to be a race in many ways and I don't think he will be doing this just for the grins so watch out establishment politicians.

Finally its worth noting some of the responses from other politicians which came out in Sachdeva's article.

Andrew Little's response was the most unbelievable of the lot as unless he knows something we don't its hard not to imagine his comment about Morgan being "in our corner" as nothing but a bravado laced off the cuff comment said through clenched teeth when confronted by a reporter seeking comment.

Little is rapidly running out of time to get Labour back into the game for 2017 and he does not need another vote siphoning upstart political party wrecking things just when the basic plan for the coming election might have been taking shape, so his take on Morgan is likely to be political blather more than genuine happiness at the prospect of another challenger for the title.

The "not worried" from Green co-leader James Shaw also has the reek of someone trying hard not to hide his upset at the prospect of another potential vote magnet in orbit around the Beehive. To be sure potential Morgan voters and Green voters are probably not the same demographic but if Labour gets knackered by Morgan then the odds of the Greens going into government go down exponentially unless they decide to play with National.

Steven Joyce's response is probably the most prosaic of the lot, saying it will "add color and entertainment" but that is, like Labour, ignoring the potential loss of disgruntled National voters who were never going to go to Labour or NZ First but just might swing towards Morgan if he says the right things. Still he was mostly correct and accurate in his take of the situation by stating that there have been "crowded markets before" and that a clear message is important.

Absent from the feedback in the article was, surprise surprise, any comment from Winston Peters and perhaps that was simply because Winston was not available for comment but I think its telling that the one person who will truly suffer if Morgan gets his mojo on was not around to have some input.

So that's all for now but I think Morgan will be making a solid play for the punter and in doing so he has made the next 12 months of politics infinitely more interesting by coming in and having the potential to breakup the squalid

political dynamic that had begun to harden like a vomit stain on the rug the night after the party.

So thank you Gareth Morgan, thanks you very much.

<https://thekiwifirewalker.blogspot.co.nz/2016/11/thank-you-gareth-morgan-thank-you.html>



**Shannon Redstall (Newshub): Key welcomes 'controversial' Gareth Morgan to the race**

Monday 7 Nov 2016 8:00 a.m.

Prime Minister John Key has welcomed philanthropist Gareth Morgan to the political race but thinks he's got a tough job ahead of him.

"[It's] immensely difficult to get five percent. Doesn't mean it's impossible but it is really difficult," Mr Key told Paul Henry on Monday. "History shows you, the only time people have set up a party and really got there, is they've been an existing name like Winston Peters."

Mr Morgan, an environmentalist and economist, launched the Opportunities Party on Friday.

Mr Key said despite the challenges ahead, there is no way Mr Morgan will back down.

"Gareth likes the fight, he just likes the disagreement.

"Gareth is controversial, so if you think about what Gareth does, he goes away and finds something the most controversial he can because he quite likes the argument then he develops some research that supports him and then he gets in a bit of a row."

The Prime Minister said that Mr Morgan's polarising views could work against him.

"He won't be able to help himself but tell the country he is going to eradicate cats. Well, that's going to get Moonbeam's owner out of voting."

Mr Morgan is well-known for his anti-cat campaigning, referring to the animals "serial killers".

In a video launching his new party, Mr Morgan said: "The beef I have with establishment parties and career politicians is they try to do as little as possible,"

That anti-establishment stance is something the party might try to play on in the wake of Brexit and Donald Trump's political success.

However Mr Key believes the Opportunities Party is leaning to the left, more because of Mr Morgan's dissatisfaction with those parties than with politics as a whole.

"The policies, so much as they've named them, sound a little like he is left-orientated and not right to me, because he is talking about poverty and closing the gap and things we might hear Labour and the Greens talking more about."

Less than 24 hours after its launch, the Opportunities Party managed to secure more than 1000 paying members. That's enough to register the party with the electoral commission.

<http://www.newshub.co.nz/politics/key-welcomes-controversial-gareth-morgan-to-the-race-2016110708>

**RNZ: Labour on Morgan's new party: 'Great to see him in our corner'**

8:43 pm on 4 November 2016

Gareth Morgan's party poses no threat to Labour, or its chances at next year's election, Labour leader Andrew Little says.

Labour leader Andrew Little speaks to reporters ahead of the party's conference on 4 November Photo: RNZ / Chris Bramwell

Dr Morgan, a philanthropist and economist, announced this morning he planned to launch a political party, The Opportunities Party, which would aim to improve fairness, environmental sustainability and national pride while reducing poverty and housing prices.

"What I want to see us do is nudge, push, shove the establishment parties, whoever the government is, to making a real difference" - Gareth Morgan  
"It's great to see him in our corner," Mr Little said at the start of the Labour Party's conference in Auckland.

"Because I back myself and I back the Labour Party as a party that is capable with coming up with the practical solutions to the major issues of the day and running a hard, determined campaign next year.

"There's only one party that can lead a change of government and that's Labour."

But Mr Little would not say if Labour would be prepared to have co-operation talks with The Opportunities Party if it got that far.

"No, I'm focussed on what Labour needs to do to campaign well and campaign hard on the issues that are important to New Zealand and about changing the government next year."

'If he is going to take votes from anyone, it will be the National Party'

Green Party co-leader James Shaw said he had a lot of respect for Dr Morgan, but starting a political party could be tough.

"Kim Dotcom and Colin Craig have demonstrated that merely having money isn't a sufficient condition to being able to get into Parliament," he said.

"It's actually really difficult to build a political party under 12 months before an election that has a chance of crossing a 5 percent threshold.

"If you look at the Green Party, it's taken us 20 years to where we've gotten to today. And you need people on the ground. You need volunteers. You need candidates all over the country and is a significant challenge."

Mr Shaw acknowledged Dr Morgan's new party would be championing causes central to the Green Party agenda, but did not think he would steal votes.

"He's actually trying to get that constituency that are currently voting for National, who are concerned about the environment, but who won't vote Green."

"If he is going to take votes from anyone, it will be the National Party," Mr Shaw said.

Morgan likely to compete with Labour and Greens - National

National Party campaign chair Steven Joyce welcomed Mr Morgan's party, but disagreed with Mr Shaw, saying it was more likely Mr Morgan would compete with the Green and Labour vote.

"He is lining himself up alongside the Labour and Greens.

"I imagine he's competing with them for votes."

Mr Joyce said it was too early to say whether a National-led government would work with Dr Morgan, if elected into Parliament.

"We don't even know what sort of party Gareth's got, who else is in there, what his policies are, I think we're a million miles from considering whether we'd work with him or not," he said.

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/political/317336/%27great-to-see-him-in-our-corner%27>

**Newshub: Gareth Morgan's Opportunities Party building steam**

Sunday 6 Nov 2016 5:00 a.m.

Gareth Morgan's brand new political Opportunities Party is yet to release a policy, but has around 1000 members already.

The left-wing party received the amount of financial members needed to register the party in less than 24 hours after its launch.

Chief of staff Geoff Simmons says it's a good sign and it shows people are clearly into what they've been talking about.

"We really want to keep building as much support as we can before March, when we'll make the call whether or not to contest the election.

"Over the next few months we'll be releasing policies and seeing how the public reacts."

The Opportunities Party has been launched in a bid to push away from establishment and career politicians.

Mr Simmons says they're surprised and humbled by the support.

"It's a great start for us. Clearly there is an appetite out there for doing politics a little bit differently, and moving outside the establishment, career politician-type system.

"We're glad to have tapped into that."

The party will be releasing its first policy in December and is keen for members to keep signing up.

<http://www.newshub.co.nz/politics/gareth-morgans-opportunities-party-building-steam-2016110521>



**Saudi sheep deal****Fran O'Sullivan (Herald): Ministers were played over Saudi sheep**

8:57 PM Sunday Nov 6, 2016

It is disturbing that Foreign Affairs Minister Murray McCully resorted to a political fix over the so-called Saudi sheep affair instead of dealing upfront with a sensitive diplomatic impasse between NZ and Saudi Arabia over a free trade deal and a separate but related commercial grievance.

This whole saga has been a convenient figleaf for a major point of contention between the Saudis and New Zealand: Prime Minister John Key's decision to abandon his leadership of a business mission to the Gulf States in April 2010 and return home. Saudi anger over what was seen as an insult to the Kingdom was conveyed to business members of the mission which continued under the substitute leadership of then Trade Minister Tim Groser.

There were clear expectations that a FTA with the Gulf Co-operation Council - Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Qatar - would be signed on that trip.

And if the standoff with the Saudi Arabians over a \$5 billion free trade deal was purely due to a \$24-\$30 million dispute over the live sheep trade ban, then it would have been simple enough to make financial compensation.

After all, the Government has bent the rules in foreign corporates' interests before as was displayed when it changed NZ's employment laws in response to a Warner Brothers shakedown.

It has also been happy enough to help out the Tiwai Point owners on the financial front.

Why resort to an elaborate subterfuge in the Saudi case when there were better - if still distasteful - options? Any political embarrassment would have been transitory and explained away as serving a greater good; a skill in which Key is well-versed.

It's important to note here, that it was not until the Prime Minister's departure from the trade mission that the Saudis conveniently elevated a lingering commercial dispute with the Al-Khalaf Group to the status of an FTA deal-breaker.

But instead of proceeding down a direct compensation route, McCully and the Cabinet opted to form a so-called Saudi Arabia Food Security Partnership with the Al-Khalaf Group as the prime beneficiary.

It has been dogged in controversy ever since.

Auditor-General Lyn Provost has clearly seen through the political device saying it amounted to trying to settle a commercial grievance "under the guise of a contract for services".

Provost has justifiably slapped the politicians within her report on the Inquiry into the Saudi Arabia Food Security Partnership. It is a master of understatement.

The Auditor-General has made sure her findings could not be attacked on "natural justice" grounds.

Why resort to an elaborate subterfuge in the Saudi case when there were better - if still distasteful - options? Any political embarrassment would have been transitory and explained away as serving a greater good; a skill in which Key is well-versed.

She has given what in the legal trade is commonly referred to as a "comfort statement" by saying, "I found no evidence that the arrangements entered into as part of the Saudi Arabia Food Security Partnership were corrupt. To understand whether there was corruption, we looked at whether there had been an abuse of power for private gain or an offence against the Crimes Act 1961 by a Minister or an official. The payments did not amount to bribery or facilitation payments. Instead, they were made as part of a legally valid contract for services. Public money was spent within the necessary financial approvals."

Some have seized on this statement as saying it vindicated McCully. It does nothing of the sort.

Provost's findings are a scathing assessment of the lack of transparency around this deal.

I am not going to traverse the findings in her report which can be found at [www.oag.govt.nz/2016/food-security](http://www.oag.govt.nz/2016/food-security). But she notes that in 2009, negotiations on the complete and the final text for the free trade agreement between New Zealand and the Gulf Co-operation Council had been agreed, subject to legal verification by each participating state.

Al-Khalaf's grievances did not emerge until Groser met with the then Saudi Arabian Minister of Agriculture in Riyadh on April 24, 2010. The report notes that at this meeting, Groser was made aware of the tensions in the relationship between the two countries, and the obstacle to the signing of the free trade agreement, as a result of New Zealand's position on exporting live sheep to Saudi Arabia.

Frankly, I don't believe that NZ's foreign officials are so inept and out of touch that they organised a Prime Ministerially-led mission to sign an already negotiated deal when it was about to come unstuck at a prime point on the trip.

This stretches credulity.

It is more believable that the Saudi Arabian Minister's decision to make Groser aware of tensions in the relationship was more to do with Key's decision to return after air force personnel were killed in an early morning crash of an RNZAF Iroquois helicopter near Wellington.

The trade mission had, by then, turned into a disaster.

Groser represented the New Zealand Government and performed the official duties arranged by the Saudi Arabian Government for the Prime Minister, as well as the specific trade activities scheduled as part of his responsibilities.

But the free trade deal that was to be signed at that point, wasn't.

I earlier wrote that the documents the foreign minister took to Cabinet relating to the partnership with the Al-Khalaf Group "did not shed sufficient light on why McCully spearheaded an initiative which at its kindest interpretation resulted in a sweetheart deal to look after Saudi businessman Hamood Al-Ali Al-Khalaf. Nor did the documents - which are very carefully constructed - pass the smell test for a Government that has become rather too easy a prey for commercial shakedowns by aggrieved foreign investors." This remains my view.

Groser and McCully were played. They would have known that. But they did not want to disaggregate the diplomatic and commercial issues because it would have forced them to front on the sensitive issue around Key's actions. Instead the two issues were conflated.

As for the Al-Khalaf group: Under the partnership, pregnant breeding ewes from New Zealand were flown to a "farm" in the desert which was so inhospitable that 75 per cent of the lambs died.

Yet this was hailed as a success.

The free trade deal is said to be on track again following the successful visit by the Prime Minister to Saudi Arabia last year; subsequent bilateral meetings at major levels of the Saudi Arabian Government and the establishment of a Saudi Arabia-NZ Business Council.

[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/business/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=3&objectid=11743370](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/business/news/article.cfm?c_id=3&objectid=11743370)



**Stacey Kirk (Stuff): Rising corruption investigations are a symptom of growing mistrust**

OPINION: This government has never been found to be corrupt. But can it say it carries the perception it is trustworthy?

Perhaps one of the most significant swipes to come out of the Saudi sheep deal from outgoing Auditor General Lyn Provost is that all signs point to no.

Foreign Minister Murray McCully has been cleared of corruption in his dealings with Saudi Arabian sheep farmer Hmood Al Khalaf.

But he does not come out of the debacle as the bastion of trust and integrity which his affronted claims that he was exonerated would suggest.

Those dealings saw the latter personally pocket \$4 million New Zealand taxpayer funds and a \$6m farm set up in the desert, to ease diplomatic tension and clear a path toward free trade with Arab state.

Provost also raised serious concerns over the quality of work McCully had officials perform in bringing a business case for the deal to Cabinet, citing an apparent \$24m legal threat.

That Cabinet paper did not explain Al Khalaf Group would own the farm New Zealand was stumping up for, nor did it explain how the overall \$10m figure was chosen.

Glaringly absent was any evidence that ministers or officials requested or received any legal advice on the level of the threat being pushed by Al Khalaf.

It points to shoddy workmanship sure, but Provost is right - there was no personal gain either sought or happened upon, and so no corruption, according to its legal definition.

So call it a warning, rather than political commentary, but she made no bones about the fact such allegations were on the rise.

"Accusations of corruption and bribery should be of concern to us all.

"During my time as Auditor General, I have seen an increase in these accusations."

None of Provost's inquiries have upheld any of those accusations. Yet, they keep occurring.

Is it because many aren't well versed in what the legal definition of corruption actually requires?

Is it because in this era of trumped up political outrage, the common Opposition response to unsavoury deals is to allege the worst and call for an inquiry?

Perhaps elements of the two, but the obvious answer is usually the correct one.

Regardless of its intentions in carrying out these transactions, the Saudi sheep saga would never have been known about if the Government had had its way.

Wrapped up in its own "creativity", ministers adopted the position that they know best, and the opinions of others, and even the public, would only delay progress.

It's an approach also seen applied to the Official Information Act, where Prime Minister John Key has admitted publicly that the Government delays releasing requests as long as it can when it suits it to do so politically.

The SkyCity Convention Centre deal drew no praise for being entirely above board and the Trans Pacific Partnership - where there were arguably solid reasons for the secrecy - did not help the Government's reputation in this area either.

In Provost's own words: "Transparency is the best foil for corruption".

Perhaps that goes for the perception of it as well.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/politics/opinion/86099683/Stacey-Kirk-Rising-corruption-investigations-are-a-symptom-of-growing-mistrust>

**Andrea Vance (TVNZ): This is not how NZ does business**

It wasn't corruption – but something got corrupted.  
The Auditor-General's long-awaited investigation into the shabby Saudi sheep deal spared Foreign Minister Murray McCully's scalp.

It cleared him of corruption – something he was actually never accused of.  
McCully's pockets were never lined in this deal – but it's that straw-man defence that has allowed him to cling to his job.

The money (\$11.5m in sheep and services, bought by the New Zealand taxpayer) went to a Saudi billionaire – to grease the wheels for a failing free trade deal with the Gulf States.

AG Lyn Provost's painstaking inquiry throws much light on this shadowy affair.  
And both Mr McCully and his Foreign Affairs officials come up short of good governance standards.

To summarise, she criticised the decision-making process. There were "significant short-comings".

Not least, that a Cabinet paper didn't make clear that the desert farm ("agrihub") they were stumping up for would be owned by a private investor.  
And she was puzzled as to how officials arrived at the \$11.5m figure – criticising a lack of cost analysis. Surprising for a Government that prides itself on prudence and an insistence that the 'numbers stack up' in any financial transaction involving taxpayers' money.

Ministers were led to believe this would appease aggrieved investor Hamood Al Khalaf, who was threatening legal action over a ban on live sheep exports.  
According to the Cabinet paper he thought he was due compensation of \$24m. Critically, Ms Provost found his claim was presented to Cabinet without assessing its validity.

And she doesn't believe Mr McCully properly justified the spending: "the contract's benefits to New Zealand were unclear".

Those benefits have yet to be realised. The stalled free trade deal is, as yet, unsigned - more than three years after the Saudi sheep deal was done.  
Most of the lambs (born of 900 pregnant sheep flown to the Middle East) expired in the desert sun.

But the most damning criticism levelled by the AG is expressed in the mildest of terms.

"I was surprised that it was decided to use a contract with a private individual's business interests to resolve a diplomatic issue between governments."

In other words, this is not the way New Zealand does things. Actually, it's not how anyone should arrive at a trade agreement.

This curious little deal is straight from an episode of House of Cards.

The World Bank just ranked NZ as the best place to do business, toppling Singapore from its 10-year reign. By way of comparison, Saudi Arabia is ranked 94th out of 189.

New Zealand perennially sits in the ranks of Transparency International's least corrupt nations. Saudi comes in at 48th – and the report notes that transparency over that government's budget is "scant to none".

The Kingdom is struggling to shake off its oil dependence. Its central bank is propping up the economy and a budget deficit of \$87billion is expected this year.

And the slump will worsen with the Paris climate change agreement taking effect from today.

Western populations are also starting to feel unease about their countries' bilateral relations with Saudi Arabia. Its air force is raining down bombs on Yemen, targeting rebels but killing civilians in their thousands.

The death penalty is used extensively – publicly, and brutally. Women and the Shia minority are discriminated against with limited access to jobs and government services and, as the economy tanks, authorities have rounded up and deported foreign migrants to free up jobs.

Of course, the sheer economics are that Saudi is still the biggest trading player in the Middle East. And NZ needs the ruling Royal family on board before the other Gulf States sign up to a deal.

But what's the price? The Auditor General notes early in her report that she has seen an increase in accusations of bribery and corruption – and the only foil to that is an open and transparent public service.

New Zealand has now shown it is prepared to make unorthodox compromises in the shadows – so what will the next potential trading partner ask for?

<https://www.tvnz.co.nz/one-news/new-zealand/opinion-not-nz-does-business>

**Benedict Collins (RNZ): Saudi deal a wolf in sheep's clothing**

8:43 pm on 4 November 2016

*Power Play* - It wasn't illegal, but Murray McCully's Saudi sheep deal was disturbing.

In a nutshell, that was the finding from the Auditor-General's 15-month investigation into the Foreign Minister's deal, which was released this week.

It cleared the minister and officials of acting corruptly but found the deal was simply a "guise" - the settlement of a personal grievance, dressed up by Mr McCully as a contract for services.

It found "significant shortcomings" in the information the Foreign Minister presented to Cabinet justifying the deal - and repeatedly criticised the government for its lack of transparency.

"I share many New Zealanders' concerns about the arrangements," Auditor-General Lyn Provost wrote.

She began her inquiry in August 2015 after more than 10,000 New Zealanders, and MPs, called on her to look into the deal.

It followed months of media reports, that slowly uncovered the full extent of the millions of dollars the government has given to a disgruntled billionaire Saudi sheikh, Hamood Al-Khalaf.

He felt he'd been misled about the resumption of live sheep exports and was using his influence with Saudi politicians to block the progress of a free trade deal with the Gulf States.

First it was revealed the government had built Al-Khalaf a \$6 million agrihub on his farm in the Saudi desert to placate him.

Then, it had also given him \$4m cash.

The public became increasingly incredulous when it was discovered the government had also spent \$1.5m hiring a Singapore Airlines plane to fly 900 heavily pregnant sheep to the Saudi desert - where nearly all their lambs immediately died.

The government still plans to deliver him an abattoir.

**Opposition appalled - but no corruption found**

As the details of the Saudi sheep deal emerged, opposition politicians were appalled.

Labour said the \$4m cash payment amounted to a facilitation payment, which it said was akin to a bribe.

The Auditor-General this week shot down those serious allegations - finding Mr McCully had not acted corruptly.

"We did not find any evidence that any minister or official ... had an improper motive, intentionally or otherwise acted against the law, or obtained a private gain."

But Ms Provost also made it clear that it was Mr McCully's "lack of transparency" that created the environment that allowed these claims to flourish.

## Auditor-General especially scathing of report to Cabinet

The report was equally damaging to the government's claims that it had to do the deal because Mr Al-Khalaf could have sued it for up to \$30m, because the former Labour government had misled him.

"We saw no evidence of internal or external legal advice being sought on the extent of the legal claim for compensation from the Al-Khalaf Group against the government," the report said.

It noted that the sheikh's Australasian representative indicated the Al-Khalaf Group could seek financial compensation of \$24 million.

But that same representative told *The Nation* they never had any intention of suing the government.

The Auditor-General believed both Labour and National governments (between 2003-2009) provided "mixed messages" about the resumption of live sheep exports to Saudi Arabia.

The report was especially scathing of the information Mr McCully took to Cabinet in 2013 justifying the deal, saying:

- It did not explain Al-Khalaf would own the \$6m in goods he was being given
- It did not identify how the \$11.5m spent on the deal was arrived at

- Signalled the risk of a \$20-30m legal claim with no assessment on its substance
- Claimed exports to Middle East could double to \$3 billion within five years of a free trade deal with no analysis whatsoever

Mr McCully said he would take the criticisms on the chin.

"The word 'problematic' is the word that was used by the Auditor-General and I acknowledge that, I would simply say that I didn't have many non-problematic options available," he said.

Yet, the Auditor-General "did not find evidence" of any analysis of other options.

## New Zealand's reputation has taken a hit

It is still not clear what, if any, benefits have been delivered from the Saudi sheep deal - while it appears to have placated Mr Al-Khalaf, a free trade deal with the Gulf Cooperation Council still has not been signed.

And it was clear the export of sheep remained a sensitive diplomatic issue. When Mr McCully met with Saudi deputy crown prince Mohammed bin Sultan in April this year, he updated him on "progress in resolving the live sheep issue".

New Zealand's reputation for transparency and animal welfare have unquestionably taken a hit and it is clear Cabinet made a decision to spend millions of dollars of taxpayers' money on a controversial project based on poor and incomplete information provided by Mr McCully.

It may not have been corruption, but the decision to spend so much money on a Saudi billionaire's farm in the desert has resonated poorly with the public.

And this week's report will not change the view of many that the Saudi sheep deal stinks.

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/political/317339/saudi-deal-a-wolf-in-sheep%27s-clothing>

## **RNZ: PM defends Saudi sheep deal as good use of taxpayer money**

Mr Key said the deal with a Saudi businessman smoothed relations between New Zealand and the Gulf States which are discussing a trade deal.

Under the deal the government gave more than \$11 million in cash, livestock and agricultural equipment to Saudi livestock importer Hamood Al-Khalaf, to appease him over New Zealand's ban on live sheep exports.

A report by the Auditor-General found no evidence of corruption, but heavily criticised government processes. It found no evidence of the government seeking legal advice on a claimed legal threat by the Saudi businessman.

Mr Key told Morning Report the issue was very serious and had led to a breakdown in the relationship.

"We had to find a way through that one way or another." - John Key  
"Without doing something there I don't think we would have advanced the Gulf States FTA. "

Saudi Arabia - one of the seven parties to the Gulf States free trade negotiations - had been opposed and were now moving towards the 'yes' camp.

"The relationship is back on a firmer footing," said Mr Key and a trade deal with the Gulf States was "getting pretty close".

"It's going to happen. That's the sign we see out of Riyadh."

New Zealand will get access to a very large market and would benefit from the agri-business hub developed in Saudi Arabia as part of the deal.

Asked whether he thought deal was a good use of money, he said he did.

"We did do something that was novel, I agree with that, something that was a bit unusual, but equally we do get an opportunity to promote New Zealand."

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/political/317468/pm-defends-saudi-deal-as-good-use-of-taxpayer-money>



**Ben Thomas (NBR): The Last Great Escape (paywalled)**

BEN THOMAS WEEKEND REVIEW FRIDAY NOVEMBER 4, 2016 1

Murray McCully has been described as a political Houdini. And if this week's Auditor-General report on his Saudi sheep deal is another miraculous getaway for the foreign minister, it also confirms that like the famed escape artist's contortions it was only necessary because he first put himself in harm's way.

It seems inevitable that while his critics and political foes have been denied the spectacle of seeing him torn limb from limb in a pirahna tank, this will be McCully's last great escape.

He is able to say he has been cleared of any suspicion of corrupt practices under the Crimes Act, or of making a "facilitation payment," when he used \$11.5 million in taxpayer money to buy a private businessman a doomed sheep station in the middle eastern desert in the hope of "unlocking" a free trade agreement with Saudi Arabia.

This, however, is the window dressing of a damning report, that shows strong concerns about the transparency, process and accountability of the deal. The Auditor-General gives short shrift to the idea that the "agrihub" had any purpose other than to settle the grievance of Saudi Arabian investor Sheik Hmood Al Ali Al Khalaf, whose plans for live sheep exports from New Zealand had been frustrated by the intransigence of the government and were seen as blocking an FTA. She makes clear that the so-called contract for services was a "guise" – a concealment of the true nature of the deal.

The central allegation against McCully, that he misled Cabinet over the existence of a \$30 million legal threat to the New Zealand government in going ahead with the deal, has not been debunked.

Grievance – not a liability or claim

On the contrary, the Auditor-General says it was not clear on what basis the amounts paid to Hmood's company were arrived at. She notes a number of times that Hmood had no announced plans to sue New Zealand, and suggests a figure of \$24 million in "compensation" (the report's inverted commas, not mine) was raised only after McCully offered some kind of settlement. The Auditor-General can only conclude there was a grievance, not a liability or even a claim. Contrary to McCully's statements to the prime minister and Parliament, the Auditor-General makes clear in the lengthy section 2 of the report that grievance was caused not by the previous Labour government but by the current regime.

The report also confirms that the foreign minister sought no legal advice on the strength of the hypothetical claim, from Crown Law or even Mfat's lawyers, and that the cabinet paper was written without departmental input, entirely in his office.

(Compare this with the Auditor-General's report itself – its long gestation period of over a year includes consultation for natural justice, which is longhand for scrutiny by lawyers for the affected parties.)

The Auditor-General did not and could not look at the substance of the deal. She had to take McCully's word that building a New Zealand-standard farm for a private businessman and flying pregnant sheep over to die in the desert is a legitimate diplomatic tool for pursuing a free trade agreement.

If that's accepted – and the report had no choice but to accept it – then using diplomatic money was okay, and McCully received another tick.

On whether value for money was obtained, the report demonstrates there has been nothing to show for the convoluted deal so far, as an FTA remains unsigned.

A number of John Key's senior ministers pride themselves as deal-makers. Key and Steven Joyce see themselves as much entrepreneurs as statesmen, and are willing to cut corners on process to get an outcome. It's an approach with mixed results. Successful negotiations to secure the Hobbit and Avatar movies sit alongside failures such as the Auckland convention centre, where the government was criticised by the Auditor-General after being outfoxed by Sky City.

The agrihub debacle can be seen as the black – or perhaps dead – sheep of this family. In each of those other cases, the people of New Zealand got something in return: movies, buildings, jobs. What distinguishes McCully's enterprise is the lack of connection between his actions and any obvious goal beyond the striking of the deal itself.

For this reason, it will probably signal his curtain call. Other ministers and MPs may tire of the double standard afforded to the "prince of darkness" if they have not already. Similar mis-steps would see them sacked by the prime minister, not publicly defended by him, and they know it. McCully said earlier in the year that he will not contest his East Coast Bays seat in 2017, and anointment is under way for a successor who will help National's need for rejuvenation and greater diversity.

The dark prince has completed eight years as foreign minister, and no longer has any appetite for domestic politics, or for accountability to the media, Parliament or even his own colleagues. The Auditor-General's report makes clear that there must now be rigorous reporting from Mfat and NZTE to assess the success or otherwise of his strange little desert adventure, for which he will be asked to account.

The Prime Minister mused last month about "one or two" resignations of ministers before the next election, followed swiftly by the announcement that Education Minister Hekia Parata would not stand again. Assuming the Prime Minister is correct (and his prescient guesses are of course self-fulfilling) it will be no surprise if McCully rounds out the pair.

<https://www.nbr.co.nz/article/last-great-escape-p-196345>

**Rob Hosking (NBR): How do you solve a problem like Murray?  
(paywalled)**

ROB HOSKING WEEKEND REVIEW FRIDAY NOVEMBER 4, 2016

A Kate Wilkinson, a Phil Heatley, even a Richard Worth could be forgiven for feeling a bit aggrieved right now.

Those three ministers were dismissed from John Key's administration: in the case of the first two in that list not because they did anything particularly wrong but because there were others who could do better.

The benefits of their contribution as ministers were outweighed by the detriments.

In net terms, they were seen as negatives.

The office of the auditor general might be expected to think in credit and debit columns, and to a degree it does so – but that type of analysis stops as soon as it leaves the nitty-gritty of financial statements.

In a more metaphorical sense, it is the job of governments – and ultimately the Prime Minister of the day – to weigh up the credits and debits, merits and demerits, pluses and minuses, of particular policies.

Both Mr Key and Foreign Minister Murray McCully this week were very keen to point to what New Zealand did actually get out of the Saudi sheep farm deal.

There is an agri-hub – although no one is quite sure what this is, it is being portrayed as something we should view as being, if not a net benefit then certainly a Good Thing.

Essentially Mr Key and Mr McCully's defence right now involves getting people to focus on the gross benefits of the Saudi sheet deal rather than the net benefits.

The net benefit looks negative.

There was an incredibly slack and unnecessarily secretive process in achieving the deal, which right now involves the New Zealand taxpayer paying a little short of \$12 million for some still fairly unspecified benefits.

A theme of the auditor general's report is not just that Mr McCully should not have been so furtive about what he was up to: He did not in fact need to act as though he was up to something dodgy.

In the report essentially concludes that, although the foreign minister wasn't up to anything bad, he sure as hell behaved as though he was.

Mr McCully talked during a press conference on Wednesday of the immense pressure and disruption the whole issue, and the auditor general's investigation, has caused.

He also expressly stated the whole business has been immensely draining, both in terms of resources and personally, for himself and for staff involved.

So put that, too, into the debit column.

But if Mr McCully is looking for someone to blame about this, he should make a close study of Ms Provost's report, and then undertake an even closer self-examination.

A key theme of the report is not just there was a lack of transparency: it is that there was no need for this lack of transparency.

Making something look dodgy when it is not dodgy – which is essentially what Ms Provost says happened here – is the opposite of political skill.

It is a kind of negative political genius.

And it is not doing the government any favours.

<https://www.nbr.co.nz/article/editorial-how-do-you-solve-problem-murray-rh-p-196320>

**US election and NZ****Tracy Watkins (Stuff): No matter who wins, America will wake up divided on November 9**

Last updated 07:15, November 5 2016

PINION: The End is Near is what Time Magazine had plastered over its cover this week. How else would you lead into the final week of what has been described as an apocalyptic American election campaign?

If there's a centre to this near biblical political storm, it's where I've been based for the last week – Florida. After three days of wall to wall rallies – Hillary Clinton on day one, Donald Trump on day two, and Barack Obama the next – our campaign openings back in little old New Zealand are never going to seem the same.

It's not just scale, though it's massive. With my US media credentials stuck in Washington after a last minute decision to chase the action rather than base myself out of New York, I've been attending these rallies as a tourist, joining the queues four or five hours ahead of time just to be sure of getting in.

What is clear after spending so much time lining up with the party faithful is that politics is almost as fundamental as religion to how many people identify themselves. More than that, both sides truly fear what will happen the day after if the other side wins.

Compare that with New Zealand where the ideological gaps have closed, not widened, in recent years. After a turbulent 1980s and 1990s, the politicians, and the public, were reform weary and wanting stability not change. Even a change in Government is only likely to make an incremental difference, rather than launch a wholesale change in direction.

That has led to us using a different set of value judgements to decide our votes. There are the usual hip pocket concerns – taxes, student loans, house prices – but other tests, like who would we rather have a beer with, come into play.

But here in the US, the candidates are so polarising, the divide has only become more exaggerated.

Trump's appeal as the anti-politician has also replicated what the Brexit vote and before that the Bernie Sanders phenomenon managed to do, however, which is to shake loose a lot of voters from their traditional allegiances.

He has done that partly through his personal appeal; outside of the bluster, the bullying, the hyperbole and some of his more outrageous claims, he is the archetypal anti-establishment hero to many of his most ardent fans.

But there is also calculation: he has courted the gun lobby, which is hugely influential, and in places like West Pennsylvania, life long Democrats are

voting Trump because of his strongly protectionist trade policies. Trump's promise to install pro-life judges on the Supreme Court, meanwhile, was a game changer for the evangelical vote.

The Supreme Court issue is one of the most divisive differences between the Republican and Democratic camps.

But abortion is also a touch stone issue for many of Clinton's Hispanic supporters in States like Florida, which is heavily Latino. Clinton and the Democratic Party believe in a woman's right to choose.

Polls show Clinton leading among Hispanic voters in the state. But my entirely unrepresentative -and comparatively tiny – sampling of Hispanic voters here in Miami, showed the abortion issue was one reason some of them were voting Trump.

Trump's wealth is no handicap either. Mistrust in the Washington political system is so high, his supporters believe it makes him unimpeachable, a politician who can't be bought. It also lends legitimacy to his agenda. If there's a mantra among his fans (other than "crooked Hillary and "drain the swamp") it's that at 70 years old, and with a fortune behind him, Trump needs the presidency less than America needs him.

There is a familiar ring to this of course. A big part of Prime Minister John Key's appeal was his wealth. Voters saw that as a mark of competence and an affirmation that he wasn't doing it for the money.

Gareth Morgan, who has just entered the political arena, is banking on his wealth giving him similar appeal, and making him New Zealand's Trump.

That is may be why the Clinton camp are wrong to see Trump's wealth as a weakness. President Barack Obama took up the cudgels again here in Florida on Friday NZT.

