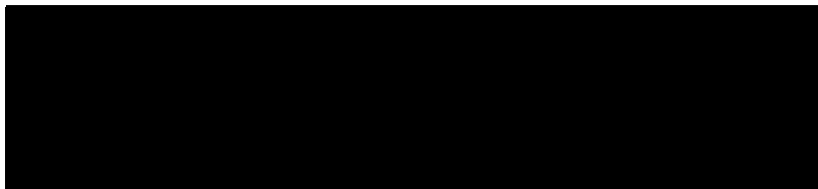
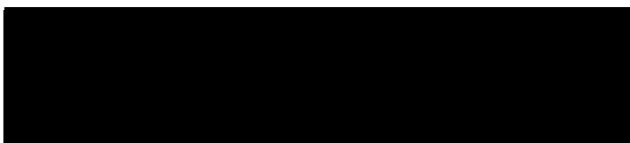


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FW: Thompson+Clark SITREP: Animal Rights and GE Issues: 07 June 2016



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From: Thompson+Clark Fusion Centre [mailto:Natex=tcil.co.nz@mail216.suw16.rsgsv.net] **On Behalf Of** Thompson+Clark Fusion Centre

Sent: Wednesday, June 08, 2016 1:02 AM

Subject: Thompson+Clark SITREP: Animal Rights and GE Issues: 07 June 2016

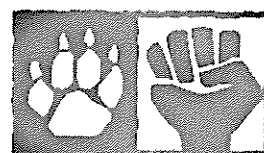
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Weekly Situation Report

Animal Rights and GE Issues



Thompson+Clark Fusion Centre

Date: 07 June 2016

Contact: [Redacted]

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SAFE Launches New Attack on Dairy

07 June

The Head of Campaigns for the national animal rights group SAFE has argued in an opinion piece in New Zealand's largest daily newspaper, that prosecuting individuals who commit cruelty in the dairy industry will do nothing to address the problem.

Writing in the NZ Herald, she says, "The fact is there is inherent cruelty in the dairy industry, which cannot be changed through prosecuting individuals".

The dairy industry, she claims, does not want "the cheese-eating worldwide public to know about its disposal of unwanted bobby calves".

She also says that more than two million calves are surplus to the dairy industry's requirements every year and will be killed shortly after birth. They are essentially waste products of the dairy industry, and are treated as such, she writes.

She also writes that the dairy industry also must "shoulder blame for environmental degradation of a country that prides itself on its 100 percent pure image".

New Zealand, she says, is seeing a rapid intensification of the dairy industry. "Large numbers of euphemistically called 'herd homes' are being built. Some will confine hundreds of dairy cows inside for their entire lives. With many consumers concerned about the cruelty of factory farming, it takes a brave (or really dumb) industry to start up another indoor confinement system".

She says the dairy industry justifies many of the environmental and animal welfare problems by claiming it produces food for the hungry masses and that it is essential for our economy. But, she argues, how desirable is the consumption of dairy anyway? According to her, an increasing number of medical experts point out that cow's milk is good for fast-growing calves but not for humans.

She says that, "Even economists are voicing concerns that New Zealand needs to diversify away from the dairy industry, and that we should not put all our eggs in one basket. Dairy is a low-value, high-impact commodity. It is one of the most environmentally unfriendly food production systems in existence, and is not a sustainable model for our economy".

Referring to last week's guilty plea by a slaughterhouse worker charged with abusing bobby calves following last year's expose of the practices by some in the dairy industry (see further item below), she argues that the "inherent problems with dairy are not over because one guy has pleaded guilty".

She asks if, "Do we really want to rely for our economic well being on an industry that has inherent environmental and animal welfare problems, and that produces a product that in the future may well be viewed as undesirable, even detrimental to our health?"

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Anti-Vivisection Society Focus on Cats

06 June

The New Zealand Anti-Vivisection Society (NZAVS) has criticised the fact that over 700 cats were used for research, testing, and teaching in one year here. The society is quoting the statistics for 2014, which it says is the most recent available data.

While it hasn't provided any local examples, the NZAVS has quoted the case of 'Leo The Ex Lab Cat' which Australian animal rights activists say they have rescued from a Sydney research facility using cats in a study aimed at improving surgical techniques for vision correction in humans, but which ran out of funding.

The NZAVS says Leo endured invasive procedures, including the removal of his nictitating membranes (third eyelids) and surgery (corneal pocket) to his right eye.

Leo now has his own Facebook page promoting opposition to the use of animals in research and has been the subject of a book by animal rights activists aimed at children called 'Leo Escapes from the Lab'.

See: www.humanerresearch.org.au/campaigns/Leos_story



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Rodeo Ban Not Dead Yet Says SAFE

05 June

The national animal rights group SAFE denies parliament has closed the door on banning rodeos, despite a public statement from the Minister for Primary Industries last week saying the Government had no intention of banning them.

According to the Minister, rodeo is an important part of New Zealand society and a ban is unnecessary because a new code of welfare had been put in place and the government was in the process of toughening the welfare regulations that govern them. The National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC), he says, have already updated the code of welfare for rodeos and the Minister said he relied heavily on their advice, which was that "by-and-large rodeos are fine".

However, SAFE's position is that a decision not to ban rodeo has not been made. Whatever, the Minister has chosen to say, SAFE says the Select Committee process to consider a ban has only recently begun. SAFE of course is technically correct - the Select Committee considering the petition has not released its recommendation.

Back in March this year, SAFE and two other animal rights groups (the SPCA and Farmwatch) presented a 62,000 signature to parliament calling for a ban. While the Select Committee considers the matter, SAFE has been urging its supporters via an online webpage to send the Prime Minister's office an E-Card urging him to support the ban. The Green Party is also calling for a ban ,while a leading Labour Party MP has spoken out in support of rodeos and opposing a ban.

There are currently approximately 35 rodeo events taking place around the country every year. The organisations urging the ban say that rodeo is a form of entertainment based entirely on distressing animals for fun and as such directly contravenes the Animal Welfare Act, which calls for animals to be handled in a way that minimises the likelihood of unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress.

See: <http://safe.org.nz/ecards/tell-john-key-ban-rodeo>



Tell John Key to Ban Rodeo!

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Waikato Abattoir Protests

03 June

A relatively new animal rights group calling itself Animal Action Waikato (AAW) held the second of what it says will be a series of protests outside AFFCO abattoirs in the Waikato region. The group appears to only number about half a dozen people at this stage and says it is committed to non-violence.

The group held its first protest on 29 May outside AFFCO's Horotiu works, which the group says slaughters an average of 900 cows and bobby calves a day. The second was held on 03 June.

AAW says although its group is currently small, it has been receiving a lot of positive response from traffic to its protests outside the works. The group says it stages its protest during employee shift changes and has unexpectedly got a positive response from many of the workers.

AAW claims this is in fact not surprising; claiming that AFFCO's workers are underpaid and forced to work long hours doing the same repetitive action. Many of these individuals are forced to work there by Work and Income, it claims. "Slaughterhouse work is institutionalized violence and the psychological impacts on its employees are grave," the group adds.

AAW says the goal of these protests are "to erect glass walls around the slaughterhouses in our communities. These facilities operate in secrecy and depend on the unawareness of the general public to remain anonymous as they slaughter thousands upon thousands of sentient beings a day, sometimes working late into the night".



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SAFE Sets Out to Ruin the Party

02 June

SAFE set out to ruin the launch of Countdown's first new Premium Store when it targeted it for protest last week as part of the national animal rights group's campaign to force the supermarket chain to announce a date when it will stop selling caged eggs.

SAFE set out to ruin the party for Countdown when it opened the new flagship store in Ponsonby's \$120 million Vinegar Lane commercial development - picketing the footpath outside the store on its first day of opening with about 20 of its supporters, and flying a protest banner overhead from a fixed wing aircraft, and continually driving a six-metre long mobile billboard past the front entrance. The protest was orderly and peaceful however. It was the first time SAFE is known to have hired an aircraft to support one of its protests.

Commenting about its protest action, SAFE said in a statement, "Countdown is ignoring their customers' pleas. Countdown's Facebook page has had daily complaints from concerned Kiwis asking them to stop selling cruel cage eggs for the past few months. In response to their inaction, SAFE will fly a plane with a message for Countdown above the new Auckland shop, along with a six-metre long mobile billboard on the ground, and as well, concerned customers will rally outside the store".

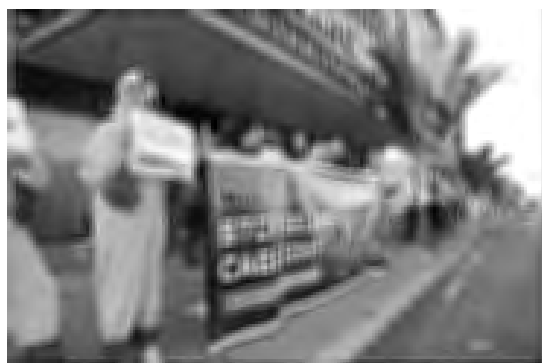
SAFE's Head of Campaigns said, "Shoppers are genuinely disgusted with the cruel caging of hens. While Countdown crows about opening day specials, the hens are paying a dreadful price."

"Countdown is failing to listen to their customers. Their parent company, Woolworths in Australia, pledged back in 2013 to drop cage eggs and the simple fact is that New Zealand caged hens do not suffer any less than Aussie hens. There is a worldwide movement against cruelly caging hens and Countdown must move with the times."





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Bobby Calf Cruelty Conviction

02 June

The first person charged with cruelty following last year's expose by animal rights activists of the practices by some in the Bobby Calf Industry pleaded guilty to all 10 charges when he appeared in the Huntly District Court last week.

While pursued outside the court by the media after making his admission, the 38-year-old man refused to make any comment.

The charges were laid under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 and relate to the man's alleged treatment of 115 bobby calves over two days in August 2015 when he was working at slaughterhouse near Te Kauwhata. It is understood he has since been dismissed.

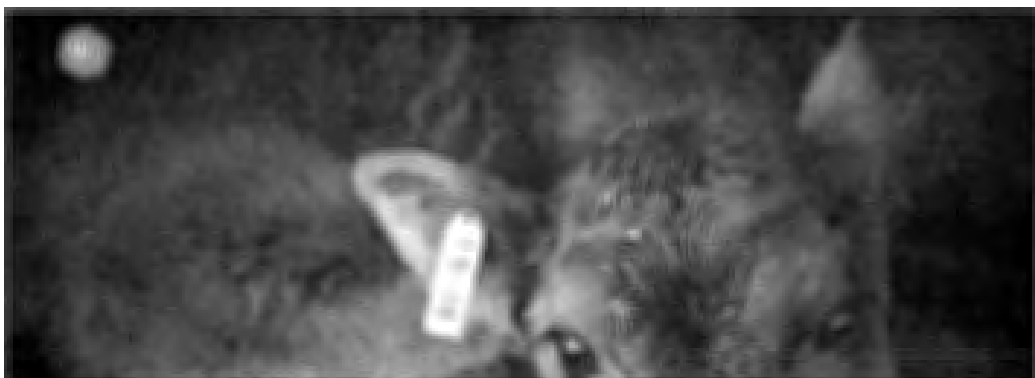
The charges the man admitted include two charges of wilfully ill-treating a calf and representative charges of recklessly ill-treating calves, ill-treating calves, and using blunt force trauma. The penalties for the offences range from a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment or maximum fine of \$100,000 (or both), to charges carrying a maximum penalty of 12 months imprisonment or a maximum fine of \$50,000 (or both). The man will be sentenced on 28 July.

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) laid the charges as part of its investigation into the alleged mistreatment of bobby calves after the animal rights group SAFE released covert footage taken at the slaughterhouse by another animal rights group (Farmwatch) which specialises in breaking into factory farms and documenting conditions.

The MPI's investigation began in September last year after it received many hours of footage from SAFE, recording alleged offences involving bobby calves in the Waikato region.

The MPI has laid a further four representative charges against a company and an individual in relation to alleged other animal welfare offences involving bobby calves. The first hearing for those charges has been set down for 21 June 2016.

The MPI says its investigators are actively pursuing other lines of inquiry in relation to possibly laying further charges.





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GE Tree Campaign Renewed

01 June

GE Free NZ has revived its campaign against the Proposed National Environmental Standard for Plantation Forestry (NES-PF) by thanking the 18000 plus individuals who wrote in to the MPI to support opposition to the proposed standard, and in particular Clause 6.4 which relates to GE trees.

However, GE Free NZ says it needs the help of those individuals again to write to National Party Members of Parliament asking them to oppose the standard within caucus, as it is caucus and not the whole of parliament which will be considering the MPI's summary of the submissions received.

GE Free NZ says the clause, if enacted, removes the democratic process around community aspirations for the environment through the RMA and would make the planting of GE Trees a permitted activity if approved by the EPA. This means that it would override any Council precautionary GE provisions placed in their plans.

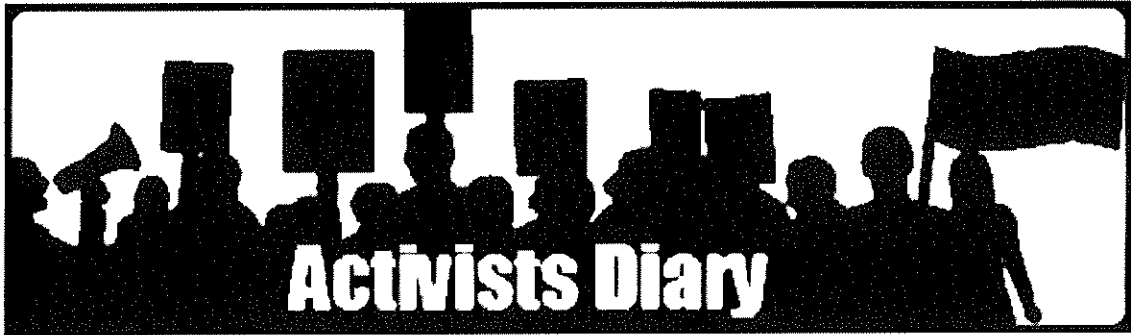
GE Free NZ is asking the 18,000 plus individuals who supported its opposition to the proposed standard to write to the MPs asking that they support removing all wording in the NES-PF in 6.4 p.43, Appendix 3; Afforestation: p. 64 & Replanting: p. 82, referring to genetically modified trees and rootstock.