"This is a guy who spent 70 years, his whole life, born with a silver spoon, showing no respect for working people," Obama said, adding that Trump had only surrounded himself with "working people" when they were "cleaning his room."

Labour also tried to use Key's wealth as a wedge but it mostly backfired. The difference being of course that despite trying, Labour never found any dirt on Key's business background, whereas Trump is knee deep in dirt on his business dealings and his failure to pay taxes.

But for every voter he woos with his back story, Trump alienates others with his rhetoric; he is polarising among women, urban liberals and black voters, the reason, no doubt, that the Republican candidate draws attention to the few black supporters at his rallies by pointing them out.

Clinton is just as polarising among certain groups, however, young, white blue collar men in particular. Trump's "crooked Hillary" rhetoric is about driving a deeper wedge.

Some of the voters I've spoken to have felt that there is so much at stake they are almost close to tears.

No wonder many others worry about what is going to happen the day after, on November 9.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/world/americas/us-election-2016/86105651/No-matter-who-wins-America-will-wake-up-divided-on-November-9>



**Tracy Watkins (Stuff): Why the hate for Democratic US presidential nominee Hillary Clinton?**

Last updated 05:00, November 5 2016

OPINION: America has a problem with Hillary Clinton. It doesn't like her much. The hatred runs deepest among Republicans. But even her own supporters can struggle.

A Washington Post-ABC poll registered a staggering 60 per cent of Americans as viewing her unfavourably, a figure that has steadily worsened through the election campaign.

Among Democrats, just 47 per cent are "very enthusiastic" about Clinton, a number that has dropped in the wake of the FBI announcing it had reopened the investigation into her use of a private email server.

According to the same poll, she and Trump are now level pegging in most of the key favourability/unfavourability measures – though Trump now out-rates her among independent voters, a key concern.

Hillary Clinton's supporters blame the "gender" factor for some of the "Hillary hating".

In a quarter century of public life, Clinton has never rated so badly. So much for the honeymoon period if Clinton wins the presidency. She has already blown it.

It's not just America's problem, but the rest of the world's too.

Because no matter who wins on Tuesday (Wednesday NZT), America will be a country divided and bleeding after a polarising and highly charged political campaign.

The country will need a healer. Trump's rhetoric would seem to count him out, but Clinton will also struggle to unite America's divided soul.

Think back to the end of Labour's nine years in power and the visceral dislike for Helen Clark among some Right wingers – then pump it up, stick a fuse on it, and light it. And that's how many Americans feel now about Clinton and Trump. Four years from now, and America will probably be more divided, not less.

Clinton's supporters blame the "gender" factor for some of the "Hillary hating" – qualities that are seen as strong in a male politician are often seen more negatively when displayed by a woman.

Clark learned to modulate her voice, wear makeup and designer outfits, and smile for the cameras to make herself more "electable".

Clinton may share another quality with Clark; people are said to be surprised how much nicer Clinton is in the flesh – more human than the figure she cuts on TV. That was a common refrain on the road with Clark, where people were often taken aback that she was not the woman they were expecting.

But unlike Clinton, Clark's popularity rose when she was in Opposition, then took off once she was in power, before voters fell out of love again.

For Republicans, the "Hillary hating" long predates the 2016 campaign.

Trump supporter Elizabeth Fernandez is burned up by the prospect of Clinton making the White House.

She can't fathom the number of high profile Republicans who have publicly affirmed they will vote for Clinton rather than see Trump in the White House.

It is the patriotic duty of Republicans to oppose Clinton, regardless of how they feel about her opponent, says Fernandez.

"I go back 30 or 40 years – people don't know this – I go back to the time Vincent Foster was 'disappeared'," says Fernandez, curling her fingers in the air as quote marks.

Former New Zealand PM Helen Clark in her New York apartment.

"And her husband, who did so many horrible things ... the Clinton foundation, all the money they have stolen. So, you know, how can you, a true Republican, how can you vote for such a woman.

"A Republican? I can't understand that. I simply can't."

Some of the hate is ideological, like the pro-life debate, which has a huge influence on every US election. Trump has galvanised the pro-life vote by claiming, wrongly, that Clinton would allow abortions up to the ninth month.

But the Vincent Foster story is like many that circulate regularly on the chat pages visited by Trump supporters.

Foster, a White House aide, committed suicide, apparently a week after being subject to a tirade by the Clintons. Fernandez is one of many who believe there is more to it than even that explanation.

But that's just one of many dark claims – there are husband Bill's alleged affairs, the hundreds of millions of dollars that pour through the Clinton Foundation, the "hidden" emails from Clinton's time as secretary of state and the 2012 Benghazi attacks, which left four American diplomats and CIA workers dead, for which Trump has repeatedly sheeted blame back to Clinton.

It is taken as gospel, meanwhile, among Trump supporters that the election is rigged and there is widespread voter fraud. Clinton is central to this theory.

In this there is almost a sense of brotherhood among some Trump supporters for one-time Clinton rival Bernie Sanders, who some believe was taken out of the Democratic race through nefarious means.

Trump's harnessing of the Hillary hatred has helped fuel his rise. His rallies are a rolling maul of "lock her up", "drain the swamp" and "crooked Hillary" chants. Placards referring to Clinton as a "tramp" or a b... are paraded at Trump rallies and even her own.

When one turned up at her Florida rally on Tuesday, it sparked a rare public display of anger from Clinton.

The protester had been heckling her that Bill Clinton was a rapist, and waving a placard that made the same claim.

Protesters are nothing new but Clinton losing her cool long enough to let rip at him was.

But that may not necessarily work against her. Clinton has been composed – the consummate politician – throughout a torrid campaign, even after being wrong-footed by the FBI.

"Crooked Hillary": One of Donald Trump's favourite taunts at his rival.

What voters are increasingly looking for, however, is someone who looks and sounds more like them – the anti-politician.

The appeal of Sanders to many Democrats was as a different face; someone who came from well outside the establishment. Clinton, with her long political pedigree, IS the establishment.

To overcome the negatives, Clinton has relied heavily on "surrogates" as they call the stand-ins at various rallies – Barack Obama, vice-president Joe Biden, husband Bill and even daughter Chelsea.

Lucy Nicholson/Reuters

The appeal of Bernie Sanders to many Democrats was as a different face; someone who came from well outside the establishment.

Obama has hit the hustings hard in the final week, proof, if any were needed, that Clinton's campaign is failing to fire up many of the constituencies energised by his own candidacy eight years ago. Black voters in particular have been slow to turnout for Clinton.

But Clinton's most potent weapon has been First Lady Michelle Obama, whose inspirational speeches have fired up the Democratic base

Clinton has basked in the First Lady's soaring popularity and shared a stage with her where the two former adversaries showered each other with praise.

CARLOS BARRIA/REUTERS

Clinton bringing out the big guns, Michelle Obama.

Clinton will be hoping some of Michelle Obama's shared fairy dust will help lift her into office. And hope that, once there, America will learn to love her just as much.

\* Tracy Watkins travelled to the United States with funding from the US State Department and US Embassy in New Zealand.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/world/americas/us-election-2016/86067701/Why-the-hate-for-Hillary-Clinton>

**RNZ: PM sees 'negative and ugly' US election discourse**

7 November 16

Prime Minister John Key is "fascinated, almost more than worried" about the US presidential election and questions whether Donald Trump would carry out anti-trade measures he has signalled.

The Republican candidate and Democratic rival Hillary Clinton are targeting swing states including Ohio, Pennsylvania and New Hampshire with just two days of campaigning to go.

Latest polls show Mrs Clinton still holds advantages in critical states, but her lead has narrowed.

Mr Key said the election process was is going to end up quite "unsatisfying" for the average American.

"I don't think they're voting for candidates they particularly love on either side," he told Morning Report.

"You've had a discourse going through the US public which is quite negative and ugly.

"I know you always get that in election campaigns but this time it feels a lot more heightened than normal."

image:85045:full] Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump during an election debate.

Mr Key said Mr Trump's "negative steps around trade" would not be good for TPP and globalisation - but the question was how many of them he would carry out.

New Zealand and US economists have predicted a hit to the economy of both countries in the event of a Donald Trump presidency.

The Institute of Economic Research said a Trump administration would have a significant negative effect on the US economy and a destabilising impact on New Zealand businesses and ASB Bank said growth in New Zealand could get "trampled".

Their concerns echo those raised by 370 economists, who have signed an open letter to voters in the United States urging them not to vote for Mr Trump.

But Mr Key questioned whether a Trump government would put the tariffs and other trade measures in place.

For example, the Republican candidate's pledge of a 45 percent tariff on goods from China would put up prices significantly for the average American.

"The Economist wrote a story saying that would be the single biggest reduction in income for the average American that they'd seen basically in a generation. So is he really going to carry all those things out?"

This election was a contrast to the more generous atmosphere at the time Barack Obama was first elected president, he said.

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/political/317478/pm-sees-%27negative-and-ugly%27-us-election-discourse>

**Jonathan Milne (Stuff): The American election is a slow-motion car crash**

OPINION: It was late at night on a dark and deserted Route 72. We were driving from Memphis, Tennessee, to Huntsville, north Alabama, when there was the whoop of a siren and a state trooper pulled out behind us, lights flashing.

I expected a speeding fine, and I deserved one. What I didn't expect was to be told to get out; to be put in the back of the squad car while Chief Martin called in a federal officer and they spent an hour going through the car and all our luggage on the side of the road.

After they'd finished (if anything, it seemed to be the absence of a gun in our luggage that perplexed them most in that part of the Southern States) we shared conciliatory cigarettes. They explained that they'd run my passport through Interpol and discovered I'd previously visited Fiji, Turkey, and Cuba. "They're all hotspots for bombs and terrorists. Y'know, New York got a big black eye in 9/11 – we've got to be careful."

Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, this month. These are the final days.

This week, in the final hours before the presidential election, it seems American insularity and fear of the outside world is plumbing new lows. The election promises to be a dark night for the US and for the world – regardless of who wins.

On a plaque beneath the Statue of Liberty are inscribed the words: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

Hillary Clinton was also holding rallies in Florida this week, this one at Sanford in the sunshine state..

But Liberty has now turned her back to the world, and is looking inwards.

Donald Trump with his wall along the Mexican border and endorsement of the use of nuclear weapons; both Trump and Hillary Clinton denying all hope to the poor and huddled masses of the Pacific region by rejecting the Trans-Pacific Trade Agreement.

This week, the US is on a collision path with the world. This is more than a routine police stop. These are the split seconds before a catastrophic car crash. Time moves so slowly, leisurely, almost at a halt. Trump and Clinton spiral heavily through the motions.

And in these moments, there is a clarity of foresight. This is not good. This is going to be ugly. This is happening. This is a grim week for America and the world and there's nothing anybody can do to stop it.

Whoever wins faces investigation: Trump for his university scandal or sexual harassment; Clinton for her classified State Department emails or pay-for-play allegations at the Clinton Foundation.

Worse, whoever wins inherits a bitterly divided nation. They will have no mandate for change, neither in Congress nor in the disunited states of America.

Barack Obama entered the White House with the promise of hope and a vision for change.

Trump or Clinton enter through the back door, exhausted, head down and defeated – even in victory.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/world/americas/us-election-2016/86129553/jonathan-milne-the-american-election-is-a-slowmotion-car-crash>



**Patrick Gower (Newshub): With four days to go, US election at its most malevolent**

Saturday 5 Nov 2016 6:05 p.m.

With four days to go until the US election, Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton has brought in one of her biggest guns - Beyonce - who made a surprise performance endorsing her.

It made it one-nil on the celebrity front today, with Republican candidate Donald Trump on his own, hammering battleground states, this time Pennsylvania.

Mr Trump was battling away in Hershey, small town Pennsylvania - another day, another rally in a battleground state.

Ms Clinton was battling away too, but she changed it up, deploying star power. At a Get Out the Vote concert in Cleveland, in the crucial swing state of Ohio, Jay Z joined her, as well as one of the biggest stars of all, Beyonce, giving the ultimate in celebrity endorsements.

Mr Trump, though, got his superstars confused.

"I didn't have to bring J-Lo or Jay Z," he said. "I am here all by myself - just me. No guitar. No piano. No nothing."

The major poll that showed Mr Trump take the lead three days ago now has Ms Clinton back in front, on 47 percent, up 2 percent.

Both sides have been negative, both going after each other.

It is no surprise whatsoever that many Americans are turned off, like in Philadelphia, the capital of Pennsylvania.

Mr Trump and Ms Clinton are going negative in the final sprint, and on the streets of Philly they are sick of it.

It's malicious, spiteful and hostile. There is a word that sums all that up - malevolent. This is the Malevolent Election.

<http://www.newshub.co.nz/world/with-four-days-to-go-us-election-at-its-most-malevolent-2016110521>

**Hamish Rutherford (Stuff): Trump victory could mark slide into isolation, damaging export hopes**

Last updated 05:00, November 6 2016

New Zealand's interests could be damaged as the rise of Donald Trump marks a major swing against international trade.

Financial markets are braced for turbulence this week, amid growing fears that the unpredictable Republican nominee could win the United States Presidential election on Tuesday.

Trump, a celebrity businessman with virtually no political experience, has promised to tear up trade agreements which do not benefit US interests such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement, as well as imposing punitive tariffs on Mexico and China.

Former trade negotiator and diplomat Charles Finny says the world had consistently dismissed Donald Trump as a "joke candidate" but now his rhetoric had to be taken seriously.

Although most observers expect Trump would ultimately be unwilling or unable to implement his policy pledges, one trade negotiator warned his statements had to be taken seriously, with little sign the former outsider would moderate his positions.

Kirk Hope, chief executive of Business New Zealand, said the immediate impact of a Trump victory was likely to be a drop in the US dollar, and potentially higher borrowing costs.

BusinessNZ chief executive Kirk Hope says global political forces could make trade more difficult than it had been in a long time.

While in isolation these were likely to be manageable, Hope said coupled with the Brexit vote, and a wider rise in anti trade feeling could hurt export led countries like New Zealand, as the political mood moved against globalisation.

"There are broader implications for international financial markets which create much more challenging trading conditions than we have seen for a long time."

Any steps by Trump to impose new tariffs on the US' key trading partners "could well lead to tariff retaliation and a general increase in protectionism which would not in any way, shape or form benefit New Zealand".

ANZ chief economist Cameron Bagrie struggles to see why markets are so optimistic about the coming decade given the rise in political populism around the world.

While many political commentators have played down the risks of Trump being able to implement his plans, former diplomat Charles Finny, who led

New Zealand's trade negotiations with China and Taiwan, said there was no sign of Trump moving to the centre, as usually happened as elections drew closer.

"[Trump's rhetoric] should be taken seriously because it could all be implemented.

"We've all been assuming that Trump was a joke candidate. Okay, he got the nomination, but we thought Clinton would beat him by a mile. Well, it's not looking like that now," Finny said.

"We all assumed he would moderate his position, and he hasn't. This is something new."

Trump's promises on trade would represent a "total breach" of the US' World Trade Organisation pledges, leading to substantial disputes.

A disdain for agreements which did not suit US interests suggested the world's largest economy could enter a period of isolationism, Finny said.

"We're looking, globally, incredibly like the late 1920s and 1930s," Finny said, pointing to a period where attempts to create international trade agreements were "blown apart" by major countries wanting to protect their own interests, with disastrous results.

"Essentially we entered an era of dictators. What about now? We've got [Vladimir] Putin [in Russia]. We've got the Chinese president taking more power and we've got a Trump-like candidate in the United States.

"It fills me with real trepidation."

Cameron Bagrie, ANZ's New Zealand chief economist, has dismissed fears that a Trump victory could mark "armageddon" in financial markets.

However Bagrie said there appeared to be a global shift towards populism which, were it to gain momentum, would damage the outlook for trade, a risk which global financial markets appeared to be overlooking.

"I struggle to see why markets are this lofty, optimistic, about the next 10 years," Bagrie said.

"If I have a look at what we see in the political arena, not just in America but in a host of destinations around the globe, we are very clearly seeing an anti-globalisation thematic that is coming to the fore.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/business/86104971/Trump-victory-could-mark-slide-into-isolation-damaging-export-hopes>

**Heather du Plessis-Allan (Herald): Rooting for Trump**

5:00 AM Sunday Nov 6, 2016

If Donald J Trump wins the US election on Wednesday, your impulse may be to cry, scream or start building your bunker.

But don't freak out. It may be - in the long run - the best thing that happens to us. It may stop something worse happening.

Trump is the symbol of something very ugly happening in not just the US, but around the world. He didn't create this ugly thing, it created him. Sure, he lassoed it all into one place and gave it words to hurl at others, but it was there before him. It's the growing mob of angry people, who feel like they're becoming poor and powerless.

In some cases, these people have a right to feel angry. They've lost faith in the establishment. They've watched authorities use their taxpayer money to bail out cavalier and reckless banks and corporations. They've seen politicians lie and get away with it.

In some cases, the angry people simply aren't keeping up with the changing world. They may be men who don't understand why they can't indulge in a bit of casual locker room chat about sexually assaulting women. They may be white parents who don't understand the need for race-based scholarships.

These voters aren't going anywhere. If Trump loses they will still be there, and they will still be racist and misogynist and angry. If anything they'll be angrier. They'll see Trump's loss as yet another blow against them.

Steve Bannon, Trump's campaign chairman, says Trump has built "the underlying apparatus for a political movement" that's going to "dominate Republican politics" after this election.

A Trump win might be the blow off valve these angry supporters need. If he gets in - for the first time in a long time - they may feel like they're getting their way. If their collective frustration is a balloon, growing with every imagined slight against them, electing Trump might be akin to undoing the knot and letting a little air out.

If he loses, the balloon of frustration only gets bigger. Until it bursts.

Some think that burst may be violent. "If Trump loses I'm grabbing my musket," tweeted former Republican congressman Joe Walsh. "It could touch off a revolution," predicted Trump supporter Ken Shaw to the LA Times.

More likely, most of the angry supporters will sulk and grumble for four years, waiting for someone to champion their cause again. And when that person comes, they may be someone worse than Trump.

If you don't think there could be someone worse, remember that eight years ago you probably didn't think any political candidate could sound stupider than Sarah Palin. Now it's happened.

If there was anything good about Trump, it's that he's as subtle as the lights and sirens on an ambulance. Every word of hatred and every horrible idea of his is so signposted as to virtually scream "WATCH OUT" as it exits his contorting mouth. Worse than Trump, is a candidate who plans exactly the same evil, but sounds much more reasonable.

Trump may yet win. American university professor Allan Lichtman has correctly predicted 30 years of American elections. He's calling this one for The Don. He uses 13 true or false statements, and if six of them are false, the incumbent party loses the White House. In the last few weeks, the sixth statement turned from true to false.

On the bright side, if Trump wins, his mob of angry supporters will probably find their champion does what every politician does: he'll discover the Mexican wall project is too expensive, banning Muslims involves too much admin, and deporting so-called illegals takes manpower he can't afford.

If Trump's candidacy has moulded a movement out of all his supporters' anger, then his presidency may kill that movement through impotence.

Still, you might want to get on to building that bunker.

[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/opinion/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=466&objectid=11741782](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/opinion/news/article.cfm?c_id=466&objectid=11741782)

**Graeme Acton (RNZ): In Trump, we're crushed: Bleeder of the free world**

8:05 pm on 5 November 2016

Analysis - If Donald Trump takes the keys to the White House in a few days, hang on for a bumpy ride - even in New Zealand.

Donald Trump Photo: AFP

Both candidates are making big promises: To lift the middle class, revive the economy and restore the United States to somewhere near the "greatness" the nation has apparently lost.

But how much power is actually vested in the presidency?

There are some areas where a US president can exert executive control, and others that remain almost entirely out of their control.

Yes, the US Supreme Court has a vacant post, and the president will have the executive power to sort that out. But it's one of the few areas where there is room to move.

Yes, should Mr Trump win, he would have the power to direct a full investigation into Hillary Clinton's financial affairs. He has more or less promised to do so.

Bobble head figurines of Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump and Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton greet Republican party supporters registering to watch the presidential debate. Photo: AFP  
However, when it comes to trade the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) has been a subject of huge debate in this election, with both candidates now saying it will not happen.

As President, Mr Trump could step away from the TPP or any other treaty in a unilateral fashion, but in doing so it seems he would alienate a significant part of his own Senate.

Mr Trump has said many times that as president he would scrap the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and pull out of the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

Even though both those strategies would likely ignite a trade war, they would be entirely within a president's power.

In the US, new trade agreements like the TPP require approval from Congress, but existing ones can be single-handedly scrapped by the President.

Under Trump's trade plans, we would see higher prices, fewer jobs, and a weaker economy, Thomas J. Donohue, US Chamber of Commerce, June 2016

Walking into a trade war with America's global partners is a strategy that doesn't make sense to most of corporate America, and it's one that would cost over four million jobs, possibly tipping the US into recession.

In New Zealand, the NZIER's latest report "Trumponomics" warns that a Trump presidency would be "horrible" for the New Zealand economy.

"A weaker US economy is bad for everyone," NZIER deputy John Ballingall said.

NZIER predicted a short-term volatility in financial markets, and subsequent impacts on borrowing costs, the exchange rate and the share market as a reaction to the huge uncertainty created by a Trump presidency with a hostile attitude to international trade.

New Zealand currently exports to the US everything from flowers to fish, a trade worth more than \$8 billion annually.

Trump Plaza casino in Atlanta, which closed in 2014. Photo: AFP

"The New Zealand dollar could appreciate against the greenback in the short term if markets are concerned about future US competitiveness," Mr Ballingall said.

"New Zealand exporters could be impacted as well", he said, "especially the meat, dairy, wine, wood and tourism sectors".

Much has been made of the global risk of having Mr Trump in charge of the computer codes used to launch a nuclear missile attack.

Even though Congress is supposed to declare war, many presidents have led military interventions without congressional approval.

With a single phone call, the US president has a largely unlimited ability to launch nuclear weapons against anyone on the planet - no Senate committees, no restraints, not a single person can legally prevent that course of action should the president wish to make it so.

To me, always the number one security threat to the United States is nuclear ... and we have to be unbelievably careful. Donald Trump, April 2016  
Mr Trump has already well and truly raised eyebrows with US allies.

In a staggering statement he suggested the US would not come to the defence of its NATO allies unless they've paid their dues. Such a policy would surely invite further Russian expansionism in Eastern Europe and the Middle East, and unravel the international coalition that has stood with the US in its fight against Islamic extremism in the same region.

On immigration, Mr Trump's policies would pose constitutional issues for the courts.

Wholesale removal of Muslim or Mexican illegal migrants from the country runs smack into an "equal protection" argument.

Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto and US Republican presidential hopeful Donald Trump speak to press after an hour of meetings ahead of Mr Trump's speech on immigration in Arizona. Photo: AFP

Even those who entered the US illegally have rights to equal protection and due process under the 14th Amendment of the constitution.

But as NZIER says, if President Trump is able to fulfill even some of his campaign promises on trade and foreign policy, he will be extending a large middle finger to the rest of the world, marking out a new American isolationism, and setting up a presidency at odds with the US Congress, the Republican Party as a whole, and much of the international community.

The impact on the American people would be profound, and the impact on a small economy like New Zealand will be challenging at best.

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/on-the-inside/317401/in-trump,-we%27re-crushed-bleeder-of-the-free-world>



**Andrew Gunn (Stuff): A guide for undecided voters**

Last updated 05:00, November 5 2016

OFFICIAL BALLOT PAPER, UNITED STATES FEDERAL, STATE AND  
COUNTY ELECTIONS

November 8, 2016

Ballot Marking Instructions:

With the pen provided, tick the box to the left of each candidate or selection of your choice. Whoa there! Not so fast. Just so you know, thousands of millions of people around the world are really hoping you make the right choice because frankly, if you haven't noticed there's a lot riding on this one. No pressure though, it's up to you. Here are those names.

PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

(You may vote for ONE)

Hillary Clinton

Tim Kaine

Donald J Trump

Mike Pence

Ticked that box? Okay just pause there. Are you sure about that? Feeling angry? There's a lot to be angry about. But a good way to deal with that with anger is maybe visiting your local gun range and firing off half a dozen clips at an inanimate object. Angry voting though, it's like drunk texting your ex. It feels good at the time, but you know it's going to end in tears.

And a half-finished wall that Mexico refuses to pay for.

By the way that official-looking lady at the table over there can give you a fresh ballot paper if you ask. No? Then let's continue:

US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Floyd Q Gruppenheimer III

Betsy-Mae O'Leary

Now see, that one was easy wasn't it? As you ticked that box you didn't get that nagging feeling that maybe, just maybe, you're helping to elevate an A-grade thin-skinned narcissistic sociopath into the most powerful office in the world because you wanted to "send a message to Washington".

STATE GOVERNOR

Walter J Mason-Dixon Jr

Melinda Sanchez

Apropos of nothing, you've heard of Brexit, right? Some people voted for a thing because they thought the country was going to hell in a handcart. And as a result of voting for that thing they ended up jumping from what was a pretty cosy if a little uncomfortable frying pan into a fire the intensity of which has yet to be accurately gauged. Brexit, they regrets it.

PAID CONTENT: ADVERTISEMENT: Are you an illegal immigrant? The Department of Immigration and the Department of Homeland Security are joining forces, and you could be the star of a hilarious new game-show called "Show Us Your Papers". It's fun for all the family! We'll be in your area (pending election outcome) from Wednesday morning. Don't call us – we'll find you!

Ballot Paper Continues:

COUNTY DOG-CATCHER

Elaine T Gormless

Sean "Diddy" Bouvier-Kennedy

Now here's a thought. That person you voted for up the top, maybe we could all give that person a different job instead. Like if you put a line through "President of the United States" and circled that person's name and then drew a line connecting that person's name with "County Dog-Catcher" we could give that person that job.

And he could make dog-catching great again.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/world/americas/us-election-2016/86041516/andrew-gunn-a-guide-for-undecided-voters>

**Michael Wright (Stuff): Clinton v Trump: Two US expats in New Zealand argue for two different presidents**

Last updated 23:32, November 4 2016

After two years, billions of dollars, a seemingly endless trail of scandals and a remarkable amount of hot air, the race for the White House between perhaps the two least likable US presidential candidates in history will mercifully come to an end next week.

We hate it but we love it. Hillary Clinton versus Donald Trump has enthralled the world like no other political contest. Will it be crooked Hillary, with her emails, elitism and sense of entitlement? Or the anti-everything Trump, a race-baiting, morally dubious megalomaniac who counts reinstating America's greatness among his delusions?

We consulted two US expats living in New Zealand. One a Trump supporter, the other for Clinton. The fourth, unofficial, presidential debate of this election was convened at the Shilling Club restaurant at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch this week. Peter Field, a native New Yorker, history professor and former classmate of "Barry" Obama at Columbia University, made the case for Trump. Hannah Herchenbach from Illinois, mid-PhD and one-time student of Field's at Canterbury, argued for Clinton.

Hannah Herchenbach and Peter Field disagree on whether Clinton or Trump should be the next US president.

Stuff mostly stayed out of the discussion. Our contributions are in bold. Field got things started:

Field: If I were Donald Trump I think the first thing I would try and do is apologise for a few things. I'd apologise for some of my banter in relation to women. To talk about women as objects is probably a mistake and I would certainly apologise for that straight away.

Herchenbach: Banter? Do you think that's a word that's really appropriate for Trump's cavalier, ongoing attitude and words towards women?

PhD student Hannah Herchenbach, from Illinois, voted for Clinton.

PF: Some of this speaks to character. I would say that Trump wouldn't be alone among men and among people to have certain problems. Probably problems that if it would disqualify Trump for president, would disqualify Bill Clinton. Not that that doesn't mean one should take it seriously. But let's be clear. Donald Trump had locker room words that were very much akin to [he referenced the Chiefs stripper scandal here] felt when they were groping that woman. This happens a lot. With Bill Clinton, we know he did it with a White House intern. We didn't disqualify him. We didn't even impeach him.

HH: Let's separate though the content of Trump's words, in particular when he thought nobody but Bill Bush was listening. Bill Clinton had extra-marital

affairs with a consensual person. Morally ambiguous. Trump said, essentially, before getting permission, or that consent, he kisses women or basically feels like he can do 'whatever you want'. That's a direct quote.

PF: You don't think Bill made unwanted [advances]? You don't actually associate a certain mentality with Donald Trump and Bill Clinton?

GEORGE HEARD/FAIRFAX NZ

Peter Field is a history professor at the University of Canterbury: "[Trump is] not an answer. He's a sign."

HH: I think that is potentially true, but you've got to focus on the here and now as well. We do have to compare Hillary and Donald at this point. I'm not a giant fan of the Clintons still. But should Hillary Clinton be measured for male entitlements?

PF: I guess my larger point would probably be that I don't feel this disqualifies Trump.

Why does it not disqualify him?

PF: Let's remind ourselves we haven't disqualified the Chiefs from being regular people too.

Is that a fair comparison?

PF: I think it's an apt comparison in that we don't condone it but we have to be measured. As a symbolic head of state, I feel that Trump's character raises great questions. But not so great that I want to rule him out. I feel that gets towards PC. I don't want to judge him too much on his words, and maybe some actions, where I feel that the house is on fire. When I feel that the house is on fire then I'm not really going to worry about the banter of the firefighter who has the hose. Pardon the pun.

HH: Are you saying the Republican party is on fire?

PF: I'm saying the United States is on fire. I think for New Zealanders especially, they might think much less about, say, the agenda of the democratic process that wants to show the characterological insuitability of one of the candidates and ask themselves instead [why] the United States is \$500 billion in trade imbalance every year. The world's biggest economy sucks in that much capital that could go to Nigeria, or Fiji, or New Zealand. The United States spends so much more money than it takes in that it is guaranteeing that it must inflate or monetise its debt and inflate the dollar. These are such critical issues, just for the world, that we are actually playing into the Democratic machine's hands, and I'm a Democrat by the way, by [letting the machine] tell us, 'Oh, this is an election about character'.

Nonsense. We lived with Bill Clinton. It's about finding huge answers to almost intractable problems.

HH: I think we can agree that Trump would be a figurehead in this election. He doesn't write policy, he doesn't know what he's doing, but the Republican party will get behind him. The American machine is so huge that it's never about one individual.

PF: One of my bumper stickers is regime change. I'm afraid we just need that. Whether this election will do much, that's one question, and whether Donald Trump is the right vehicle for change is another question, but I do believe that what moves me is that after eight years of the Democrats, they gotta go. I hate to say this because having a black president, having my classmate as president, 2008 was a wonderful moment. Part of the dejection is that it's been so sad that it hasn't worked out. I would say this is a failed presidency in a number of ways and Hillary Clinton was Barack Obama's Secretary of State. She's an insider. He's campaigning for her. No, I think we need a new regime. Alas, that Donald Trump would be the head of it is problematic but absolutely necessary.

HH: When you say new regime though, are the Republicans really offering anything new?

PF: If you're phrasing the issue as 'It's just going to be the Republicans and they're not much different than the Democrats', in large measure, I agree. But Trump and a lot of the heartland, God and guns, flyover middle Americans that New Zealanders love to think of as racist, gun-toting people, these folks are not dumb. They do have a sense that maybe, just maybe, the political elite have sold them out. And that Donald Trump might go to Washington and FIRE them.

HH: I feel like the Democrats had that exact same hope and feeling behind Obama.

PF: That's the only reason I can think of directly that Hillary Clinton would lose and it wouldn't be her fault. The failure of Obama. Obama established great hope but in fact he changed next to nothing. The only thing that he definitely promised and did was to get out of Iraq and we're back in Iraq. We have five wars, we have a huge budget deficit. Black Lives Matter tells us that race relations in America are not better in some ways. On a whole host of levels, whether it's his fault or not, a last-year president, you get the credit and you get the blame. We've got a failed regime and so we need regime change in the worst way. Trump is a troubling character and struggles with knowledge. Hillary Clinton has absolutely demonstrated to me that she represents the Democratic and Republican political elite. Barack Obama too. And that's sad. If Americans think Trump is too big a risk, I think they're gonna find that after eight years of Hillary Clinton, they're going to go for [French far-Right politician] Marine Le Pen. They're gonna go far Right. Why is France going far Right? Why Brexit? It's because the average British citizen thinks, 'Why is

Brussels telling me what to do? I don't even like it when London or Whitehall is giving me orders because they all went to Oxbridge.'

The conversation here veered towards individual and state agency before coming back to federal...

PF: I think the federal government has done some very good things. The best one may be around civil rights, which was a national action against what I would call village totalitarianism. Local ignorance is a problem. But I don't think that's the problem we're looking at so much now. I find actually PC culture in it's own way has been good. Most Americans, they're amazing how they're conscious of their ethnocentricity. They still hold on to some of it but I think that's changed. I think that bus has largely gone. We've had a black president. A lot of Alabamans...

HH: Whatever happened to your Black Lives Matter, racial tensions have never been higher point?

PF: I don't think that's a contradiction. I think the bigger problem now is a very large, bloated national government that is hugely undermining local. It's time to swing that pendulum back. My best example is education. Now we have a Department of Education that overwhelmingly runs the public education system through Washington. America, by two different standards, [is] either 28th or 29th out of the 30 industrialised nations in education. The one thing the government maybe should be doing is the public schools and it's got an F. That tells you that the problem is no longer local. I think we've lost that federal element. As much as my instincts are all civil rights, all Left-wing, all government solution, no. I've changed.

HH: Let's go back. I have had the opposite evolution to you. I was raised in a Republican household. I believe in morality driving government but as I get older I've sort of believed that some of the Democratic ethos better instils some of that morality. And one of those things is equity. I'm a job support worker for a woman with a disability. Do I think the United States should be part of the United Nations convention for the rights of persons with disabilities? Yes. And the Democrats support that. And the Republicans don't. And I think that is crazy.

Peter, Is Trump the answer?

PF: He's not an answer. He's a sign.

Why vote for him then?

PF: Trump is a sign of Americans who have occasionally done this in their political history, looked outside the political system for someone to come in and they're willing to say [puts hands over eyes] 'I don't know what he's going to do. Shake things up. We're voting on him, not for revolution, but for reform'.

HH: But Trump is promoting revolution. He's encouraging his supporters to riot because if he wins it's fair but if Hillary wins it's rigged.

PF: Alright Hannah, what are you doing? Are you provoking me or are you actually believing this s...? This is horses.... Let's be clear, the last disputed election, the last person on election night who refused to say someone's won, was Al Gore. With reason. Did America go on? It did. And did it solve it's problem? It sorta did.

Hannah, you intimated earlier you don't actually like Hillary that much. Why did you vote for her?

HH: I like her tax plan better than Trump's. I like her support of people with disabilities. I don't like the idea of dynasties in politics. I don't like what she did in the [2008] primaries where she was against Obama. But she has policies that I agree with. I think we have more common ground than separation.

PF: Would you say it's a team sport here and basically the Democrats have the views that go with your sense of the world?

HH: I would say so.

Hannah, Peter talked before about how elitists have run the country and ruined the country and something fundamental has to change. What's wrong with that idea?

HH: For one [Trump's] tax cuts still essentially aren't backing up that ethos. Providing larger tax cuts for the rich and an unbalanced budget. That's not going to evoke any change whatsoever. [Trump] is not a policy writer. They've been written by the Republican party which is just as entrenched and just as problematic as the Democratic party. Although it shouldn't be a character war when it comes to a presidency, I think one thing you can measure someone on is their history. I think Trump has no interest in policy whatsoever and I like some of the things that Hillary has done with her life and if she's the candidate that can keep the Republican tax cuts from the rich, then that's where my vote's going.

Peter, if Trump wins, are we going to see something remarkably different from the leadership?

PF: No. I think the United States is a country that will have it's 45th president, it will be Trump or it will be Clinton and the United States will still survive. I don't think there'll be a huge change. I do feel though that the United States is moving farther and farther toward a political elite than everyone else and the farther we go down that path, the more likely, rather than have reform, we're more likely to end up with something like fascism or a revolt and I'm very afraid of that.

What if it was a more palatable opponent? What if it was Obama-Trump? Who would you vote for?

PF: Trump. I find that Barack Obama we will miss. In a number of ways his stance, his family man position. We're going to miss a lot of that. He very funny. He's affable. The last three presidencies have each been singularly failures. They've been such failures that I think we need some sort of change. I think Trump is an outsider so I think that he'll be good in that if he wins, the Republicans in Congress are going to actually run the budget. They're going to actually do things in Congress. We're going to have a legislative branch again. And that's very healthy.

Are we looking at a one-termer, whoever wins?

HH: I think you can never say. I don't know.

PF: What's the great term for a really, really, terrible throw in rugby? A hospital pass? I would say that this president is getting one hell of a hospital pass.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/politics/86122591/Clinton-v-Trump-Two-US-expats-in-New-Zealand-argue-for-two-different-presidents>



**Justice****Shane Cowlshaw (Auckland Now): Serco staff left Mt Eden prisoner bleeding on floor**

Last updated 05:00, November 6 2016

WARNING: GRAPHIC CONTENT

A prisoner beaten to near-death with a pool cue was ignored by Serco prison staff as he lay in a pool of his own blood, an investigation has found.

Kevin Mussard spent two weeks in intensive care in May last year after two vicious assaults by members of the Killer Beez gang while he was locked up in Auckland's Mt Eden Corrections Facility.

Mt Eden Corrections Facility has been beset by controversy.

The second attack left him with a fractured skull, a brain bleed and 22 stitches.

While recovering in hospital a senior prison manager visited his room and accused him of being involved with the gang outside prison.

French citizen Kevin Mussard, shortly after being brutally assaulted while locked up in Mt Eden Prison.

Mussard, a joint French and Irish citizen who was deported in August after being released, complained to Serco but later contacted Corrections and the Ombudsman after an unsatisfactory response from the British company.

Serco was stripped of its Mt Eden management contact in June last year following a string of embarrassing revelations including organised fight clubs at the prison.

It continues to manage Auckland South Corrections Facility.

Mt Eden prison is more than 150 years old.

The findings by Corrections' chief inspector Andy Fitzharris reveal:

\* Staff took an "inordinate" amount of time to attend to Mussard, with the first responding officer walking past and ignoring him lying on the ground.

\* Serco cleaners cleaned the crime scene before police arrived.

\* Mussard was placed in a mainstream unit despite requesting voluntary segregation, a blatant breach of Serco's contract.

\* An investigation by Serco into the manager visiting Mussard in hospital did not address the allegations and the excuse provided was "weak".

In the report Fitzharris criticises Serco for a multitude of failings in its dealing with Mussard, particularly the failure to provide immediate medical care which he described as "an alarming lack of response and duty of care".

"My review of CCTV footage has raised major concerns about a lack (of) response by staff in the unit to Mr Mussard's injuries, and the quality of reporting regarding the incident on 17 May 2015.

"I strongly recommend that Serco review's this lack of response with a view of taking employment action against the staff concerned."

Fitzharris noted he had provided a copy of his findings to Serco, who had replied that it did not accept them.

Mussard said he was largely satisfied with the report, but was still unhappy with findings about his health management.

He was still suffering from anxiety and depression caused by the attack.

"Every time I look in the mirror the large scar on my temple reminds me of everything that happened.

"This attack could have been prevented. I shouldn't have been in the unit I was in...and let's not forget the harassment I suffered in intensive care by Serco management for reporting the incident."

Mussard said now that the man who had attacked him with a pool cue had been sentenced he was free to pursue legal action against Serco.

Serco refused an interview request and did not answer any of the questions posed to them about Mussard's treatment, stating they did not comment on individual prisoners.

In a written statement communication manager Jane Palmer said service at Mt Eden had fallen below a level expected by the Government and the New Zealand public and an apology had been made for that.

"We regret every incident of violence which resulted in injury to a prisoner.

"We had a duty of care for all the prisoners held in MECF during our management and we acknowledge that we should have done more to ensure the safety of everyone in the prison."

Labour Party Corrections spokesman Kelvin Davis said he was unsurprised at the damning report or that Serco had disagreed with them.

"What sort of organisation are they that somebody can have the crap bashed out of them under their care and they just deny everything?"

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/auckland/84931330/serco-staff-left-mt-eden-prisoner-bleeding-on-floor>

**Newshub: Serco illegal mail opening not isolated incident - Kelvin Davis**

Monday 7 Nov 2016 5:00 a.m.

Labour's Corrections spokesman says Serco's illegal interception of an inmate's mail highlights a lack of transparency around what goes on in prisons.

Guards at a Serco-run prison in south Auckland were forced to apologise to an inmate after opening and reading their letter to New Zealand First MP Mahesh Bindra.

Kelvin Davis says there isn't much prisoners can do.

"The bars and the gates that keep people inside can also keep scrutiny out, and there's very little that prisoners can do about it.

"They're not listened to. Their complaints get thrown in the bin. So they're between a rock and a hard place, to be honest."

Prisoner correspondence with politicians is considered legally privileged under the Corrections Act and should not be opened.

Mr Davis says prisoners' reintegration into society will continue to be disrupted if they leave prison angry with how they've been treated.

He says the law-breaking is counterproductive to what prisons aim to do.

"To be honest there's probably another couple of thousand people in prison who also need apologies for their mail being tampered with. It isn't an isolated incident. It's just really hard to prove.

"Prisoners say to me all the time that they suspect that their mail has been tampered with."

He says prison guards cross privacy boundaries because they know they can get away with it.

"If a guard wants to open something, and especially if he or she suspects it's about him or her, just take it and destroy it, and no one will know any different."

Mr Davis says there's a total lack of transparency in what goes on in our prisons.

<http://www.newshub.co.nz/politics/serco-illegal-mail-opening-not-isolated-incident---kelvin-davis-2016110621>

**RNZ: Dying prisoner's family: 'They want us to pipe down'**

4:04 pm on 6 November 2016

The family of a terminally-ill prisoner asking for compassionate release say they have now been denied visiting rights, however the Corrections Department says visits were cancelled at the prison for one day only.

Vicki Letele's brother Dave Photo: RNZ / Eva Corlett

More than 200 protesters gathered outside the women's prison in Auckland today, calling for the compassionate release of a prisoner dying of stomach cancer.

Vicki Letele is serving a sentence of three years, two months for fraud.

Her appeal for compassionate release, to see out her final months of life at home, has been denied, with authorities saying she can get high-quality treatment in jail.

Vicki Letele's father David Photo: RNZ / Eva Corlett

Her father David Letele - who also runs a charitable trust that assists people leaving prison - said his daughter's fight was bigger than just her.

"We're really prayful and hopeful that the powers that be take notice of what has happened here, and I also pray to those that are in those positions, that are able to prompt change, will take notice."

Mr Letele said change would only come for those in similar positions if enough noise was made.

Dozens of protesters called for the released of terminal cancer patient Vicki Letele. Photo: RNZ / Eva Corlett

Her brother David Letele said he learned this morning family and friends had now been denied visiting rights.

He said the family felt bullied by Corrections and would not back down.

Protesters were outside the women's prison. Photo: RNZ / Eva Corlett

"If she didn't want this we wouldn't do it. She spoke to my mum today and she said let's still go ahead.

"Because they want us to pipe down, they don't want us to do anything and we're not going to fade away.

"You know, next stop is Judith Collins' front door."

However a statement from Corrections said it supported the rights of individuals to protest in a peaceful manner.

"To maintain the safe running of the prison and ensure the safety of staff and prisoners, Corrections today made changes to the normal daily routine of the prison. This included cancelling visits", it said.

Dozens of protesters called for the released of terminal cancer patient Vicki Letele. Photo: RNZ / Eva Corlett

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/national/317377/dying-prisoner%27s-family-%27they-want-us-to-pipe-down%27>

**Dan Satherley (Newshub): Labour: Free Vicki Letele 'today'**

Saturday 5 Nov 2016 3:20 p.m.

Labour MP Kelvin Davis has called on Corrections to free dying prisoner Vicki Letele immediately.

Vicki Letele, 35, is eight months into a three-year sentence for a \$500,000 mortgage fraud, but seeking early release after being diagnosed with terminal cancer.

Hundreds of people turned out to protest against her continued imprisonment at Auckland Region Women's Corrections Facility at Wiri on Saturday.

'Free Vicki!' Protesters call for dying woman's release

"Vicki should be let out of prison straight away and be allowed to go back to her family and see her kids before she passes away," Mr Davis told Newshub on Saturday.

"This is an outrage. Prison has become a death sentence."

Corrections chief executive Ray Smith has ordered a review of Letele's case. She will be eligible for parole in April, but is unlikely to live that long.

"Why do they need reviews?" says Mr Davis. "We know she's sick. We know she's going to die."

Letele's mother Tui told Newshub the family has been banned from visiting Vicki "until further notice".

"I hear a lot of rubbish. They tell me a lot of stuff they're going to do for my daughter, that they can look after her. Yesterday I found out she'd been calling for her nurse, for pain relief - nothing. They were both asleep, the guard and the nurse... no one came. How can I trust them?"

She says she's "broken", but won't back down.

"They can't do this to my daughter, to anyone. A dog gets better treatment than my daughter."

Mr Davis says Letele's crimes weren't violent, so there's no need for her to be behind bars, away from the help she needs.

"Just let her out. New Zealand isn't going to be a worse place by letting her out. In fact, we'll be a better place."

<http://www.newshub.co.nz/nznews/labour-free-vicki-letele-today-2016110515>

**Dom Post Editorial: Sensible decision in the hard case of Losi Filippo**

Last updated 05:00, November 5 2016

Judge David Collins has restored justice and common-sense in the difficult case of rugby player Losi Filippo. Filippo has now got the punishment he deserved, and Collins has set a useful set of precedents which should help in future with misbehaving sports stars.

Justice Collins rightly condemned Filippo's "chilling act of violence" in stomping on the head of his victim. This could have led to the man's death, and Filippo would then be facing a much more serious charge.

Collins rightly convicted him, overturning the badly mistaken discharge without conviction ordered by district court judge Bruce Davidson. Filippo's attack was far too grave to justify a discharge without conviction, no matter that he was only 17 at the time.

The courts must do two things with serious young offenders. They must issue an effective wake-up call, ensuring that the young man - they are nearly always male - realises the dreadful harm they have done and that the community condemns their action.

They must also give the young person a second chance. Branding a young man as an irredeemable criminal is counterproductive and against the interests both of the young person and of the community.

Justice Collins has given Filippo a second chance, ordering nine months supervision for assaulting four people, and requiring him to undertake alcohol counselling and a living-without-violence course. Filippo knows he now has to change his life, and he is being given professional help to do so.

Finally, Filippo has some prospect of restoring his promising rugby career. Judge Davidson uncritically accepted the argument that conviction would necessarily end Filippo's rugby career. It is now clear that that need not be the case.

Filippo's lawyer told the court that the young man could not now play in Japan or the United States. But such a ban may not be applied in other countries. And it may be that in time the policy will change even in Japan and the USA. Filippo is still very young. He can still retrieve his career within New Zealand, and possibly overseas.

Collins' decision is a warning to other young sports stars that the courts will not automatically accept claims that their careers will be blighted by a conviction. That is as it should be, even on first principles. Why should a talented sports player be exempt from ordinary justice just because they might otherwise have a glittering career ahead of them?

Some will say the sentence is too light, and that Filippo should be sent to jail. Jail, however, should be preserved only for the most serious offences.



Finally, the case shows up the shortcomings of the rugby bosses. After an outcry from the public over the court's earlier verdict, Wellington Rugby ended Filippo's contract.

But the Rugby Union needs to lay down a set of principles instead of reacting ad hoc to each new scandal. It should warn all rugby players that serious violence will automatically result in a long-term ban from the rugby field.

That would hit young sports stars where it hurts most. A tough policy might lead to much less offending by rugby players.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/comment/editorials/86103443/Editorial-Sensible-decision-in-the-hard-case-of-Losi-Filipo>

**Education****Herald Editorial: Seclusion ban a step toward managing difficult pupils**

5:00 AM Monday Nov 7, 2016

It is unbelievable that a difficult child could be locked in a tiny cell at any New Zealand school nowadays, and gratifying that an investigation by the Herald's Kirsty Johnston has helped prompt the Government to announce the practice will be outlawed.

Whatever possessed Wellington's Miramar Central School to allow troublesome children to be put in a cell no bigger than a cupboard cannot be imagined. Nor can the behaviour that would cause teachers to resort to such measures.

"Seclusion" probably tells us more about the problems some children present in the classroom these days than about the character of teachers driven to unacceptable lengths. Education Minister Hekia Parata has announced the ban as part of guidelines for schools to minimise physical restraint in behaviour management. Under the guidelines it will be unlawful in a school or pre-school environment to lock a child in any room alone. This should hardly need to be said.

The minister says of seclusion, "While once this practice was accepted in the 80s and 90s, it no longer is". Parents whose children were at school in those decades will be surprised to hear that.

Locking pupils alone in a room, let alone a cupboard, was not a practice people of that era remember.

It may well be a measure of more recent vintage and thanks to the complaint of a mother of an 11-year-old shut in the cell at Miramar Central (school, not police station) it has been abandoned.

Our investigation found the boy had been shut in that confined space 13 times in nine days, and children as young as 6 had been placed in there. Last month, the Ombudsman began an investigation and the Ministry of Education apologised to the parents and its minister for what had happened. Nothing has been heard from the school.

The newly issued guidelines forbid "seclusion" and permit "time out", which means a child voluntarily goes to be alone in a room they can leave at any time. But if a disruptive child refuses to go voluntarily it should be lawful for the teacher to insist they go and stay there against their will so long as they are supervised there by a teacher or teacher aid. That might not be the ideal solution in the view of parents of an autistic or troubled child but the education of the rest of the class is important.

To avoid any form of physical restraint the new guidelines offer "de-escalation" techniques. These involve asking other students to take their work

and move away, giving the angry student physical space, naming their emotion in a calm voice, "You look really angry", talking quietly, remaining respectful and allowing the student to move out of the situation with dignity.

It is also important to ask about what the rest of the class is doing. The guidelines are admirable as far as they go. And with teacher aids and team teaching in use these days, it should be possible to handle these incidents without ignoring the other students.

But there will be instances when unacceptable behaviour requires the child's removal for a period and schools should be allowed to provide supervised, proper places for that to be done.

[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/opinion/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=466&objectid=11743334](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/opinion/news/article.cfm?c_id=466&objectid=11743334)

**Newshub: Early childhood system 'in crisis' – union**

Monday 7 Nov 2016 5:42 a.m.

Early childhood education (ECE) desperately needs better funding, the New Zealand Education Institute teachers' union says.

An event at Hill Street Early Childhood in Wellington on Monday morning will publicise the campaign to restore funding and quality to ECE.

The union says they've been running at a loss for six years and many will fold if they don't get more funding.

Tim Lainson from the Early Childhood Council says Government budget cuts and decreased funding per child have the industry in crisis.

"The cuts therefore the reduction in revenue hurt the centres but they're invisible to the parents, and the impact we calculate over the last six years has been, for an average centre, around \$96,000 a year."

Pre-school centres have been forced to cut teacher pay, rely more on untrained staff, reduce qualified time with children and ask for more cash from parents, all of which is unsustainable, the union said after it surveyed 264 out of more than 4500 ECEs.

But the Minister for Education claims funding has more than doubled since 2007 to now more than \$1.6 billion.

The union argues that since 2010 the Government has only been funding a maximum of 80 per cent trained staff and an extra \$369 million in this year's budget over four years will be swallowed up by more children taking part.

It wants the Government to commit to having all fully trained staff in ECEs, fund them 100 percent and increase per-child funding to 2010 levels, inflation adjusted.

It also wants to reduce class sizes and the teacher-to-child ratios.

The Government has a target of 98 percent of children starting school having previously participated in ECE by December 2016.

The ECE participation rate has hit a record high, Education Minister Hekia Parata has said.

In the year to March 2016, 96.6 percent of children starting school had participated in ECE. That's an increase of 1.9 percentage points from 2011 or in actual terms almost 4000 more children.

<http://www.newshub.co.nz/nznews/early-childhood-system-in-crisis---union-2016110705>

**Newshub: Government to review early childhood curriculum**

Saturday 5 Nov 2016 10:13 a.m.

A government review of what is being taught to pre-schoolers has the support of the group looking after the interests of early childhood centres.

The curriculum for early learning, Te Whariki, has been in place for 20 years and Education Minister Hekia Parata wants to ensure it remains relevant and robust for children into the future.

"The aspirations and vision for learning will not change in this update," Ms Parata said.

Parents, teachers and others with an interest in the sector are being consulted on the redrafting which is being led by the Ministry of Education with input from the original writers of the innovative framework.

The body representing centres, the Early Childhood Council, says the government consultation would help produce the best outcome for children but said there were some issues in a draft document that needed further examination.

"We will need to take care that the new emphasis on links between the early childhood and primary school curricula does not bring inappropriate primary school methods into the early childhood education environment," said chief executive Peter Reynolds.

He said it was important that when any new curriculum was introduced that it came with enough resources to aid its implementation.

<http://www.newshub.co.nz/nznews/government-to-review-early-childhood-curriculum-2016110510>

**Herald: Education Minister Hekia Parata seeks public input on update to 20-year-old early childhood education curriculum, Te Whāriki**

5:31 PM Friday Nov 4, 2016

Education Minister Hekia Parata is asking for the public's help in a planned update of the early childhood curriculum.

Parata announced today the curriculum, Te Whāriki, had been recognised as "world leading" but was 20 years old.

"I want to ensure the curriculum remains relevant and robust for our children in years to come, so it is time for an update.

"The aspirations and vision for learning will not change in this update. Rather the curriculum will simply better reflect today's New Zealand, developments in education and make stronger links to school, kura Community of Learning Kāhui Ako."

Teachers, parents and anyone else with an interest in the early learning sector was invited to share their ideas, Parata said.

Early childhood education participation was at a record high, with almost 97 per cent of children starting school in the year to March having had some participation in it, she said.

The update is led by the Ministry of Education, with a team of writers from the sector. The original writers of Te Whāriki have also been involved and consultation with sector representatives had taken place.

Consultation began today and continues until December 16, with country-wide hui, meetings with sector groups and an online survey.

New Zealand Educational Institute national secretary Paul Goulter said he agreed with the review but said funding to support quality teaching needed to be restored urgently.

The Government cut funding to 100 per cent qualified teacher services in 2009, removed funding to support beginning teachers and had effectively frozen early childhood education service funding over the past six years, Goulter said.

"Excellent implementation of a quality curriculum requires trained and well-supported teachers."

Early Childhood Council chief executive Peter Reynolds said he hoped a "creative dialogue" between the Government and the early childhood education sector would produce the best outcome for children.

The curriculum document released today was a very good draft, but had "some issues those in our sector will be examining over the next few weeks".

New Zealand Kindergartens said in a media release that everyone's voices needed to be heard and acted on if the update was going to be a success.  
[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=1&objectid=11742341](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=11742341)

**Deborah Hill Cone (Herald): Never mind seclusion rooms. let's get rid of schools**

5:00 AM Monday Nov 7, 2016

I keep torturing myself by thinking of the child yelling "I'll be good, I'll be good" when locked in what is known as a seclusion room, a cell, at school, a place of learning. My heart. Breaking. You too?

Disclaimer: Yes Junior Freud, I'm conscious that I may be projecting my own unresolved childhood trauma onto others. I still get triggered by that unique scholastic stink of rotten banana, Jeyes fluid and urine. Hamilton West School, circa 1975, with our deranged teacher who looked a bit like a sadistic Michael Caine and had a strap he nicknamed Excalibur. Years later I heard he was given mental health treatment after getting into an argument with a mannequin in a shop window. But this week it was me shouting at an inanimate object when teacher Denise Torrey was on the radio talking about new guidelines for disruptive pupils. Time out rooms are "good practice": her words. As a former little shit, I respectfully disagree.

There is a significant body of research into attachment which shows when children feel overwhelmed by painful emotions what they need is connection not isolation. Certainly, this connection might be the scaffolding of a responsive adult recognizing they need to be alone, but in my experience time out is used more like a modern version of a dunce hat. Shall we at least be honest? Teachers use it because they are desperate, poorly resourced and the mainstream model of education is outdated rather than because it is the most helpful approach for children who are overwhelmed. But anyway since we are paying some private consultants to do an inquiry -what do all those full time bureaucrats in Bowen Street actually do? - here are my suggestions of a few other things they could change.

1. Mainstream school is not designed for the 15-20% of children who would be classified as Highly Sensitive Children. It's called HSC, and yes, it's a real thing. These are children with a nervous system that is highly aware and quick to react to everything. This makes them easily overwhelmed by high levels of stimulation, noise, sudden changes, and the emotional distress of others. True, some HSCs are fairly difficult-active, emotionally intense, demanding, and persistent, but they are also creative and empathetic. Yet in our mainstream school system these children are often shamed and classified as having "special needs" because they don't fit in to social norms. But given there are so many of them, that is so many of us, maybe it's time we demanded the school system changes, rather than trying to change ourselves?

In my experience time out is used more like a modern version of a dunce hat.  
2. Schools have not changed since Victorian era in the way in which they reward compliance and chronic subservient behavior. The whole system is based on the idea of control. But an emerging body of research supports the notion that lasting change comes from being curious and mindful and self-compassionate, not controlling. In addition, even when children are able to



conform, it often comes at a price. Many children learn to split off the unacceptable parts of themselves and put on a false self, as this seems to be the only way to be accepted or achieve. This fragmentation is hard to integrate in later life.

3. Schools kill creativity. Nobody knows what the world will look like in five years or ten years when our kids graduate, but it is certain we will need innovation and creative thinking to solve the problems facing the world. Educationist Sir Ken Robinson: "All kids have tremendous talents. And we squander them, pretty ruthlessly." As Sir Ken said in his TED talk, now watched 41 million times, if you're not prepared to be wrong, you'll never come up with anything original. And by the time they get to be adults most kids have had that fearless capacity for innovation squashed out of them.

4. Could we recognise the school system as we know it is simply a construct? Bossy teachers who think they know best, may be unaware of their own biases. Social norms change: these days there are no more straps called Excalibur. But it is a tragedy that our school system still teaches smart, self-aware kids to take all their clarity and insight and use it against themselves. Instead of making space for unusual people our schools favour children with a certain kind of compliant temperament. Those of us who don't fit into the dominant mode of interaction are defined as "other". I sincerely believe in years to come we will look back on these dominating, antiquated ways of educating children and see them as child abuse. I'm relieved seclusion rooms have been banned. But I believe our mainstream school system still shames many students and it needs to stop. I will not forget that imprisoned child's words: "I'll be good. I'll be good." Please, let's change.

[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/opinion/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=466&objectid=11743165](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/opinion/news/article.cfm?c_id=466&objectid=11743165)

**RNZ: Govt spends up for Christchurch schools**

2:11 pm on 6 November 2016

The government is to spend \$6 million on the seismic strengthening of eight schools in Christchurch.

Photo: RNZ / Rebekah Parsons-King

The investment is in addition to a billion-dollar programme to rebuild Christchurch schools.

The eight schools are St Thomas of Canterbury College, in Sockburn, St James School in Aranui, St Joseph's School in Papanui, St Francis of Assisi School in St Albans, Rangiora New Life School, St Mary's School in the central city, Middleton Grange School in Upper Riccarton and Christchurch Rudolf Steiner School in Opawa.

Education Minister Hekia Parata said the work included replacing classrooms that had to be demolished after the earthquakes, strengthening of existing spaces, and rebuilding.

Work on the eight projects is expected to begin next year.

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/national/317430/govt-spends-up-for-christchurch-schools>

## Euthanasia

### Don Post: National Portrait: Maryan Street, the campaigner

Last updated 05:00, November 5 2016

Eleven years ago, Maryan Street watched her sister die from motor neurone disease.

It is, she says, "one of the unkindest – unkindest – terminal illnesses".

"God knows it's not a competition. But it's a ghastly, ghastly illness. She was five and a bit years from diagnosis to death."

Two decades before that, she saw her mother die from bowel cancer at 65 – an age, she points out, "I'm rapidly approaching".

Neither ever spoke to her about wanting to die. She is sure her sister must have thought about it, but never told those closest to her. Her mother, on the other hand, was too angry about her life being cut short to want to shorten it any further.

"She was furious," the former Labour MP says, with a dry laugh.

Neither woman, she thinks, would have made use of the law change that Street has spent the past four years campaigning for – one that would allow assisted dying for those with a terminal illness or an "unbearable" condition.

Yet their experiences shaped her deeply and helped forge her own position on the issue.

It was later than that, however, that she decided to take up the public fight. And the cause wasn't personal, but something far more ordinary for an MP: a meeting called by Nelson euthanasia advocates before the 2011 election. It was life-changing, she says.

"They had very articulate, thoughtful people there who really challenged me to pick up the issue. And I decided to rise to the challenge – I said yes, I would champion that cause."

Now Street, 61, is two years out of Parliament, but the campaign has not subsided. Labour leader Andrew Little had her End of Life Choice bill dropped from Parliament's ballot – but a "disappointed" Street found another ally in ACT leader David Seymour, who put his own, similar version in.

The Government has shown no willingness to introduce such a law, but Street took an 8,974-strong petition to the health select committee, which has spent the year slowly getting into an inquiry on the subject.

These moves, together with the court case of Wellington lawyer Lecretia Seales, a controversial police campaign targeting euthanasia advocates, and

the confronting, emotional testimony given by ordinary people to the select committee, have combined to see the euthanasia debate flare into life in a way that it hasn't in New Zealand for many years.

Street is proud of that, and of her ability to find the "pressure points" in Parliament, even from the outside.

In her four years of campaigning, she's been struck by what she calls the deep, diverse popularity of the cause.

"There are nurses in favour, nurses against, doctors in favour, doctors against, Maori in favour, Maori against, Asian in favour, Asian against, Pasifika – 61 and a half per cent in favour, in 2012 – who would have thought? That surprised me. So it doesn't matter which way you slice the population, there are rarely groups that have a monolithic view on this."

Street is serious, intellectual, careful, private – but she breaks into tears recalling some of the stories she has grappled with over that time, which she says continue to move and distress her, like Dunedin doctor Pat Davison, who tried to starve herself to death and was still alive 31 days later, or the Christchurch man who "pleaded with MPs to do something, so that he doesn't have to do what men often do, and that's resort to very violent means. And it's horrible for everybody".

"What confounds me is the lack of compassion. Why would you insist, because the law is old-fashioned and now not fit for purpose, why would you insist that people must suffer?"

Street thinks the current Parliament would probably pass Seymour's bill if it were drawn from the ballot, though MPs would need to steel themselves for "strong lobbying by their constituents".

The Catholic Church is one particularly strong opponent, she says. "I don't want to say [it's] a Catholic fundamentalism, but it is that very doctrinaire Catholicism that opposes this agenda internationally".

Which is not to say that Street is straightforwardly anti-religious. In fact, after growing up in a Presbyterian Taranaki household, she came to Wellington as a student in the 1970s planning to be a church minister.

She studied with Lloyd Geering at Victoria University – "just an absolutely wonderful teacher", she says – and "sang and carried on" as a Christian, but then she changed her mind. She still has "enormous" respect for religious traditions, she says, but they aren't for her.

"It just didn't stack up intellectually for me anymore. So I gave it up. But I've read the book."

And what of the practical objection to a law change – that it might ease the way for people to put very subtle pressure on the sick and elderly to take their own lives?

Street says any law must have safeguards, and meaningful, regular monitoring, but no law can defend against all abuse.

"In the end, what stops bad behaviour? Laws don't. Asking for complete protection against the worst of human behaviour, in a law, is unreasonable."

Street is no stranger to a fight. She is a long-time union leader, and has returned to employment relations work since her exit from politics. In 2005, she became New Zealand's first openly-identified lesbian MP elected to Parliament, and spoke of having been marginalised and belittled for her sexuality.

She agrees that the past decade or so has been a watershed time for gay rights, and draws a connection between that fight and the one that currently occupies her.

The battle to ensure minority rights is never over, she says – it needs constant vigilance, even after successes.

"This right to choose your moment to die is my next frontier, because I think it is a human right. In a developed and conscious democracy like ours, it is a human right."

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/health/euthanasia-debate/86092903/National-Portrait-Maryan-Street-the-campaigner>

**John Weekes (Stuff): Pleas for right to end life as euthanasia select committee hearings held in Wellington**

Last updated 12:25, November 7 2016

A man dreading the onslaught of his wife's declining health and a lawyer describing the painful death of her husband have appealed to lawmakers to overhaul laws on assisted dying.

But a majority of speakers at Parliament on Monday, including the wife of Finance Minister Bill English, Mary English, voiced opposition to euthanasia.

Parliament's health subcommittee is hearing submissions on Maryan Street's petition on assisted dying.

Labour MP Iain Lees-Galloway says Lecretia Seales' personal sacrifice could be honoured by Parliament now looking seriously at the issue of euthanasia.

For Hugh Barnes and Lynne Sijbrant, personal experiences form the basis for their support of legalised euthanasia.

Barnes told MPs his wife Val was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis soon after the couple retired.

"We had several dark years seeing it worsen. Val now needs assistance with everything. She's now lying in hospital, right at this moment.

"We know the time may come when life for Val may become intolerable and pointless."

Barnes asked why people should not have the right to end their lives gently and in peace.

"Please help us."

Sijbrant said her husband died at 37, after contacting pancreatic cancer.

She said people who faced horrendous terminal illness, should have the right to die with dignity.

"We're talking about people who are facing certain death."

Others at Parliament on Monday cited opposition to legalising euthanasia.

Several argued a law change would create a "slippery slope" and endanger the lives of people with depression. Others warned it would put medical professionals in ethical dilemmas.

"A core principle has been that we do not kill our patients," Mary English said.

She repeatedly referred to pro-euthanasia laws by the acronym "MAD" or medically-assisted dying.

"It would be unsafe for those at risk of suicide."

She said she did not discuss her submission with husband Bill, but was speaking from the perspective of a family GP with 25 years' experience.

Street's petition calling for the law change had 8974 signatures.

It called for full investigation into public attitudes towards a law allowing medically-assisted dying in the event of a terminal illness or an irreversible condition which makes life unbearable.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/health/euthanasia-debate/86159530/Pleas-for-right-to-end-life-as-euthanasia-select-committee-hearings-held-in-Wellington>

**Isaac Davison (Herald): Deputy Prime Minister Bill English's wife speaks out against euthanasia**

11:59 AM Monday Nov 7, 2016

Deputy Prime Minister Bill English's wife Mary has made a rare foray into politics to urge Parliament not to legalise euthanasia.

A GP for 25 years, Mary English she had made a conscious effort to keep away from political issues but the debate about medically-assisted dying was too important for her to stay silent.

She appeared this morning before a select committee considering public attitudes to assisted dying in New Zealand.

"I have both in my professional capacity and in my personal life dealt with people who have been suffering, who have been dying - not always pleasant - and also with suicide," she told the committee.

Legalising euthanasia would be "unsafe" for people at risk of suicide, for her disabled patients, and for doctors, she said.

"As a health provider working with and alongside other providers to actively prevent patients from killing themselves, I don't think I would be alone in regarding it as both inconsistent and cynical public policy to regard suicide or medically-assisted dying as OK for sick, elderly or terminally ill people but bad for young and distressed people."

Suicide rates had risen in US states where assisted-dying had been legalised, she said.

English spoke of the potentially "divisive" impact of a euthanasia law change on the medical profession.

"The issue of medically-assisted dying ... would set colleague against colleague, family member against family member, colleague against family members."

Third person arrested at the border over student loan debt, as Govt ramps up crackdown on borrowers

Police abused powers with euthanasia ruse, lawyer says, as third complaint made to police watchdog

"It would erode the essential ingredient to the doctor-patient relationship, which is trust.

"Patients would worry about what our intentions or expectations with regard to euthanasia were, or whether we were trying hard enough because we had an expectation that they should choose a medically-assisted dying option."



Speaking to reporters after her submission, English said she had tried to stay out of politics.

"But I'm a doctor. That's my life, that's my vocation. I am an independent person in that regard. And it's really important.

"Also, it would be myself and my colleagues you would be in the firing line.

"Any legislation that I read would ask us to do this, or to justify why we wouldn't do this."

Bill English and his wife are both practising Catholics. The Deputy Prime Minister has previously said he is opposed to euthanasia.

#### OLYMPIAN ADVOCATES CHANGE

The committee also heard this morning from Olympian Anne Hare, who said she supported voluntary euthanasia.

Hare, a long-distance runner and former member of the NZ Olympic Committee, said her position was influenced by the difficult death of her father-in-law Rene Oswald Hare two years ago.

Olympian Anne Hare says she wants New Zealanders to have a choice about how they die. Photograph: Isaac Davison

"The end of his life was not pleasant... He asked many times if he could stop eating. At one point he had to be fed through a tube in his stomach. He refused to have that done to him again.

"He had cancer growing out of his head. He had to wear a hat all the time because he was so embarrassed about the way he looked.

"He wanted to be able to read ... but he got to the point he could no longer see. So we got him [audiobooks]. He got to the point he could no longer hear the books."

"When a person is in that situation, they should have the choice to die."

She said her father-in-law wanted to be surrounded by family when he died, which would have been possible if he chose his moment of death.

Instead, the family missed his final moments.

"His wife got the call around 5am to say I think he's going. She was so exhausted from having visited him every day and every afternoon she had taken a sleeping tablet, couldn't quite comprehend what they'd said and went to sleep.