Instead, GE Free NZ asks its supporters to ask the MPs to add a condition in the proposed NES-PF stating that local bodies can set more stringent rules, objectives and policies on GMO's as part of their land use planning function, under the RMA, when addressing the economic, social and cultural wellbeing of their communities.





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11 June: March Against Slaughterhouses

A group calling itself 'Effective Non-Violence' has organised a protest march in Auckland on 11 June calling for all slaughterhouses to be closed. 'Effective Non-Violence' says its aim is to "implement effective strategies of action and resistance to fight speciesism and other injustices".

The organisers say this event is part of the World Week for the Abolition of Meat (WWAMs) and so far 49 people have indicated on a Facebook events page set up for the march that they will be attending. The protest is being held in Aotea Square at 1.30pm.



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12 June: Auckland Animal Rights Meeting

Fortnightly Direct Animal Action Meeting at the Hum Salon, 123 Grafton Road, Grafton, Auckland. Direct Animal Action says it is a group for passionate animal rights activists wanting to get more involved in direct action for animals.

The group meets fortnightly at the same venue to plan protests and other actions. The meeting starts at 11.30am and lasts for an hour. A Facebook events page for this meeting suggests that 10 people have so far indicated they may attend.

Direct Animal Action appears to have a close relationship with two other animal rights groups - SAFE and Farmwatch.



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12 June: Wellington Activist Meeting

The Wellington Animal Rights Network (WARN) is holding its next monthly meeting on Sunday 12 June at the New Crossways Community Centre, Level 1/6 Roxburgh Street, Mt Victoria, Wellington, 2-4pm. To date, seven people have indicated on the WARN Facebook events page that they will be attending.

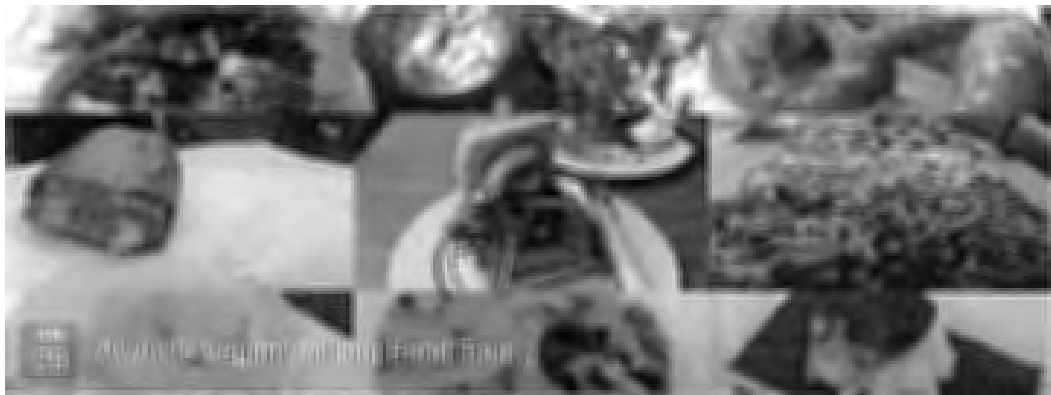


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29 June: Vegan Walking Food Tour

If Facebook is to be believed, more than 70 people have confirmed to take part in the Auckland University Animal Rights Group (AUARG) Vegan Walking Tour on 29 June around central Auckland. This event is on the first Wednesday after Semester One exams finish, about two and a half weeks out from the beginning of Semester two in the inter-semester break.

AUARG says details are to be provided - but basically it involves a walk around the Auckland CBD stopping in at around six vegan eateries over the space of four hours. A similar walking tour organised by the group last year got over 700 people saying they would attend via the Facebook events page (but did not actually show up). While this serves to illustrate how unreliable Facebook events pages can be in terms of estimating actual attendance, it does illustrate the degree of following the group has.



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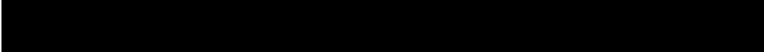
14 August: Auckland Animal Working Bee

The Auckland University Animal Rights Group (AUARG) has organised another working bee at the Matakana Animal Sanctuary, north of Auckland.

AUARG has an ongoing programme of volunteering at the sanctuary. AUARG says the work involves feeding animals, cleaning animal homes, weeding, and other general sanctuary and animal maintenance jobs. So far, 12 members of the group say they will be going.



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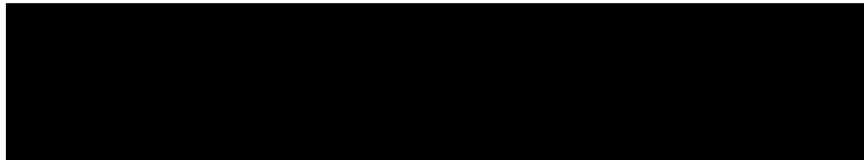
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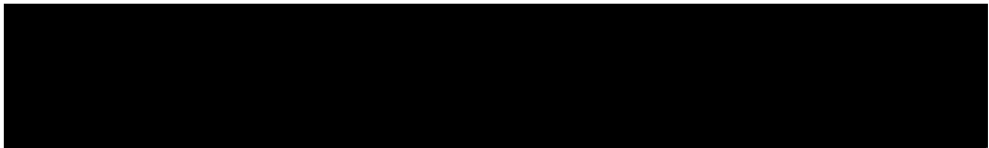
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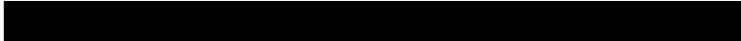
FW: Thompson+Clark SITREP: Animal Rights and GE Issues: 21 June 2016



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From: Thompson+Clark Fusion Centre [mailto:Natex=tcil.co.nz@mail166.atl21.rsgsv.net] On Behalf Of Thompson+Clark Fusion Centre
Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2016 12:47 PM



Subject: Thompson+Clark SITREP: Animal Rights and GE Issues: 21 June 2016

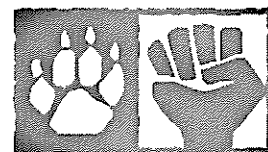
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Weekly Situation Report

Animal Rights and GE Issues



Thompson+Clark Fusion Centre

Date: 21 June 2016

Contact:

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Otago: the Vegan Capital of NZ

21 June

The New Zealand animal rights activist blog site 'Vegan Pirate' has released the findings of the author's annual survey of vegans in New Zealand.

This year, the blog site's author says a total of 956 people responded to the survey. Of these, 94 were either not vegan, or not living in New Zealand, so have not been included in results. A total of 865 responses are used in final report.

The survey consisted of a maximum of 52 questions, with some questions being excluded for participants based on previous answers. For questions where only some participants answered, results reflect only those who were given the option of answering that question. Responses were collected from 01 April 2016 through to 30 April 2016.

Some interesting results that were found include:

- There is a disproportionate number of female vegans, with 81 percent of respondents identifying as female.
- 58 percent of vegans are in the 16-30 years old age group, with a dramatic increase in the number of young vegans (under 21 years old) in the past three years since the annual survey first started.
- Otago has the highest number of vegans per capita, with three to four times as many vegans per capita as other regions.
- Most vegans quote animal rights (91 percent), environmental (71 percent) and health (64 percent) reasons for becoming vegan.
- Every respondent who has been vegan for more than five years feels that being vegan has become easier over the past 5 – 10 years.
- Finding vegan options when eating out, and socialising with friends and family, are the most commonly cited difficulties about being vegan.
- 76 percent of respondents of voting age said they would vote for an animal rights based party in the 2017 General Election if they were given the option.





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Activists Achieve Abattoir Shut Down

20 June

The animal rights activists who last year exposed instances of cruelty in the Bobby Calf Industry are celebrating what they see as their success in forcing one of the abattoirs they targeted for covert entry deciding to close.

The animal rights group Farmwatch, which installed a hidden camera in the abattoir to capture the abuse, said in a statement, "We are delighted to hear that Down Cow Slaughterhouse has closed down as a result of our bobby calf exposé last year. This was a vile and haunting place which inflicted extreme cruelty upon thousands of calves every year".

The Te Kauwhata pet food company which was caught up in the bobby calf scandal has ceased trading after its owner was charged with animal abuse following an MPI review of the footage taken of operations there by Farmwatch.

However, the owners of the company (Down Cow Ltd) say they were unfairly targeted by the MPI after the footage of animal abuse by one of their employees went public.

The company, which picked up unwanted animals off farms around the Waikato, shut down on 18 May. The owners claim the MPI set unattainable requirements and forced them to shut down, something the MPI denies, saying it simply gave the company notices of compliance.

A Down Cow seasonal employee who is no longer with the company recently appeared at the Huntly District Court and pleaded guilty to 10 charges of cruelty or ill treatment of an animal. The owners of Down Cow said the MPI investigation into the abuse prompted regular visits by MPI representatives, who found consistent problems with how they were running the slaughterhouse business.

The company, however claims they were unfairly targeted and penalised for procedures which, they said, were common and sometimes necessary among the country's farmers and slaughterhouses.

However, the Secretary of the New Zealand Pet Foods Manufacturers Association disagrees and said the MPI's auditing procedures were thorough, robust, and consistent.

Down Cow's owners, say they feel victimised because the MPI was "under pressure to do something" in response to public opinion after the national animal rights group SAFE publicised Farmwatch's covert footage.

A week before the owners made the voluntary decision to close, the MPI had served the company with a notice of direction, setting out corrective action required for the business so that it would be able to comply with the Animal Products Act. The notice of direction came after it failed an audit.

The MPI says the company failed the audit after failing to respond to notices of

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12 Year Old's Petition Tops 16,000

19 June

A petition organised by a 12-year-old schoolgirl asking the Countdown supermarket chain to stop selling caged eggs has topped 16,000 signatures.

The petition has so far attracted 16,075 signatures and been given prominence in a NZ Herald news story on 16 June. The Herald quotes the Auckland schoolgirl as saying "I may only be a child, but I want to make a difference. I want Countdown to stop selling these cage eggs once and for all."

The girl naturally has the backing of animal rights group SAFE which is leading a campaign trying to force Countdown to announce a date that it will only sell free range eggs. However, Countdown says while it congratulates the girl for expressing her views, it has no plan to stop selling colony cage eggs.

A spokesman for the supermarket chain said, "We have told SAFE we cannot make a genuine commitment by when we can go completely cage-free as it is not clear where this supply would come from. This would also result in more expensive eggs, and major supply shortages as we have seen in Australia last month."

Countdown says the company has been increasing the amount of free range and barn eggs on its shelves to 40 per cent, a number that was growing.

Countdown's competitor, Foodstuffs - which owns the Pak'N Save, New World and Four Square brands - said it also had no plans to stop selling colony eggs as they needed to offer a variety of options for customers, although some stores like the Remuera New World had chosen not to stock caged eggs.

Petition update

4 hours ago

16,000 signatures, and the petition in the news

Hi everyone, Its been a really exciting week, with the petition reaching 16,000 signatures! Thank you so much! Because so many of you have signed the media is...



5 comments [newshub.co.nz](#)

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Anti-GE Groups Back District Councils

18 June

The Whangarei and Far North District Councils have received strong support from anti-GE issue motivated groups for their proposals to be able to regulate their territories in terms of GM releases.

The Soil & Health Association of NZ, GE Free NZ, and GE Free Northland led a group of 14 submitters, presenting their case at a joint hearing this month about the Whangarei District Council's and Far North District Council's proposed district plan changes for the outdoor use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

Soil & Health and GE Free Northland engaged independent expert witnesses to outline the case for the precautionary approach to GMO releases that both councils have proposed for their District Plans.

"Soil & Health has concerns about potential adverse impacts of GMO activities on the ability of the organic sector, tangata whenua, and the community to provide for their social, environmental, economic and cultural well-being," said the co-chair of Soil & Health. "The proposed District Plan changes provide practical, commonsense ways of protecting communities."

The plan changes would allow veterinary vaccines that use GMOs to be used without permits, but outdoor field trials would require council consent. Releasing GMOs to the environment would be prohibited for the life of the plans, or until such time as there is certainty as to how any risks can be managed.

Discretionary activities (such as outdoor field trials) would need to meet certain standards, including bonds to cover the costs of any unintended economic, health or environmental damage caused by EPA-approved GE experiments and the costs of ongoing monitoring.

"Government agencies have a poor track record in containing outdoor GE experiments, and the law has very limited liability provisions for damage," said the chairperson of GE Free Northland. "The local community supports a precautionary approach to outdoor GE experiments, strict liability provisions imposed by local councils, and an outright ban on the release of GMOs in their patch, due to the serious risks to our biosecurity, unique biodiversity and environment."

Some members of GE Free Northland are primary producers whose livelihood is from farming, horticulture, forestry and beekeeping, or home gardeners, all of whom could be adversely affected by GMOs.

These opponents argue that there is no scientific consensus as to the potential effects of GMOs on the environment. Irrespective of the threat GMOs pose to the environment, GMO contamination risks significant adverse effects on social, economic and cultural values.

Soil & Health and GE Free Northland say they strongly support the right of

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Failed GE Sheep Trial Remembered

17 June

Evidence of regulatory failures by authorities was highlighted at the hearing for the Whangarei and Far North District Councils to finalise plan changes on genetically modified organisms (GMO's) last week.