"She woke up again about an hour later. So he died with a doctor and a nurse, which breaks my heart."

'YOU DON'T KNOW UNLESS YOU'RE THERE'

Another submitter, Hugh Barnes, also supported a law change because of the "endless, pointless suffering" of his wife Val, who had debilitating Multiple Sclerosis.

Barnes said it was all very well for some people to argue that life should never be ended.

"My answer to this is I think if they were in my position, with the possibilities ahead that I face, they would think otherwise for the sake of their loved one. You don't know unless you're there."

Val was admitted to hospital two years ago because of her worsening condition and his inability to look after her at home.

"This was a black time in our lives. Val in hospital and me at home riddled with guilt," Barnes said.

It was extremely upsetting for him and his wife of 50 years to see patients with more advanced conditions at the same hospital.

"We know a time may come when life for Val may also become intolerable and pointless.

"Once life becomes painful and miserable, with no hope of improvement, surely the person should have some choice as to whether or not medical techniques should be used to gently end their life and put them and everyone involved at peace."

"... If Val and I knew some such choice was available in certain circumstances we would now feel a little bit easier with regard to the future."

[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/politics/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=280&objectid=11743625](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/politics/news/article.cfm?c_id=280&objectid=11743625)

**Employment****Bernard Hickey (Herald): Get real! Work rate drives wages**

5:00 AM Sunday Nov 6, 2016

So what was the point of economic and jobs growth again?

It's worth asking this obvious question after this week's apparently stonkingly strong set of jobs figures.

They showed an extra 35,000 jobs were created over the September quarter and that employment has grown 179,000 or 7.7 per cent over the last two years.

The unemployment rate also fell to 4.9 per cent in the September quarter, which is its lowest rate since the Global Financial Crisis in December 2008.

Those numbers looks terrific at first blush and are certainly much better than jobs falling by 179,000 and the unemployment rate rising.

But a closer look shows the number of unemployed actually rose by 1000 to 128,000 over that two-year period and the number of 15 to 24-year-olds who were Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) rose by 3000 to 74,000.

The NEET rate is actually unchanged at 11.1 per cent over the last two years. The under-utilisation rate, which includes those people in part time jobs who want more work, fell in the September quarter to 12.2 per cent from 12.7 per cent in the June quarter, but is unchanged from two years ago.

The picture is no better for wages.

Average ordinary time hourly earnings growth fell to an annual rate of 1.7 per cent in the September quarter from 2.1 per cent the previous quarter and is down from 2.3 per cent two years ago.

The Government's comment that real wage growth is strong because inflation is 0.2 per cent ring hollow too, because inflation is set to jump back to 1 per cent in the December quarter.

New Zealand's economy has thrown up an apparently bizarre mix of very strong jobs growth with virtually no fall in the various unemployment rates and a fall in wage inflation.

It seems to make no sense. How can an economy be growing strongly at 3.5 per cent-plus and not be heating up wage inflation or lowering unemployment?

The simple answer is that almost all that jobs growth over the last two years was soaked up by net migration of 131,188 and an increase of 28,200 in the number of people over the age of 65 who are working.

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That also helped soak up some of the heat from a strongly growing economy to avoid any break out in wage inflation. The last time the economy was growing employment this strongly was in the 2005-07 period when unemployment got down to 3.3 per cent and wage growth was well over 5 per cent. Astonishingly, even construction industry annual wage inflation was barely over 2 per cent in the September quarter.

How can an economy be growing strongly at 3.5 per cent-plus and not be heating up wage inflation or lowering unemployment?

All these numbers should drag everyone back to the ultimate conclusion: it's always, always about productivity.

Before anyone goes to sleep at the mention of the word productivity, it's worth knowing that productivity is all about output per person per hour, and that's what drives real wages. Real hourly wages are what really matters in any economy. They ultimately determine how rich any economy or household is in terms of income.

"Productivity isn't everything, but in the long run it is almost everything," Nobel Prize-winning economist Paul Krugman wrote in 1994. "A country's ability to improve its standard of living over time depends almost entirely on its ability to raise its output per worker," he said then.

On this measure, New Zealand's record is awful, and especially since 2012. Real GDP per hour worked has basically flat-lined over the last four years.

We have managed to grow by importing more workers and working more hours per person. Our record is almost as bad over the last 45 years. We have been the second worst country in the OECD for real GDP per hour worked over that period. Worse than Italy, Portugal and France - all of whom are now seen as basket-case, stagnant economies.

Our relative underperformance over that period explains all of the 30 per cent-plus gap that has opened up between wages in New Zealand and Australia.

So why the self-congratulation about the current burst of GDP and jobs growth?

Basically, we have kidded ourselves that we are richer because there are so many hours being worked by so many people and house values have almost doubled in the last eight years.

The rise in value of New Zealand's houses to \$1 trillion last month has made home owners feel much richer. These values have nothing to do with real

incomes. They are all about high net migration, under-building and lower interest rates.

Renters, the young, the unemployed and the under-employed certainly don't feel the joy of this burst of growth. A much better aim for any Government or business would be to increase real output per hour worked and real hourly wages.

That would really be going for growth, as opposed to the growth we're kidding ourselves about at the moment.

[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/opinion/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=466&objectid=11741197](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/opinion/news/article.cfm?c_id=466&objectid=11741197)

**Jordan Bond (Herald): Employment outpacing population growth**

10:00 AM Monday Nov 7, 2016

Unemployment is down in the region despite a growing workforce, the latest Statistics New Zealand labour market report shows.

The report showed an extra 4800 people picked up work in the past 12 months, a rate outpacing the extra 4600 people who joined the workforce.

The unemployment rate dropped from 6.9 per cent last September to 6.5 per cent in the most recent quarter.

Almost 103,000 people were employed in the most recent quarter, almost 9000 more people than the September 2014 quarter.

Chamber of Commerce chief executive Wayne Walford said there was a positive business mood in the Bay, with a lot more jobs and activity.

But despite this, he said there was still a need for jobseekers who were willing to learn.

"I was talking to a company the other day who are trying to employ 40 people and they've only got 10. They're looking for more, and they're employing on attitude," Mr Walford said.

"I think if people have the right attitude they'll get a job ... A lot more organisations have got the attitude now that you can teach people skills but you can't teach them that intrinsic value for working, and pride in who they are and a desire to serve."

Mr Walford said development in the tech area was likely to soak up jobs in the coming few years, as well as in the fruit sector.

Nationally, unemployment fell below 5 per cent for the first time in nearly eight years.

An extra 35,000 people were employed in the September quarter, with half of the growth occurring in Auckland, and a fifth in Otago.

[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/employment/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=11&objectid=11742273](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/employment/news/article.cfm?c_id=11&objectid=11742273)

**Matthew Hutching, Conor Whitten (Newshub): Make companies' gender pay gap public – Commissioner**

Saturday 5 Nov 2016 10:09 a.m.

Women's pay and their presence in the workplace hierarchy aren't progressing quickly enough, says Equal Employment Opportunities Commissioner Jackie Blue.

So she's now calling for a law forcing major New Zealand companies to declare their gender pay gap.

Dr Blue says she would like to see New Zealand adopt a new UK law which applies to every company with more than 250 employees.

"They tried the voluntary approach, didn't work, so they're bringing in legislation. There's going to be a penalty if they don't comply of about £5000. It's still too low," she told the Nation.

"But just across in Australia, they've been doing that since 2012 for companies over 100, so this is not like a weird idea."

The Nation: Why is the gender pay gap rising?

In 2009 an Australian Act established the Pay Equity Unit, which conducts compulsory pay equity audits for companies with 100 companies or more.

"Most of the workforce is employed by the bigger companies, and if you really want to get that value and influence and obviously get the most improved benefit, you want to target the big businesses first."

Dr Blue, a former National Party MP, said she'd like to see New Zealand follow Australia and eventually bring the threshold down to apply to companies of 100 staff or more.

While she doesn't want to use "the 'Q' word" - quota - she says there should be an example set by the Government for women's representation.

"I want to challenge all political leaders next year in the lead-up to the election that if they form part of Government, they need to commit to a gender-balanced Cabinet.

"If anything, the Cabinet is the ultimate board in New Zealand, and if women on boards is now being accepted as good for business, it bloody is going to be good for New Zealand.

"So I don't want to hear these sort of measly, 'Oh, we appoint on merit.'"

Also on The Nation, Greens MP Jan Logie agreed, saying: "I challenge anyone to say that the women in our caucus contribute less than men, and I would also look at National and the fact that they're struggling to get 25 percent of women in their caucus..."

"And the picture in the paper after the last three elections has been John Key and his key advisors - a room full of old white men."

"I think we have to have that debate," Dr Blue said. "I mean, we've asked nicely, we've implored, we've pleaded. Not much is happening."

"Women's representation in Parliament has actually gone static, and I go back to the point of women in the current Cabinet - 35 percent. That's seven out of 20."

"John Key just has to bring three more women in and he's got a gender-balanced Cabinet. That's not too hard."

<http://www.newshub.co.nz/politics/make-companies-gender-pay-gap-public---commissioner-2016110510>



**The Nation: Transcript: Lisa Owen interviews Jackie Blue, Jan Logie, and Rachel Petero**

Saturday, 5 November, 2016 - 11:49

Youtube clips from the show are available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCz0MB0iTSEIH5b9c7zuGvsA>

Headlines:

Equal Employment Opportunities Commissioner Jackie Blue has called on all political leaders to commit to a 50% quota of women in cabinet

She's also called for New Zealand to follow Australia and the UK and require all larger companies (employing more than 250 people) to publish details of their gender pay gap, with fines for those who don't comply.

Lisa Owen: Jackie, to start off with, why do you think that women are still so overrepresented in those low-paying jobs?

Jackie Blue: I think a lot of it's historic, but it's also how women have been steered towards careers which don't have an economic advantage. That all can obviously change when we have the equal pay case coming through and the recommendations from the joint working group hopefully been accepted by the government. But I think we've got lots of work to do in education and getting girls early on and opening them up to other opportunities, such as STEM subjects, and going into areas where there's economic growth.

Jan, the thing is that the jobs dominated by women are paid less. Why?

Jan Logie: It's historical. It's exploitation, actually, when you come to it and look at it today, because we've known that those jobs are underpaid for a few decades now, that they are, say, rest home workers, caregivers, social workers, librarians, possibly journalists, professions dominated by women that are highly skilled and offer massive value to our society and are paid often just over the minimum wage.

When you say exploitation, then that suggests a level of intent at keeping the wages low.

Logie: Absolutely. Well, we know that the gender pay gap is bigger in the public service and that the government has known that these professions are underpaid for a long time and they haven't fixed it. I don't see what else you'd call that.

And I want to get to government departments soon. Rachel, do you agree that it's exploitation?

Rachel Petero: Yeah, I think we've been very patient as a society. Then you look at the pay gap for Maori and Pasifika, it's even worse. So I think we've

been patient. I think we're here saying it's time to put in measures. It's time to look at quotas. It's time to look at all of that and re-evaluate.

Blue: Yeah, I looked at the stats for the pay gender gap, tracked it back from 1998 going forward. If we use the median, it's going to take 30 or 40 years to get a pay gender gap of zero. If you look at average hourly, it's going to take a hundred years. I mean, that's not acceptable. Not acceptable at all.

What do you think is an acceptable timeframe to work to, then?

Blue: Oh, I think that we'd need to probably have a five- to 10-year frame to look at. That would be reasonable and acceptable.

So in our lifetimes, you think it's..?

Blue: Absolutely.

Petero: Yes.

Logie: It has to be, and I just think the public mood is shifting, and there's a real sense of women getting to the point of frustration because we've been told we needed to educate ourselves to be able to be paid more. We did that. Then we were told we needed to network more and learn how to play the game better. We've done that. And still employers, and including government in this, don't take any responsibility for ensuring that there is equity and fairness in their workplaces. We've got to change the game.

On that subject, we have women that are doing work with a certain skill level. It might not be exactly the same as another job, but it has the same skill base. That seems complicated to compare those two jobs and work out what's fair and therefore off-putting, maybe, to employers to go through that process.

Blue: No, it's not complicated. It's straightforward. People probably try and make it look complicated. The joint working group came out with a flow diagram of how all this could work, and you do need comparator - a male comparator to compare what the lower-paid female work is.

And can I just say, Jackie - sorry to interrupt - let's use an example so people can understand what we're talking about, so caregivers were shown to have the same sort of skill set as Corrections officers.

Blue: Correct.

But there was a big difference in pay.

Blue: It's huge.

So people will look at that and think, 'Well, how do you compare those jobs?'

Blue: Well, it's doable. Other countries do it. We can do it. And so we have the process of the recommendations, a process going forward which will hopefully bypass courts the majority of times and really look at bargaining, negotiation and mediation.

But the Government has had those recommendations since round May of this year. Would you expect them to make a decision? Why are they dragging their feet?

Blue: Well, I understand it is quite soon, but I actually would want them to get it right, not to do something hurriedly.

Logie: That negotiation was set up by the government to get the case out of court because it was winning in court, and they set up this group of businesspeople, unions and government who negotiated those principles together and worked through the difficulties, and now Cabinet's sitting on it. And I really think we have to go back to that question of - is our political leadership committed to valuing women? And I think the answer is clearly no.

On the other hand, we've talked about low-paid jobs. Women are also underrepresented in senior jobs, aren't they? For example, women make up about 60% of employees at law firms - New Zealand law firms - but only 26% of them are partners or directors. None of our top 50 companies have a woman CEO. Why?

Petero: So it's about accountability. It's about accountability of our leaders in those organisations, and today we don't have to report on any of those diversity or equality stats. So we need to make our leaders of those organisations accountable for being transparent about what is the plan - what is the plan around diversity inclusion, not only of women but of all of our areas of diversity? So there needs to be accountability, and today there isn't.

How do you get that, Jackie?

Blue: By making targets that are enforceable. You could look at quotas, which I think we all need to have a serious debate about in New Zealand. I just want to say I looked at the stats for women on state sector boards, which is 43%, and the stock-exchange-listed companies, at 17% women, but I extrapolated those out, and it's going to take both of them 15 years before they get to equality - 50% each. I mean, that's not acceptable, so nothing is happening quickly, so I think we need to have that serious conversation about quotas.

Logie: And I would just like to say that at the Greens we've always had a quota in place for gender. We have a 50-50 balanced caucus, and it was because we recognised those barriers to women's participation and that we would benefit from putting this in place, and we have. We have a really strong team, and women are at the heart of it.

Well, the Canadian prime minister, Justin Trudeau, has a Cabinet that is 50-50 - 50% women, 50% men. I mean, Labour was laughed out of town when it kind of suggested something similar, so is quota really the answer?

Blue: I've thought long and hard over this, knowing there'd be a big pushback if I said the word 'quota' - that Q word which never should be uttered. But, quite frankly, I want to challenge all political leaders next year in the lead-up to the election that if they form part of government, they need to commit to a gender-balanced Cabinet. And if anything, the Cabinet is the ultimate board in New Zealand, and if women on boards is now being accepted as good for business, it bloody is going to be good for New Zealand. So I don't want to hear these sort of measly, 'Oh, we appoint on merit,' or, 'If we use quotas-'

So what do you say to that, though? 'We appoint on merit,' it's a fair point, isn't it?

Blue: No, other statements are like, 'Oh, if you bring women in, you'll get inferior women.' Even women say, unfortunately, 'I want to be there on my merit, not on a quota.' Unfortunately, there's huge bias in exerting those sorts of comments. They've got to be challenged and say, 'Well, which definition and whose definition of merit are you using?' It's usually the dominant culture, ie men, so they need to understand those powerful forces of bias.

Logie: I would compare, say, the Greens, where we have that- I challenge anyone to say that the women in our caucus contribute less than men, and I would also look at National and the fact that they're struggling to get 25% of women in their caucus and-

They've got 35% women make-up in Cabinet.

Logie: Yeah, but in their caucus, they're struggling for 25%. And the picture in the paper after the last three elections has been John Key and his key advisors - a room full of old white men. So it's actually going to why would a talented, impassioned woman go to the National Party?

So I just want to quickly, before we move on, Jackie, quotas - you say, 'Mm, nasty Q word, ' and you talk about accountability, so are you talking about legally enforceable quotas at some point?

Blue: I think we have to have that debate. I mean, we've asked nicely. We've implored. We've pleaded. Not much is happening. Women's representation in Parliament has actually gone static, and I go back to the point of women in the current Cabinet - 35%. That's seven out of 20. John Key just has to bring three more women in and he's got a gender-balanced Cabinet. That's not too hard.

Logie: It's not hard.

Blue: And I would say that he needs to look further into his caucus. All women I feel that get to Parliament are absolutely capable of being a minister,

whatever party, because they've been up against it to get there in the first place. The thing is - are they a stereotype of politician? No, probably not, but they bring a different skill set and they'll add value to the team. And he's got those women; he just needs to get over his own biases and select them.

What about private sector, Rachel? What about companies? You talk about accountability, so should there be quotas for private companies?

Petero: Yeah, so I've seen it happen in both ways, where we set quotas, but I also think we need to give time and space for some of our leaders to come up with what is their plan? Yeah, so give them some time and space. If they don't live up to that, and that's time imperative, then we start to enforce. So there are great companies. I mean, Adrian Orr, CEO of Superfund, he's got great philosophy, a great culture, and he is empowering women.

But all of you have said, 'We have been asking nicely and nothing has changed,' so therefore say again, do we need to enforce something?

Petero: Yeah, we do need to enforce something. That's what we're saying, yes.

Well, the government is one of the biggest employers, which is what you raised, Jan. 60% of public servants are female. 39% of chief executive roles are filled by women in that sector. Should the government be leading by example on quota there?

Logie: I mean, for me I think this is what we expect in terms of leadership, and going back to that point around that women's frustration that I'm sensing a build-up of, and it's like, actually, our leaders are lagging behind our expectations of what we want for our society. And I think our government should catch up, so, yes.

Blue: The public service, I think, is actually leading. For the first time this year they published the pay gender gaps by department. That's historic. That is huge. And now CEOs have to actually in their four-year plan state how they're going to address that gap, so that's great.

And those gaps were horrendous in some departments. So 39% in defence, 27% in Crown law. In terms of the private sector, how do you think you get accountability, Jackie? You've got an idea around an initiative for that, don't you, with private companies?

Blue: Yeah, I like to follow the UK legislation which is coming in next year where every company with more than 250 employees needs to publish their pay gender gap and bonus gap.

Logie: Transparency.

Blue: And they tried the voluntary approach, didn't work, so they're bringing in legislation. There's going to be a penalty if they don't comply of about £5000.

It's still too low. But just across in Australia, they've been doing that since 2012 for companies over 100, so this is not like a weird idea.

So that's what you'd want, a law making them report and if you don't report, you get pinged for it?

Blue: Yeah, and target the big companies, because most of the workforce is employed by the bigger companies, and if you really want to get that value and influence and obviously get the most improved benefit, you want to target the big businesses first.

So companies over 250 employees, right?

Blue: To begin with and then bring it down to 100. We've got 2000 of those in New Zealand.

I want to talk about the Women's Minister. It's a position outside Cabinet. Is this a sign, Rachel, that the government doesn't think it's a priority?

Petero: Yeah, I think it is. I think it is. And I've met Louise and I think she does a great job. I think it is about inclusiveness, so she does need to be part of Cabinet, yes. That's my...

Blue: Well, there are three women ministers out of Cabinet - Nicky Wagner, Jo Goodhew and Louise - all good women. Bring them in; you've got a gender-balanced Cabinet.

When she became Minister for Women, she said she wasn't a feminist because she wasn't interested in being a flag-waver. Jan, do we need a feminist in that job?

Logie: Again, I've got say I think we do, particularly- I understand Maori women who may not use the term feminist or for women of different cultures. It may have a different meaning for them. But if it's going to be a Pakeha woman and we have that tradition of Kate Sheppard, actually, I expect our political leadership to follow in that pathway in a more inclusive way. But, yeah, it's just the fact that she wouldn't stand up on the Chiefs, she's been missing in action on so many of our cultural conversations that are so central to our wellbeing as women, I expect a woman to be part of those conversations.

Petero: And, honestly, our population is 4.5 million. We're not the UK. We haven't got a population of 20 million. We're not a tanker where things need to turn very slowly. We can actually make things happen. We can get our arms around this, and we should be leading the world in leadership, especially for women. What would Kate Sheppard say today?

Blue: She'd be horrified.

Petero: She'd be horrified.

Jackie Blue, what did you make of her definition of feminism - flag-waving - because it seems to be feminism seems to be a bit of a dirty word these days?

Blue: It is, and I actually think, though, she didn't define herself as a feminist; things she has said means she actually is a feminist and she does support women. I think she's really constrained by the fact she is a junior minister outside Cabinet in a largely male-dominated Cabinet and caucus.

So-

Logie: I also think it's worth noting that the Ministry for Women used to play a really key role in our society in leading discussion and great research. It is now the most poorly funded ministry of all of them. The only organisation within government that gets less money is the Commissioner for the Environment, who has a much more constrained role. So, actually, our expectations can't be very high when that's what the government's decided.

But essentially you all think we should have quotas, legally enforceable means to move this ahead?

Blue: Absolutely.

Petero: Yeah.

Logie: I think we really have to have the conversation.

Petero: Have a bigger conversation.

Blue: Absolutely. Yeah, definitely.

All right. Well, it's been a great conversation this morning. Thank you all for joining me. Much appreciated.

Blue: You're welcome.

Petero: Thank you.

Logie: Thanks.

Transcript provided by Able. [www.able.co.nz](http://www.able.co.nz)

The Nation on TV3, 9.30am Saturday, 10am Sunday, 11pm Monday, and 7pm Saturday on RadioLIVE. Proudly brought to you by New Zealand on Air's Platinum Fund.

<http://www.voxy.co.nz/politics/5/267488>

**Chloe Winter (Stuff): Law to force businesses to declare gender pay gaps: Equal Employment Opportunities Commissioner Jackie Blue**

Last updated 12:16, November 5 2016

Equal Employment Opportunities Commissioner Jackie Blue is calling for major New Zealand companies to declare gender pay gaps.

She would like to see New Zealand adopt a new UK law which applies to all companies with more than 250 employees, Blue said on The Nation on Saturday.

And she wanted it to start at Government level.

"I want to challenge all political leaders next year in the lead-up to the election that if they form part of Government, they need to commit to a gender-balanced Cabinet.

"If anything, the Cabinet is the ultimate board in New Zealand, and if women on boards is now being accepted as good for business, it bloody is going to be good for New Zealand," Blue told The Nation.

"So I don't want to hear these sort of measly, 'Oh, we appoint on merit'...

"We have to have that debate. I mean, we've asked nicely, we've implored, we've pleaded, not much is happening. Women's representation in Parliament has gone static."

Blue, a former National Party MP, said she would eventually like to see New Zealand follow Australia law.

In 2009, an Australian Act established the Pay Equity Unit, which conducts compulsory pay equity audits for companies with 100 companies or more.

"Most of the workforce is employed by the bigger companies, and if you really want to get that value and influence and obviously get the most improved benefit, you want to target the big businesses first."

Women's pay and their presence in the workplace hierarchy were not progressing quickly enough, Blue said.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/business/better-business/86132663/Law-to-force-businesses-to-declare-gender-pay-gaps-Equal-Employment-Opportunities-Commissioner-Jackie-Blue>



**Claire Trevett (Herald): Labour: beneficiaries should be able to volunteer instead of taking jobs**

4:25 PM Saturday Nov 5, 2016

Labour has proposed allowing beneficiaries to meet their work obligations by doing volunteer work instead of looking for a paid job.

The proposal is one of more than 60 recommendations in Labour's 'Future of Work' Commission report which was released by Finance Spokesman Grant Robertson today.

Robertson said there would have to be rules and criteria to ensure the system was not abused, and it would be time-limited.

He said he had dealt with constituents who were forced to take jobs completely different to the work they were trained for.

"They could take unpaid work ... while they look for a paid job in their career path."

The report proposed beneficiaries could fulfil their working obligations by choosing voluntary work.

"People currently expected to be searching for paid employment could instead do volunteer work for the same number of hours they are obligated to be in paid employment."

It said allowing that would require a letter from support and six-monthly updates from the organisation the beneficiary was volunteering for "to ensure they are making a positive contribution."

It said informal work was an opportunity for people to get the skills needed to get a paid job and volunteers workers should be recognised for work they did in the community and safe guarded from exploitation..

"We must value volunteers by making sure that voluntary work creates opportunities and is not simply a source of free labour."

In a related proposal, the report recommends reviewing the requirement for single parent beneficiaries to look for work once their child is three years old, saying parents and unpaid carers were "increasingly undervalued."

"Current policies create pressure for parents to focus primarily on paid employment from when their children are very young. Parents who want or need to stay at home should feel supported to do so."

National's welfare reforms require single parents to look for part time work when their youngest child turns three and full time work once the child is at school. Beneficiaries who have a further child while on the benefit must look for work when that child turns one.

Other proposals included removing secondary tax and reassessing the stand down period before people who lost their jobs could get a benefit.

The reports also proposes offering six weeks of free training for workers who lose their jobs because of technological advances such as automation.

Labour's Grant Robertson said research had shown almost half of the jobs in New Zealand could be at risk of automation.

Robertson said targeted training for workers who lost a job because of technology advances was "essential."

"This is particularly important for older workers who have been in same profession for a long period of time."

The report's recommendation was for six weeks' initial training which could be added to in partnership with employers.

He said it was clear that "active and capable" government was needed to face the threats of the future, working with unions and business.

The Future of Work was a two-year project involving Labour, the unions, employer and business groups.

The report states that the days of a hands-off government being able to deliver a secure future for workers was over.

Other recommendations included a levy on businesses which did not train New Zealand workers in industries with skills shortages which relied on foreign workers.

It also proposes bonus payments for employers for apprenticeships completed, abolishing secondary tax, and recognising volunteering as work.  
[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=1&objectid=11742828](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=11742828)



**Paul Henry controversy****David Cohen (NBR): Marvellous ironies in publicity stunt (paywalled)**

DAVID COHEN FRIDAY NOVEMBER 4, 2016

So it finally happened. The American presidential campaign has indeed experienced its great “October surprise” – the mammoth news event that pundits have long warned could influence its ultimate outcome next week – toppling previous assumptions and throwing the already inglorious race into disarray.

I refer, of course, to what in some quarters has been billed as broadcaster Paul Henry’s most expletive-laden interview ever.

The qualifier is necessary, unfortunately, because readers will never know for certain what was said in the course of the New Zealand Herald’s lengthy weekend feature, in which dozens of quoted words starting with the letter “f” were mercifully strewn with asterisks.

Indeed, of all the things that never happened in the media this week, this may have been the one that probably never happened the most. One can only speculate on the likely nature of the expressions that caused veteran news chiefs to clear their screens of filler items having to do with an inconsequential stateside election, the currency markets or whatever’s happening in Syria.

To wit: “I will not die if I make a mistake ... The most dangerous thing I do every day is drive to work, and I’m a very f\*\*\*in’ good driver and I drive with few bad drivers on the road, so I’ve got that in perspective. What is the worst that could happen? I could make a complete f\*\*\*in’ ass of myself in front of the nation? I don’t give a shit.”

No, he will not die if he makes a mistake. Although something terrible could happen if he takes the pro-wrestling shtick too much further and actually clambers into the ring and the medics have to carry him out.

One thinks of his children gathered around the stretcher as the priest gives last rites. “Father, was it hard for you, giving all those expletive-laden interviews?”

To which Mr Henry might presumably croak, “Does the eagle tire of f\*\*\*ing flying, you f\*\*\*ing stupid f\*\*\*?”

On the other hand, it may be that he will never die as such, but rather it will be MediaWorks, having finally run out of increasingly desperate ideas to promote its news operation, that expires before him.

At which point Mr Henry will presumably be decommissioned and lowered into a vat of molten metal like the T800 at the end of f\*\*\*ing Terminator 2.

Marvellous

Mr Henry's interview didn't leave everything to the imagination. In at least one media corner, his explicit remarks spurred a well-publicised reaction from the singer turned media commentator Lizzie Marvelly.

Ms Marvelly, who has made a bit of a name for herself talking about the end for young locals wishing to buy affordable property ("We need to save the Kiwi dream before it's too late," she recently wrote), was to have put in an appearance on Mr Henry's Monday show.

Understandably, perhaps, she pulled out in the wake of the broadcaster's comments about women's breasts – sensitively, thought-provokingly and repeatedly referred to as "titties" during the course of his interview.

On her social media account, Ms Marvelly announced it would not be "appropriate for me to be on the show at this time" – thereby putting the Howard Stern imitator on notice that he may be waiting for days for a return appearance on his programme.

She would instead remain down island "celebrating my Dad's 60th" birthday."

The Marvellys certainly had better things to be celebrating this past weekend, not least the elapse of a year since the \$5.5m sale of their Princes Gate Hotel in Rotorua.

The hotel sold for about \$2 million above RV. Separately, the family still owns a reasonable property portfolio, including two apartments at Mt Manganui, two in Parnell (one in Lizzie's name) and a lakefront mansion in Rotorua.

The Princes Gate sale marked the end of what the Rotorua's Daily Post described as Brett and Vlasta Marvelly's impressive time transforming the hotel from "a run-down inn to a four-and-a-half star boutique hotel." Mr Marvelly told the paper that the hotel had been bought by a New Zealand company.

Government records show that the new owner, Xinxin Trust, was registered in China. The trust is owned by Xinxin Hao, who has been scoping out New Zealand property investments over the past three years.

Whither the Kiwi property dream? If and when Ms Marvelly finally makes it back on to Mr Henry's set, it could be interesting to learn more.

<https://www.nbr.co.nz/article/media-watch-marvellyous-ironies-publicity-stunt-dc-p-196275>

**Lizzie Marvally (Herald): No sir - we're not your honey now**

5:00 AM Saturday Nov 5, 2016

Reducing a woman you've never met to her physicality is not a compliment; it's weird and inappropriate.

Many were moved to speak out in some way against the brazen sexism of Max Key and Paul Henry. Photo / File

Crafting the first sentence of a column that will touch on sexism often feels like an impossible task.

If you start too aggressively, you'll alienate people. If you share a personal anecdote you'll be labelled an emotional whiner. If you mention the word "feminism", your column will be a real page-turner, which is not such a good thing when it appears in its entirety on one page.

I wanted to start with something like this: "Strong. Powerful. Loud. Assertive. Woman. One of these things is not like the others. Or so the status quo would have us believe."

But I knew I'd lose a significant group of readers before I'd reached the second paragraph. I would be summarily dismissed, turned inside out and folded in half, or forsaken for a piece of clickbait before I'd had half a chance to state my case.

I watched a talk this week in which Jill Soloway, creator of TV show *Transparent*, described the feeling of being "too much".

It may sound like an odd thing to say, but it rang true for me. I've often worried about exactly the same thing.

When a woman is "too much" - too strong, powerful, loud, and/or assertive, she is a challenge, an oddity that throws the whole system into flux. Because if there's one thing a woman is not meant to do, it's rock the boat.

A woman that dares to defy the expectations of her gender, or to speak up against sexism must be immediately belittled lest she takes it into her pretty head that she's a) right b) equal or c) better than the men who seek to tear her down.

The past few weeks have been an interesting time to be a woman. Against the backdrop of the asinine masculine embodiment itself, Donald Trump, our local gender politics took centre stage - first with Max Key's stunning display of intellectual prowess ("real men ride women"), then with Paul Henry's long and leering treatise on a young women's "titties".

Understandably, both remarks left a number of Kiwi women less than pleased. Many of us were moved to speak out in some way against such brazen sexism. The responses we received often proved our point.

I decided out of principle that I wouldn't appear on the Paul Henry Show on Monday. The retaliatory comments my decision generated revealed what I already well knew: Paul Henry and Max Key are but the tip of the iceberg when it comes to sexism in New Zealand.

Quieter, smaller, younger, meeker, milder. We're supposed to take up less space by having the perfect bikini body.

In one notable tweet, Martin Devlin told me that my decision was "grandstandy [sic]" and that I should've gone on the show as planned to "talk like adults about it". In the space of one sentence I was essentially accused of being attention-seeking and childish. Too much. If you can't beat her, belittle her.

The very same Devlin minimised Key's outburst as an example of acting like "all young men do". Key's homophobic and misogynistic slur, according to Devlin, should simply be dismissed: "Big f-ing deal".

If one prefers not to be so blatant in one's belittling, there are a host of other options available.

A personal favourite of mine is the use of pet names - the cherry on top of a slice of patronising pie. There are few things more frustrating than being called, "sweetheart", "dear" or "hunny [sic]" by a strange man as he seeks to denigrate you, as I was this week.

The pet name is a pat on the head to a woman who needs to be brought down a peg. Too much. If you can't beat her, belittle her.

A lot of the language used to describe women is subconsciously infantilising.

Last week I heard a male boss describe his adult female employees as "the girls". It's no accident that most street harassment often begins with "hey baby". Our breasts become "titties", and it's no big deal when a strange man appraises them.

We're supposed to be proud, because every young woman clearly loves it when older men ogle at our chests. Or, if we're offended, we're reduced to some kind of caricature ("Outraged and Proud, of Remuera"). And if we didn't hear the comments in the first place, there's nothing to be upset about. Because we all know that men are allowed to say whatever they want about women when the women they're talking about can't hear them. It's just locker room talk, after all.

The thing is, whether we hear the sexist comments or not is irrelevant.

You don't have to hear objectifying remarks to feel the gaze of a strange man on your breasts. You don't have to read about the merits of various types of "titties" to know that some man at some point has rated you out of 10.

What men remarking on random women's appearances don't seem to realise is that a nice comment from a partner, husband, wife or close friend is totally different to a stranger feeling entitled to talk about our bodies.

Reducing a woman you've never met to her physicality is not a compliment; it's weird and inappropriate.

It's a hangover from a problematic past, but even today society tells women that we are supposed to be less.

Quieter, smaller, younger, meeker, milder. We're supposed to take up less space by having the perfect bikini body, we're supposed to be less offended, less vocal, less threatening. We're supposed to humour sexism good-naturedly. We're not supposed to be "too much".

The truth is that we are only "too much" because we are outgrowing traditional femininity and encroaching upon territory originally reserved for men. Belittling us is simply an attempt to force us to be small enough to fit into a structure that wasn't made for us.

Thankfully, there are deep cracks in the foundations. They can belittle us all they want, but we're beating down the doors.

[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/opinion/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=466&objectid=11741734](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/opinion/news/article.cfm?c_id=466&objectid=11741734)

**Steve Braunias (Herald): Secret diary of the Paul Henry crisis**

5:00 AM Saturday Nov 5, 2016

DONALD TRUMP

No one has more respect for women than Paul Henry.

MICHELE A'COURT

We are not amused.

LIZZIE MARVELLY

Neither are we.

THE AUDITOR GENERAL

This is not a simple story. To understand the arrangements that Trade Minister Murray McCully entered into as part of the Saudi Arabia Food Security Partnership, it is important to outline Paul Henry's background.

This includes the history of Saudi Arabian investment in New Zealand farming, and the role that Paul Henry occupies in public life.

The background also includes the effect of these issues on the negotiation of a free trade agreement with Saudi Arabia. These factors combine to create a complex picture of trade interests, and economic interests, and it also creates a complex picture of Paul Henry, who is extremely interesting.

It is not within my legal mandate to comment on or criticise the Government's trade, diplomatic, or animal welfare policy decisions, but like everyone I have an opinion on Paul Henry, because the fact that he made some comments in a newspaper interview is an issue which affects us all.

It has been recommended to me that this report should only be a preliminary investigation into Paul Henry, and that the matter should subsequently become the subject of a Royal Commission of Inquiry. I find there are firm grounds for this suggestion.

We need to have a national conversation about Paul Henry. I mean I know we're already having it but it'd be good to keep it going.

But getting back to Murray McCully, and this minor, petty business to do with his decision to send 900 sheep to Saudi Arabia, our report considers whether:

- Murray McCully is a mass murderer
- Murray McCully is Paul Henry

Paul Henry publicist accused of misconduct after star's 'perfect titties' comments

Steve Braunias: Life inside a dusty shop

We conclude that thankfully neither of these is the case.

MURRAY McCULLY



I have no comment to make about Paul Henry at this time but here's a joke, hope you like it!

A sheep walks into a baaa.

**JOHN KEY**

Well I think at the end of the day he'll be a little bit disappointed with himself.

I suspect he'll be sitting back reflecting on the fact that he's let himself down, and frankly he's embarrassed himself a bit.

He's clearly let himself and those who are close to him down.

I think there's no question about that. And he'll have to reflect on that, and I'm sure the New Zealand Rugby Football Union will reflect on that.

Hang on - we are talking about Aaron Smith, right?

**DAVID CUNLIFFE**

As I bow out of New Zealand politics, and take my leave from the stage of national affairs, I'd like to reach out to Paul Henry and offer him some advice and perhaps some wisdom that I have gained in my fruitful years in public service.

I can be contacted c/- The Log of Doom on a Herne Bay beach.

**GARETH MORGAN**

I am pleased to announce the formation of a new political party: The Opportunities Party.

People come up on the street and say, "Gareth, we need you to talk long and loud in that aggravatingly nasal voice of yours, like that time you made a generous offer to buy that private beach in Abel Tasman even though it completely missed the point.

But can you possibly find the time to make your opinions heard, constantly, and at length?"

And I say to them, "You have my promise that I will release an unstoppable torrent of opinion, comment, blather, tell-it-like-it-is declarations, withering asides, and various assorted half-baked notions that pop into my head as and when."

And they say to me, "Hang on - are you Paul Henry?"

[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/opinion/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=466&objectid=11741891](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/opinion/news/article.cfm?c_id=466&objectid=11741891)

**Herald: Paul Henry publicist accused of misconduct after star's 'perfect titties' comments**

8:25 AM Sunday Nov 6, 2016

Paul Henry's publicist is facing disciplinary action after an interview in which the presenter commented on a woman's breasts.

Mediaworks publicist Anneke Bodde was reportedly accused of misconduct by senior management for joining Henry in conversation about a woman's "perfect titties" during an interview.

She is seeking legal advice, according to Fairfax.

"The girl with the perfect titties," Henry said in the controversial Weekend Herald interview.

"Am I right or am I right? No, I'm right - perfect titties. Talking to a girl with entirely adequate titties but she's decided to have lunch with someone with perfect titties."

Henry's publicist joined in on the conversation during the lunch time interview with journalist Greg Bruce, at one point saying "Wait until she has children.

They won't be perfect then."

Fairfax has reported that after a meeting in which the interview was raised Bodde received an email accusing her of misconduct. She is now seeking legal advice.

In the fallout from the interview, which was published in Canvas magazine on October 29, Weekend Herald columnist and founder of the feminist website The Villainesse, Lizzie Marvally pulled out of an appearance on the Paul Henry show.

And media commentator Brian Edwards said the interview should have been headed: "Suicide note from a deranged narcissist".

After the interview, Henry issued a statement through his employer Mediaworks last night which reportedly said: "I meant no harm or offence by what I said".

"There is absolutely no way the woman could have heard the conversation that took place. I would never want to make anyone feel uncomfortable."

[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/canvas-magazine/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=532&objectid=11743078](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/canvas-magazine/news/article.cfm?c_id=532&objectid=11743078)

**John Drinnan (ZagZigger): Celebrity Outrage: It's Sad. So Sad**

November 6, 2016

The Radio New Zealand MediaWatch programme made some astute observations today about the state of New Zealand media; the hyping of studied outrage and the symbiotic relationship between TV and print. Last week the Weekend Herald's quality liftout magazine promoted some typically inflammatory comments during a promotional interview.

It seems clear to me that Henry and MediaWorks fed Canvas outrageous comments to drive publicity. It seems to have worked. With a senior feature writer and an enthusiastic publicist in tow. Henry referred to a fellow diner about her "perfect breasts" and referred to titties.

I have no gripe with the journalist – Greg Bruce – who is a very good writer with a unique style. This is the commercial news or entertainment. But in the past I believe a quality publication like Canvas would have tried to point out the story is artificial. He was not unleashed. Henry is allowed to roam free and extract rubbish from bins.

I can remember in 2009 when I interviewed Henry about his role promoting psychic Deb Webber to find a missing child, Aisling Syme, He gave me a back-handed compliment. He liked me because I said things I did not believe I don't agree. But that is his take. It's all a game.

The great thing about media is that it has a ready-made promotional machine and celebrity offensiveness is instantly familiar to the public.

Feminist pundit Lizzie Marvelly dropped her scheduled role on a Henry show panel.

That means media stories can quickly take off and they can be extended to increase the number of clicks. That is why there are so many media stories now that there is such a lot of online news content. To be honest I was a little disappointed in Henry. It seemed like he had moved beyond the shock jock persona where he needed to use words like titties to get attention. He is better than that. What is it that Donald Trump says?

Sad. So Sad.

<http://zagzigger.com/celebrity-outrage-sad-sad/>

**National Party****Audrey Young (Herald): McCully's value to Key set to increase after US elections**

5:00 AM Saturday Nov 5, 2016

There are many reasons why Foreign Minister Murray McCully is not losing his job over the Auditor-General's report into the Saudi agrihub deal.

Quite apart from the report itself, McCully is too valuable to Prime Minister John Key.

That will never be more relevant than in the aftermath of next week's US presidential election, the most important since World War II.

Since gaining power in 2008, the Key-McCully partnership abroad has been as successful as the Key-English partnership at home.

Key and McCully forged the foundations of their relationship in Opposition.

Three days after Key became National Party leader in 2006, he announced a huge policy shift that he and McCully had planned together - that National would unequivocally support New Zealand's anti-nuclear status.

They had rightly identified it as a major vulnerability for National in terms of voter-trust.

It underpinned the undertaking that Helen Clark extracted from George W Bush in 2007 that the United States would no longer try to get New Zealand to change its anti-nuclear laws.

And building on those gains with the US is the area in which Key and McCully's partnership has been exemplified.

Both have built up strong professional and personal relationships in the current Administration.

While Key is looking at a Cabinet reshuffle to start the New Year, the chances of him putting in a new Foreign Minister just at the time the new President is setting up his or her Administration are close to zero.

Right through to the New Zealand election in 2017, it is more likely Key will want the guy who has been there for nine years rather than for five minutes.

The New Zealand Government would quietly celebrate a Clinton victory. It hasn't said so, but it is blindingly obvious that Clinton's world view is more aligned to New Zealand's than Trump's.

She would not only continue Obama's "pivot" to Asia in the military and economic sense as a counter to China's rise but could put greater emphasis on it.

The unpredictability of US allies in the Philippines and Thailand would necessarily add weight to its other security relationships, including with Australia and by association with New Zealand.

Clinton's familiarity with the New Zealand Government could only help.

A Trump victory is looking distinctly possible.

It is a safe bet that one of the last things a Trump Administration would be worrying about is its renewed relationship with New Zealand.

President Trump would create short-term turmoil in the markets.

But after that calmed, there would be a longer period of uncertainty about how protectionist his trade policy would be, about whether the Congress would sign up to his policies, about the role of the US as a global and regional leader, about its commitment to its post-war security alliances in the Asia Pacific, its attitude to nuclear weapons and about its attitude to China and Russia.

The only certainty with a Trump victory is uncertainty.

And that is exactly why Key would want his most experienced hands on the case, including McCully.

It is more likely Key will want the guy [Murray McCully] who has been there for nine years rather than for five minutes.

Fairly soon after the election, they are expected to be hosting another high-profile US visitor, US Secretary of State John Kerry, who worked closely with New Zealand to secure the world's largest marine reserve in the Antarctic's Ross Sea.

The most compelling reason for not sacking McCully is the report itself.

There is nothing in it that warranted a sacking. It uncovered nothing new in terms of a smoking gun.

If there were grounds enough to sack him this week, there were grounds enough to sack him in 2013, when Cabinet signed off the deal.

In summary: It was a surprising but lawful deal to settle a private commercial grievance which was impeding New Zealand's relations with the Saudi Arabia Government and which was underpinned by a Cabinet paper with big shortcomings.

Granted it was not the sort of deal that Helen Clark and Phil Goff would ever have entered into, it is fair to say.

They would have found other means to try to appease the Saudis - perhaps some education scholarships to study at Massey University.

The deal was a blend of the characteristics of both Key the dealmaker who follows the "whatever works" ethos, and McCully, the corner-cutter who follows the "whatever works fast" ethos.

The Cabinet approved the investment in the agrihub knowing it was an odd way of settling a grievance. That was obvious from the Cabinet paper.

There was no "guise" about it, contrary to what the report said. But it was unusual enough for the Cabinet to cover its butt in 2013 and seek an early opinion of the Auditor-General.

She gave her view at the time and it hasn't changed, although the tone of her response back then suggests she did not want to be inveigled into a process over which she had oversight.

In a letter to Foreign Affairs, in 2013, released under the Official Information Act, she said it was lawful in terms of spending within the appropriation for Government money but that the business case for it had been woeful.

She didn't use that precise word. She said it had been "inadequate." Like this week's report, the Auditor General did not use strong language.

Auditor-generals have a powerful bully-pulpit. It was exercised modestly in this report.

The paperwork for the deal was thin. That is because it was a highly political deal. Padding it out with paperwork to suit the case would have been the "guise."

That said, even if the Auditor-General had decided to throw the book at McCully, and be horrified and appalled by the deal, he almost certainly would have survived.

The threshold for a McCully sacking is higher than for ordinary ministers because despite his failings, he is good at his job. And that helps Key.  
[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/opinion/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=466&objectid=11742048](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/opinion/news/article.cfm?c_id=466&objectid=11742048)

**Herald: Former National Party president Michelle Boag adapts rap hit Gangsta's Paradise during debate at party fundraiser in Auckland**

11:27 PM Friday Nov 4, 2016

Former National Party president Michelle Boag has rapped a self-adapted version of 90s hit Gangsta's Paradise during a party fundraiser in Auckland tonight.

Posts on Twitter referred to the performance, made during the Tamaki Debate.

The debate pitched Boag, Young Nats' president Stefan Sunde and Orakei councillor Desley Simpson against Invercargill mayor Tim Shadbolt, broadcaster Gary McCormick and former Labour MP Judith Tizard.

Boag confirmed her performance to the Herald and said she had changed the title to "John Key's Paradise" altering the lyrics to match her message.

She was not a fan of US rapper Coolio's original, chart-topping version of Gangsta's Paradise and did not own a copy of it.

Her cover simply done in good fun, Boag said.

"I did it because I wanted to do something different to attract their attention. I think [it worked]. I don't think they were expecting it."

Labour considers levy on businesses hiring migrant workers

Mike Williams

Saddened by death of Helen Kelly

It took her "ages" to come up with the altered lyrics, but she declined the Herald's request for an encore performance.

"I'm not giving them to you."

Sunde also sang - A Horse with No Name by America - which he dedicated to Tizard, Boag said.

Simpson sang too, but she couldn't remember what song.

The trio's efforts were in vain though - the "left" team won by half a point.

[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=1&objectid=11742533](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=11742533)

**David Farrar (Kiwiblog): Why isn't National attracting more candidates in safe seats?**

NOVEMBER 6, 2016 2:00PM BY DAVID FARRAR

National has generally done a good job of refreshing the caucus and getting some talented people into Parliament.

But that doesn't mean there isn't still a challenge ahead.

When a safe seat comes up, once upon a time you'd have a dozen credible candidates compete for it, and all of the final five would be high calibre candidates.

Party members in Pakuranga and East Coast Bays, both seats with huge majorities, are saying that there isn't a huge line up of aspiring candidates.

Why when the party is at 48% in the polls, are there not a dozen people seeking the safe seats coming up?

Some possible reasons people have floated with me:

A perception of a gender/race bias with white males feeling that it isn't a fair fight.

A selection process too tough on those with family/mortgage responsibilities

A party too shy in its shoulder tapping

Does the selection by locals system deter "stars" who have not been involved in the electorate?

Working 60 to 70 hours a week for a \$150,000 salary not appealing to those who are already earning way more than that

[http://www.kiwiblog.co.nz/2016/11/why\\_isnt\\_national\\_attracting\\_more\\_candidates\\_in\\_safe\\_seats.html](http://www.kiwiblog.co.nz/2016/11/why_isnt_national_attracting_more_candidates_in_safe_seats.html)



**Dita de Boni (TVNZ): Our Foreign Minister lives a charmed life**

Let's face it: It's always been a stretch to imagine Murray McCully as the kind of man who, as Minister of Foreign Affairs, would set the global stage alight with his wit, charm and sheer magnetism.

He always looks like he's been at the wrong end of a stun gun, but I suppose it is not fair to judge him on his unblinking-eyed demeanour.

But it is quite apt, I believe, to suggest he has operated at a level far above his abilities. It may be the case that he's an excellent electorate MP, but in his time leading the country's foreign affairs, he's not exactly changed the world. Several years ago I wrote about how McCully appeared to take a bit of a cookie-cutter approach to world conflict.

Where one might expect nuance and enlightened analysis to be his response, one was disappointed. Instead, McCully's main message to the world, on behalf of New Zealand, was essentially the famous kindy playground lament: "stop it, I don't like it!"

Be it a warning to Israel to stop pounding Gaza during the attack of 2014 (which became a warning to both sides to "show restraint"), or to the warring Ukrainians and Russians of that same period (calling on them to "exercise restraint") or to Egypt, wracked with violence after the ousting of the Muslim Brotherhood (we "urge all parties to exercise restraint,") or Libya, which received a lukewarm tongue lashing urging them to "exercise restraint and respect the rule of law" after Gaddafi was deposed, there's been a remarkable uniformity of response.

His main work in the intervening years has been working the greasy pole to get NZ a stint chairing the UN Security Council, aiming to showcase how awesome and independent we are. High on our own supply, we swiftly told Russia and the US to wind their necks in over Syria.

Sadly, our exhortations to the world via the medium of Murray McCully have done little to address this or any other carnage.

It would be easy to think of McCully as harmlessly coasting on his overseas sinecures, issuing meaningless press releases and hobnobbing with the great and the good.

But that would also be to ignore the many internal problems - the way he has meddled endlessly in the work of Mfat, the way he has upset a huge number of people who have worked with him, including almost the entire NZ-based aid community, and endlessly shifted blame to his underlings for PR disasters. There've been inquiries during his ministerial career, quite a few really - always beginning with what seems like obvious wrongdoing, and ending with a million questions. But the conclusions always leave him wriggling away, unscathed.

Prior to his life as Foreign Minister, in 1999 he was found to be at fault - but not responsible for - wrongfully made severance payments to Tourism Board directors after a power tussle that turned sour. He had been Tourism Minister in the 1990s National Government.

Then in 2014, Mfat was found to be at fault but the buck stopped well short of McCully when a report outlined the cocked-up handling of a sex assault complaint against a Malaysian diplomat.

And now we have Sheepgate, or the paying of an extraordinary sum of money to a foreign businessman, aimed at quelling a lawsuit which was never going to eventuate anyhow, in the service of procuring a Free Trade Agreement which remains a mirage.

Somehow, using public money and misleading your colleagues and your country about it has only got Mr McCully a slap on the wrist and a vote of full confidence from the Prime Minister.

Which is extraordinary in the real world, but really not so remarkable at all in the life and times of Murray McCully.

<https://www.tvnz.co.nz/one-news/new-zealand/opinion-our-foreign-minister-lives-charmed-life>

**Mt Roskill by-election****Rodney Hide (Herald): No meat in this pork barrel**

5:00 AM Sunday Nov 6, 2016

We must fervently hope there are no more by-elections. The country simply can't afford them.

I am not talking about the cost of running the by-election - although they're not proving cheap. Last year's Northland by-election cost just under a million dollars. That's \$30 a vote.

But the real expense is they make politicians dig deeper into our pockets.

The Northland by-election spooked National into promising upgrades to 10 bridges. The cost was put between \$32 million and \$69m.

Labour Leader Andrew Little dismissed National's announcement as "pork barrel and a desperate bid to win the confidence of the Northland people". He was quite correct in his assessment.

The disappointing thing is that National has stuck with the bridges despite losing to Winston Peters.

Their message should have been clearer: no votes, no bridges. The pork can't arrive regardless of how people vote: that undermines the entire rationale of pork barrel politics.

But now it's Labour shovelling pork on a truly gargantuan scale. They're promising \$680m for a tram from Mt Roskill into town. That's more than \$25,000 a vote. And that's only half the cost. Labour wants Auckland Council to stump up with the rest.

There's a snag there. Phil Goff was inside the Labour caucus less than a month ago. Now he's mayor of Auckland - and now he's elected he disagrees with Labour: he's not prepared to shake ratepayers down for the cash.

That shows how roughly cobbled together Labour's policy is.

Of course, now National are calling Labour's promise "pork barrel politics".

The good news for taxpayers is that the policy is not one Labour can deliver on. Their candidate winning Mt Roskill doesn't propel them into government and their hands into our pockets.

They also can't get the former MP and now mayor on their side. It's an empty promise. It's pork barrel politics with only the promise of pork. It doesn't matter how the good people of Mt Roskill vote: Labour can't deliver pork.

How weird New Zealand politics can be. Northland get the pork without giving the votes. Mt Roskill won't get the pork even if they give the votes.

[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/opinion/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=466&objectid=11741207](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/opinion/news/article.cfm?c_id=466&objectid=11741207)

**Jenna Lynch (Newshub): National starts by-election campaign**

Saturday 5 Nov 2016 4:02 p.m.

Labour is worried about holding Mt Roskill in next month's by-election and National has a chance for a rare win, Prime Minister John Key says.

National's candidate Parmjeet Parmar kicked off her campaign on Saturday with Mr Key. They visited business in the electorate and spoke to a crowd of party faithful.

"We think there is a chance here. No incumbent Government has won a seat they don't hold so we're quite realistic but there's a sort of one in 20 year chance to get a National MP as MP for Mt Roskill," Mr Key says.

He says Labour isn't doing very well with ethnic communities, which are represented in the electorate.

"They [Labour] are worried about Mt Roskill and they should be worried," he says.

National launched its bid for Mt Roskill just hours before Labour made an official campaign visit to the electorate as part of their annual party conference.

Still, he says if National don't win Mt Roskill it won't mean anything for the general election in 2017.

Dr Parmar, a current National list MP, who is based in Mt Roskill, says she's been working hard on local issues and wants them to be the focus of the campaign.

She says Labour has taken the seat for granted.

"As a mother, a scientist, a businesswoman, and a dedicated community advocate, I am the only candidate with the local track record of experience and success in getting things done on Mt Roskill's behalf."

The Mt Roskill by-election is being held on December 3.

Michael Wood is standing for Labour. The newly formed People's Party will stand Rohan Nauhria while Auckland lawyer Adam Holland is set to run as an independent after missing out in the Auckland Council elections.

The by-election is necessary after incumbent Phil Goff was elected as Auckland mayor last month.

<http://www.newshub.co.nz/politics/national-starts-by-election-campaign-2016110516>

**Auckland vs provinces political bias****RNZ: Peters derides Auckland-centric highway funding**

10:29 am on 5 November 2016

Northland MP Winston Peters says claims a costly new highway from Pūhoi to Warkworth will benefit Northland are a bad joke.

The government this week awarded a \$700 million contract to extend the Auckland motorway by 18km between Pūhoi and Warkworth, saying it would help Auckland and grow the Northland economy.

Funding to extend Auckland's northern highway to Warkworth has been approved, but there seems no progress on the promised Warkworth-Wellsford stretch. Photo: Google Maps

Mr Peters said the road did not reach the Northland electorate, and there was still no sign of planning for the next stretch of highway further north between Warkworth and Wellsford promised 18 months ago.

Construction of the Pūhoi to Warkworth highway will start before Christmas.

Photo: RNZ / Rebekah Parsons-King

It has been eight years since the government snatched rural roading funds to pay for the Roads of National Significance project including the Pūhoi to Warkworth stretch, Mr Peters said, but not a single of metre of it has been built.

A New Zealand Transport Agency spokesperson said the contractor, Express Group, would start construction before Christmas.

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/political/317368/peters-derides-auckland-centric-highway-funding>

**Nicholas Jones (Herald): 'Big city' politicians have eyes only for Auckland - Winston Peters**

2:27 PM Sunday Nov 6, 2016

New Zealand First leader Winston Peters has attacked Labour's light rail plan as an example of "big city, free-spending politicians" neglecting the regions.

As Labour holds its party conference in Auckland, Peters used a speech at the Tamatea Hotel in Napier to continue the theme of regional neglect that will be a major focus for his party going into next year's election.

Peters told the crowd that record immigration levels were "creating a city the size of New Plymouth" each year and that was putting enormous strain on infrastructure.

While most immigrants were settling in Auckland, he said the provinces were still affected.

"They may not be coming here but the taxpayer costs most definitely are. Who do you think is going to be paying for Auckland's infrastructure mess borne of massive immigration? You are."

Both Labour and National were outdoing themselves by throwing billions of dollars at projects in Auckland, Peters said.

"Labour is promising to fast track the Mt Roskill light rail at over \$107,000 a metre. That means that taxpayers from Gore, Hawke's Bay and all the way to Kaitia will be expected to pay for half of it.

"Regional New Zealand is tired of being the Cinderella when it comes to broadband, mobile phone coverage, roads, rail and even access to banking services.

"Take the \$1 million a metre that Auckland's cross rail tunnel is now expected to cost. And they haven't even begun to dig it. The taxpayer is footing \$500,000 of the \$1 million per metre."

Labour has pledged to help fund light rail from the city to Mt Roskill. In an announcement linked to the Mt Roskill byelection on December 3, Labour leader Andrew Little last Sunday released part of Labour's transport policy for Auckland - \$680m to help pay for the first stage of a light rail system from Wynyard Quarter to Mt Roskill.

Today in Napier, Peters outlined his party's regional policies, including shifting government jobs to the regions, boosting police officer numbers and matching regional transport spending to that invested in the major cities.

The New Zealand First leader has campaigned heavily in the regions since winning the Northland byelection in March last year.

In September his party held its annual conference in Dunedin for the first time, with Peters telling media that NZ First is eyeing up Whangarei and Whanganui in next year's election.

[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=1&objectid=11743226](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=11743226)



**Jenna Lynch (Newshub): Winston Peters calls for transport spending to be matched in the provinces**

Sunday 6 Nov 2016 6:06 p.m.

New Zealand First leader Winston Peters is playing Oprah with New Zealand Transport funding, sending a message to all Kiwis: You get a road, and you get a road...and you get a road too.

New Zealand First wants to start spending in the regions again, saying it's unfair for taxpayers from Gore to be paying for Auckland roading projects and getting nothing in return.

"Regional New Zealand is tired of being the Cinderella when it comes to broadband, mobile phone coverage, roads, rail and even access to banking services," he told a packed public meeting in Napier.

So he's promising to balance out the roading spend per capita.

"New Zealand First insists that for every dollar spent on major new transport projects in cities like Auckland, a comparative spend must be made on projects in provincial New Zealand."

It's the latest in a big drive from New Zealand First to rally voters in the provinces, who Mr Peters says are being forgotten.

"These big-city, free-spending politicians forget where the wealth of this country comes from," he said.

"New Zealand has a two-tier economy - Auckland, Christchurch and the rest. We want a one-tier economy where, from Invercargill to Kaitaia, the provinces again become central, core and critical to our recovery."

It's a tactic that paid off for Mr Peters in the Northland by-election, capitalising on those regional voters who feel like they're getting a raw deal.

<http://www.newshub.co.nz/politics/winston-peters-calls-for-transport-spending-to-be-matched-in-the-provinces-2016110618>

**Police****Phil Duncan (Redline): An insight into how the state operates: police harass senior citizens after public meeting**

November 4, 2016

Quite a few people in this country routinely experience police harassment. If you're young, male, working class, brown and live somewhere like Cannon's Creek or Otara it's probably a given and it doesn't get media coverage. Perhaps it's this that made the cops think they would get away with targeting some white, respectable, middle-class, older people for a change.

In any case, the use of a bogus breathalysers checkpoint to gather names of people attending an Exit International meeting in Lower Hutt on October 2 – as well as the fact that cops attended the meeting and took down car number plates – has rather blown up in their face.

It has also lifted the lid on what can and does go on behind closed doors in the decision-making rooms of the repressive apparatus of the state.

The people who had their car number plates taken down and the people who were stopped by a police checkpoint to be breathalysed were doing nothing illegal. So much for the usual particularly moronic argument "if you're not doing anything wrong you've got nothing to fear" from the cops, the secret political police etc etc.

People attending the meeting subsequently had their homes visited. As 76-year-old Wilhelmina Irving put it, "A lot of elderly people are quite scared by police and [scared] they might be doing something wrong". She told Stuff reporters Tom Hunt and Matt Stewart that some days later she was visited at home by an inspector who "told me he knew exactly what had been said, who was there, everything else and [asked] what did I have to say?" Stuff later reported, "ten of the women who were stopped at the roadblock were visited by police in their homes." One woman in her 80s was so stressed by the visit she had an asthma attack.

If this is what the cops are prepared to do to people attending an open public meeting to discuss euthanasia, imagine what they are open to doing in situations where the authority of the unjust system they uphold might be called into question?

<https://rdln.wordpress.com/2016/11/04/an-insight-into-how-the-state-operates-police-harass-senior-citizens-after-public-meeting/>

**Newshub: Christchurch Council upset by police alcohol dump**

Saturday 5 Nov 2016 5:00 a.m.

The tipping of 300 litres of confiscated booze including French champagne and fine wine down a drain by police has got them in trouble - not for waste but environmental harm.

Police confiscated the grog from a Christchurch restaurant in June after it was caught displaying alcohol for sale without a licence.

The alcohol was tipped out at the Christchurch central police station on Thursday after the Christchurch District Court issued a destruction order.

It's caused an uproar, not over the waste of booze but over the harm to the environment.

Christchurch City Council says it does not accept this type of "raw (undiluted) waste" into the sewer network.

"We have notified the NZ police to have their tanks sucked out by a waste disposal company immediately where it can be treated off site appropriately."

Environment Canterbury says it has confirmed the alcohol was tipped down a drain in the police vehicle wash-down area.

This drain empties into a 1000-litre holding tank which connects to the sewerage system, not the stormwater drains.

"To be 100 percent sure there was no effect on our waterways, we're working with the Christchurch City Council to confirm nothing leached into the stormwater drain by accident."

Police say there were carrying out the orders of the courts to destroy the alcohol.

The haul of booze, worth about \$20,000, included French champagnes, \$800 red wines, expensive cognac and 18-year-old whiskey, the Press reports.  
<http://www.newshub.co.nz/nznews/christchurch-council-upset-by-police-alcohol-dump-2016110423>

**David Farrar (Kiwiblog): Why not sell or auction it?**

NOVEMBER 5, 2016 12:00PM BY DAVID FARRAR

The Press reported:

French champagnes, \$800 red wines, expensive cognac and 18-year-old whisky have all gone down the drain at the Christchurch Police Station.

About \$20,000 worth of confiscated booze was tipped out on Thursday, made up of 52 litres of spirits, 154 litres of wine and 137 litres of beer.

Sergeant Jon Harris confiscated the 343 litres of booze, in 493 bottles, in June this year after visiting a Christchurch restaurant displaying alcohol for sale without a licence.

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Sergeant Jon Harris confiscated the 343 litres of booze, in 493 bottles, in June this year after visiting a Christchurch restaurant displaying alcohol for sale without a licence.

Pouring it down the drain seems daft, and about a PR stunt.

Why not sell or auction the alcohol? Have the proceeds go to a victims of crime fund or something. This isn't an illegal product. It is just the outfit selling it wasn't licensed.

The haul included some "pretty exclusive alcohol", he said.

"There was some \$800 bottles of red wine which were pretty painful to tip out."

So why did they?

Also they have upset the Council:

It was tipped into a vehicle wash bay drain, which led to a 1000 litre holding tank connected to the sewerage system, but the Christchurch City Council on Friday ordered the alcohol's removal.

"The council however does not accept this type of raw (undiluted) waste into the sewer network and we have notified the NZ Police to have their tanks sucked out by a waste disposal company immediately where it can be treated off site appropriately. The police have agreed and have actioned this immediately," council three waters and waste head John Mackie said.

So maybe think next time before you do a PR stunt.

[http://www.kiwiblog.co.nz/2016/11/why\\_not\\_sell\\_or\\_auction\\_it.html](http://www.kiwiblog.co.nz/2016/11/why_not_sell_or_auction_it.html)

## Housing

### **Herald: Generation blessed - housing crisis sparks return to inherited wealth and class**

5:00 AM Sunday Nov 6, 2016

By 2036 Leroy Beckett will have just turned 40.

The 21-year-old director of political youth movement Generation Zero has a university degree and lives with his mum in the Grey Lynn family home.

When he reaches the age at which some say life begins, he says he would have expected to to be a proud homeowner.

But new figures suggest the average price of a house in Auckland in 20 years will be \$3 million - more than 19 times the average income.

"Oh good Lord," says Beckett. "It's not what anyone wants for our city. Something desperately has to change - that's just not sustainable."

"Reasonably, I would have expected to be able to buy a house by (40 years old). I'm not from a lower social economic band. I have a university degree. With those numbers I can't imagine I ever will. It makes me feel despondent."

The PR graduate says his mum has done "reasonably well" out of buying their city fringe home six years ago.

But with that comes a sense of injustice.

"It's not an ancestral family home, we just snuck into the suburb. And now we feel very guilty. We are profiting, just on paper, because of the housing crisis which is forcing people out of their homes."

Beckett faces becoming a victim of a new phenomena that is poised to create a tale of two Aucklands.

Auckland property losing steam: agents

Economists say there are those who will inherit houses and those who will never afford one.

This "bequest bulge" driven by a combination of crazy house prices and baby boomer housing wealth may spark a return to the Victorian-style class system.

And that places Auckland at the precipice of an unprecedented shift back in time.

New figures from Corelogic based on average growth rate since 1990 put the average house price in Auckland in 20 years time at \$3.25 million - triple its

current value and a massive 19.5 times the projected average household income.

These crude projections are only indicative and based on market conditions remaining exactly the same. This is unlikely to happen. But the stats, which the researchers describe as "conservative", do give a taste of how incredibly unaffordable houses may become.

Max Rashbrooke, author of *Wealth and New Zealand*, says the picture of the future that is emerging is one where working, saving or studying hard won't guarantee you a house. It will be all about being born into the right family.

"I do think if housing remains extremely unaffordable and access to it is strongly influenced by inheritance you could have a strong class dynamic re-emerging," he says.

Fellow economist Shamubeel Eaqub agrees.

"There is a new kind of wedge between the haves and the have-nots.

"Home ownership will soon become the purview of those with property lineage - the landed gentry."

And though many might admire the costuming and witty repartee of *Downton Abbey*, as the *Economist Magazine* puts it: "Not many people see it (*Downton*) as a model for how society should function."

Rashbrooke's not suggesting we will see powdered aristocrats walking the inflated streets of Auckland but he does believe that housing wealth is quietly nurturing an elite in the better suburbs.

"Basically what you have there effectively is an extreme upper middle class," says Rashbrooke.

The second element in this "return to Victorian times" scenario is something known as the "bequest bulge" - the passing down of housing wealth by baby boomers.

"They are moving into the prime period of retiring, downsizing and thinking very hard about the assistance they can give their kids. That will accelerate over the next 20 years," says Rashbrooke.

The oldest of the boomers will hit 71 this year. Rashbrooke says the top 20-30 per cent have built up an enormous wealth base, courtesy of the housing market.

Many media reports have portrayed this accumulation as a sort of a prize fight between generations.

It will be all about being born into the right family.

Max Rashbrooke

In the blue corner, wealthy mortgage-free baby boomers in leafy suburbs, In the red, millennials with high levels of debt and a slim chance of ever buying a house.

"I'm not a huge advocate of the crude clash of the generations story."

Rashbrooke believes this perceived unfairness between generations is distracting from the real story, the massive difference in wealth within future generations.

Simply put: sons and daughters of the well-off, already well-off themselves, will be made even more well-off as they inherit - and with no inheritance tax to even things out. He says it compounds advantage and disadvantage.

The latest housing figures released this week show a slowing in the housing market. But the trajectory is not changing - and the numbers are shocking. \$1.03m is the price of an average house in Auckland. The current house value to income ratio of 11.8.

So what happens if that divergence between house prices and income continues - defying the ever-present danger of the boom going bust?

"For poorer parents living in an overcrowded house there may not even be anywhere for their children to study," says Rashbrooke. "Wealthier parents can give their kids all kinds of advantages. They can buy a place in the grammar zone, buy them equipment, give them experiences."

Then, as bonus the rich kids, get to inherit a family home worth millions.

"There will be a specific group of people: those who are blessed with inheritance. Generation Blessed."

Inheritance flows have been a topic of international conversation since French economist Thomas Piketty wrote the influential book *Capital* in the Twenty First Century two years ago.

Piketty claims low growth rates have caused inheritance to grow as a percentage of total wealth - moving the needle away from meritocracy towards aristocracy.

If you plot New Zealand's figures you get a graph that looks very similar to France.

The only economist to do that, Geoff Bertram, warns it's hard to accurately predict how our inheritance patterns will affect wealth distribution. That's because many of our rich-listers live overseas.