In its submission, GE Free NZ was quick to highlight a 2004 failed GE sheep trial by overseas company PPL Therapeutics which went bankrupt and left the New Zealand taxpayer to cover the costs of cleaning up and shutting down the site at Whakamaru (see photo below).

According to GE Free NZ, that site contains the ashes of three thousand GE sheep that died as a result of the closure, yet there is no monitoring of contamination of the remains and no oversight by either the EPA or the local council.

"Whakamaru is a forgotten contaminated site that should be considered a biosecurity risk but the EPA has washed its hands of it. Worse is that the Minister for the Environment is refusing to allow local councils to put precautions around this type of activity," said the president of GE-Free NZ at last week's hearing.

She said this showed that local councils must be able to protect their communities from environmental damage and regulatory failure.

GE Free NZ said it fully supports the policies and objectives put in place in the district plans and opposes moves by the Minister, Federated Farmers, and commercial interests to block local communities from determining their future.



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Factory Farming a 'Wrong Direction'

16 June

Responding to the government's release of its report on the outlook for the primary industries, the animal rights group SAFE says the report demonstrates factory farming is the wrong direction for New Zealand.

"Only 1.8 percent of the money involved in farming came from pigs and chickens in 2015. The government is writing all these exemptions for factory farmers into the law, but really, what do they actually do for New Zealand?" says SAFE Campaigns Officer.

SAFE argues that factory farms confine animals indoors for extended periods and give the animals very little space. Pigs and chickens are the main animals that are factory farmed in New Zealand. The dairy industry is also beginning to adopt factory farms, but SAFE says there are no figures as to how much of the industry has converted.

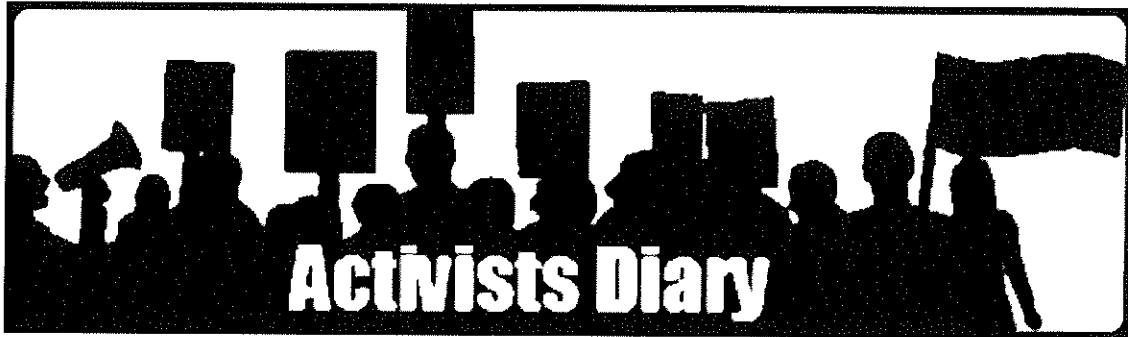
Munchkin, an overseas company, has secured a \$250 million contract for New Zealand's dairy earlier this year. The company will only accept pasture-based dairy, and forbids factory farmed milk.

"When it comes to factory farming, the two big culprits in New Zealand are the pig and chicken industries trapping animals in appalling conditions. But they barely do anything for the economy. If New Zealand is going to be farming animals, shouldn't we aim to produce high quality products and let our animals outside?" SAFE's Campaign Officer said.

SAFE has long been running a campaign to ban factory farming, and has renewed its call for the government to create a strategy for phasing out what it claims is a "cruel practice".



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24 June: Wellington Live Exports Protest

The Wellington Animal Rights Network (WARN) plans to protest outside the Australian High Commission in Hobson Street in the Wellington suburb of Thornton on 24 June to call for that country to ban live exports of sheep and cattle.

The protest is planned to only last half an hour (between 12:15-12:45pm). So far 14 people have indicated on a Facebook events page for the protest that they will be attending.

This protest is part of an annual international effort by animal rights groups in England, Israel, and Greece to protest live exports from Australia. WARN says it plans to present a letter to the Australian High Commission detailing their concerns about the continued live exports from Australia.

This is the third year activists around the world will stand in front of Australian diplomatic premises to demand an end all live exports of animals from Australia.



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29 June: Vegan Walking Food Tour

If Facebook is to be believed, more than 70 people have confirmed to take part in the Auckland University Animal Rights Group (AUARG) Vegan Walking Tour on 29 June around central Auckland. This event is on the first Wednesday after Semester One exams finish, about two and a half weeks out from the beginning of Semester two in the inter-semester break.

AUARG says details are to be provided - but basically it involves a walk around the Auckland CBD stopping in at around six vegan eateries over the space of four hours. A similar walking tour organised by the group last year got over 700 people saying they would attend via the Facebook events page (but did not actually show up). While this serves to illustrate how unreliable Facebook events pages can be in terms of estimating actual attendance, it does illustrate the degree of following the group has.





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05 July: Auckland Activists Meeting

The New Zealand Anti-Vivisection Society (NZAVS) is holding a meeting of its Auckland supporters and volunteers on Tuesday, 05 July, between 6pm - 8pm at the Auckland Friends Centre, 113 Mount Eden Rd, Mt Eden. At this meeting the NZAVS' National Coordinator says she will outline campaign plans by the NZAVS to stop Otago University building a new animal research centre.



31 July: Vegan Hip Hop Event

The Vegan Eats and Hip Hop Beats #2 is an Auckland vegan hip hop music event at the Kings Arm Tavern, Eden Terrace, 12-8pm on 31 July. It also features vegan food and is being held as a fundraiser for the animal rights group Direct Animal Action.



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14 August: Auckland Animal Working Bee

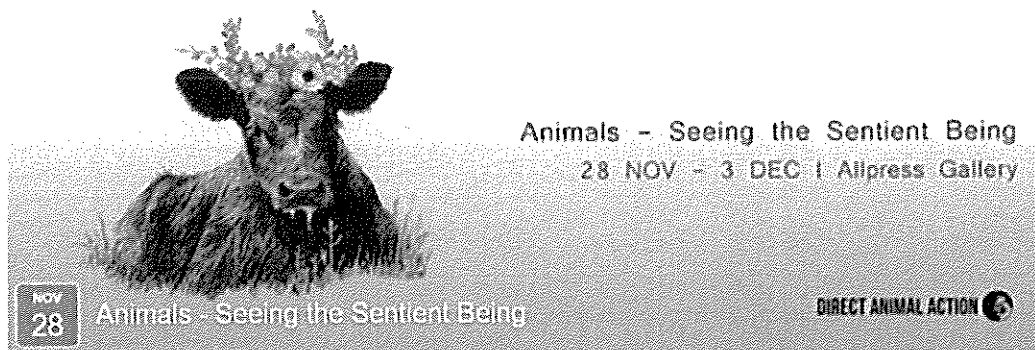
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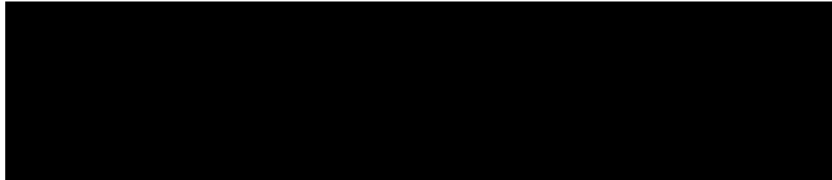
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FW: Thompson+Clark SITREP: Animal Rights and GE Issues: 19 July 2016



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From: Thompson+Clark Fusion Centre [mailto:Natex=tcil.co.nz@mail23.suw13.rsgsv.net] **On Behalf Of** Thompson+Clark Fusion Centre

Sent: Tuesday, July 19, 2016 5:53 PM



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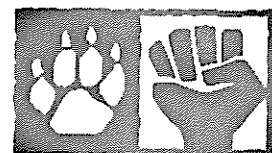
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Weekly Situation Report

Animal Rights and GE Issues



Thompson+Clark Fusion Centre

Date: 19 July 2016

Contact:

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Animal Research Facility "Appalling"

19 July

A group of law students at Otago University have described as "appalling" the university's plans to build a new animal research facility and accused the university of unnecessary secrecy over the project.

The Otago Student Animal Legal Defense Fund (SALDF) says it is startled by Otago University's announcement of plans for a new animal research facility, to be included in a new \$50 million, five-storey development on the Dunedin campus.

In a statement published in the latest edition of the university student's magazine 'Critic', the SALDF says, "As students whose fees contribute to the funding of university operations, we are appalled that these plans have been developed in secret, at a time when animal experimentation is becoming increasingly controversial, and increasing numbers of students do not want it to form part of their studies."

The students say that in conjunction with a number of local and national issue motivated animal rights groups, it is working to oppose the building of the facility and promote an alternative use of these funds that the students feel better invests in both science and animal wellbeing.

The students say they believe the facility is both unnecessary and will further entrench the exploitation of animals for research and teaching purposes at the University of Otago.

The SALDF adds that, "The University claim it will enhance their ability to uphold the three Rs of animal use in research, testing and teaching (RTT); namely reduction, refinement and replacement. Part six of the Animal Welfare Act 1999, which regulates RTT in New Zealand, requires that these three Rs be promoted. While we accept that centralisation of animal breeding and experimentation may make it easier to practise refinement, and could possibly reduce the number of animals used, it in no way promotes the replacement of animal use, which is the end goal of the three R's."

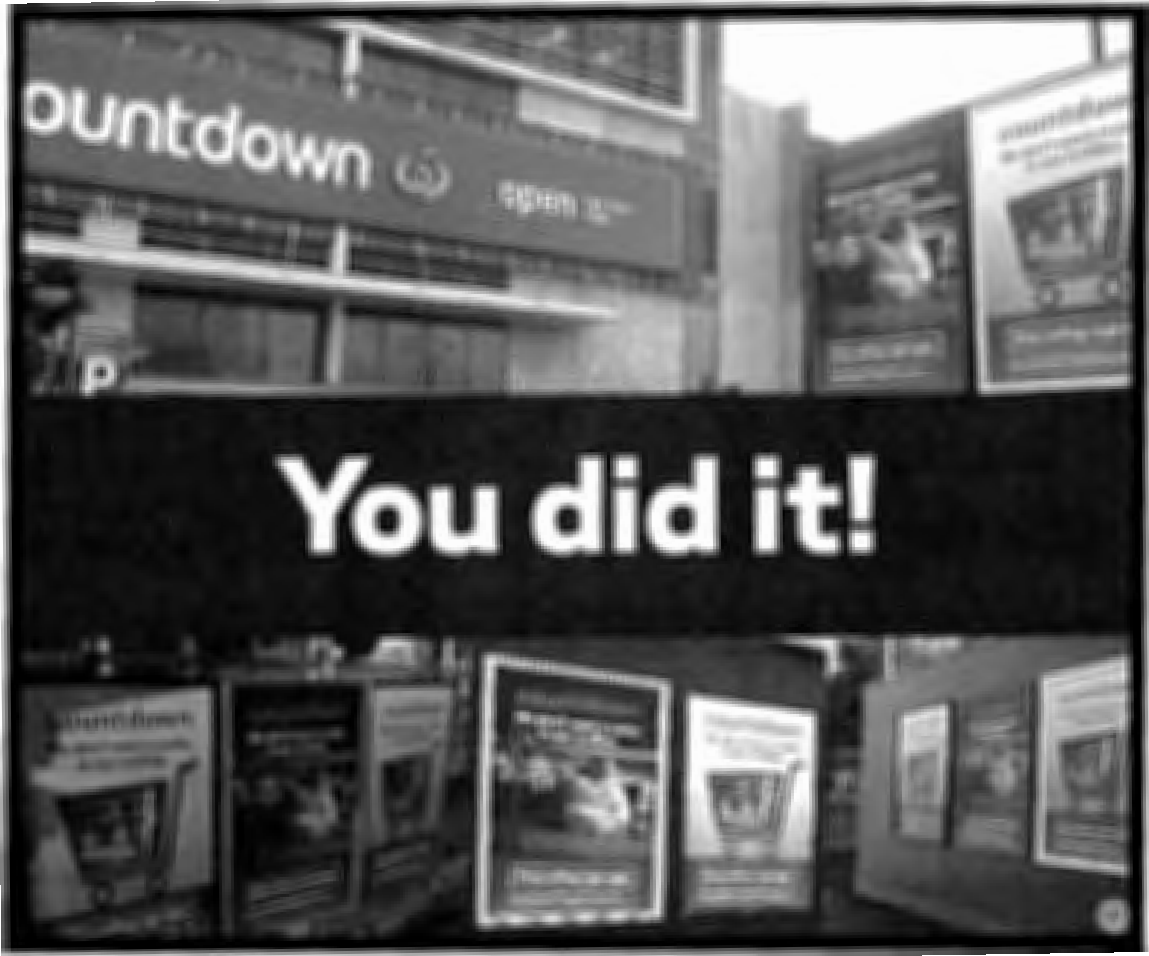
The students claim that "true commitment to the three R's" would constitute allocating the bulk of the money earmarked for building the new facility to establishing an equivalent of the 'Centres for Alternatives to Animal Testing', such as at Johns Hopkins and UC Davis Universities in the USA, and Utrecht University in the Netherlands.

"Investing in alternatives would enable the University of Otago to move with the times, save on the high costs of breeding, housing and experimenting on animals, and become a leader in putting the globally recognised principle of replacement into effect. This would save tens of thousands of animals from being subjected to cruel

experiments in the name of science on our own campus" says the students.



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SAFE Gets Close With Countdown Ads

19 July

The national animal rights group SAFE, which is running an advertising campaign against supermarket chain Countdown over caged eggs, says its supporters have now donated enough money to finance 213 billboards to be placed outside Countdown supermarkets across New Zealand.

SAFE had been hoping its supporters would donate enough money to pay for 250 billboards, but has settled with a final figure of 213.

SAFE says the billboards will be installed right on Countdown Supermarkets' "doorstep" asking them to listen to their customers and do the right thing by agreeing to announce a date when it will stop selling caged eggs and stock only free range.

The billboards started going up outside Countdown supermarkets across New Zealand this week. SAFE has said this campaign is aimed only at Countdown and not other supermarkets such as Pak n Save, New World, and Fresh Choice because Countdown's parent company in Australia (Woolworths) have committed to phasing caged eggs out in Australia but refuses to apply the same decision here.



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Leading Organic Groups Merge

18 July

Two long-established organic groups have decided to merge. Members of the Soil & Health Association of NZ Inc and the New Zealand Biological Producers and Consumers Society Inc (BioGro Society) have this month voted in favour of the proposal. This means that the BioGro Society will transfer its assets to the Soil & Health Association when it voluntarily winds up on 30 September this year.

The groups says the merger brings together the skills and resources of the two charities into one strong, unified organic sector body. The Soil & Health Association will take ownership the society's assets, including BioGro NZ Ltd, which is New Zealand's largest organic certification agency.

The groups say that BioGro NZ Ltd will continue to remain a separate company with its own board of directors and independence as a company - something that it has had for more than 33 years.

Commenting on the merger, the Chair of the BioGro Society said that organic needs to become the new normal. "It offers clean, green and practical solutions to many of our current problems, including environmental, health and climate change issues. The refreshed organisation will promote these with renewed vigour," he said.

Commenting on the decision, the Co-Chair of the Soil & Health Association said that, "If we and future generations are going to survive and thrive, we urgently need to shift to producing food and other products that are organic, high value, safe, sustainable, GE-free and ethical."

The Soil & Health Association will retains its name unaltered, as does BioGro NZ Ltd. Soil & Health's flagship magazine 'Organic NZ' which focuses on all things organic, including food, gardening, farming and lifestyles, will continue to be published unaltered.



**Soil & Health Association
of New Zealand**
publishers of **Organic NZ**

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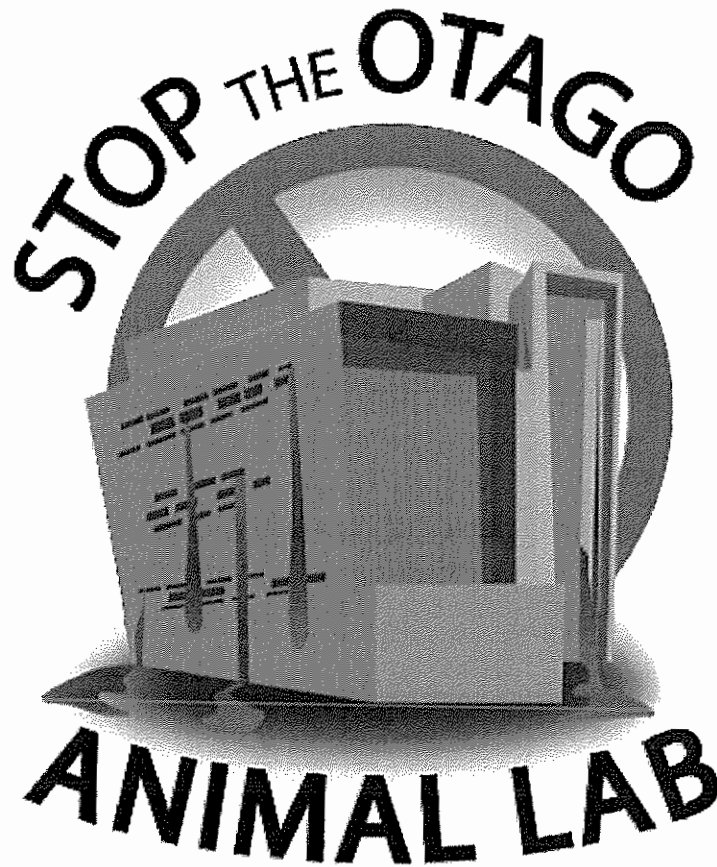
Anti-Lab Petition Update

17 July

An online petition opposing Otago University's new animal research facility has topped 1200 signatures as at 17 July.

The petition is being organised by the New Zealand Anti-Vivisection Society (NZAVS), which has its headquarters in Christchurch and is being supported by a number of animal rights groups around the country.

NZAVS says it is hoping to get 10,000 signatures, however, it is noted that the petition has been running since May.





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Wellington Animal Rights Meeting

14 July

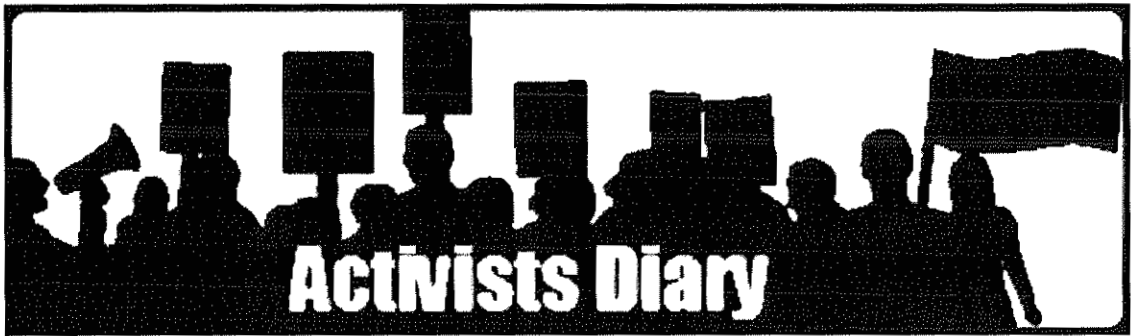
This photograph published on social media gives a good indication of the level of support the Wellington Animal Rights Network (WARN) is receiving at its monthly meetings. It appears about seven or eight people attended WARN's monthly meeting on 14 July.

A post accompanying the photograph said at the meeting, members watched the short documentary 'Fighting the System' about different activism groups in the UK. After that they made placards and banners for their planned protest outside the Taylor Preston slaughterhouse on Friday 22 July (see further item below).

While this might indicate the level of support for WARN's monthly meetings, it is noted that on 24 June (see further photograph below) WARN mustered over 20 supporters for a protest outside the Australian High Commission complaining about live cattle exports.



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22 July: Wellington Animal Rights Protest

The Wellington Animal Rights Network (WARN) have announced its members will be protesting on 22 July outside the Taylor Preston Limited's meatworks at 131 Centennial Highway, Wellington between 3-5pm.

The protesters say they will be taking advantage of the Friday afternoon traffic and holding placards and banners asking drivers to think about where their meat comes from and encouraging them to try meat free/vegan options.

To date, about nine members and supporters of WARN say they will be participating.



24 July: Auckland Animal Rights Meeting

The fortnightly meeting of the Auckland animal rights group Direct Animal Action is being held at the Hum Salon, 123 Grafton Road, Auckland Central on Sunday 24 July at 11:30am. The group says its meetings are run to a set agenda and has invited 69 people via Facebook to attend. So far, eight have indicated they will be going.



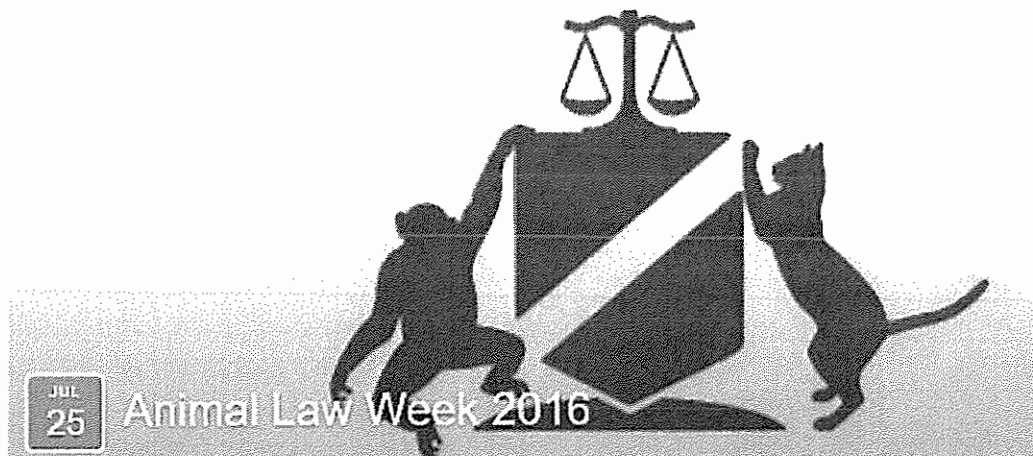
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25-28 July: Otago Uni Animal Law Week

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- * Tuesday, 26 July, 6:30pm at 'The Apartment', 35 Dowling Street, Dunedin: Join the DOVES/VARS Movie Night and potluck dinner.
- * Wednesday, 27 July, 5-6pm in Seminar Room 5: A panel of experts will be discussing animal use in science at the university, with a focus on the proposed new animal research facility.
- * Thursday, 28 July, 6:30-7:30pm in the Moot Court: Law lecturer David Round from the University of Canterbury's Law School gives his take on applying the concept of legal personality to animals, and tackles some looming issues concerning native species.

All events, except for the movie night, are free and will be held on the tenth floor of the Richardson Building at the University of Otago.





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26 July: Dunedin Vegan Society Event

Dunedin/Ōtepoti Vegan Society (aka DOVeS) film night, at The Apartment, 35 Dowling Street, Dunedin, 6.30pm - 9.30pm. Gold coin admission. Eleven people have indicated on the society's Facebook events page that they will be attending this event.



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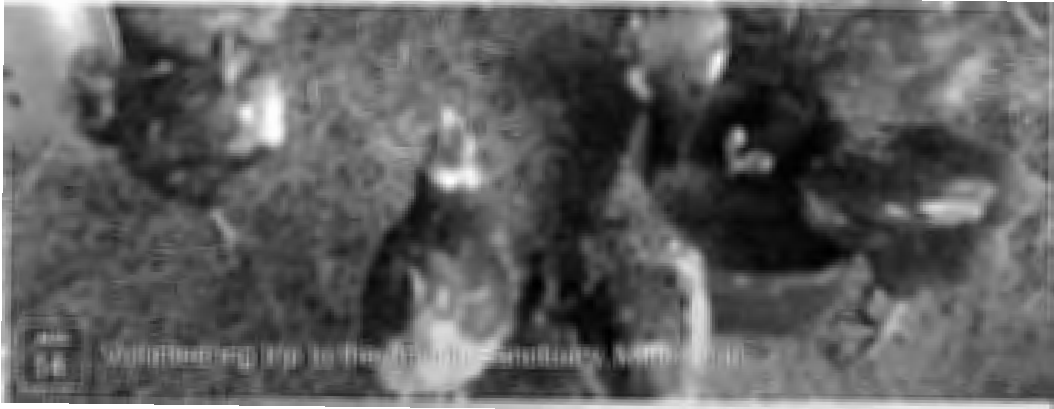