"The wealthy and the elite fly around the world. Rather than accumulate assets domestically they have a tendency to accumulate assets offshore. Much of it is invisible."



But Rashbrooke sees Gen-Yers turning to their parents to get them into a house as a clear sign of things to come.

"If the deposit is \$200,000, who's going to be able to save that without help? Parents who help out are, for the most part, property owners themselves."

"Now even if you have a good education it is unlikely that you will have sufficient income to buy a house, unless you have access to the bank of mummy and daddy," says Eaqub.

But with our average personal wealth at \$90,000, even if they want to most Kiwis won't be able to offer that hand-up or hand-out.

A Salvation Army report from late last year projects that 200,000 boomers will retire without a house to call their own.

"They're really going to struggle in retirement and not really going to help their children much at all. You start to see how that inequality is going to build up and compound across generations."

So how might the lines of this new class system look?

There is a new kind of wedge between the haves and the have-nots.  
Shamubeel Eaqub

Based on the very latest net worth figures from the Government it looks as if middle New Zealand is a fairly equitable place to be - 40 per cent of the population own 37.2 per cent of the wealth.

The real class divide is happening at the top and the bottom.

"There's an awful lot of people who have no meaningful wealth at all."

Rashbrooke says the poorest 50 per cent own a measly 3.8 per cent of wealth. With those at the very bottom entrenched in debt - negative wealth.

Bertram believes the lack of asset accumulation has been "absolutely destructive for the bottom end".

On the flip side you have the top 10 per cent who own 59 per cent of wealth.

"Upper professional classes, senior lawyers, doctors, accountants," explains Rashbrooke.

Perched above them are the one percenters who hold 18 per cent of the country's net worth.

Although officially New Zealand doesn't have an aristocracy with entitlement through birth, Rashbrooke says there are longstanding families who command social respect and power.

"The Myers, Goodmans, descendants of John Logan Campbell, that kind of crowd."

"New Zealand has always had an elite and over the past 30 years the elite has become more visible and wealthier. Over the next 30 years, if nothing changes, wealth will become more entrenched."

That is if the Auckland Council and Government fail in their attempts to solve the housing crisis. No pressure.

Building and Housing Minister Nick Smith claims the key inflationary factor in the last 25 years has been the rampant increase in the price of land. He blames the Resource Management Act and the limits on city growth.

"The Government's RMA reforms and the new Unitary Plan will mean a very different price trajectory during the next 25 years."

Then of course the housing bubble could simply burst, evaporating much of the property wealth.

"To some extent it's paper money and it could all come crashing down, not that I would wish that on anyone, but..." says Rashbrooke.

Bertram sounds a warning here.

"The smart movers will get out before the crash and leave the suckers holding the can. My advice would be to get out. But I gave the same advice 20 years ago and I was wrong."

Beckett's family maybe among those getting out, leaving him outside Generation Blessed.

"My sister and I have no expectations that this house is going to be passed down to us for our gain."

His mum Sue Ashfield, a health professional, has been eyeing up places outside the city.

"I think like a lot of Aucklanders she looks at TradeMe every now and again and sees large houses in the country that she can get, and is increasingly tempted by it."

But Beckett's sympathies lie with families not as lucky as his; those with parents who won't have a house going into retirement.

"Their kids will have to be supporting them and then paying how many hundreds of dollars in rent every week."

Beckett says the real sting is in the projection that the average house price when he is 40 will be 19 times household income - more than six times the United Nations recommended limit for affordable housing.

"I love this city but I cannot imagine living here if that's the situation."

[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/business/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=3&objectid=11736](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/business/news/article.cfm?c_id=3&objectid=11736)

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**Susan Edmunds (Stuff): New Zealanders expecting house prices to soar could be caught out**

Last updated 11:25, November 7 2016

Many New Zealanders are banking on the price rises seen over recent years continuing into the future - and that's prompted a warning.

BNZ has released new research that shows 62 per cent of Kiwis think house prices in their area are now too high.

But that does not stop them expecting the upward trajectory to continue.

Overall, New Zealanders expect house prices to increase 21 per cent over the next year, well up from the 12.7 per cent recorded by QV in October.

READ MORE: ASB increases home loan rates, other banks expected to follow

Non-property owners have even higher expectations, forecasting house prices will increase 25 per during the next year.

People expect house prices will increase an average of 43 per cent in the next decade, and an average of 56 per cent during the next 20 years.

David Bullock, BNZ's acting director of retail and marketing, said it was important that people did not have unrealistic expectations of continuous house price increases.

"When it comes to rising house prices, people are very optimistic if they are banking on continuous price hikes well above average. It's unlikely that housing will increase in value by as much as 21 per cent in the next year and nor would this be a good outcome for New Zealand. It's also concerning if New Zealanders are planning their financial futures based on these sorts of predictions.

"It's worth pointing out that rising house prices only make homeowners wealthy on paper. If you are selling and buying in the same market, then large profits are unlikely unless downsizing or significantly changing location," he said.

Throughout the country, people think house prices are too high.

"Our research also found only one in three think it's a good time for people to buy their first house. Yet more than three-quarters of people think it's a good time for people to save for their first home – so Kiwis' underlying affinity with home ownership doesn't seem to be shifting, it's just about how and when you get into the market," Bullock said.

The research found that nearly a quarter of non-property owners are planning to buy a house in another region and move there, and one in five non-property

owners are planning to buy somewhere other than the region they live in and rent it out.

"Applied to Auckland, that would mean that 300,000 Aucklanders - a city almost the size of Christchurch - are actively considering moving out – this helps to explain some of the pricing pressure throughout provincial New Zealand," Bullock said.

"Only six months ago we were talking about the impact Auckland's housing market was having on neighbouring regions such as Waikato and the Bay of Plenty and now we are seeing this flowing into other regions further afield."

A further 12 per cent of New Zealanders are planning to cash up and sell their house to take advantage of the high prices.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/business/property/86172968/new-zealanders-expecting-house-prices-to-soar-could-be-caught-out>

**Health****Nicholas Jones (Herald): Handful of GPs charging fees for under 13s - with most in Auckland**

5:00 AM Monday Nov 7, 2016

Only seven general practices in New Zealand don't provide zero fees for children under 13-years-old - with most in wealthier Auckland suburbs.

All children aged under 13 are now eligible to get free doctor's visits at their enrolled general practice and after-hours services, and also get free prescriptions.

The change came in on July 1 last year and 99 per cent of GPs have signed-up to the voluntary zero fees scheme - although families enrolled at a handful do not get free visits.

Information released to the Herald by the Ministry of Health shows CityMed Doctors in central Auckland, Epsom Medical Centre, Ponsonby Medical Centre, Windsor Medical Centre in Albany, and East Coast Bays Doctors do not provide zero fees for under-13s.

Francis Street Medical in Blenheim and Torbay Community Doctor only offer zero fees for their enrolled 0 to 5-year-olds.

Fees for under 13s range from \$10 to \$18 at Windsor Medical Centre to \$49 at Ponsonby Medical Centre.

Anna Young, general manager at Francis Street Medical, said the decision not to join the scheme was driven by capacity issues, rather than financial considerations.

Marlborough has a shortage of GPs, Young said, with waiting lists to enrol.

"We have eschewed this 'popular' move to ensure we can continue to offer a good level of service to all our patients at a time of winter illnesses and a recognised doctor shortage."

Young said the upfront money given to practices that joined the scheme equated to about two visits by an under 13 per year, and the zero fees scheme for children under 6 had increased workloads.

"Notably, GP appointments can be utilised to achieve free medication where a doctor's input is not required."

The Francis Street team's decision not to join the scheme was also influenced by the local hospital starting a project to shift 5000 "unnecessary or inappropriate attendances" at the emergency department to primary care.

"We feel that the scheme was politically motivated but inflexible and ill-thought-through. We continue to review the position," Young said.

Other GPs could not be reached for comment.

Health Minister Dr Jonathan Coleman last month cited data that showed that in the 12 months since the zero-fees policy was introduced, children under 13 had visited their enrolled GP 17 per cent more.

The number of prescriptions dispensed increased by 24 per cent over the same period.

New Zealand First health spokeswoman Barbara Stewart has called for GP visits to be free for children, even if they are not enrolled at the practice. That "hole" in the policy meant some families were waiting until after 6pm to visit an after-hours surgery or hospital emergency department to get a free assessment, Stewart said.

General practices not providing zero fees for enrolled children under 13

- CityMed Doctors, Auckland central
- Epsom Medical Centre
- Ponsonby Medical Centre
- Windsor Medical Centre, Albany
- East Coast Bays Doctors
- Francis Street Medical\*, Blenheim
- Torbay Community Doctor\*

\* Do provide free visits for 0-5-year-olds.

Source: Ministry of Health/practice websites

[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/politics/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=280&objectid=11743296](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/politics/news/article.cfm?c_id=280&objectid=11743296)

## **RNZ: Housing crisis blamed for Auckland's rheumatic fever rates**

6:21 am today

The government is failing to make a dent in rheumatic fever rates across much of Auckland, despite millions of dollars being poured into tackling the problem.

Rheumatic fever rates at Waitemata and Auckland district health boards have not dropped. Photo: 123rf

The government has dedicated \$65 million to its Rheumatic Fever Prevention Programme, which started five years ago with the aim of slashing incidents of the disease.

Though rates are falling across the country, children are still contracting the disease in the same numbers in the Waitemata and Auckland district health board (DHB) areas.

Under the Ministry of Health targets, Auckland DHB should have had seen seven new cases in the past 12 months. Instead it had 19 - two more than when the programme began.

It was a similar case in Waitemata which had around 12 cases last year - more than double its target number.

A prominent Auckland GP and the leader of a successful south Auckland prevention programme, Rawiri Jansen, said the DHBs were fighting against an increasing tide of child poverty and crowded housing.

"The key driver of acute rheumatic fever is housing and I think it is well known that there are concerns about the household crowding areas in wider Auckland. That may be the area where we need to increase our effort," he said.

He said rates of the disease may actually have increased had the prevention programme not been in place.

Rawiri Jansen said Rheumatic Fever rates may have increased had the prevention programme not been in place. Photo: nzdoctor.co.nz  
Child Poverty Action Group's health spokesperson Nikki Turner said the lack of progress was complicated and DHBs alone could not fix it.

"The overall bigger issue is we have significant child poverty. It affects the housing, it affects the child's immune status it affects their response to illness. We have to do something more than that other than just in healthcare services, she said.

Waitemata DHB paediatrician Tim Jelleyman agreed the solution was wider than just the healthcare sector, and said the stubborn rates were frustrating.



"The public health nurses, the GPs, the community health workers ... everyone involved has been passionate to see this happen. When you put work in and when you don't quite get there it is disappointing ... but we are going to keep going on this," he said.

South Auckland's Counties Manukau has the worst rates of rheumatic fever in the country but it has had success over the past four years.

The number of new cases has halved to 37 per year, thanks largely to an intensive programme that has put nurses in 61 schools.

However Dr Jelleyman and Dr Jansen both said that approach wouldn't work in the other DHBs where cases tend not to be concentrated in one area.

Minister of Health Jonathan Coleman said he was disappointed in the figures, but the ministry had given a further \$875,000 to the two DHBs to help them tackle the problem.

The ministry has also launched a campaign to recruit 100 young people to spread the prevention message across communities and schools.

Dr Jelleyman said those who contracted the disease often needed months of bed rest, monthly antibiotic injections into adulthood and sometimes heart surgery.

"It's a disease with a long shadow," he said.

"For those that it affects it is a big impact of their lives and the lives of their families."

Auckland DHB would not comment on the figures as it said the problem was a nationwide one.

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/national/317450/housing-crisis-blamed-for-rheumatic-fever-rate>



**Other****Tao Lin (Stuff): 'Sickening' comments on dairy farming Facebook page**

Last updated 10:43, November 7 2016

Comments made by members of a dairy farming Facebook group about how to stop a cow from kicking and to get it to let down milk have been called "sickening".

Complaints based on the Facebook comments have been made to the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), which has started "several investigations" as a result, with some already completed.

Some of the suggestions included inserting a hose into the cow's "fanny" and blowing into it (called "tubing" in the industry), which is a breach of the Dairy Cattle Code of Welfare.

Other comments included using "the old electric dildo" up the cow's behind, putting a fist up the cow's behind, bending the cow's tail or to "fire sum [sic] lead poison at it".

This follows the recent release of a Farmwatch video showing more mistreatment of bobby calves, and another showing a cow suspended from a tractor by hip clamps.

NZ Farming spokesman Duncan Humm said there can be the odd cow sometimes that has trouble adjusting to milking sheds, but more aggressive methods of getting cows to let down milk should only be used in extreme cases.

According to emails by one of the complainants, verbal warnings were the only action taken by MPI in relation to the tubing comments, due to a lack of evidence about the act being performed.

Complaints were also made to Fonterra, which has identified some of the commenters as working on farms owned by Fonterra farmers.

A Fonterra spokeswoman said the farm owners were upset at the comments made and have dealt with the issue "accordingly".

"Our farmers are absolutely committed to responsible dairying and the vast majority of them meet or exceed animal welfare best practice," she said.

"The manner of the comments, whether in jest or not, are unacceptable to Fonterra."

Lawyer Catriona MacLennan has in the past called for an independent animal welfare commissioner to be appointed, and said the Facebook comments were "sickening".

"The attitudes displayed ... demonstrate that the writers of the posts are not fit either to own or be in charge of animals. They are promoting the torture of cows," she said.

There were several responses to the original comment on the Facebook group thread, which asked for help with a cow that wouldn't stop kicking in the milking shed.

"What is being discussed in the posts is deliberate infliction of pain and distress."

While tubing breached the minimum standards under the code of welfare, the code was not yet legally enforceable.

Changes to the Animal Welfare Act in 2015 gave MPI the ability to make regulations under the act. The first set, relating to bobby calves, came into force in August 2016.

The method of "tubing" falls below the minimum standards of the Dairy Cattle Code of Welfare, which is not yet legally enforceable.

"I think the real issue is that MPI has lower standards for what is acceptable animal welfare than the general public and consumers in our export markets do," she said.

#### **INDEPENDENT WATCHDOG NEEDED**

Animal rights activist and founder of the Starfish Bobby Calf Project, Lynley Tulloch, said an independent watchdog for animal welfare was needed.

Last year Farmwatch released a video of bobby calves being thrown, kicked and beaten by farm workers.

"While MPI has indicated that everyone needs to take responsibility, this does not translate in practice.

"MPI does not respond adequately to complaints sent in, as has been evidenced by their non-transparency and limited response to complaints over the Facebook posts."

MPI compliance operations manager Gary Orr said where animal welfare law was breached, MPI would investigate and determine the most appropriate response.

There were currently 17 full time specialist animal welfare inspectors, with five more positions to be filled in the near future.

There were also 35 compliance officers who held animal welfare warrants and worked on animal welfare matters when required.

More than 200 veterinarians were based at meat companies, where part of their role was to make sure animals arriving at the meat companies were in good physical condition.

Tulloch said with about 12,000 dairy farms in New Zealand, the number of animal welfare inspectors was inadequate to properly monitor farmers' compliance with animal welfare law.

Farmwatch's John Darroch said it had been 11 months since they released last year's investigation into bobby calf abuse, and MPI still had not made a decision on most of the material Farmwatch provided.

"This shows a lack of resourcing, or that animal welfare is not a priority for them."

He also said there needed to be a separate dedicated body for animal welfare, as well as more proactive investigations.

A SMALL MINORITY

NZ Farming spokesman Duncan Humm said the vast majority of farmers treated their animals well and did not use extreme practices.

Of the hundreds of "tricks" people used, most involved patience and calm, and worked with great success, he said.

"Some people will still argue black and blue for practices that are not acceptable, which shows there is a number within the industry for who these practices are perfectly normal," Humm said.

"We remain hopeful that anyone in the industry that lacks the right skills or mindset can either be brought up to speed or driven out of it completely."

Humm said the public often approached NZ Farming, an online farming community with more than 95,000 members, for advice after complaints to MPI about animal welfare issues went unresolved.

Especially common was workers who feared losing their jobs if they spoke out against managers who used questionable practices on animals.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/business/farming/dairy/85731548/Sickening-comments-on-dairy-farming-Facebook-page>

**Herald: New Zealand Government spends \$380k, hires United States lobbyists for Helen Clark's United Nations bid**

5:00 AM Saturday Nov 5, 2016

The Government spent around \$380,000 to promote Helen Clark's unsuccessful bid for the United Nations Secretary-General job.

Among the campaign costs covered by the taxpayer were the services of a US lobbying firm which charged \$20,000 a month, records show.

Prime Minister John Key formally nominated Clark as a candidate for secretary-general position in April, and said at the time he expected the campaign to cost "hundreds of thousands" of dollars.

Clark - the head of the United Nations Development Programme and a former Labour Prime Minister - lost out to former Portuguese Prime Minister Antonia Guterres last month.

Responding to an Official Information Act request, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFAT) said Clark's campaign was "undertaken as part of the ministry's standard business".

All costs were met from within the ministry's baseline budget.

Of the spending which could be specifically attributed to Clark's campaign, \$367,207 was spent on travel and accommodation for Clark and her support staff.

Another \$8072 was spent on business cards, printing, and presentation items, and \$8970 was spent on meetings and events associated with her UN bid.

In addition, the New Zealand Embassy called on a Washington-based lobbying firm, Hannegan Landau Poersch & Rosenbaum Advocacy, to help with Clark's bid.

The firm describes itself as "one of the nation's premier government affairs and public policy firms" on its website.

US lobbying disclosure documents show that Hannegan Landau Poersch was primarily hired to help New Zealand gain support for the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP).

It also agreed to arrange meetings with federal and state officials "in relation to the Embassy's efforts to promote the candidacy of Helen Clark" and quoted a monthly fee of \$19,500.

Prime Minister John Key with UNDP chief Helen Clark at the United Nations Assembly in New York. Photo / Audrey Young

Foreign Affairs Minister Murray McCully said yesterday the money was well spent.

"It was right to invest appropriate resources in Helen Clark's campaign for UN Secretary General," he said.

"The UN is a profoundly important body and the opportunity to put forward an appropriately qualified New Zealander to lead the organisation comes around once in a generation."

Following Clark's defeat, Key also said the investment was worthwhile.

"Actually for Helen Clark to be such a serious contender is a very significant achievement, and I do think it's worth us investing a bit of time and money to do that."

In the final ballot held by the UN Security Council last month, Clark placed fifth out of the 10 remaining candidates.

After her loss, she said she "deeply appreciated the full support" she had from the Government.

[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/politics/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=280&objectid=11742154](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/politics/news/article.cfm?c_id=280&objectid=11742154)

**Martin van Beynen (Stuff): Beggars just crying out to be locked up**

Last updated 05:00, November 5 2016

OPINION: A couple of weeks ago the Government announced it was going to spend a billion dollars on more beds for New Zealand's criminals.

Corrections Minister Judith Collins said this showed the Government was deadly serious about cracking down on methamphetamine and violent crime.

Perhaps the Government should be getting deadly serious about building another sort of institution. The prisons I'm advocating would be pleasant places of confinement for people whose main crime is just being unable to function in society.

And these places wouldn't really be prisons although their job would be to confine but not make life difficult for the inhabitants. I'm not imagining a country club but they could be rural places with cabins, extensive gardens, farming activities and good facilities.

\* The obvious candidates for this benign but secure care are the solo homeless, beggars and people with apparently untreatable mental health problems who currently wander the streets. They are the walking casualties of the idea of community care.

Working in the central city, I daily walk the gauntlet of Beggars Alley in Colombo Street.

The Beggars' Guard changes more regularly than it used to. The guy with his black dog, portable stereo and his shopping trolley has gone but his place is filled by other colourful and foul-smelling rogues.

Although beggars in places like Thailand and India give you a vague feeling your donation will be rewarded with good karma or at least a blessing for relieving their suffering, our local beggars offer very little.

A donation to our mendicants, who are not starving and look quite stout and disgustingly healthy, should not make you feel good. They are just taking the mickey.

Even their signs show very little effort. They usually sign off with God Bless as though they have provided an opportunity for God to bless the donor. I saw one the other day saying, "Looking for human kindness" and that was almost worth a few bucks.

Some can't even be bothered with a sign but just put their little hat out on the footpath as though it is a universal message.

I saw a young woman squatting on Beggars' Alley the other day. A few days later I saw her again, this time entering a toilet cubicle in Hagley Park with two other deadbeats, probably to get high. A tragic case.

Sometimes I think half the people walking around the city and environs have some untreated and serious mental health problem.

These people don't seem to beg. A long-skirted woman pushing a shopping cart piled with possessions under a cover is becoming a familiar sight around the bus station.

A few weeks ago in the Botanic Gardens I saw an old friend of mine who used to be a prostitute in Manchester Street. She was sitting on a bench cursing filthily at what, in her mind, was clearly a procession of offence.

Then outside the new Margaret Mahy playground a woman was imploring the heavens for something in a long, animated, aggressive speech.

Bleeding hearts will say I have to get over myself but these are not happy people. They are vulnerable, dirty, probably hungry and maybe in some mental or physical pain. And the worst thing for them might well be the boredom.

A humane person would say there must a place where people who are incapable of functioning in society like ours, but who are not criminals, can get a warm bed, something to do, health care, safety, decent food and, yes, maybe even a drink. They will need to be contained perhaps for a long time but their lives needn't be awful.

Maybe there is a human right to live a miserable, uncomfortable, boring and tortured existence but I don't think we should indulge it.

I suppose what I'm advocating is the return of institutional care which I know has a terrible name.

We tend to associate residential institutions with electric shock treatment, sexual abuse, terrible food and spartan facilities.

We see them as degrading Victorian places where bad things happen and people's lives are reduced to narrow regimens that stifle abilities and kill potential. Religious orders running them hasn't helped.

We can't pretend institutional care doesn't have a bad track record but let's not forget there is nothing intrinsically wrong with such care and we don't hear much about the many enlightened successes.

And to identify where institutional care can be beneficial and useful, we should look beyond the homeless and the mentally ill. New Zealand has many families just breeding kids who will fill the beds Judith Collins is building in the prisons.



Many kids have appalling upbringings where they are neglected, abused and witness frequent domestic violence. Police and schools have no trouble in identifying such families. Yes, I know we should be helping these parents be better parents but in the meantime we accept a high level of risk to the children's safety and also tolerate the formation of yet another crime statistic.

Good institutions can help reduce the number ending up in the most dismal institution of all.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/politics/opinion/86037923/beggars-just-crying-out-to-be-locked-up>

**Shamubeel Equb (Stuff): Banking sector needs reforming**

Last updated 17:20, November 4 2016

The more economic conditions affect politics, and the more policies stray into issues of equity and access, the more likely this becomes.

But we must staunchly defend the impudence of the central bank –meddling by politicians is a much worse alternative.

That said, we cannot assume that the current framework is still fit for purpose. The pressures here and globally suggest we need to reconsider the policy objectives, particularly around financial stability.

In the UK, Governor Mark Carney has had to staunchly defend the Bank of England's independence.

The attack followed the Bank's assessment that Brexit would do harm to the UK economy. The steady decline of the pound since Brexit confirms the Bank's fears are widely held by market participants.

When news came that the courts had decided that Brexit could not be rushed through, the pound rose.

In the US, the presidential election has not delved deeply into monetary policy and the Federal Reserve. This is no bad thing, given the sexism that its female chair would have faced or the conspiracy theories about the Federal Reserve that would have been given oxygen.

In reality, central banks around the world are doing the best they can. Following the global financial crisis, central banks have embarked on an ambitious, unprecedented and experimental policy path to encourage economic growth and maintain financial stability.

Economic growth is returning, but remains uneven across sectors. The biggest increases have been in asset prices and increases in borrowing, but the rise in economic growth hasn't been as fast nor as broad as hoped.

In New Zealand, we haven't seen the same extent of experimental policies from our central bank.

Rather, we have been influenced by very low interest rates and ample credit sloshing around in the global system. This has been one significant influence on the New Zealand housing market.

The RBNZ has introduced macro-prudential tools to reduce the vulnerability of the financial system to rapidly escalating house prices.

The goal has been to reduce the risk of bank failures, by limiting lending available to people with relatively low incomes and more recently to investors.

The attempts disrupted markets for around six months each, with little perceptible impact on broader house price trends or debt accumulation.

In fact, mortgage debt is now at a new record high relative to the size of the economy.

If anything, these policies simply entrenched the existing disparities in access to credit and housing across between the haves and have nots.

What is required instead is fundamental reform of the basics of the banking sector.

The current regulatory regime encourages banks to lend - but for existing housing rather than construction of new housing or for business purposes.

Given prices have increased so much relative to incomes, lending measures will only be effective in reducing the amount of new debt if that new debt is tied to incomes rather than the value of the collateral.

Failing that, lending to housing should be treated as risky as any other form of lending.

The issue with central banking is not that independence is not working. Rather any weakness that we see today is with goals and definitions that are not well suited to the environment we find ourselves in.

The current whispers around central banking and wresting back control need to be focussed on clarifying the monetary policy goals of the central bank. And on clarifying that financial stability is not just about bank failure, but also to ensure credit cycles do not become explosive and lead to massive misallocation of capital as is happening today.

Shamubeel Equb is an independent economist and consultant. Follow him on Twitter @SEaqub

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/business/opinion-analysis/86121775/Shamubeel-Equb-Banking-sector-needs-reforming>

**RNZ: Racial discrimination often unreported – Commissioner**

5:34 pm on 5 November 2016

The Samoan family of Efeso Collins were turned away from allocated VIP seating at an official ceremony on Tuesday by a staff member who did not believe they were entitled to it.

The councillor said the incident left him "infuriated [and] deeply embarrassed".

Dame Susan Devoy said she heard stories that often went unreported, but because this one happened to a councillor, people were hearing about it.

She said policies being discussed to deal with that diversity did not go far enough.

"We're a very ethnically diverse country now, and we're talking about diversity and inclusion strategies and policies, but we can't regulate, so how do we actually change the entrenched attitude of people who are behaving like this?"

"I cannot believe that we're still going through this nonsensical behaviour in 2016" - Efeso Collins duration 7' :48" from Morning Report Add to playlist <http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/national/317393/racial-discrimination-often-unreported-commissioner>

**David Slack (Stuff): And Presidents might fly**

OPINION: One of the risks of power is the opportunity it presents for abuse.

You get on a plane with fond hopes. One is that no-one is getting ready to blow you up. Another is that the people who are looking for that sort of deadly person are doing their job properly. I don't know how good they are, I just take off my shoes when they ask.

The moment you give people power, though – the very moment you give it to them – you know what will happen next. Someone will abuse it. Maybe more than one.

Last week in the departure hall in Sydney we fed our e-passports into the machine, my colleague and I, and joined the long line snaking its way towards the officers of Border Protection and their scanners and x-ray machines and plastic trays for everyone to dump their keys and shoes in.

There was a young woman ahead of us. Her clothes were fitting and had some cleavage and did not conceal the fact that she was a woman.

The officers of Border Protection do not move quickly. They move with emphasised slowness, half a pace slower than the rest of us, maybe to remind us we're on their time now, and they'll take just as long as it will take. And who can object? We all want to find that person who has intentions of blowing us up.

They don't wear cheerful faces, the officers of Border Protection, and that's fair enough, too – they're protecting us, not taking mojito orders. But occasionally you see the barest flicker of heightened interest in their faces, and it's not always because they think they see a jihadist. When the young woman reached the front of the line I believe I saw that flicker.

First they asked her to take off her jacket, leaving her in a tightly fitting singlet. Then they asked her to raise her arms. Then they asked her to step through that scanner we all step through and usually have to return through because we forgot the change in our pockets.

Then they asked her to step into the body scanner. The x-ray one. The one that helps you ascertain if a person is hiding a deadly device. The one that reveals your body to an interested stranger. They moved through each of these steps at their half-pace slower, taking a good look. I'm no mind reader but I think I know what was on theirs.

She may have been concealing something, but in clothes that fitting, it would have been difficult. I do believe they knew that. She kept her composure but it looked as though she was steeling herself to manage it. Finally they were done with her, and she was free to wheel her suitcase on and maybe have happy thoughts about going somewhere nice today.

It was my turn. I said to the officer "You'll want my jacket, then?" I think the he felt bluffed into saying yes. He didn't put me through scanner, though. Perhaps I wasn't his type.

My colleague and I picked up our keys and shoes and devices from the plastic trays. Hazel said: did you just see that?" I said: "The woman in black?" She said: "The woman in black." She said: "They do it all the time."

We sat down and watched for a few minutes. Sure enough there was more. The flicker, the top off, the arms up.

Hazel said: "I wear the loosest most nondescript clothing to do this. It's best if you can make yourself invisible."

What a time we have had this year with pigs. Pigs who paw women, who intimidate them, who hit them, who prey on them, denounce them, shame them. Pigs who cannot keep their creepy thoughts to themselves; pigs who cast furious indignant doubt on women who speak up. Pigs who cannot let women go about their daily lives without taking the chance on the bus, on a train, in a shop, walking up stairs, in a supermarket aisle, to put their hands on them.

What a time we have had this year as women old and young and everywhere have been saying: "did you really not know it was this bad?"

Pigs everywhere, and all the time. This week if a truly dire year gets even worse, one of them will get to be President.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/world/americas/86084705/david-slack-and-presidents-might-fly>

**Klwi politico: What Domestic Terrorism Threat?**

Posted on 15:44, November 5th, 2016 by Pablo

Last week the government released its National Security System Handbook. The NSS is a national emergency response system headed by a committee chaired by the Prime Minister that is convened to address serious threats to the security of New Zealand and New Zealanders. It includes officials from various security and intelligence agencies as well as others where and when pertinent depending on the nature of the risk event.

On page 24 of the document examples of events that triggered convening of the NSS are given. Included among them are the 1080 milk powder poison threat, potential consequences of Ebola and Zika outbreaks, the 2010 and 2011 Christchurch earthquakes and the 2011 Rena maritime disaster. Nestled among these and listed separately is the line "(t)hreat of a domestic terrorism incident." While the other examples are all a matter of public record, the domestic terrorism threat is not.

The government refuses to release details of this domestic terrorism threat. That is disappointing for several reasons.

Two years ago the government raised the terrorism threat warning level from "very low" to "low," citing the international threat environment in which New Zealand is located. Given that the NSS Handbook has been in existence for only two years, the domestic terrorism threat mentioned in the NSS Handbook could have happened after the threat warning level was raised. But even if it occurred before the Handbook was written, this was supposedly a concrete terrorism threat on New Zealand soil, not something of a general nature, so it is curious that the threat level was not raised to "moderate" or "medium" given the possibility of larger networks involved, existence of copy cats or emulators, or of other plots in the making (simply because it would be hard to predict that the threat in questions was a one-off). Again, this was supposedly a real threat—presumably a physical plot of some sort—rather than social media ranting or otherwise hollow venting by some disgruntled nutter.

As far as I can tell, no one has been arrested, charged, tried or convicted of a domestic terrorism plot in recent years. A couple of individuals were jailed this year for possessing offensive materials in the form of violent jihadist videos, but they were not charged with terrorism offences and were unlikely to require an NSS meeting in response to them. The same is true for the wanna-be jihadists who were prevented from traveling to the Middle East to join Daesh—there would be no need for an NSS meeting over a matter of passport control. There have been a few individuals who have pledged loyalty and support for Daesh on social media, but that does not rise to the level of threat required to trigger convening the NSS. The Urewera case does not seem to apply because both the 5th Labour government and the current National government maintain that it was solely a Police operation that resulted in no terrorism charges being laid.

A domestic terrorism threat of a magnitude that requires triggering of NSS protocols would not involve cyber-espionage, crime or warfare. It would be something that was real and imminent, or at least in the process of becoming so.

Thus the questions beg: If this domestic terrorism threat was real, what became of it? Was it thwarted? What became of the suspect(s)? Did the authorities act so early that they could not obtain evidence that could justify laying charges in court? Are those suspects still in the country or were they passing through? If the suspects are still in the country, are they moving about freely or is there some form of monitoring of them? Should not the public be advised of their presence?

The last point matters because one would think that the government could use this domestic terrorism threat to reinforce and justify its attempts to expand the powers of search and surveillance in various security related Acts. It would reassure the public of the need for more vigilance as well as the competence of the State when it comes to detecting and thwarting terrorist plots.

One can fully understand that the intelligence community would be reluctant to reveal the sources and methods by which this threat was detected and responded to. But surely some detail could be provided that does not compromise the intelligence gathering process but which could point to the specifics of the threat. Unless New Zealand uses secret terrorism courts or is involved in black site or rendition programs, it should not be too difficult for the government to provide a public summary of the facts surrounding the case listed as an example in the NSS Handbook.

Otherwise, the government leaves itself open to skepticism on that particular claim.

<http://www.kiwipolitico.com/2016/11/what-domestic-terrorism-threat/>



**Deena Coster (Stuff): Funding shortfall for NZ's elder abuse sector putting people at risk**

Last updated 14:47, November 6 2016

A serious shortfall in funding to address elder abuse in New Zealand needs to be fixed immediately, says the boss of Age Concern.

Stephanie Clare, Age Concern chief executive, said services across the country are either under funded or non-existent, which is putting older people at risk.

"There are large areas of New Zealand where people do not have access to an elder abuse prevention service," she said.

Erica Beth Heppell, 66, and Terrence Peter Heppell, 65 were jailed for elder abuse when they were sentenced in the New Plymouth District Court on October 28.

This meant some people are being left in potentially abusive and unsafe environments, she said.

Clare's call comes in the wake of a horrific case of elder neglect, which resulted in a Taranaki couple being jailed for two years and nine months when they were sentenced last month.

Minister for Senior Citizens Maggie Barry says elder abuse will be included in the government's strategy to reduce family violence.

Terrence and Erica Heppell pleaded guilty to the ill-treatment of their mother who was found by ambulance staff lying in her own waste, with several untreated sores on her body and a dislocated shoulder. She was also extremely unkempt, with dirty skin, nails and clothing.

Authorities were only alerted to the woman's plight after the Heppells finally called for help, thinking she was on the brink of death.

Minister for Senior Citizens Maggie Barry said the Government contracted 27 services around New Zealand to provide specialist elder abuse and neglect services, to the tune of about \$1.9 million a year.

Barry said the services dealt with about 2000 cases of elder abuse each year.

But Clare said elder abuse services were being swamped with more referrals than they were funded for, so either relied on top ups from community providers for funding or support from other social agencies to ensure the needs of older people are met.

Age Concern estimates between 17,000 and 25,000 older New Zealanders experience some form of abuse or neglect every year, usually at the hands of family members.

Clare said government funding had remained "static" since 2009 and had not kept up with the changing needs of the sector.