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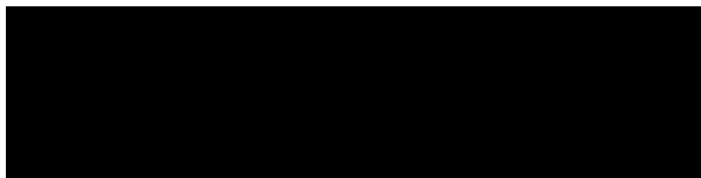
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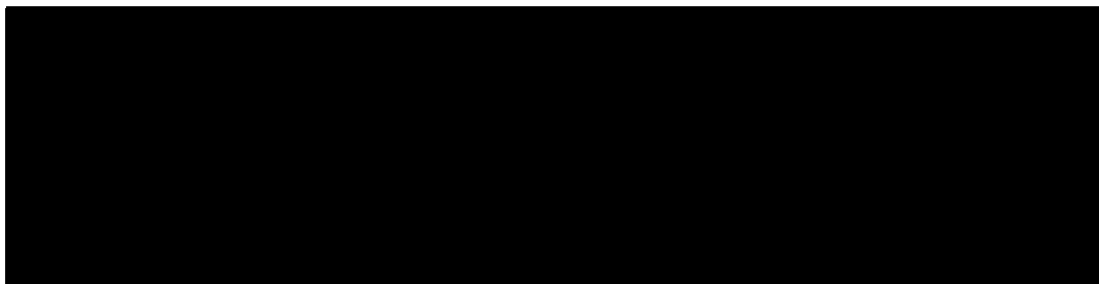
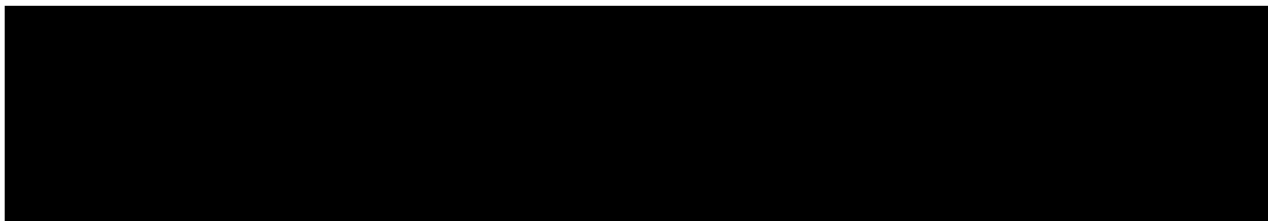
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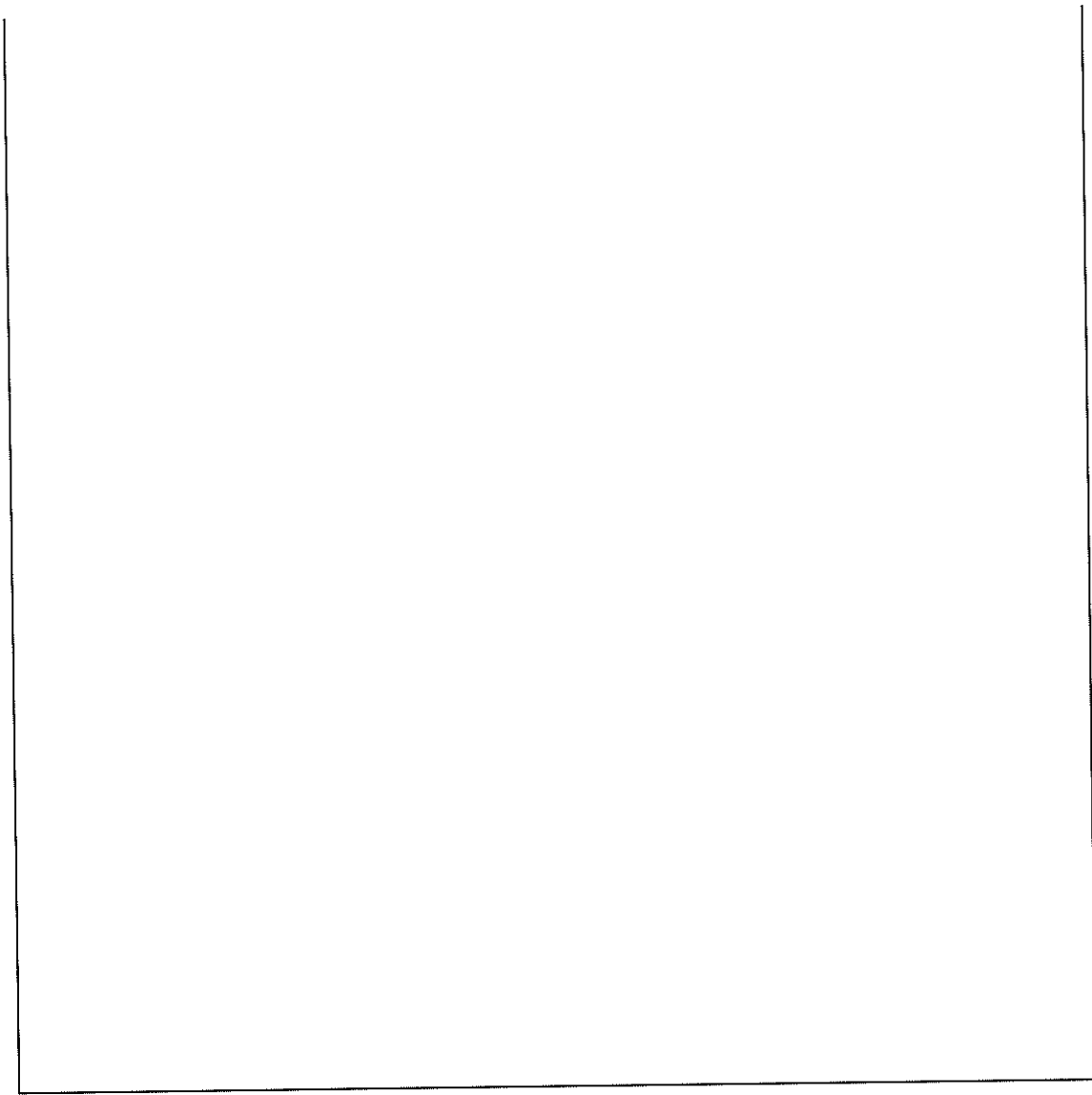
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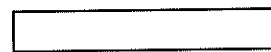
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Auckland Naked Animal Rights Protest

27 July

The Australian organiser for PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) has been in New Zealand over the past week meeting up with local supporters of the American animal rights group.

Apart from a fund raiser in Christchurch on 23 July and a protest in that see city (see further item below) she organised a one-woman vegan climate protest outside a boutique butchery in Auckland today.

Holding a sign that read, "Go Green. Go Vegan" outside Neat Meat in Parnell, the semi-naked and green painted protester said she wanted to remind people that, according to the Environment Ministry, agriculture is responsible for producing 48 percent of New Zealand's greenhouse-gas emissions. Two-thirds of the emissions are methane produced by cows and sheep.

"Climate change, water pollution, resource depletion, species extinction, deforestation, and land erosion are all linked to the consumption of meat and dairy foods", said the Australian-based campaign coordinator for PETA.

"PETA's message is that environmental issues can be tackled at the root three times a day by eating eco-friendly vegan meals," she said, adding that per capita, New Zealand has the highest methane emissions in the world.



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Call For Inquiry into Greyhound Racing

26 July

Two animal rights groups here are calling on the New Zealand Government to follow the recent example of two state governments across the Tasman and launch an inquiry into greyhound racing, with one calling for NZ to follow the decision of the ACT and NSW state governments to outright ban the sport.

The national animal rights group SAFE and the Greyhound Protection League have launched an online petition asking the Minister for Racing to order an independent inquiry into the sport.

SAFE describes greyhound racing as a "a dying industry where dogs are a disposable commodity." SAFE claims the recent bans in Australia follow bans in 40 US states where commercial dog racing is illegal. New Zealand, it says, is falling behind and the Government needs to take action. SAFE's Chief Executive claims the greyhound racing industry here operates without adequate supervision, and claims only an in-depth independent inquiry will show whether the same live baiting practices are happening in the New Zealand greyhound racing industry.

Meanwhile, the head of the Greyhound Protection League claims that about 600-700 greyhounds per year are being euthanised in New Zealand, after being deemed unfit for racing. In addition to this, about 50 dogs a year are put down on the track due to injuries. He says, the league can, "pretty much prove that they are culling more dogs than they are rehoming, and that they are covering up greyhound injuries and deaths caused directly by racing itself", he said.

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Kids Used to Promote Egg Campaign

25 July

SAFE has resorted to using children in its campaign to pressure the Countdown supermarket chain to stop selling cage eggs. This week the animal rights group was represented by two young Auckland sisters aged 4 and 9, who say they decided as a personal protest to return all their Countdown promotional movie cards to Countdown 's new flagship Ponsonby store.

SAFE says in a statement which suggests that perhaps the children's actions weren't quite all self-initiated, that "Countdown markets to young people with in-store collectables, including animal cards and more recently, movie cards. They care about what kids think, but appear to be forgetting that children are real animal lovers. Countdown keeps making excuses not to help hens, but those excuses do not wash with kids."

Further evidence that this is a deliberate use of children in this campaign by SAFE was evident on 22 July when SAFE posted a short video clip to its Facebook page of eight other children making a short statement pleading with Countdown to phase out cage eggs.

SAFE says the children's action coincides with a ramping up of pressure from the issue motivated group on Countdown to go 'cage-free'. This has included poster adverts SAFE claims has been paid for by Countdown customers saying, "Countdown, we don't want cruelty in our trolleys", along with street stencils and a mobile billboard with sound effects which regularly drives around the carparks at Countdown stores around Auckland.



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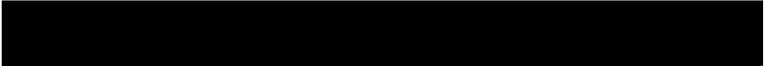
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Wellington Animal Rights Protest

22 July

Members of the Wellington Animal Rights Network (WARN) held another protest last week outside the Taylor Preston meat processing plant in Wellington's Ngauranga Gorge.

Like the previous protest, this one was also peaceful and supported by about only six of WARN's local members. The protesters say they were visited by the police following complaints from some motorists, but the police could find no fault and allowed them to continue protesting. See images below.



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Christchurch Naked Fur Protest

21 July

The animal rights group PETA staged a semi-naked protest in Christchurch, saying they were there to condemn a local fashion designer's use of possum fur, despite the animal being considered a pest.

Two young women and a man stood outside designer Annah Stretton's store in Sydenham wearing nothing but black briefs, holding a sign emblazoned with a call to go 'fur-free'. The Australian-based organiser for the group who accompanied the protesters attacked the designer for using "cruelly produced material", saying animals with valuable fur suffer terribly when killed with poison or in traps.

"Annah Stretton sentences countless animals to violent, excruciating deaths, just for a tacky look most consumers wouldn't touch with a 10-foot pole," she said.

"PETA is advising Stretton to make the compassionate and business-savvy decision to ban all vulgar fur from her line before shoppers walk away for good."

However, a representative for the designer said the protesters were misinformed, possums are a pest and destroy New Zealand's native forests, and were only introduced to New Zealand specifically for their fur. "We sell a limited amount of ethically harvested possum fur products, sourced from registered trappers using Department of Conservation recommended humane methods of capture," she said.

"The damage to native forests can be seen all too clearly in many areas. Possums ignore old leaves and select the best new growth. In some areas they have eaten whole canopies of rata, totara, titoki, kowhai and kohekohe."

She argued the possum fur industry could be bigger than Manuka honey in New Zealand, and delivered over \$130 million a year in export earnings. She encouraged the public to buy possum fur, saying it would "save a tree".



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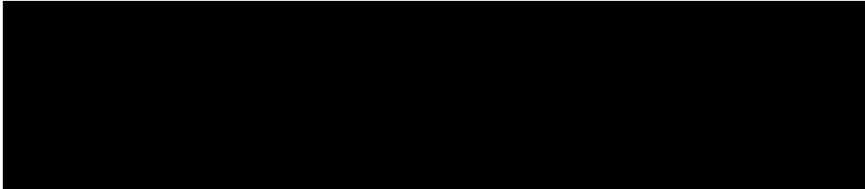
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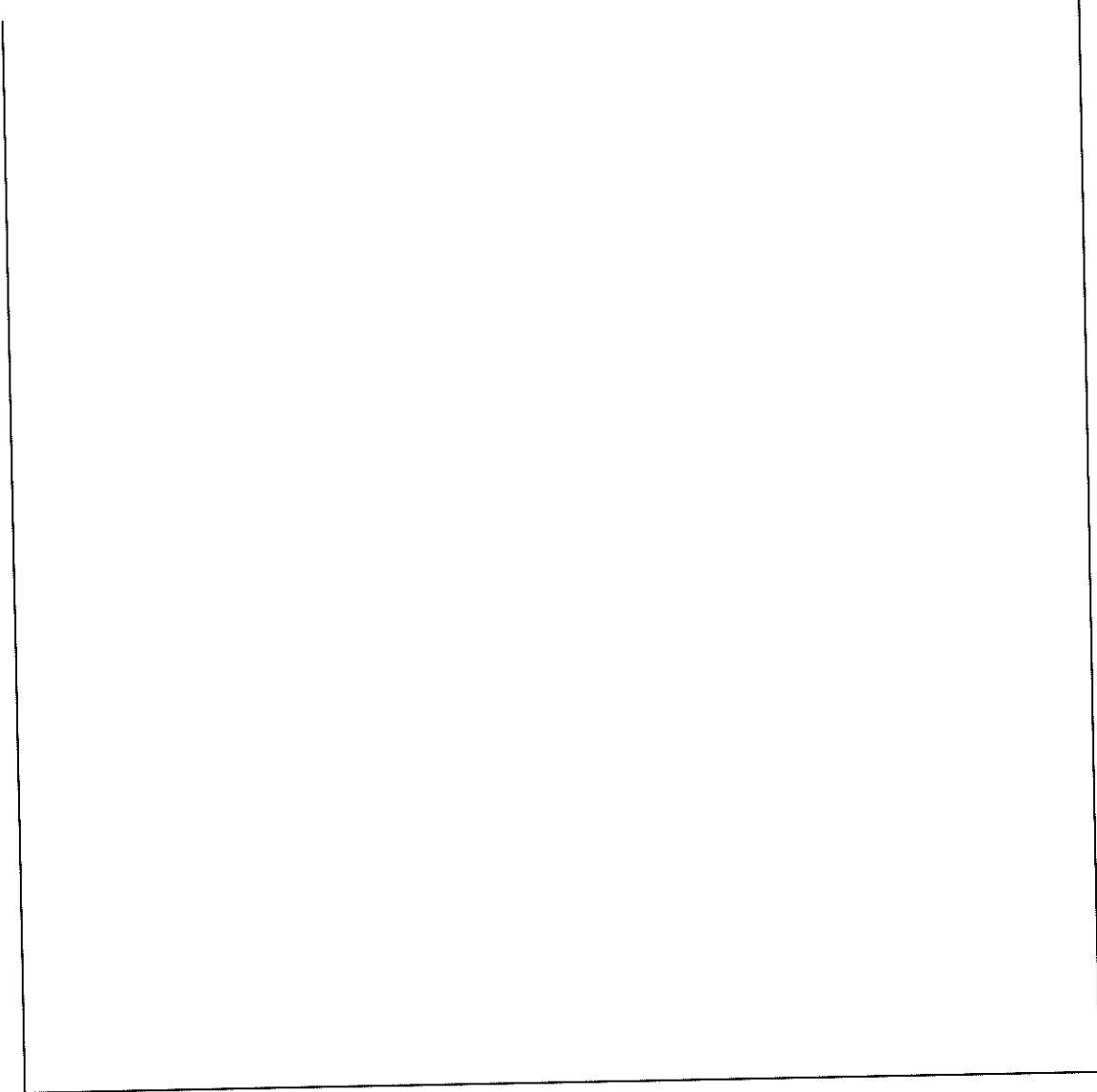
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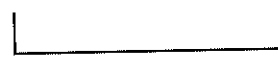
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Animal Rights and GE Issues

Thompson+Clark Fusion Centre

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Students Oppose Facility Construction

04 August

The Otago University Student Animal League Defence Fund has condemned the announcement this week by the university that work has started a new five-storey \$50 million animal research centre, which is being built in Great King Street, Dunedin.