She said with the over 65 population in New Zealand set to top 1.2 million by 2036, it was imperative more effort around prevention and education was made and that services received a much needed funding boost to cope with what will likely be an increased demand for services.

However, Barry was making no promises for any extra money.

She said elder abuse was part of the government's wider focus on decreasing the rates of family violence in New Zealand.

"We will watch the rate of elder abuse closely and tackle it as part of our cross-Government work on family violence and its prevention," she said.

It was also an issue that communities needed to take a stand on, Barry said.

"It must not and should not be tolerated in our society and we have to take responsibility as communities and as a nation for keeping our older people safe," she said.

Barry said she also encouraged communities and cities to follow World Health Organisation guidelines around becoming age-friendly. Due to their aging populations, Barry said New Plymouth, Hamilton and Kapiti were particular focus areas in that regard.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/86146116/Funding-shortfall-for-NZs-elder-abuse-sector-putting-people-at-risk>

**Craig Hoyle (Stuff): Youthline is preparing to slash staff numbers as it struggles to stay afloat in the face of funding cuts.**

Last updated 05:00, November 6 2016

Chief executive Stephen Bell broke the news to workers and volunteers at the youth support service at a meeting on Friday.

"We shed tears," he said. "There was anger, and a sense of being stunned."

Youthline CEO Stephen Bell promises there'll be support through the holidays, despite the cuts.

Bell can't yet confirm how many will lose their jobs, but promises there will be support for young people over the summer holidays.

"We will maintain a level of service throughout Christmas and the New Year," he said. "I don't think it will be at the capacity we'd like it to be, but we will certainly be maintaining a 24-hour service."

Youthline is contacted by up to 800 people each week. Bell said staff would do their best to support them all, and anyone who didn't get through on the first attempt should keep trying.

Green MP Jan Logie believes current funding cuts to youth services are unsustainable.

Greens Social Development Spokesperson Jan Logie volunteered as a Youthline volunteer in the past and said it was a growing issue that key organisations were having to make cuts.

"I think young people in New Zealand have come to rely on the organisation for core support, and it's really gutting to hear that they're having to cut staff," she said.

"I'm hearing from so many different organisations that they're having to cut back on hours and services, and staff are doing more for less to make sure they're there for families and people who need them," she said. "But it's not sustainable."

Bell said several staff at Youthline had offered to stay on as volunteers if their paid positions were axed, but acknowledged that was not a long-term solution.

"It's sad that an organisation like Youthline that has been around for almost 50 years has to struggle so much at a core level," he said.

Peter Galvin, General Manager of Community Outcomes for the Ministry of Social Development, confirmed there has been a reduction in funding for Youthline for the remainder of this financial year.

However he noted that despite the cut, Youthline still receives \$3.6m in funding from MSD to provide a range of services.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/86136765/Youthline-prepares-to-slash-staff-numbers-over-budget-cuts>

**Martin Johnston (Herald): MP demands inquiry into artificial limb services for amputees**

3:55 PM Thursday Nov 3, 2016

Allegations over the financial management of the Artificial Limb Service have been fired in Parliament.

New Zealand First MP Barbara Stewart asked about the Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC) and the state-owned Artificial Limb Service (NZALS).

"... why is ACC still backing a provider found to have defrauded it of at least \$47,000?" Stewart said in the House this week, later calling for an investigation.

But the limb service and ACC have said the claims have been investigated and no evidence of over-charging was found.

Stewart also asked if ACC had directed its case managers to stop funding visits by amputees to private provider Orthopro.

Acting ACC Minister Nathan Guy indicated he would look into Stewart's fraud claim if she provides details.

The state-owned service is the "sole provider" for amputees covered by ACC, he said, but they could ask to visit others, "case by case".

Auckland amputee Diane Smith, who has had a long-running dispute with the Artificial Limb Service, in July raised claims of fraud at the social services select committee.

Smith lost her lower left leg following a medical misadventure in surgery on her ankle after a fall. She was never satisfied with the limbs made for her by the state-owned provider, despite scores of consultations, but is happy with the work done for her by Orthopro.

She has become an advocate for other dissatisfied clients of the Artificial Limb Service.

She told the parliamentary committee: "Last year I worked with the ACC fraud investigators over suspected misappropriated funds by the NZALS."

Chairman Alfred Ngaro, a National MP, warned her not to make such claims before the committee.

Limb Service chief executive Sean Gray told the Herald: "We confirm in December 2015, ACC contacted NZALS with queries relating to 29 invoices totalling \$54,000.31 including GST. NZALS has resolved these queries to the satisfaction of ACC.

"In response to these queries, NZALS engaged an independent accountant to analyse these invoices and found: no instance of over-charging; all 29 invoices relate to confusion created by NZALS invoicing systems and processes. These administrative issues are now being rectified."

ACC said in response to questions over its investigation of alleged fraud: "Following a client complaint to ACC about invoicing practices by the NZALS, ACC's Integrity Services Unit investigated.

"It found that on eight occasions ACC had been billed for time spent on its client's administrative matters, which in the absence of an appropriate billing code, had been charged under 'limb repairs'.

"Whilst there was no evidence of overcharging on any of the disputed invoices, the investigator questioned whether there was a basis on which to bill this type of activity, and noted that ACC should have queried it.

"Similarly, the external audit, commissioned by NZALS, found no evidence of overcharging but questioned the appropriateness of billing ACC for time spent on administration. On that basis NZALS has offered to pay ACC \$8079.74.

"In summary, ACC's Integrity Services Unit found the client was justified in making the complaint, and the unit was satisfied with the resulting changes being made to the invoice and checking system used by NZALS and ACC."  
[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/politics/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=280&objectid=11741544](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/politics/news/article.cfm?c_id=280&objectid=11741544)

**Mike Angove (Newshub): Opinion: Joseph Parker fight deserves public money**

Sunday 6 Nov 2016 1:32 p.m.

If you're one of the politicians who blocked funding to hold Joseph Parker's WBO title fight in Auckland, and sidle up to him post bout for a publicity shot, feel free to bugger off.

That's if, and it's now a mighty big if, Duco manages to pull off a miracle and stages the globally televised event in Auckland on December 10.

Top Rank CEO Bob Arum's announcement on Thursday the event would go ahead in New Zealand now seems premature, after Friday's revelation that ATEED (Auckland Tourism, Events and Economic Development) has pulled its funding.

Given that ATEED CEO Brett O'Riley made repeated positive statements about supporting the event up until Thursday morning, it seems almost certain Auckland's newly elected council - with Phil Goff at the helm - has brought pressure to bear in swift fashion.

The bout has become a political football since Duco enquired into Government funding from New Zealand Major Events. And boy, the political turf hackers have come out in force.

Howick Councillor Dick Quax questioned whether the WBO bout was a proper title fight. He also questioned the event's tourism benefits, asking: "Did anyone go to Zaire following the rumble in the jungle between George Foreman and Muhammad Ali?"

Mr Quax clearly needs to get out of Howick more. Although the WBO is the youngest of the four major sanctioning bodies, its past champions include Riddick Bowe, Michael Moorer, Vitali Klitschko, Tyson Fury and Wladimir Klitschko - a pretty decent roster if you ask me.

The comparison with Zaire is ridiculous. At the time of the Foreman-Ali fight, the country was a single-party state run by a brutal dictator. New Zealand is a stable democracy, where tourism is our second-largest export industry and fiscal accountability is the norm.

No More Rates campaigner David Thornton also came out against ATEED's support, citing the Auckland Regional Council's disastrous 2009 \$1.79 million loss hosting David Beckham's LA Galaxy football team Mt Smart appearance.

Unfortunately Thornton has not included contextual facts, which would take the steam out of his political sound bite.

The Beckham fiasco was the council's first - and last - foray into event promotion. By contrast, Duco has run successful events across a range of sectors since 2004, providing jobs and contributing to the local economy.

Also remember Duco CEO Martin Snedden was CEO of the hugely successful 2011 Rugby World Cup and CEO of New Zealand Cricket. He helped New Zealand and Australia win the right to host the 2015 Cricket World Cup. Duco's legacy is one of long-term commercial success.

Other objections have centred on boxing's "brutal nature", with one political journalist equating funding a world boxing title with glamorising violence and taking money from homeless families.

But both ATEED and Major Events New Zealand funding come from money allocated to economic development, both regionally or nationally. These funds aren't taking food or shelter from those most in need. As a trainer who works in areas where poverty and violence is rife, I can personally attest to the positive values boxing training can offer.

Granted, boxing is a primal and at times brutal sport, and not to everyone's taste. But given the massive interest bouts of a similar calibre have generated in New Zealand (David Tua's title shot with Lennox Lewis 16 years ago attracted 1.9 million viewers and Tua Cameron's 2009 'Fight of the Century' garnered a record 85 thousand PPV customers) it's clear a huge number of constituents are watching.

It would be a mistake to fall for the deceptive line that Government money shouldn't be used for funding commercial ventures. Entrenched middle-class sports such as golf, tennis and yachting all enjoy Government largesse.

Do these sports really need commercial prop-up? The BMW NZ Open, Emirates Team NZ, ASB Classic and Heineken Open all enjoy substantial corporate sponsorship. Their returns to the economy are often questionable. Why are politicians not applying the same level of scrutiny to these events?

Finally, let's not forget that Mr Goff was keen to make an in-ring appearance while in campaign mode at Parker's most recent fight. A number of notable politicians also enjoyed the spectacle - in some cases they were clamouring to get a photo with the champ.

Fast-forward five weeks, and political expedience appears to have kicked in. It seems that everybody loves the champ and wants to share in his success but not enough to give this potentially historic event enough support to get across the line.

New Zealand politicians - give yourselves an upper-cut.

About ATEED

Since 2011, ATEED-sponsored major events have contributed \$247 million to the regional economy, including 1.548 million visitor nights.

Events backed by ATEED include:



2011 Rugby World Cup  
ITU Triathlon World Cup (2011), world championships (2012)  
Volvo Ocean Race  
World Rally Championship  
Ultimate Waterman  
World BMX championships  
World Softball Championship  
ICC Cricket World Cup  
Fifa under-20s men's World Cup  
World Masters Games  
Pasifika, Lantern festivals  
NZ Fashion Week  
Auckland Marathon  
Arts Festival  
Funding criteria: Expand Auckland's economy, grow visitor nights, enhance Auckland's viability, increase international exposure for Auckland.

Mike Angove is a former world kickboxing champion and Sky Sports expert boxing analyst.

<http://www.newshub.co.nz/politics/opinion-joseph-parker-fight-deserves-public-money-2016110613>

**Patrick Smellie (BusinessDesk): RMA reform process in turmoil**

PATRICK SMELLIE FRIDAY NOVEMBER 4, 2016 2

The government's Resource Management Act reforms face further delay, with Environment Minister Nick Smith conceding for the first time the risk that delays will prevent their passage before Christmas.

In comments to BusinessDesk, Dr Smith conceded it could now be February before the Resource Legislation Amendment Bill can be passed into law.

The bill is due back in Parliament on next Monday after 11 months and three deadline extensions for the local government and environment select committee, after opposition MPs refused to grant a further extension of time for flagship reforms that foundered after the government failed to find a parliamentary majority for them among its support parties.

However, Dr Smith told BusinessDesk last night that the government would move a non-debatable motion in Parliament sending the bill back to the select committee to complete its deliberations.

Asked whether that would allow enough time for the bill to pass into law before Christmas, as Prime Minister John Key was confident it would as recently as Monday this week, Dr Smith said: "It's tight. I'm not guaranteeing it can be done, but what the select committee is saying is we could get it back in December and get it through.

"I remain confident it will be passed in December or February."

The chairman of the local government and environment select committee, Scott Simpson, told Parliament at Question Time that the committee "continues its work" ... "and has yet to complete its work".

Labour MP David Parker told BusinessDesk the committee would not be furnishing any report when the bill returned to the House on November 7, an embarrassment for the government, as is the unusual step of Parliament ordering the bill back to the select committee for completion after opposition MPs refused to grant a fourth deadline extension this week.

In his unofficial minority report, released today, Mr Parker says the Parliamentary Counsel Office had advised the committee that redrafting the bill to deal with recommended changes "would take months after it receives drafting instructions,, which it had not yet received. However, Smith said two-thirds of that work had been done, based on a draft report that the select committee had been working with for months. It only received the 500-page final version of the officials' report this morning.

Mr Parker claimed the release of his minority report was not a breach of Parliament's Standing Orders, which require confidentiality for select committee deliberations because the committee had rejected it. Dr Smith said

he was clearly discussing the confidential deliberations of the committee, in breach of Standing Orders.

Dr Smith said negotiations with the Maori Party, which are vital to passing the bill, were "in good shape" and that the discussions related to the complex and inter-related nature of the bill so that changes in one area could affect another.

The National Party's other support parties, Act and United Future, are opposed to numerous provisions, as are Labour, the Greens, and New Zealand First.

An MP risks breaching parliamentary privilege by "divulging the proceedings or the report of a select committee or a subcommittee contrary to Standing Orders" and Speaker David Carter shut down questions to Mr Simpson in Parliament yesterday when they threatened to breach the confidentiality requirement.

However, Mr Parker, NZ First's Denis O'Rourke and the Greens' Eugenie Sage all issued statements on what Parker described as a legislative process that had become "a slow-moving train wreck."

Mr O'Rourke said "the bill will go back to Parliament but it is not ready or fit for purpose" while Ms Sage said it was a shambles and should not proceed.

"Because of interference by the executive, resulting in interminable delays to the finalisation of the final departmental report received only today, and because there has been no time to produce a draft revised bill for consideration by the select committee, the process has become the most frustrating and least productive of any we have experienced," Mr O'Rourke said.

The RLA Bill was to have been reported back in June and then September before the deadline was extended to November 7.

Among objections to the draft bill is the extent of proposed new ministerial powers to override local government planning documents, to control resource consents, and to limit participation rights. Reduced rights of appeal have also been widely criticised, while detail dealing with alternative collaborative processes was "unnecessary, wrong in its details, and adds further complexity," Mr Parker said.

The bill had drawn opposition from a broad range of interests, ranging from the New Zealand Law Society, local government, major infrastructure developers, environmental lobbyists, and major industry players, including Fonterra.

<https://www.nbr.co.nz/article/rma-reform-process-turmoil-b-196293>

**Richard Swainson (Stuff): Comments cast doubt on Rowarth's suitability for the EPA position**

Last updated 05:00, November 5 2016

OPINION: Jacqueline Rowarth, Waikato University's outspoken professor of agribusiness, has taken up a position as the chief scientist at the Environmental Protection Authority.

The new appointment has necessitated her resignation from the university, a loss that will no doubt be felt by students and colleagues alike, as well as perhaps the wider Waikato farming community for whom the good professor has been an unstinting mouthpiece and apologist.

In an interview that marked her appointment, Rowarth championed her own academic background, explaining how it would serve her well in a role whose responsibilities include explaining the often complex science behind EPA decisions.

"My new role will be a considerable change from teaching", she said. "But, as my students know, I have a focus on facts, evidence and data, analysis and synthesis."

A similar line in self-promotion was employed more recently by Rowarth when embroiled in controversy over comments made at a meeting in Pukekohe at the beginning of October.

The professor attracted media attention and a critical response from fellow scientists after telling a group of 180 landowners and farmers that the Waikato River was amongst the cleanest in the world.

According to Rowarth, this criticism was ill-founded and based on a report of the meeting that was released to the press without her authorisation.

She was quoted as saying, "This, whatever it is, press release, hasn't put things in context at all. I am very focussed on actual data and also trying to think about what are our actual concerns".

In a sidebar to a feature in last week's Waikato Times that attempted to synthesise arguments about the region's water quality, Rowarth expressed her opinions directly.

Seeking to complement the message conveyed by soil scientist Dr Doug Edmeades in the main article, the professor persisted in comparing nutrient levels in the Waikato River favourably with those seen in other OECD countries.

Her and Edmeades' point is that, by the standards of the European Union, the river is good shape.

However much we accept such comparisons - and a dissenting view has been put by Massey University's formidably named Professor Russell Death, a noted freshwater ecologist - the manner in which Rowarth quotes Waikato Regional Council statistics in her sidebar piece warrants close scrutiny.

When discussing *Escherichia coli* bacteria levels in the Waikato River, Rowarth references the council's website assertion that "the median number of *E. coli* bacteria in water used for recreation should be below 126 per 100ml".

According to the WRC, levels above that mark involve health risks to swimmers and will likely cause ear infections and diarrhoea.

Rowarth argues that the river should be held to a much lower, EU standard and that such standards are safe.

She then states that "according to the regional council website, the highest *E. coli* recording for the Waikato River is 120 at Huntly. The Waipa River is 320 at Whatawhata. If the council used the same pass mark as the EU, the grade would be 'excellent'".

Leaving aside the debatable assertion that EU levels are applicable or advisable in local conditions, the figures quoted by the professor do not in fact reflect the highest *E. coli* recordings from of these areas.

The WRC website clearly states that these figures are medians, not maximums. Moreover, a cursory investigation of the actual highest readings reveals levels alarmingly in excess of safety margins, even those thought acceptable in Europe.

According to the WRC the highest *E. Coli* reading in Huntly, back in 2013, has been 1900 cfu/100ml. At Whatawhata, it has been recorded as high as 2600.

The disparity between the figures asserted as correct by Rowarth and the reality of the situation rather makes a mockery of her earlier rhetoric.

Given that she penned the side bar article herself, there can be no suggestion this time of her being misquoted.

Like the rest of us human beings, she has made a mistake. Like many of us, she has done so advocating a cause she genuinely believes in, defending farming practices that have a direct impact on *E. Coli* levels.

The saga begs questions about Rowarth's suitability for the EPA position.

Defending her own appointment back in August, she conceded that it would "raise eyebrows" amongst the "environmental lobby", but that such concerns should be set aside because "her opinions were based on scientific evidence, not emotion".

In a world where such "evidence" can be emotively presented or manipulated, hiding behind the myth of scientific objectivity is either naive or dishonest.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/business/farming/opinion/86089163/comments-cast-doubt-on-rowarths-suitability-for-the-epa-position>

**Jo Moir (Stuff): Kiwi troops expanding their presence in Iraq after Government approves new base for training**

Last updated 16:45, November 4 2016

Kiwi troops moving outside of Camp Taji in Iraq to train soldiers at another base is the "beginning of mission creep" says Labour's David Shearer.

The Government has approved five New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) troops based at Taji to head to Al Taqaddum Air Base, west of Baghdad, to deliver training to Iraqi soldiers for short stints - about two weeks at a time.

Defence Minister Gerry Brownlee has also confirmed it's possible that NZDF personnel will move to even more locations in the future.

Defence Minister Gerry Brownlee farewells NZDF troops heading to Iraq via Australia.

"This does not change the size of the overall deployment or create additional costs," Brownlee said.

"The coalition has a network of secure training sites across Iraq and, as training requirements change, we may receive requests for our Defence Force's specific skills to be utilised.

"These requests will be considered on a case by case basis, but we do have to be adaptable and flexible, as the situation on the ground in Iraq changes."

But Shearer, Labour's foreign affairs and defence spokesman, says Brownlee has given "no solid explanation" as to why Kiwis need to be moving base to provide training rather than it be delivered by the troops already there.

"This is the beginning of mission creep," he said.

"It's also possibly the thin edge of the wedge that ultimately leads to more boots on the ground in conflict zones. I don't see where this is going to end."

About 100 NZDF troops are based at Taji alongside 300 Australian Defence Force soldiers - to date they've jointly trained more than 12,000 Iraqi troops.

In June the deployment was extended by another 18 months to November 2018 - a move heavily criticised by Opposition parties.

Brownlee has denied reports in recent months that Kiwi SAS troops are fighting on the front line in Iraq.

This comes after an announcement earlier this year that short-term training would be extended to include another secure coalition base at Besmaya.

Al Taqaddum is also a secure coalition base in Anbar province, about 70km west of Baghdad.

"The base is a protected coalition site and comprehensive force protection is in place," Brownlee said.

"The situation in Iraq is constantly changing, as we have seen with the start of the Mosul offensive.

"As a responsible contributor we have to be adaptable. The new training location will not detract from the training already taking place in Taji, which will continue," he said.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/politics/86102627/Kiwi-troops-expanding-their-presence-in-Iraq-after-Government-approves-new-base-for-training>



**RNZ: NZ military to train in third Iraq base**

7:57 pm on 4 November 2016

New Zealand's military role in Iraq is to be expanded, with the government giving approval for troops to offer training at a third military base.

New Zealand soldiers have been training Iraqi troops at the Taji base, and at Besmaya.

They will now also work at Al Taqaddum Air Base, west of Baghdad.

Minister of Defence Gerry Brownlee said five soldiers would be involved in training at Al Taqaddum for short periods of about two weeks.

He said that did not mean the size of the overall deployment would increase.

The situation in Iraq was changing and New Zealand needed to be flexible, Mr Brownlee said.

In June, the government extended New Zealand's deployment until November 2018.

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/national/317337/nz-military-to-train-in-third-iraq-base>

**RNZ: Gender-balanced parliament would bring 'a great dynamic'**

6:29 pm on 5 November 2016

Parliament needs to seriously look at introducing a gender quota system to get more women in the house, says the Equal Employment Opportunities Commissioner

Equal Employment Opportunities Commissioner Jackie Blue Photo: RNZ  
Jackie Blue says the number of women in parliament has not changed since the first MMP election in 1996, and had hovered around the 30 percent mark ever since.

Ms Blue said the issue of gender equality in Parliament was getting "nowhere fast", and something needed to be done.

But she said a quota did not mean inferior women would be selected, and people who said it would ruin the importance of doing a job on merit had got it wrong.

"I strongly disagree with comments like that. Even some women say they wouldn't want to be appointed through a quota and only merit, but people that make those comments fail to recognize the serious gender bias at play.

"They need to ask themselves who's definition of merit are they using and what merit is," Ms Blue said.

She said every women MP that made it to parliament was more than capable at being a confident minister, because they had been right up against it to get there in the first place.

Ms Blue said this proved female MPs were resilient and tough.

"There's so much evidence and research that shows a gender balanced board is good for business. A gender-balanced cabinet and parliament would be great for the country it would bring a great dynamic," Ms Blue said.

She said political parties should look at their decision processes around selecting candidates and women MPs.

"The top 20 members in the Green Party have to be 40 percent minimum representation of either sex, they have a democratic way of bringing women through, and other parties should follow suit."

She said the National Party was okay, with seven women out of 20 Members of Parliament women, but she said leader John Key just needed to select three more to have gender balance.

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/national/317396/gender-balanced-parliament-would-bring-%27a-great-dynamic%27>

**Jonathon Howe (Stuff): Old guard to make way for new blood at next year's general election**

Last updated 06:15, November 5 2016

OPINION: It may be a year out from the next general election, but there has already been a rush of MPs announcing their intention to stand down.

With electorate candidate spots up for grabs, such early omissions are understandable, as they will allow party leaders time to find suitable replacements.

But Parliament post the 2017 election will certainly be missing some of its more controversial and colourful characters.

The biggest name to bow out so far has been the polarising National MP Hekia Parata.

During her five years as education minister, Parata raised the ire of the nation's educators by increasing class sizes, closing and merging Canterbury schools and launching charter schools.

She dealt with the hospital pass that was national standards, while also coming under fire over the Novopay debacle, before throwing a hospital pass of her own to Steven Joyce.

That she stuck with the role for so long through such a maelstrom of public scrutiny and criticism certainly speaks to her resilience as a politician.

National will also be without veteran MPs Lindsay Tisch and Maurice Williamson. Both men were not considered major players, but did hold safe electorate seats for the party.

Williamson had his low points (the Donghua Liu incident, his criticism of Bill English), but he will likely be best remembered for his delightful "big gay rainbow" speech during the passing of the historic same-sex marriage bill.

Interestingly, Tisch, as assistant speaker, read the result when the bill when was passed, having previously voted against it.

This week saw National List MP Jono Naylor signal his intentions to resign – an announcement unlikely to send shockwaves through party ranks.

The former Palmerston North mayor scraped in on the list in 2014 but could still play a part in next year's election, with plans to support his replacement in the city.

National has narrowed the margin in the Labour stronghold in recent years, so such support could prove invaluable.

Labour has also seen some high-profile campaigners opt out.

Former leader Phil Goff has left to be Auckland's mayor, while another former leader, David Cunliffe, will take on a role with an Auckland consultancy firm.

Though lauded for his intellectual prowess, few Labour supporters will be sad to see Cunliffe leave, especially following the disastrous 2014 election result that saw him cast to the bankbenches.

The allure of power and prestige may have waned for the six who have called it a day, but there are always others waiting in the wings.

Finding out exactly who these replacements will be should make for compelling viewing.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/manawatu-standard/opinion/86112711/Old-guard-to-make-way-for-new-blood-at-next-years-general-election>

**ODT: Meet New Zealand's youngest politician and high school drop-out**

10:03 AM Saturday Nov 5, 2016

As a high school drop-out and teenage parent, Dunedin 19-year-old Ryan Jones has not followed the most conventional path to politics.

His Facebook page tells a story not of drunken selfies and memes, but political aspiration.

Photos of council agendas, links to local government documents and snaps with politicians fill his page.

As a newly-elected member of the West Harbour Community Board, the lifelong resident of the area unwittingly claimed the title of youngest community board member in New Zealand.

But the fresh-faced University of Otago bachelor of arts student is taking it in his stride.

"Election day was actually my son's third birthday.

"I spent the day with family who came over for cake and presents.

"I got the phone call [confirming election to the board], took a moment to think about it, and then went back to be with my son."

He says that his teenage experiences, and those he will gain as a community board member, do not mean he is missing out on the experience of being young.

"I feel like my experience is pretty unique and special in its own right.

"It is a different experience, but I think it's just as good as any."

Mr Jones' political career began last year when he placed himself at the forefront of a campaign to stop Foodstuffs withdrawing its New World store from Port Chalmers.

The battle was lost, but he was left looking for more ways to help.

"I just wanted to find the best way to serve the community and work in the community."

The young campaigner's drive was recognised by former Dunedin city councillor Andrew Noone and West Harbour Community Board chairman Steve Walker, who both encouraged him to run.

University assignments for his politics major and Maori studies minor were completed early so he could fully take to the campaign trail.

What followed was the delivery of 20,000 leaflets, and the usual palm-pressing and policies, including one for a West Harbour dog park.

"From Ravensbourne to Aramoana and up the coast to Purakaunui, there are almost 1000 dogs; one in every second house.

"Yet the nearest dog park is over the hill in Forrester Park [Northeast Valley]."

His promise to deliver "fresh input, fresh ideas and dynamic ways of interacting with people" won him 291 votes.

He estimates the closest board member to him in age is 30 years older.

"Obviously, I don't have the experience of some of the incumbents but I don't think that's a big deal. I'm a fast learner."

Having just completed his final exam for the year he will swap textbooks for community board agendas.

"I'm looking forward to it. It will be a new experience, that's for sure."

[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/politics/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=280&objectid=11742779](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/politics/news/article.cfm?c_id=280&objectid=11742779)

**Rodney Hide (NBR): Policymaking shortcuts abandon principles (paywalled)**

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 4, 2016

The latest fad to infest Wellington is “evidence-based” policy making. It follows hard on the heels of “market failure,” “stakeholder consultation” and “Treaty principles.”

It’s a scam. It’s designed to power up bureaucracy, disempower ministers and knock out the general public.

Of course, evidence matters. But so too, does principle.

“Evidence-based” policy making shuts down political debate. That’s its purpose. The evidence is X. Argument over.

Busy ministers don’t have evidence. They’re at a huge disadvantage. The policy entrepreneurs declare the evidence of lobby groups tainted and the public ill-informed. The “proper” evidence trumps all and the designated evidence-providers are the new philosopher kings. They get to rule on policy.

Take the taxing of fizzy drinks. The entire policy rationale has become hinged on whether taxing fizzy drinks reduces consumption. There is no political principle, no cost-benefit, no regard even to purpose.

The argument goes: obesity bad; too much sugar; tax fizzy drinks. The only question is, does the taxing of fizzy drinks reduce consumption?

But it doesn’t follow that reducing fizzy drink consumption reduces obesity. That’s where “evidence-based” policymaking falls short. The actual effect on the desired outcome is too complex for ready evidential answers and so the policy question is short-circuited.

It’s quite possible for a total elimination of fizzy drinks to have no effect on obesity rates, with the sugar-hungry taking their sugar in other forms. What then? More taxes?

“Evidence-based” policymaking disregards cost. It doesn’t even occur to the new “evidence-based” policy entrepreneurs that taxing sugar even has a cost. Their short-circuited policy purpose to cut out fizzy drinks also means a total disregard to benefit.

And then there is the question of principle. Is it truly the tax system’s purpose to determine what we eat and drink? If so, what tax principle underpins the achieving of nutritional goals through excise?

None of this gets addressed in “evidence-based” policy making. The evidence somehow speaks for itself (and the policy). But ministers and the general public no doubt wonder where the taxing of simple carbohydrates

might end up. I suspect once it starts there will be no end to new and inventive ways to make us good and healthy by taxing us for our own good.

Also, what role government? There is no principle of government in “evidence-based” policy making other than a very uncomfortable one. The evidence shows that shooting speedsters reduces speeding. So what? Should we shoot every tenth speedster? To save lives?

That’s extreme. But then my body mass index should be of no concern to politicians and bureaucrats. Nor should what I eat or drink. They’re my concern and my choice.

“Evidence-based” policy making is a recipe for an endless array of interventions and initiatives that chop and change as government decides to drop us first down this chute and then down that one.

<https://www.nbr.co.nz/opinion/hidesight-policymaking-shortcuts-abandon-principles>



**Sam Sachdeva (Stuff): Parliament considering whether Kiwi children be allowed to bike on the footpath**

Last updated 18:03, November 4 2016

Should Kiwi kids be allowed to cycle on our footpaths?

It's a seemingly simple question, but one which has pitted young against old, cyclists against pedestrians, and caused a headache for MPs considering the issue.

Parliament is currently considering a petition from Lower Hutt woman Jo Clendon to allow children under 14, and accompanying adults, to cycle on footpaths as a safer option than riding on the road.

Prime Minister John Key has confessed to letting his children cycle on the footpath when they were younger.

This week, politicians on the transport and industrial select committee heard from a number of groups about whether or not the change should be made.

Blind Citizens NZ president Clive Lansink said the priority should be keeping footpaths as safe as possible for all pedestrians, such as the 70,000 vision-impaired New Zealanders, rather than cyclists.

Living Streets Aotearoa vice-president Ellen Blake is opposed to a petition to let children under 14 cycle on footpaths.

"If it's too dangerous for young children to ride their bike on the road, surely it's OK for them to walk on the footpath like other pedestrians.

"What is it about being a child that requires Parliament to give them additional rights on footpaths that other pedestrians don't have?"

Allowing children to cycle on footpaths could "unwittingly create whole new set of dangers" or them and others, Lansink said.

A poll of over 1000 AA members found 67 per cent had to take evasive action due to cyclists, rollerbladers or similar people on footpaths.

"The thing that scares me the most is what might happen when you've got a little kid coming towards me on a bike, doesn't realise that I can't see him coming, and at the last minute realises that actually I haven't seen him coming and he's going to have to turn to avoid me."

**'FOOTPATHS ARE FOR PEDESTRIANS'**

Living Streets Aotearoa vice-president Ellen Blake said the petition would "completely change the presumption that footpaths are for pedestrians" and lead to vehicles dominating the spaces.

"Footpaths are intended for pedestrians...it's dedicated separate space that's worked really well."

Blake said there was no evidence that cycling on footpaths improved safety, while international evidence suggested the number of cycling injuries was up to 16 times greater if they could go on footpaths.

Cycling Action Network member Alastair Smith said the group was in favour of the change, as it would encourage more parents to let their children bike and increase their independence.

However, Smith said it would be useful to carry out research on how the law change would affect safety and the uptake of cycling, while an education campaign for cyclists and drivers would also help to address some of the concerns.

#### 'SPEEDING TEENAGERS' CONCERN ELDERLY

Grey Power chairman Peter Matcham said the group understood the intent behind Clendon's petition, but believed it had not been thought through properly.

"All you do is move the vulnerability from one potentially vulnerable group [children] to a much larger vulnerable group [the elderly]."

Members had had encounters with "speeding teenagers" on footpaths who made them feel unsafe, Matcham said.

"They've seen people on motor scooters forced off the footpath by cyclists, and cyclists who come out of nowhere."

#### 'POLARISING' ISSUE FOR AA

The AA's policy and research manager, Simon Douglas, said the issue was "polarising" for its members.

A poll of over 1000 members found that 67 per cent had been forced to stop, stand aside or take evasive action due to bikes, rollerblades, skateboards and mobility scooters, while half felt their use had been "inconsiderate, selfish or unsafe".

Many were happy with children at primary school cycling on footpaths, but not those aged between 12 and 14, Douglas said.

"If you're talking about youths - larger, young adults - that's where people get quite nervous."

#### PM LET KIDS USE FOOTPATH

Asked about the issue, Prime Minister John Key confessed he had let his children Max and Steffie cycle on the footpath when they were younger.

"I remember as a parent we were always pretty cautious of our kids biking on the footpath - obviously we let them do it but tried to make sure we were reasonably close to them."

Key said he was not sure whether he would support a law change, but believed there could be safety benefits in some cases.

"I'd have to consider it, mostly they do anyway so that's the practical reality of what we're dealing with, in a lot of cases they do...It might be a lot safer having a five-year-old to do that than have them riding on the roads."

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/politics/86038282/Parliament-considering-whether-Kiwi-children-be-allowed-to-bike-on-the-footpath>

**Russell Brown (Public Address): From Zero: New Zealand and drugs**

9:13 Nov 7, 2016

Over the past few years, psychoactive drugs and the means by which society deals with them have become a specialist subject for me. It's a field where so many things meet: science, medicine, politics, the law, philosophy, culture. It runs from policy to pop.

So I'm genuinely thrilled to be able to point you to the first episode of From Zero, a seven-part podcast and broadcast series for RNZ.

The title refers to the historical consensus that pre-contact Māori were that rare society with no use for intoxicants. In this first episode Dr Hirini Kaa offers an intriguing explanation for why that was so. It's not really down to a lack of goods – rongoā Māori incorporates a number of psychoactive plants, but they weren't used to get high.

Historian Redmer Yska and writer and documentarian David Herkt then help take us through to a present day when New Zealanders' use of some illicit drugs is amongst the highest in the world. The story of how we got there is sometimes a surprising one.

This first episode is a walk through history, but successive ones – including one on cannabis that's already in the can – will have more of a journalistic arc. The series will conclude with an episode called 'Are We There Yet?', examining the pressure for reform and thinking about what a more sustainable future might look like.