The university confirmed the location after a copy of a resource consent application for the facility was supplied to the Otago Daily Times by the student organisation which is staunchly opposed to the project.

The location of the centre was not disclosed when the university announced plans to build it in May because of the opposition to animal-based research.

The 3936sqm building, to be used to conduct tests on animals for research in the health and biomedical fields, will be built beside the university's School of Physiotherapy building at 303, 309, and 315 Great King Street. At present, the site is a car park.

The resource consent application also reveals the former Centre for Science Communication building at 7 Malcolm St will be demolished to make way for the new facility.

The university has been widely criticised by animal rights groups in New Zealand since it announced plans to build the facility.

The president of the Otago Student Animal Legal Defence Fund said the group obtained the consent application from the Dunedin City Council. "The whole level of secrecy raises the most suspicion," she says.

"Generally, when the university makes a large development like this the whole thing isn't planned in secret. The site of the project isn't hidden until the last minute."

The group claimed the facility breaches the Animal Welfare Act 1999, which required approved facilities to make efforts to reduce the number of animals used, refine techniques used, and replace animals with alternative scientific methods.

Last week, the group held a campus-based panel discussion on the research facility, which was attended by university staff, animal research scientists and a member of the New Zealand Anti-Vivisection Society (see further item below).

Invitations to the discussion sent to university departments engaged in animal research were declined or ignored, says the group's president.

Work on building the new facility is scheduled for completion in February 2018.



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Activists Complain Posters Removed

03 August

Dunedin members of the New Zealand Anti-Vivisection Society (NZAVS) have complained about an alleged lack of freedom of speech at Otago University after security guards have started taking down posters put up around the university opposing construction of a new animal research facility.

The society says it is surprised the university feels threatened by the posters, which do no more than just express legal dissent over the university's decision to build the new facility.

"Over the past few days we've had some incredible, dedicated volunteers put posters and flyers around the campus of the University of Otago to help," says a spokeswoman for the society. "It was much to our surprise that campus security were told to take down all of our posters. It appears that our opposition to the new \$50 million animal lab is a bit of a threat to the campus."



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Website Canvasses Views on Animals

02 August

The news website 'Stuff' is asking New Zealanders which is more important - animals rights or animal welfare.

'Stuff' is asking Kiwis to make an online submission of not more than 800 words on how New Zealand treats, or should treat its animals.

Explaining the difference, 'Stuff' says, "Animal rights means animals are not ours to use, while animal welfare allows animals to be used for food, clothing, entertainment and experimentation as long as humane guidelines are followed".

'Stuff' says it wants to know how New Zealanders feel about the dairy industry, treatment of bobby calves, intensive animal farming, product testing on animals, ivory, hunting, rodeos, circuses, consumption of animal products, the fur trade, fishing, horse racing, the use of 1080 poison, and zoos.

Submissions can be made here:

www.stuff.co.nz/stuff-nation/assignments/15490314/How-is-NZs-treatment-of-animals



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GE Tree Decision Breach of Democracy

01 August

Anti-GE groups have expressed bitter disappointment that the Minister for the Environment, is due to approve the National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry (NES-PF).

The president of GE Free NZ says the Minister is ignoring the 16,000 submissions the Ministry of Primary Industries received seeking the removal of a clause (6.4) on GE trees that would overturn the ability of local councils to place precautionary controls on GMOs.

"If the Minister disregards the submissions and approves GE trees in the forestry standards, he will be in breach of democratic principles," says GE Free NZ's president.

"He will also directly conflict with the Auckland Unitary Plan and the Whangarei and Hastings regional and district plans. All have placed controls prohibiting the release of genetically modified organisms (GMO) and made outdoor field trials a discretionary activity," she says.

She says it is vital to respect democracy and the rights of ratepayers and consumers that are reflected in existing laws. She claims the Auckland Unitary Plan strengthens the ability of the community in the Auckland region to protect itself and gives a mandate to represent their views at the Environmental Protection Agency, but the Minister is attacking this with extraordinary powers through legislative changes.

"The ability of regions to protect their environment from GE contamination is imperative. The labelling of GE foods and the right to meet the demand for GE-free products in export markets is in the economic interests of all New Zealand," says GE Free NZ's media spokesman.

He claims, the attack on democratic process in New Zealand is mirrored in Australia, where there are now moves underway to stop labelling of GE foods.

"The New Zealand government Ministerial push for GE-trees, along with powers aimed at removing regional plans for GE-free zones, are an affront to democracy. The Ministries efforts to align with the US biotechnology industry strategies will deny consumer choice and undermine New Zealand's competitive edge in global markets," he adds.



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Activist Tells of Death Threats

31 July

A Waikato anti-dairy activist has written an opinion piece in the Waikato Times about the death threats she has been receiving over her support to have the industry curbed.

She writes that, "It is as if the cow is some kind of sacred deity - a sacred cow if you will. And I must admit that I have found discussion around dairying in New Zealand to be shrouded in a protective, almost mystic mist (or fog if you are from the Waikato)."

She says that to speak out against any aspect of dairying, "gets you immediately relegated to the status of a traitor, involved in espionage or economic treason. You are, in effect, a disbeliever. I have not only received death threats but also been called a disgrace to this country".

She says, however, that she accepts, "The cow is symbolic to New Zealand, as much a part of being kiwi as mince pie and tomato sauce. Rural New Zealand is inscribed in our cultural consciousness.

She says that in New Zealand there is a refusal to acknowledge the cow and her calf as anything more than an object of consumption and a cultural symbol. According to mainstream ethics, she writes, it is not cruel to slaughter a cow for meat and take her calf away as long as it is done "humanely". This idea is so routinely accepted and promulgated in the animal industrial complex that we come to accept it without addressing the possible reality for the animals concerned.

And yet, she asks, is this humane argument, when applied to dairying, a case of the emperor with no clothes? Dairying is based on routine practices that are cruel, she argues. "It simply cannot be done humanely. In New Zealand more than two million bobby calves are slaughtered annually," she says.

She says that while the dairy industry may be motivated by the goals of profit and productivity, we can choose another moral framework. Dairying should be phased out and replaced with plant-based agriculture.



Reply all | Delete Junk |

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Activists Celebrate Conviction

28 July

The national animal rights group SAFE claims justice has been "belatedly served for the calves brutalised by a slaughterhouse worker "after he was sentenced to 10 months home detention and community service for his cruel treatment of bobby calves at a Waikato abattoir which has since closed down.

SAFE says animal rights groups can take the credit for the conviction, as the cruelty would not have come to light without their undercover investigation.

The undercover operation caught the worker violently kicking calves and even bashing them to death. Footage from the investigation screened on national television and caused a public outcry. Other footage that did not result in a prosecution showed calves taken away from their mothers after birth, left to languish in exposed pens, and thrown into trucks to be taken to slaughter.

"This conviction would not have happened without the undercover investigation by animal rights activists," says SAFE's Executive Director. "It is alarming that activists have to risk life and limb to expose animal cruelty, all because of the lack of effort from the authorities to detect and prevent systemic animal suffering. How much more abuse is happening out there?"

While justice may have been served this time, SAFE says it is concerned that not enough is being done to protect the welfare of the millions of calves born into the dairy industry each year. Around two million of these calves are surplus to requirements and are killed at only a few days old.

"Every year, activists expose serious animal cruelty in various industries. And every year, the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) promises action, but very little seems to change. A few laws or standards may be tinkered with, but without enforcement, including unannounced animal welfare inspections, animals will continue to be ill-treated," says SAFE's Executive Director.

SAFE is not a fan of the MPI's track record in enforcing animal welfare laws and continues to call for animal welfare to be separated from the MPI and given to a separate body.



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New Animal Research Facility Debated

27 July

On 27 July the Otago Student Animal Legal Defence Fund organised an expert panel on the topic of animal research and the planned new animal research facility at the University of Otago.

Panel members included a law lecturer at the university's law school who teaches Public Law, the Law of Torts and Animal Law; the National Campaign Manager of the NZ Anti-Vivisection Society; a professor at the university who teaches Early Learning in Medicine, Cognitive Neuroscience, and graduate papers in Bioethics; and a board member of the SPCA who owns Otawog, a company that specialises in equipment to restrain and anesthetize laboratory animals.

Opinions clashed throughout the debate and the only agreement all panel members said they had was on the issue of the lack of transparency that the Otago University has on animal experimentation.

Critics on the panel claimed that members of the public are unable to go in and see the current facility and that there is no public footage of experiments or of the animals kept inside. They said this is something that shouldn't be happening is the university is proud of what they are doing.

It was clear however that members of the panel all share the same vision – a better future for human health. The difference being how it is achieved.

The audience also got a chance to comment and ask questions. One student said it was important for the university to adopt an opt out policy for students who don't want to take part in animal-based experiments but who still want to learn and complete their degree.

The NZAVS representative on the panel said many experiments are repeated each year by different students, nothing new is being discovered and thousands of animals are used in vain. This is an issue that NZAVS is aware of and is currently working to change.



Reply all | Delete Junk |





Reply all | Delete Junk |

14 August: Auckland Animal Working Bee

The Auckland University Animal Rights Group (AUARG) has organised another working bee at the Matakana Animal Sanctuary, north of Auckland.

AUARG has an ongoing programme of volunteering at the sanctuary. AUARG says the work involves feeding animals, cleaning animal homes, weeding, and other general sanctuary and animal maintenance jobs. So far, 12 members of the group say they will be going.

Reply all | Delete Junk |

28 November: Animal Rights Art Exhibition

Direct Animal Action is holding a fund raising art exhibition in Auckland 28 November - 03 December at the Allpress Studio in Freemans Bay. All proceeds are going to the 'Paws Awhile' animal sanctuary in Raglan. Direct Animal, Action says the theme of the exhibition is "Animals - Seeing the Sentient Being". Most of the works will be auctioned on 01 December.



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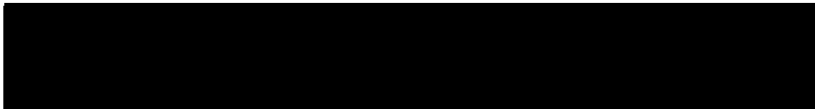
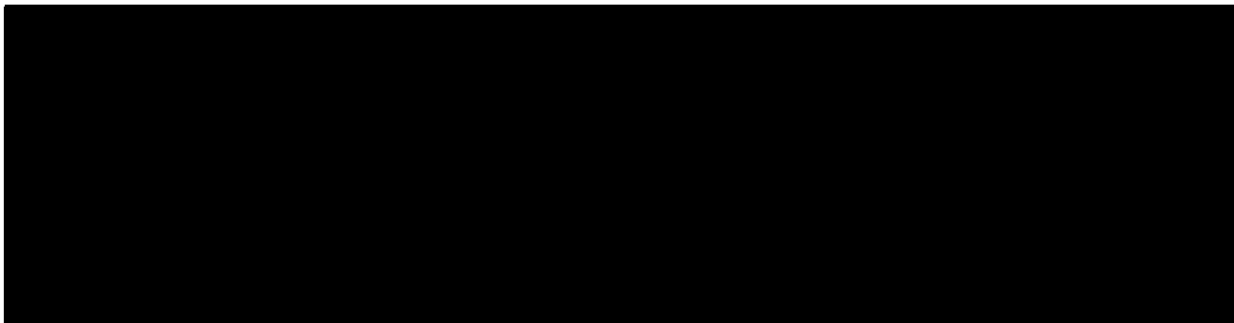
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Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2016 7:30 AM



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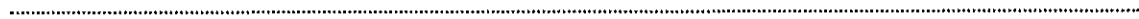
Animal Rights and GE Issues



Thompson+Clark Fusion Centre

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Greenpeace Support for Lab Protest

15 August

One of Greenpeace New Zealand's senior officers has spoken out in support of protests against the University of Otago's decision to build a new animal research facility for the campus (see further items below).

Commenting on last weekend's peaceful protest in Dunedin against the university by animal rights protesters, Greenpeace' Senior Campaign Advisor said, "Good on the NZ Anti-Vivisection Group for opposing the Otago Uni animal testing lab.

"Torturing animals to death in the name of science is psychotic. That Otago Uni want to build a whole new lab for this purpose in 2016 is shameful. It reminds me of Churchill's words about the sinister light of perverted science.

"When will we realise that the only thing to learn from this is how twisted our minds have become by the belief that we are superior beings," he said.

The opinion expressed appears to be his own although shared by many of his colleagues at Greenpeace going by the endorsements to these comments posted on his Facebook page.



The Legal Side of Layer Hen 'Rescue'

14 August

An Auckland animal sanctuary owner has spoken out about what she describes as the 'legal side' of rescuing layer hens, and which doesn't involve breaking into factory farms.

"People think we go in the middle of the night with a balaclava," the owner of 'The Sanctuary at Matakana, north of Auckland says.

"We have relationships with a few different farms and when it comes time for them to cull the birds and they give us the opportunity to rescue as many as we can rehabilitate and rehome," she says.

The Matakana animal sanctuary organises drivers and transport to move in and collect as many hens as they are able to adopt out to good homes. The rescued hens will continue to lay eggs, and have an expected life expectancy of five to eight years.

She claims the hens are the "most personable species out there," and foster families fall in love with their "pets with benefits".

The hens will often follow their new owners around or sit on their laps while they enjoy a beer, she says. And of course there is the bonus of free eggs when the hens are in laying season. "People are so proud of their hens, you'd think they'd laid the eggs themselves," she says.

The Sanctuary's next rescue is coming up this weekend, and the owner has sought media publicity to help her find homes to adopt birds. Battery hen rescues only happen a few times a year, and the more interest the better, she says. "The more good homes we can find, the more we can save." Foster families are required to fill out adoption forms and have an interview before being approved to home a hen.





University Targeted for Protest

13 August

In Dunedin over the weekend about 75 animal rights supporters protested at the site of Otago University's new \$50 million animal research facility, which is under construction.

Led by the society's full-time Campaign Manager, the protest was the first physical action in an ongoing campaign by the society and other animal rights groups to persuade the university to change the focus of the new research facility.

NZAVS wanted the university to end its use of live animals and to use the building for non-animal-based research. "It's prolonging inaccurate, unreliable, unnecessary research," the society's Campaign Manager said during Saturday's protest.

She said the university still used live animals to train medical students, when Canada and the United States had moved away from the practice. That showed "how far behind they are in terms of research," she said. "We don't even have to argue the ethical side, it's so obvious. We are trying to argue for good science."

As the protest marked the society's first organised action against the use of animal-based research at the facility, she was pleased with the turnout. "As a first action this is awesome," she said. "There are loads of people from all around New Zealand that are keen to get involved." She has promised that more protests will follow.

The university has responded pointing out that it only used animals ethically, and where there were no alternatives, and they were not subjected to pain or distress. The university's Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research and Enterprise said the university was investing in the new facility to maintain animal facilities of the highest international standard.

"As permitted through the Animal Welfare Act, the use of animals in research or teaching to enhance human or animal health, or the management of the environment, requires us to ensure the needs of those animals are met in accordance with both good practice and scientific knowledge," he said.

The university kept up to date with leading developments, and required the use of non-animal alternatives when those were available, including computer or physical models, tissue or cell cultures, human-participant research and simulations.

"There are simply no feasible alternatives...for many complex biological studies or the development of new therapies. Our research is helping to contribute to new alternatives in many cases, and as these are validated and become available they are adopted, as required by our commitment to reduction, replacement and refinement of animal use wherever possible," he said.

In the limited cases where live animal use in teaching was justified and approved by an animal ethics committee at Otago University, or another New Zealand university,

animal welfare was of the highest priority, he said.



Glyphosate Ruling Annoys GE Free NZ

11 August

GE Free New Zealand has expressed considerable disappointment at a report released by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) finding that the broad-spectrum herbicide glyphosate (RoundUp) is unlikely to be carcinogenic and should not be classified as a mutagen or carcinogen under the HSNO Act.

GE Free NZ says, "yet again instead of following the EU and curtailing the use or even recognising any significant health effects from glyphosate, the EPA has "just papered over them". The main difference, says GE Free NZ, is that glyphosate on its own is "30 times less toxic than when with adjuvants added to the full formulation."

The 'Review of the Evidence Relating to Glyphosate and Carcinogenicity' has been prepared by former National Poisons Centre Director and toxicologist and peer reviewed by toxicologists from the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI).

The EPA, which approves and regulates glyphosate for use in New Zealand, commissioned the report amid ongoing public unease about its impact on people and the environment.

The Acting General Manager of the EPA's Hazardous Substances and New Organisms team says, "The review confirms the EPA's long-held findings, that at the present time glyphosate – with controls – is safe to use".

See: www.epa.govt.nz/Publications/EPA_glyphosate_review.pdf





Broilers Back in Animal Rights Focus

10 August

The national animal rights group SAFE has used historic footage taken by its militant sister organisation Farmwatch to highlight what it claims is the unacceptable way broiler chickens are bred.

SAFE made the comments in a Facebook post accompanying the footage, and which has received over 10,000 recent views (see below).

According to SAFE, broiler chickens in New Zealand are "bred to grow so rapidly within five weeks many can barely hold up their own weight". SAFE says the breeding of chickens for meat is "wrong".

[https://www.facebook.com/safe.org.nz/photos/a.1015621212121212/1015621212121212/?type=photo&theater](#)



SAFE

August 10 at 12:15pm · 🌐

THIS IS WRONG! Life of chickens raised for meat. They have been bred to grow so rapidly, within 5 weeks many can barely hold up their own weight. [Footage Farmwatch]



10K Views

[https://www.facebook.com/safe.org.nz/photos/a.1015621212121212/1015621212121212/?type=photo&theater](#)

Students Boycott University Over Lab

09 August

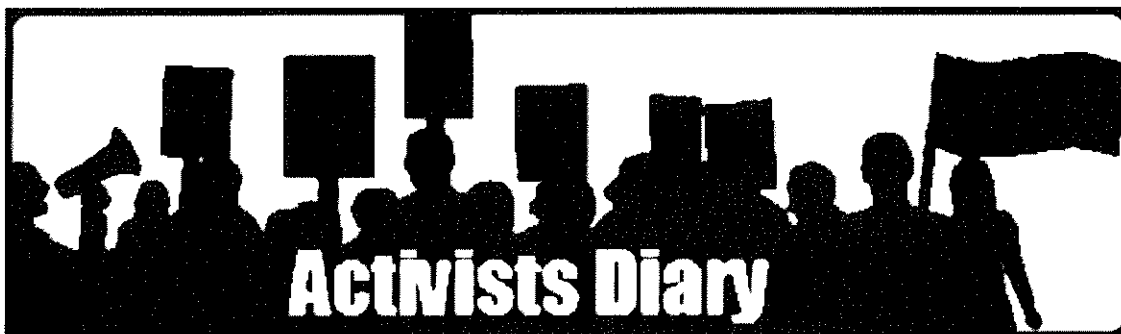
The New Zealand Anti-Vivisection Society (NZAVS) has published a photograph on social media (see below) of what it says is from Year 13 college students who were planning on attending the University of Otago next year, but now say they will not.

The photograph shows seven pages of signatures from the students supporting the society's petition calling on the university to abandoned use of animals in the new research facility.

Now, after hearing about the university's plan to build a new animal research, NZAVS claims the students say they are going to boycott the university and study elsewhere.

NZAVS does not say, however, which secondary school(s) the students come from, but as there is room for 18 signatures on each page, it appears the petition has been signed by more than 120 students.





28 November: Animal Rights Art Exhibition

Direct Animal Action is holding a fund raising art exhibition in Auckland 28 November - 03 December at the Allpress Studio in Freemans Bay. All proceeds are going to the 'Paws Awhile' animal sanctuary in Raglan. Direct Animal, Action says the theme of the exhibition is "Animals - Seeing the Sentient Being". Most of the works will be auctioned on 01 December.



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August 2016

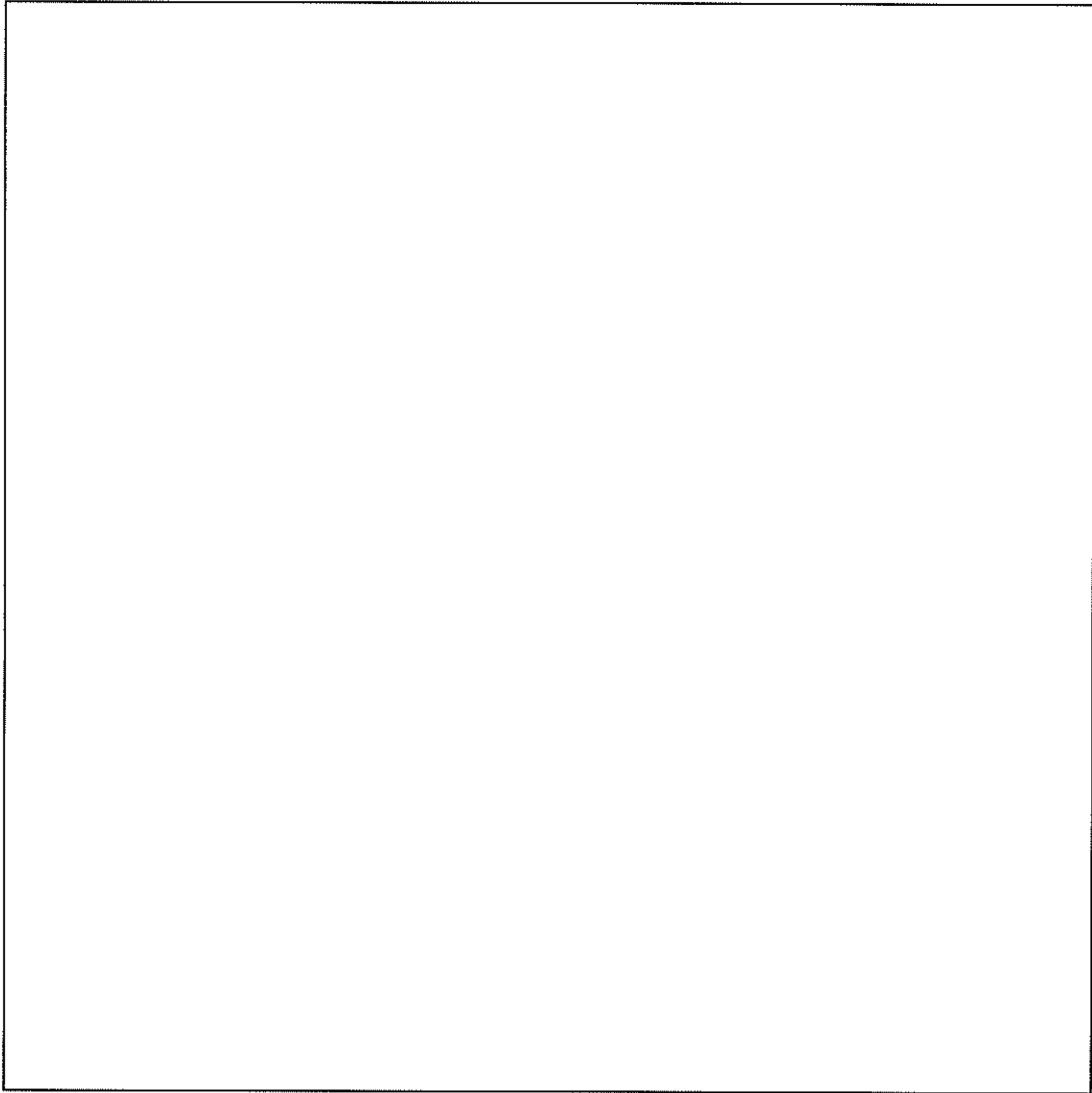
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Animal Rights and GE Issues

Thompson+Clark Fusion Centre

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Proposal to Stop Labelling GM Food

23 August

The issue motivated group GE Free New Zealand says a proposal to stop labelling GM food would deny consumers the basic right to be informed.

Consumers on both sides of the Tasman would be left in the dark under proposals to stop labelling of GMOs being canvassed by the Productivity Commission in Australia, the group says.

The Commission is consulting on proposals to delete food standards applied by FSANZ in New Zealand and Australia that require labelling of GE ingredients above a one percent threshold.

However, GE Free NZ says that if adopted, the proposals would be an attack on the basic right of consumers to know when genetically engineered ingredients are used in food.

"Consumers would be left in the dark, and biotechnology companies like Monsanto and Bayer would force more GE food into the supply chain under the cover of the information blackout," says the group's media spokesman.

"The vast majority of consumers want and expect labelling of GE ingredients, and demand the right to know. FSANZ established labelling in the 1990s in response to widespread consumer pressure not to allow hidden GE ingredients to creep into the food supply," he adds.

GE-Free NZ says it has written to FSANZ to question New Zealand's stance on the proposals. New Zealand operates under trans-Tasman rules that would require a break away from the Australian standards if consumer rights are to be protected, says GE Free NZ.

Waikato Anti-Meat Protests

19 August

The Waikato issue motivated group Animal Action Waikato has begun holding weekly peaceful protests on a Friday outside outside the Greenlea slaughterhouse, on the corner of Kahikatea and Greenlea Streets in Hamilton.

Every Friday 1-2pm the Waikato group meets on the corner of Kahikatea Drive and Greenlea Lane to protest what they say is "institutionalised violence against innocent animals".

A similar weekly protest on a Friday is being held by the Wellington Animal Rights Network (WARN) outside a meat processing plant in the Ngauranga Gorge.

Work Begins on Otago Animal Lab

22 August

Work has begun on the the construction of the University of Otago's new \$50million Animal Research Centre, with site clearance begun at the Great King Street location (see photo below).

Contractors began the demolition process on 03August despite protest from several animal rights groups. The five-storey facility, to be built beside the School of Physiotherapy, is expected to be completed by February 2018.



NZ Activists Nominated for Prize

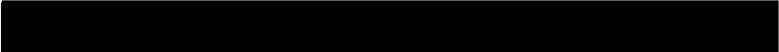
17 August

The New Zealand Anti-Vivisection Society (NZAVS) has been nominated for a lucrative Lush Prize, which year gives away more than \$600,000 to animal rights groups for their work in ending the use of animals in testing.

The NZAVS is one of 55 selected finalists from 20 different countries. The NZAVS has made the shortlist for the work the society did in having the Draize Test phased out of NZ law. The NZAVS has been nominated for the lobbying prize, which comes with it a \$100,000 first prize.

There are five categories, each comes with a \$100,000 first prize donated by Lush Cosmetics. The other categories are: Public Awareness, Science, Training and Young Researcher.

The lobbying Prize was won last year by a Kiwi - the Green Party's spokeswoman on animal welfare wn the first prize for her work intensively with a sympathetic lawyer, the New Zealand Anti-Vivisection Society (NZAVS) and Humane Society International (HSI) to develop and table an amendment in parliament that banned all cosmetic animal testing.



Animal Rights Working Bee

05 September

The Auckland University Animal rights Group (AUARG) has announced it has organised a one-day working bee at the Raglan animal sanctuary on 05 September. AUARG says anyone keen to help will be put to work feeding animals, cleaning animal homes, weeding, and other general sanctuary and animal maintenance jobs.

Auckland Debate on Activism

05 September

The Auckland Museum is hosting a debate about activism and how it can be effective. Titled 'From #Slacktivism to Activism' this event aims to discuss how is online awareness is transformed into action on the ground.