For now, new episodes of From Zero will be here online every Monday morning, on iTunes and Spotify and broadcast every Monday after the 10pm news on RNZ Nights. (I'll also be having a chat about the series with Bryan Crump after the 9pm news tonight.)

I hope you like it, because I'm loving making it. And I'm grateful to Tim Watkin for taking the leap and giving me RNZ's first outside commission for a podcast series, and the marvellous Justin Gregory for his help and support in putting the episodes together.

Have a listen. And, y'know, share that shit ...

<http://publicaddress.net/hardnews/from-zero-new-zealand-and-drugs/>

**Kyra Dawson (Rotorua Daily Post): Maori make a stand in a bid to help American indigenous people**

7:00 PM Sunday Nov 6, 2016

People of Te Arawa, Americans, Rotorua residents and Native American Indians all stood together at the Rotorua Lake Front to send prayers to those at Standing Rock, Dakota.

The intercultural event was organised to draw attention to the concerns of the Standing Rock Sioux in the United States and push elected officials to call for a halt to construction of the US\$3.8 billion (\$5.2b) pipeline that's planned to carry North Dakota oil through South Dakota and Iowa to a shipping point in Illinois.

The demonstration came as more than 20 of New Zealand's biggest names in music rereleased a Bob Marley cover to support the tribe.

Whakatane's Maisey Rika was one of the 22 artists to lend her voice to Get Up Stand Up, along with Che Fu, Tiki Taane, King Kapisi, Logan Bell from Katchafire and Dan Weetman from The Black Seeds.

The song, originally released in August 2014 to encourage New Zealanders to vote, has been rereleased for sale on Spotify, iTunes, Amazon MP3 and Bandcamp.

The haka and karakia were organised by Katerina Pihera-Ridge and her husband, Marcus Ridge.

Mrs Pihera-Ridge, who is part-Maori and part-Czech, said it was important for indigenous people to stand up for each other and because her husband was a Native American Indian it was something that was very important to both of them.

"I'm adopted to a Native American tribe for over 10 years now. This is what we can do from here. We were sending our aroha, our love, and that was either presented in a leaf, a feather and a rock."

Partner of Jamie Pooley says her calls for him to be cremated were ignored by whanau

During the haka and karakia people placed these items before Mr Ridge who rubbed sage into a mortar and pestle which created smoke.

Mrs Pihera-Ridge said the smoke carried their prayers and sent them where they were needed.

Mr Ridge said it was a really important kaupapa for Maori and Native Americans to come together and show solidarity.

"We have come together to support the water, it's what gives us life, for the next generations.

"It's not protesting, it's about protecting. Maori have this word - kaitiaki - it means guardian and that's what they're doing over there, being kaitiaki for our Earth.

"Big corporations are nothing new in American politics and this is just highlighting one event.

"To be a part of tangata whenua coming together for this purpose is a privilege and an honour," he said.

Rotorua's Tupotahi Winitana led the haka and karakia today because he had been to North Dakota and visited Standing Rock a few years ago.

"I'm a historian in Te Ao Maori and I've studied the Maori wars and what they are doing over there is just inhuman.

"They are cutting right through sacred lands. I think we have lost. . . All we can do is watch them and let them know what they are doing is wrong."

Standing Rock Background:

- Clashes between protesters and police have resulted in more than 400 arrests since August.
- Texas-based developer Energy Transfer Partners has said the 1931km pipeline is largely complete outside of the area in south-central North Dakota, where it will go under Lake Oahe, a large Missouri River reservoir and the source of the tribe's drinking water.
- The federal Government in September ordered a temporary halt to construction on Army Corps of Engineers land around and beneath the lake while the agency reviewed its permitting of the project.

[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/politics/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=280&objectid=11743246](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/politics/news/article.cfm?c_id=280&objectid=11743246)

**Ellen Read (Stuff): Trans-Tasman co-operation needs more honesty**

Last updated 09:44, November 6 2016

OPINION: New Zealand plus Australia should equal more than one plus one.

On the global stage, if we combine the best we both have to offer then we are a least a 3, if not a 3.5. Or even a 4 if we bring the All Blacks to the party.

We have open economies, stable political environments (despite the Aussie penchant for rolling their prime ministers regularly), and are (relatively) honest and transparent.

We also, thanks to Closer Economic Relations, have a relationship that is the envy of many: close co-operation while retaining our independent identities and political freedoms. That must look pretty good to the EU right now.

That said, we can and must do better. Especially if we are to thrive in a global world. And to do better together, we need to fully commit to sharing and to not protecting our own patches.

It was with this in mind that over 200 business and political leaders met in Sydney recently.

The 11th annual Trans-Tasman Business Circle Leadership Forum set itself the ambitious goal of "re-energising the trans-Tasman relationship" and, as NZ co-chairman Auckland International Airport chief executive Adrian Littlewood said, proposing some tangible initiatives to both governments.

Five sectors were chosen - infrastructure, tourism, innovation, health technology and agri-business - as areas where Australia/NZ can best work better together to take on the world.

"The future of the relationship lies more in what we can achieve together in relation to global markets rather than our increasingly integrated, but still small, trans-Tasman economy" Littlewood rightly said.

The Chatham House rules governing the forum prevent straight reporting on who said what and why, but the mood suggested that while it's all very well to come up with joint initiatives, we need to make sure neither country is sneakily protecting itself.

When I say neither country, I mean Australia.

For example, the single visa that was on offer to visitors during the Cricket World Cup whereby they could visit Australia and New Zealand with one stamp.

Prime Minister John Key and tourism groups have both said they would like to see it extended but how likely is Australia to do that when they think it may

see Chinese tourists, just one group mentioned, skip through the western island in fewer days and spend more time here.

You can't blame us for being sceptical. Fireblight and apples anyone?

Littlewood was spot on with his talk of "achieving together" and, with recommendations from the forum being sent to Key and Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, we shall watch for progress with interest. And see if the Australian delegation was really listening.

Fairfax national business editor Ellen Read attended the forum courtesy of Business New Zealand.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/business/opinion-analysis/86025956/Trans-Tasman-co-operation-needs-more-honesty>



**David Burroughs (Taranaki Daily News): Parihaka day looks to the future while remembering the past**

Last updated 10:52, November 7 2016

When hundreds of people marched to Parihaka to promote peace and reconciliation between Maori and pakeha, 14-year-old Whakairitaua Stanyon knew it was a special moment.

Standing in the small settlement in June this year and watching the procession make its way into the town was an exciting thing.

"I was thinking about all the past situations that had occurred at Parihaka," she said.

The congregation of the Taranaki Cathedral gathered with the residents of Parihaka to commemorate the day.

"I was thinking I am part of what is going to be the future."

Former New Plymouth mayor Andrew Judd led the march after being abused and spat on for his stance on Maori representation on councils.

On Saturday, five months after the procession and 135 years to the day after the settlement was invaded by British forces, the congregation of the Taranaki Cathedral gathered with the residents of Parihaka to commemorate Parihaka day.

Whakairitaua read out a first person account of what she imagined the day would have felt like for a 12-year-old girl living at Parihaka and other members of the church and community spoke of their experiences during the peace walk.

Whakairitaua's aunt, Rita Rukuwai, said she had spent most of the day worrying about whether there was enough food to feed the march.

"It's what you do at Parihaka, you feed people, whether they're enemy or not you still feed them," she said.

Kaumatua of the Cathedral Tiki Raumati opened the service, which was held in the temporary cathedral across the road from the earthquake-risk cathedral and was the fifth Parihaka day service held by the congregation.

He said the decision by Judd to carry the mayoral chains along the entire walk meant there was now a responsibility for successive mayors to carry on his work.

Former anglican minister Rob Ritchie said it was hard to talk about what it meant to hold the commemoration as he was little chocked up after the service.

"It's just coming from a very, very different place where I think there are the beginnings of reconciliation in this province, which I think is appropriately named the peace province," he said.

Parihaka was a place of "enormous faith", he said, and it was special to be able to have a service with the people who lived there.

"The kaumatua have come here from Parihaka and we know we're in the presence of people that still have faith," he said.

"I feel excited but hopeful that after a time it becomes clear that we have done our best."

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/taranaki-daily-news/news/86134546/parihaka-day-looks-to-the-future-while-remembering-the-past>

**Stuff: US Secretary of State John Kerry to visit New Zealand next week**

Last updated 09:26, November 5 2016

United States Secretary of State John Kerry will make a flying visit to New Zealand next week, as part of a five-stop, environmentally-focused world tour.

Kerry is set to touch down in Wellington on November 12 for two days, where he will meet with Prime Minister John Key and Foreign Minister Murray McCully for consultations on a range of bilateral and global issues.

"Our two countries are natural partners on a range of issues, including the protection of the world's oceans. This was on display last week when a joint NZ-US proposal was adopted, creating the world's largest marine protected area in the Ross Sea," McCully said.

"We will also discuss matters currently before the United Nations Security Council, in particular the plight of civilians in besieged areas of Syria."

Kerry will also participate in the dedication of the United States Memorial and a wreath laying ceremony at New Zealand's National War Memorial Park.

It comes on an environmentally-heavy journey that includes a global climate conference in Morocco. He will also join President Barack Obama at an Asia-Pacific economic summit.

Kerry wraps up his diplomatic tour on November 16 in Peru, to lead the Department of State delegation to the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) ministerial meeting.

The trip comes just days after the presidential election and may yield little attention.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/politics/86130730/US-Secretary-of-State-John-Kerry-to-visit-New-Zealand-next-week>

**RNZ: Green Party calls for National Parihaka Day**

5:53 pm on 5 November 2016

The Green Party is calling on the government to establish a National Parihaka Day to celebrate the civil resistance of a Taranaki iwi during the New Zealand Land Wars.

Parihaka Pa, circa 1900, with Mount Taranaki - taken by an unidentified photographer. Photo: Union Steam Ship Company of New Zealand / Ref 1/2-056542-F, Alexander Turnbull Library, <http://natlib.govt.nz/records/23078293>  
The day would commemorate the events of 5 November 1881, when the Parihaka community - led by Te Whitti o Rongomai - were forcibly removed from their land by members of the Crown military.

Greens Maori Affairs spokesperson, Marama Davidson, said while many New Zealanders knew and admired the deeds of Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Junior, too few were aware of the events at Parihaka.

She said New Zealanders had a responsibility to learn about, and celebrate, their own history.

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/national/317390/green-party-calls-for-national-parihaka-day>

**Brian Edwards: Hey, Max!**

Posted by BE on November 6th, 2016

Just read that piece about you by that bitch in the Sunday Star Times. What's got her knickers in a twist eh? Probably gagging for a good ride! That's the trouble with the bloody Kiwi press – too many old sheilahs out of touch with the in scene.

What you need is a man's take, Maxie. A real man's take.

Well, you've come to the right shop there, kiddo – Dr Been There Done That, Still Crazy After All These Years, Bring In The Next One: At Your Service!

So here's the first rule to staying cool: don't make an ass of yourself. And especially not a total ass. Looking a total ass is really not cool, Maxie. Get it?

And yes, we all know that you've got special circumstances going on. And it isn't easy.

On the other hand, it isn't all that hard either.

Then again, why give a shit about what some geriatric (look it up, MK), near nonagenarian (ditto!), one foot in the grave, used to be famous, left-wing old codger thinks.

But here's some free advice that my old Irish mother gave me. "Brian," she said, in a tone that made the name sound like a curse. "Brian, now that you know everything, isn't it time you thought of leaving home?"

Oh, and just one more thing: have a look at that picture of you on the golf course holding the flag for Obama and leaning on your golf club – looks just a tiny bit gay, don't you think?

Just saying.

Cheers

Brian

<http://brianedwardsmedia.co.nz/2016/11/hey-max/>

**RNZ: NZers should not be bullied out of their homes - ACT Party**

4:32 pm on 5 November 2016

The ACT Party is backing calls for stronger protection of property rights, because it says the government must not be allowed to bully people out of their homes.

Act MP David Seymour Photo: RNZ / Diego Opatowski

A report by the Human Rights Commission says the red-zoning of earthquake-damaged land in Christchurch shows property rights need improvement, and the government should not be able to override domestic laws.

The report was sharply criticised by the Minister for Greater Christchurch Regeneration, Gerry Brownlee, who said the government's buy-out offers were voluntary.

But ACT leader David Seymour said it took advantage of vulnerable people.

"None of us know when it might be us who is in the minority, and unfortunate circumstances, and in need of written-down rights. Unless your idea of the good life is to be cold, naked and shivering, then a good life requires the right to have property that other people can't arbitrarily take off you."

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/political/317391/nzers-should-not-be-bullied-out-of-their-homes-act-party>

**David Farrar (Kiwiblog): Boorman dies**

NOVEMBER 3, 2016 10:00AM BY DAVID FARRAR

The Wairarapa Times-Age [reports](#):

*The death of a former Wairarapa MP has rekindled memories of one of the most bizarre election battles in New Zealand's history.*

*[Reg Boorman](#), 80, who was Labour MP for Wairarapa from 1984-88, and a veteran of the Malaya conflict in the late 1950s, died at his Bay of Plenty home on Sunday.*

*He entered parliament when the David Lange-led Labour Party swept the Muldoon government aside in a snap election, and served a single term.*

*But it was his manner of departure from politics that is best recalled.*

*In the 1987 election Mr Boorman clung to an election night majority by a mere 11 votes, reduced to seven on the final count, from National Party challenger Wyatt Creech.*

*This was cut to a paper-thin majority of a single vote after Mr Creech had sought a judicial recount, leading to Mr Boorman being nicknamed "Landslide" by his parliamentary colleagues.*

*The drama did not end there though as months later Mr Creech renewed his challenge, petitioning the Electoral Court to revisit the issue claiming some special votes should have been disallowed and in other instances voters were not qualified to vote.*

*The petition hearing was held at the then Solway Park Hotel, taking almost a month involving the top-guns of the law fraternity.*

*Mr Creech was represented by Brian Henry and Peter Gilkison, with then National Party MP Winston Peters who helped out by briefing witnesses.*

*Mr Boorman was represented by Colin Carruthers and Peter Ahern.*

*The end result of the petition was the final act in the topsy-turvy election, with Mr Boorman losing out to Mr Creech who was deemed to have a majority of 34.*

*In the process the electoral court found Mr Boorman to have breached the law by over spending on his election campaign, a finding that resulted in him being declared guilty of a corrupt practice.*

Something the entire Labour Party also did in 2005!

People often get confused with this electoral petition. He did not lose the seat because of the over-spending. He lost the seat because Creech was found to have got 34 more votes than him.

And he wasn't struck off the Electoral Roll as a corrupt person due to losing the seat. He was struck off for the over-spending. Despite being disqualified as an elector for five years, he was appointed by Labour to the Earthquake and War Damages Commission a month before the 1990 election.

Another myth is that Boorman was only found guilty of a corrupt practice because of the GST component of his spending. This is incorrect. He was in fact found to have spent far far more than the legal limit. Off memory around \$28,000 against a \$5,500 limit.

Despite this Labour changed the law in 1989 to remove Boorman from the corrupt practices list.

*His wife of 30 years, Pauline Moran, was a Labour candidate for Wairarapa in her own right, gaining the party's nomination for the electorate after her husband's parliamentary tenure, but not succeeding in winning the seat.*

This was in 1990 when Creech won by 4,141 votes.

Still all history now. Condolences to his family and friends.  
[http://www.kiwiblog.co.nz/2016/11/boorman\\_dies.html](http://www.kiwiblog.co.nz/2016/11/boorman_dies.html)



**Kim McBreen (Spinoff): Racial justice meets the child welfare system: why Hands Off Our Tamariki is a movement for change**

November 5, 2016

Key regulations aimed at preserving children's connections to whakapapa and their culture are set to be dropped as part of a major shake up of New Zealand's child welfare system. Kim McBreen explains why that's terrible news for our most vulnerable Māori children.

You may have heard the Crown have had a series of bad reports for their child welfare work. Really bad reports. So bad that the Crown has set up a new ministry and is proposing changes to the Children, Young Persons and their Families Act. What they really need to do is give up and admit this isn't their thing.

The Crown has been horrible at child welfare. The Crown has taken children from families for almost arbitrary reasons, like skipping school or being poor – that in itself is an inexcusable act of violence. It has taken those children from safe homes and put them in dangerous situations where many have been abused and neglected. Can you imagine how you would feel if this was your kid? How angry, devastated and useless you might feel, what that would do to a whānau? Māori have been especially targeted, both in who the Crown has taken and who is most likely to be abused. Two Crown reports last year showed the extent of the Crown's responsibility for the abuse of children. The Crown has blamed CYF, which is kind of like when my kid blames her foot for pushing the cat. According to the Crown, it's all CYF's fault: we need a new model, the law needs simplifying. The changes that the Crown has announced are a signal that there will be no real change – it will be the same stuff with a different name.

Many reports have identified the problem, but the Crown doesn't get it. The problem is not the name of the ministry or that the law was too complex. The problem is that the Crown is colonising, controlling and authoritarian. That strategy has failed, it is time for a different strategy – like sharing the responsibility with the communities that are most affected. A Crown report in the 1980s identified that institutional racism was shutting Māori out of child welfare decisions, while at the same time Māori children are the majority in the child welfare system. For decades, Māori have argued that the best solution for our children is to give the responsibility to Māori.

The Crown seems allergic to the idea of sharing power. Like so many patriachs, the only way it knows to respond to criticism is to tighten control. But surely we all want the same thing: an actual solution. A solution means solving this mess, so we won't have endless reports on how useless and abusive our child welfare system is, so children are protected and stay out of the system, so they don't carry that trauma through their lives, so we are moving towards a future we want.

To protect children and undo the damage that the Crown has inflicted on whānau, the enduring solution is to take that power from the Crown, and give

decision making, resources and responsibility to appropriate rōpū, communities, hapū, iwi. The Crown's task then becomes supporting rōpū to prepare for that responsibility. Our task is to work out how to make it happen.

Some backstory: institutional racism and unconscious bias

When I was born 40-odd years ago, my mother was very young and single, and so I was taken immediately for adoption. The Adoption Act 1955 was what some people would call colour-blind. It didn't refer to culture or ethnicity; all adoptions were treated the same. Other words for that are institutionally racist, or assimilationist, or colonising. In practice, it meant Māori understandings of wellbeing, adoption and whakapapa were ignored and all adoptions were according to Pākehā ideas of what was best: closed adoptions, a complete break between the birth family and the adopting family. By Māori standards, that's abuse.

My mother was white and no attempt was made to find out the ethnicity of my father (the Adoption Act pretty much excluded fathers). I had pale skin and dark hair, so I was white enough – the social worker didn't ask about my ethnicity. Despite that, when my adopting parents asked, the social workers guaranteed that I was white.

I was adopted and told that I was Pākehā, and that was the story I grew up with. It's a story that became harder and harder to believe, but in this monocultural society, it nevertheless stole any opportunity for me to grow up with te reo, tikanga or mātauranga Māori. I grew up with one part of my cultural heritage well-represented, and another part denigrated, so that I will never feel at home among people and in places where I belong.

I am well aware that I was luckier than many. Being born pale skinned and female meant I was adopted as a baby, which meant I was destined to have it easier than those who were not. But my history gives me some small knowledge of what it is to be disconnected from whakapapa and shut out of belonging.

I am sharing this story because it shows what happens when we don't require social workers to think outside their cultural context. If we do not require social workers to consider whakapapa and cultural connection, most will not. If we make our law colour-blind, in practice it will be white, assimilationist, colonising. And it will hurt children. That's why, nearly 30 years ago, Māori fought hard to have children's connections to whakapapa and culture protected in the Children, Young Persons and their Families Act. That's why, when I heard that the Minister of Social Welfare was proposing to drop those protections, I was so shocked that I thought it was a misunderstanding.

More backstory: centuries of whānau nurturing children

Traditionally, Māori society is whānau centred, and Māori whānau are child centred. Whakapapa is at the heart of our philosophy, the relationship between tūpuna and mokopuna is especially celebrated in our literature, and

our metaphors for identity and belonging are all about mothering. When Europeans arrived, some were appalled enough that they wrote about what terrible parents Māori were, especially Māori men, who were far too loving and attentive to children – not at all manly behaviour. (If you are interested in traditional Māori parenting, Mana Ririki produced a fantastic report.)

Over the next several decades, Europeans got stuck in, teaching Māori parents good Christian spare-the-rod-spoil-the-child parenting, and teaching Māori men patriarchal family values. At the same time that the Crown took Māori wealth and resources, it imposed capitalism. The combined effect was impoverishment and chasing wages for survival (when my iwi, Ngāi Tahu, signed Te Tiriti they were responsible for almost all of Te Waipounamu, Rakiura and surrounding islands; between 1844 and 1860, they were forced to sell effectively all that land for less than £9000. In that short time, thousands of people who had been collectively self-supporting and self-determining became politically and financially dependent on the Europeans who had taken everything. Can you imagine how that felt?).

Europeans introduced diseases that killed thousands (in the first 100 years of contact with Europeans, the Māori population fell from around 200,000 to 42,000). The Crown dismantled Māori law and systems that kept whānau safe and healthy, criminalised tikanga, locked people up for trying to hold on to their land, banned te reo Māori from schools to stamp out not just te reo, but all the knowledge that it carries. And Māori were still expected to fight for Britain in two horrific world wars.

After a hundred years of this, Māori were still resilient. In the 1940s, research on Māori mental health focused on why Māori were so much healthier than Europeans (one third the incidence of mental disorder)<sup>1</sup>. Pākehā researchers' explanation was that the whānau was such a nurturing mechanism that it was protecting Māori mental health from even the ongoing violence of colonisation. They predicted that as whānau structures were dismantled, Māori mental disease would increase to Pākehā rates. This could have been a turning point for Māori and Pākehā – where would we be if Pākehā had paid attention to their own researchers saying whānau are a healthier institution than nuclear families? Instead, the Crown has continued with policies to dismantle whānau, and privilege small family units that provide a dependent, mobile workforce.

Colonisation has treated generations of Māori to continuous violence, trauma after trauma after trauma. At the same time, the Crown has been dismantling our mechanisms of wellbeing – disconnecting us from our whenua, our whakapapa, our whānau. These experiences have created the situation we are in now, where some Māori whānau aren't coping. They need support to heal. Instead, the Crown steps in, taking children from communities that it has attacked, and takes away those communities' futures. Unjust, immoral, abusive – I don't have words that adequately express how obscene this is.

Last backstory: decades of Crown endangering Māori children

That problem for Māori was clearly described in the 1987 report Puao-te-ata-tu, commissioned by the Minister of Social Welfare. Already, Māori made up the majority of Social Welfare institutions' clientele. Puao-te-ata-tu reported that institutional racism in the Department of Social Welfare, the Children and Young Persons Act and the courts made it impossible for those institutions to achieve their goals. They defined institutional racism as "monocultural institutions which simply ignore and freeze out the cultures of those who do not belong to the majority. National structures are evolved which are rooted in the values, systems and viewpoints of one culture only." Whenever people talk about one law for all, this is what they mean: one law based entirely on Pākehā values and priorities, applied to all of us.

The solution Puao-te-ata-tu recommended was biculturalism. Not the token biculturalism we think of now, where all the values and goals of our institutions and laws are Pākehā, but we are allowed the occasional pōwhiri or karakia so everyone can feel culturally enriched. But real biculturalism, where the values, cultures and beliefs of Māori are as central as those of Pākehā in all aspects of governance; where power is re-invested in Māori institutions – whānau, hapū and iwi. Puao-te-ata-tu identified that Māori succeed when rangatiratanga is recognised and supported, and therefore recommended that Māori should be resourced to solve the problems Māori are facing. The report's recommendations would have transformed social welfare institutions from their philosophical foundations to their practices. The advice could have turned this crisis around 30 years ago. Thousands of children could have been spared the CYF experience. And the reality of that experience is only now becoming fully known.

Last year the Confidential Listening and Assistance Service completed their final report on experiences of abuse and neglect in state care up to 1992. The Service described their findings as "horrifying" – if anything, that's an understatement. For decades, children were removed from homes, sometimes for little reason, and placed in situations where they would endure neglect, physical, sexual and psychological abuse, with nowhere to complain, no-one who would help. Thousands of children. And as bad as it was generally, Māori had it hardest – Māori children were more likely to be put in care, for more trivial reasons, and to be treated more harshly. I challenge anyone to read that report and not be outraged (the report is only public because the Otago Daily Times made an OIA request).

There are predictable outcomes. The report states: "It has become clear to us that the neglect and abuse of children and the previously frequent practice of locking children up in institutions has contributed to a dark legacy of suffering and crime in this country." Principal Youth Court Judge Andrew Becroft also commented last year on the link between state care and crime – 83 percent of prison inmates under 20 have been in CYF care. State 'care' has been creating enduring problems that will only grow.

The Crown's response shows the level of compassion and empathy we can expect. There is no denying that children and their families suffered, so the Crown cannot avoid paying some compensation. But it will not apologise.

Another report from last year, this time from the Crown appointed Children's Commission, looked at the recent performance of Child, Youth and Family. It wasn't encouraging. They say "We don't know if children are better off as a result of state intervention... the limited data we do have about health, education, and justice outcomes is concerning." Again, although the majority of children referred to CYF and in care are Māori, CYF does not have and does not value the knowledge, skills and experience to work with Māori. Again, they recommended transforming CYF, including focusing on building cultural capacity and partnering with iwi.

Report after report is telling the Crown that it cannot care for children, that Māori children are especially endangered by the Crown, and that the Crown needs to be partnering with Māori to ensure good outcomes for Māori children. With Māori children representing around 60 percent of children in care, it is obvious that the Crown should be doing all it can to work with Māori to turn this around.

Instead, the Crown blames its terrible record on CYF. It's not the State treating children terribly, it's CYF and all its predecessors (seriously—are we supposed to not understand that CYF is the State?). The State has got this under control. It's getting good advice.

What is this whole new model? The Crown will rebrand child protection work under a Ministry of Vulnerable Children. It is immediately clear that the Crown is not taking advice from people you might expect, like its own Children's Commissioner, who said the new name is "stigmatising and labelling". Other places it is not taking advice from include all the aforementioned reports that demonstrated the need for a new model. Because instead of strengthening its relationship with Māori, the Crown is doing the opposite. In the legislative overhaul for their new model, the Crown is removing two important clauses for Māori: one that prioritises Māori children staying within their hapū and iwi, and another that considers the effect of decisions on the stability of Māori children's whānau, hapū and iwi.

Labour supports the changes, with their spokesperson Jacinda Adern saying the moves are justified because of abuses of children in care of extended family. That was a sadly ignorant response. It is tragic whenever CYF places children in unsafe situations, including with unsafe whānau. It is an example of CYF making bad decisions for children, and why Māori want to be making those decisions ourselves. CYF's bad practice is no excuse for removing provisions to protect children in the context of whānau. To make that argument is transparently racist – Māori cannot be blamed for the Crown's bad decisions. Likewise, it is unbelievable that social workers cannot find safe and loving whānau within a child's whakapapa. As Tariana Turia has said of her iwi "You can't tell me that within 8000 people connected by our river, you cannot find someone to care for a child." This is true of all our whānau and hapū.

Tweaking an abusive model: What's wrong with the proposed changes?

The clauses the Crown is removing from the Children, Young Persons and their Families Act consider the effects of decisions on whānau, and prioritise placing a child within their hapū or iwi. These clauses came from the Puaote-ata-tu report I mentioned earlier, which found that the Crown would continue to fail Māori if it did not overcome institutional racism. The report made many recommendations, most of which have not been met, but two findings are particularly relevant.

Firstly, in the context of institutional racism, social workers need to be directed to recognise children as members of whānau and hapū, whose wellbeing is necessarily linked to the child's wellbeing. Without that direction, social workers were taking away the ability of whānau, hapū and iwi to take responsibility and care for their children. They were contributing to problems in whānau. Secondly, in the context of institutional racism, social workers need to be directed to recognise that the well-being of Māori children includes their sense of belonging to whakapapa and whānau, and that prioritising their wellbeing includes prioritising those connections. Without that direction, social workers were not prioritising whakapapa, and children were being isolated from their whakapapa and culture. Māori fought hard to have these directions included in the CYP&F Act; removing them takes away protection for connections to whakapapa.

We need to return to the historical context of whānau, which has been deliberately destabilised by Crown policies for decades, where trauma from the violence of colonisation has created problems that means a few whānau are not currently safe, and where for decades the Crown has taken Māori children and put them in less safe situations. At this point, the only just response for the Crown would be to ask Māori how whānau can best be supported to care for children. Removing those particular clauses signals to Māori that the Crown isn't listening and doesn't care what we think.

The proposed changes to legislation also breach New Zealand's international obligations. There are two relevant statements in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, to which New Zealand is a signatory. Firstly, the declaration recognises "the right of indigenous families and communities to retain shared responsibility for the upbringing, training, education and well-being of their children, consistent with the rights of the child." Secondly, the declaration recognises "the collective right to live in freedom, peace and security as distinct peoples and shall not be subjected to any act of genocide or any other act of violence, including forcibly removing children of the group to another group." The UN is critical of the State's new model, and like so many of the State's own reports, recommends more engagement with Māori.

Is there another vision?

The Crown's vision for child welfare seems to be to create a model that isn't as horrifying as the one we had before. Or perhaps it is to draw a line under last year, and start with a clean slate. Either way, it's not a vision I can buy into, and it stems from the Crown's failure to recognise itself as the problem.

Until it gets that, it will miss the point. The fundamental flaw that reproduces bad outcomes for children is that the state is colonising, authoritarian and paternalistic, especially when it comes to Māori. That will always end in abuse.

My vision, which I hope is consistent with yours, is one where communities are supported to heal, and empowered to nurture and protect their children. If that is the end goal then the tasks in the meantime are clear.

For the Crown, instead of twisting itself in knots to stop itself abusing children, the task is to support communities to prepare. This was the solution that Puao-te-ata-tu proposed. For decades, Whatarangi Winiata has argued that the only enduring and fair solution is a reallocation of resources, from the Crown to Māori. If all the resources that the Crown takes and uses in failing to protect our children were instead given to Māori, returning all responsibility to care for our children, history and experience suggests our children would be better off.

For Māori and other communities who want to take responsibility for their children, the task is to identify what is needed, and how to rebuild capacity so that our children are nurtured and safe. Many of our communities are well underway with that work.

Right now, our task is to stop the Crown from abusing another generation of children. We need to stop the changes to the Children, Young Persons and their Families Act, and we need to push for a holistic, enduring solution. Puao-te-ata-tu called it biculturalism, Whatarangi Winiata calls it rangatiratanga, I'm going to call it justice.

Hands off our tamariki.

1 Beaglehole, E and P Beaglehole 1947 Some Modern Maoris, New Zealand Council for Educational Research Series (Whitcombe and Tombs, Auckland)

Kim McBreen is from Waitaha, Kāti Mamoe, Ngāi Tahu, and also Pākehā. She lives with her partner and daughter on a quarter acre section with two cats, lots of fruit trees, and close enough to hear the ocean on a stormy evening. She is a kaimahi at Te Wānanga o Raukawa. You can read more of her writing at her blog He Hōaka.

<http://thespinoff.co.nz/parenting/05-11-2016/racial-justice-and-the-child-welfare-system-hands-off-our-tamariki-is-a-movement-for-change/>

**Lee Suckling (Stuff): Kiwis' acceptance of minorities isn't there yet**

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Ten seconds in a restaurant bathroom with a trans sex worker just changed my life.

It's not nearly as scandalous as it sounds, but the emotional ramifications for me have run deep ever since.

It was a Friday night and I was eating dinner at a little place on K'Rd around 9pm.

I tried to say I wasn't from Auckland but I did used to live around the corner.

Though the street (and general vicinity) has begun to gentrify with nice restaurants like the one I was at, K'Rd still has a lot of grittiness. It still has its graffiti, its op-shops, and its sex workers.

During dinner, I was using the unisex bathroom, and one of those sex workers – a South Asian trans woman – came in to check her hair and gussy herself up. She looked fantastic: beautiful dark hair, flawless skin, legs for days. So I told her so.

Lee Suckling: Empathise with minorities, don't be hostile or rude.

"Girl, you look great", I said earnestly, honestly, and with a bit of sass to add some levity so she knew I too was part of the LGBT community. "Really?" she replied. "You're clearly not from Auckland."

A little taken aback, I tried to say I wasn't from Auckland but I did used to live around the corner, but before I could stutter a sentence out, she continued, "Because you're talking to a minority within a minority within a minority".

And then she abruptly walked out the door. Mic dropped. No time to respond.

I stood there stunned.

I returned to my party and tried to decipher what just happened with my table. "A simple 'thanks' would have been nice," said one, but I was more interested in what she really meant... and what that meant.

The fact she was a sex worker I believe was irrelevant here. She was a South Asian, trans, female. Minority to the power of three.

Now, it's actually the sentence that preceded "minority within a minority within a minority" that got me thinking, and then worrying.

By saying, "You're clearly not from Auckland" she wasn't insinuating that I was from elsewhere in New Zealand; she thought I wasn't from New Zealand at all (my neutral accent, I'll admit, offers such ambiguity).



What this woman experiences (as I'm led to believe from her cue) is that Kiwis don't give her the time of day. She feels ignored by society. She is shunned by the general population for being South Asian, trans, and female.

This disturbs me on many levels.

I've spend a lot of time thinking and writing about diversity. I'm gay and that puts me in a minority group. But I'm also white and male so that's two ticks in the majority box.

While I believe I can see diversity from both an insider and an outsider's point of view, the sentiment of what this woman said to me proves that I'm more naive than I thought.

Perhaps New Zealand isn't as accepting as I see it through my (mostly liberal, educated) social circles.

Maybe the bigoted comments that always follow articles about LGBTs, Asian people, and women are more representative of common opinion than I give them credit for.

That hateful rhetoric of intolerance towards "otherness" – as seen in the Northern Hemisphere via the likes of Donald Trump and Brexit this year – might even be present down here in New Zealand.

What this encounter in a restaurant bathroom taught me is that only those truly oppressed can really gauge how progressive our world is becoming – or not becoming.

I've been thinking all this time that we keep getting stronger, better, more accepting, and edging closer towards equality. But that mightn't be so true.

Those who really matter in the fight for diversity and acceptance – the triple minorities of the world – are those who are still feeling the struggle the most.

We can talk about equality all we want from a mainstream perspective. We can put diversity programmes in place at our companies. We can share positive stories of inclusivity online.

But nothing matters much unless the people that need to be included really, truly feel it.

How can we ensure that happens? By talking to them. By empathising with them. By never being hostile, and never being rude.

There are so many diverse minorities in New Zealand, and we are a small enough country to see widespread acceptance felt throughout if we all try. But for it to happen, all of us have to actually make that effort.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/life-style/well-good/86113677/Lee-Suckling-Kiwis-acceptance-of-minorities-isn-t-there-yet>