The discussion panel for the evening features director of campaigns at direct action group ActionStation, a leading cartoonist and illustrator, an environmental activist and senior campaign advisor for Greenpeace New Zealand, and a commentator on Indigenous rights. At the Auckland Museum, 6-9pm.

Wellington Animal Rights Art Exhibition

28 November

Direct Animal Action is holding a fund raising art exhibition in Auckland 28 November - 03 December at the Allpress Studio in Freemans Bay. All proceeds are going to the 'Paws Awhile' animal sanctuary in Raglan. Direct Animal, Action says the theme of the exhibition is "Animals - Seeing the Sentient Being". Most of the works will be auctioned on 01 December.

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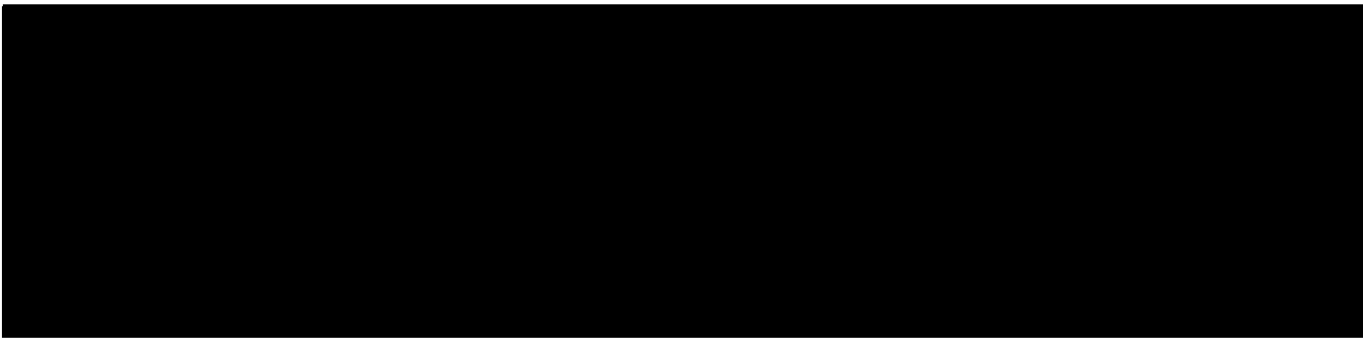
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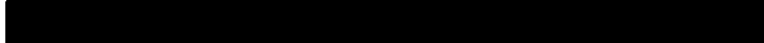


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GE Opponents Win High Court Battle

31 August

Anti-GE issue motivated groups and activists are celebrating a High Court decision just released today upholding an Environment Court ruling that regional councils have the right to decide on the provisions, policies, and rules regarding the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in their regions.

The Soil & Health Association (Soil & Health) says it, "Celebrates this landmark decision as a win not only in the fight against genetic engineering (GE) and keeping a clean green Aotearoa, but also for democracy as it allows community values and concerns about GMOs to be taken into account when drafting regional policy instruments".

High Court Judge Peters has just ruled in favour of the Whangarei District Council (WDC), Northland Regional Council (NRC), Soil & Health, GE Free Northland and others, dismissing the appeal on all questions raised by the appellants Federated Farmers of New Zealand.

"We welcome this landmark ruling," said Soil & Health chairperson. "It confirms the ability of all local councils to determine GE policies in their areas. We support communities around the country who want to keep Aotearoa New Zealand clean, green and GE-free."

The decision comes after Federated Farmers appealed the Environment Court's ruling in May 2015 that there is jurisdiction under the Resource Management Act (RMA) for local councils to control the use of GMOs via regional policy instruments.

Federated Farmers challenged that decision in the High Court in February this year where they argued that local government has no role in legislating about GMOs and that the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act (HSNO), not the RMA, is the overarching legislation that governs how GMOs are used in New Zealand.

However, Judge Peters disagreed and stated in her decision today that the Environment Court, "was conscious of the overlap between the RMA and HSNO but it was not persuaded that overlap required a conclusion that GMOs (and other new organisms) are required to be excluded from consideration in the promulgation of a regional policy statement or plan."

Background to the High Court Appeal

Commenting on the background to this case, Soil & Health's chairperson says much of New Zealand's public is still under the impression that New Zealand is a GE-free nation. The truth however is more complex, she claims. The 'truth' she says is as follows:

1. GE in the environment: The moratorium on GE organisms (such as crops and animals) in the environment was lifted in 2003, but since then no applications have



Activists Meet With University Over Lab

30 August

The New Zealand Anti-Vivisection Society (NZAVS) has reported on its second meeting with Otago University's Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Research and Enterprise over the society's opposition to the university building a new animal research centre. The NZAVS says it sent its Christchurch-based Campaign Manager to Dunedin to participate in what the society says was a "friendly exchange" and which the society concedes allowed it to better understand the university's position on the new research centre.

The society says also on an optimistic note that it was able to, "clarify a few things and find out areas where we could potentially work together in the future" however it also says it is not about to give up its opposition to the centre's existence.

The NZAVS says key points arising from the meeting were:

- * The university genuinely believe that it is doing what is best for the future of human health. The society says it is concerned that the university "believe this misconception because of the extreme bias that exists amongst researchers". The NZAVS says it is now its job to present credible information to the university to help shift this belief.

- * The society says the university is now open to communicating with it in a more public realm in the future.

- * The society says it got to express its concerns with the perceived lack of transparency and accessible information around animal-based research at the University of Otago. The NZAVS was able to point out areas such as teaching where if it knew more detail about the kind of experiences using animals that the university undertake, it would be able to help source ethical methods and also find reliable methods in areas such as medical research. The society says this will be an ongoing conversation between NZAVS and the university.

The society says it was happy with the overall tone of the meeting but made it very clear that it won't be going anywhere and that its 'Stop the Otago Animal Lab' campaign will continue.

During August the society says it had a huge increase in postering around the university campus and Dunedin city.

The NZAVS said many of its volunteers have been putting 'Stop the Otago Animal Lab' posters up around campus (see photo below). Initially security guards were taking these down but after some of the volunteers spoke to higher authorities at the university, the society says it is now able to have its posters there freely.



Animal Rights Boss Moves On

29 August

The full-time Executive Director of the New Zealand Anti-Vivisection Society (NZAVS) has announced he is leaving the society after spending the last three years revitalising the issue motivated group from a state of near dormancy.

The NZAVS has announced it is holding a farewell for its Executive Director at its national office in Addington on 06 September. The society hasn't said the reason for his departure, apart from a statement saying he is leaving to "continue his work in the animal rights movement".

The society's Executive Director was brought in three years ago to bring it up to a professional level of operation after two significant legacies were left to it, allowing the society to purchase its own premises and employ a small full time staff. He appears effectively to have done this, with the society now having a full time National Campaigns Officer; an office manager, and chain of volunteer regional organisers across the country.

The society's latest annual financial return showed it has net assets of almost \$1.4 million, which includes a term deposit of almost \$1.2 million and a freehold building valued at \$146,500.



Call to Ban Jumps Racing Renewed

28 August

The national animal rights group SAFE has renewed its call to have steeplechase racing banned after a third race horse has had to be destroyed in three weeks, bringing the total of deaths for the jumps racing season so far to seven.

The race horse 'Twentythirtyfour' was euthanised after he fractured a hind leg in a 4200 metre Steeplechase in Te Aroha on 28 August. His death follows that of 'Good Risk', who died after falling and suffering a cardio-vascular event at Wanganui and 'Bunkered', who fractured her stifle (equivalent to human knee) and was killed at a Canterbury race on 13 August.

SAFE says it condemns jumps racing because of the inherent danger to the horses who are pushed to jump fences at speed, resulting in injury and death. The group's Head of Campaigns says that the death toll is unacceptable.

"The lives and welfare of the horses are what is really at stake in jumps racing: an industry where profit and prestige outweigh the safety of the animals," she says. "At least seven horses have now died this season in jumps races. How many more need to die before action is taken?"

The latest deaths come after three horses died in a single day earlier in the season. New South Wales has already banned steeplechase racing. New Zealand needs to do the same, says SAFE.



Polls Back a Ban on Rodeo

27 August

Animal rights group SAFE says a new poll shows that more than half (59 percent) of the respondents in a Horizon Research survey support a ban on using animals in rodeos in New Zealand. Just 25 percent of those polled opposed a ban, it says.

Last year SAFE, the SPCA, and the militant group Farmwatch joined forces to collect more than 62,000 signatures on a petition calling for an outright ban on rodeos in New Zealand. The organisations say the substantial number of signatures reveals widespread public support for a ban.

"Rodeos can be terrifying and stressful experiences for the animals involved, yet they are currently legal. These latest survey results reinforce what we have been campaigning for: rodeo animals should not be subjected to cruelty simply for entertainment," says SAFE's Executive Director. "The Government must act now and listen to public opinion."

In the new poll, more than two thirds of survey respondents (68 percent) related strongest to the statement that "Rodeo causes pain and suffering to animals and it is not worth causing this just for the sake of entertainment".

The majority of respondents (55 percent) thought the levels of distress caused in rodeo were such that this should qualify as unreasonable or unnecessary under the Animal Welfare Act.

Almost two thirds (63 percent) of survey participants said they would be supportive of a ban on calf roping, Only 20 percent were opposed to a ban on calf roping. The SPCA and SAFE are now urging the Government to immediately ban calf roping as a minimum measure to prevent unnecessary suffering for these baby animals.

The organisations are also calling for a ban on flank straps as a minimum measure, which 66 percent of respondents believed should not be used to make animals perform.





Violence Against Auckland Vegans

26 August

Some Auckland vegans have complained of threats of violence and cyber bullying against their choice of lifestyle.

A Muslim vegan in Auckland who is the owner of the Nusantara Indonesian Tea Cafe (see photo below) and founder of a community market project called 'Vegan Village' says she recently received a threat of having her vegan event "suicide-bombed" with the cyber-attacker calling vegans "sinners". She says she felt the cyber threat to also be Islamophobic in nature.

She called the Police who met and addressed the matter by tracking down the person based in West Auckland making the threat and eventually received an apology.

However, she says recent articles stating top chefs making remarks to "kill all vegans" have triggered her to speak up and ask "How did we let violence become acceptable, a joke?"

"When I ran Vegan Village as a pilot project in New Lynn with Auckland Council, it was about making food accessible, inclusive and diverse to people from all dietary, cultural backgrounds," she says. "Anyone and everyone can eat vegan food. At the event we had many people telling us they were not vegan but really enjoyed the food."

The 'Vegan Village' is a monthly Auckland event project which is supported by over 1,000 community members across West Auckland, and even encourages local non-vegan street food vendors to cater to participate in offering vegan options.

"We wish to promote the message that violence is unnecessary, not on the plate at the dinner table and definitely not amongst each other," says the young the owner of the Nusantara Indonesian Tea Cafe, who used to work for Women's Refuge.

"I think New Zealanders regardless of their personal consumption choices need to relax and stop this aggression against vegans. People who choose to go vegan may do it for different reasons - health reasons, for the animals, for the environment...what is so wrong about all that?"

"As much as I wish to forget the incident, it just makes me feel that there is a huge lack of awareness, and I am even more determined to continue promoting a peaceful message through healthy, tasty plant-based food for everyone in the community," she adds.

The Henderson resident is currently working with the Auckland Council, and local business stakeholders to develop Waitakere first fully vegan food eatery and provide a hub for people to gain information, have a conversation and learn about the ethics behind vegan lifestyle. A Kickstarter crowdfunding campaign to fundraise for this project will be launched on 01 September.

Opponents Rally Against GE Spuds

25 August

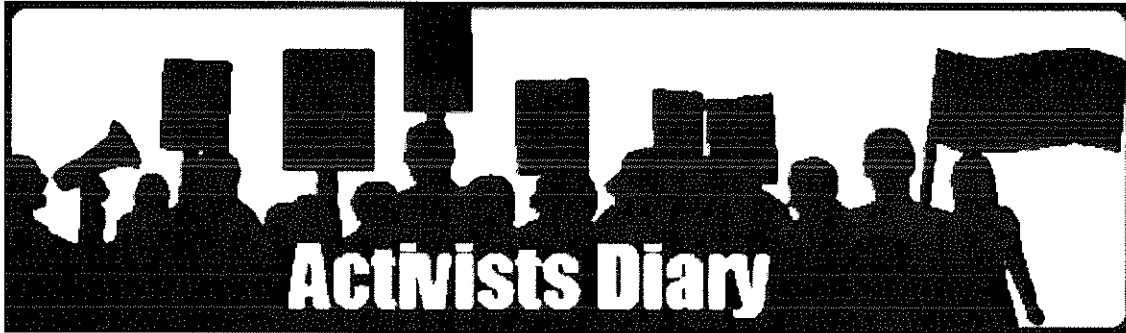
The Green Party's spokesman on GMOs has reminded his supporters in the anti-GE movement that submissions are open for them to "say no to GE potatoes in our food supply".

He says that Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) have never said no to an application for a GMO food to be approved, so he is saying, "Let's let FSANZ know we don't want this crap coming into NZ or Australia".

He says the application relates to importing for food, not for growing it, but he claims neither FSANZ or the MPI have enforced GE food labelling rules here since 2003.

He says an approval would allow, "GE spud products to be imported and sold in our supermarkets and restaurants and you wouldn't know because labelling is not enforced, in fact they seem to want to drop labelling rules too."





Animal Rights Working Bee

03 September

The Auckland University Animal rights Group (AUARG) has announced it has organised a one-day working bee at the Raglan animal sanctuary on 03 September. AUARG says anyone keen to help will be put to work feeding animals, cleaning animal homes, weeding, and other general sanctuary and animal maintenance jobs.



Auckland Animal Rights Meeting

04 September

The Auckland animal rights group Direct Animal Action is holding its first September fortnightly meeting on 04 September at the Hum Salon, at 123 Grafton Road, Auckland central. Todate, 15 people have indicated on Facebook that they will attend.

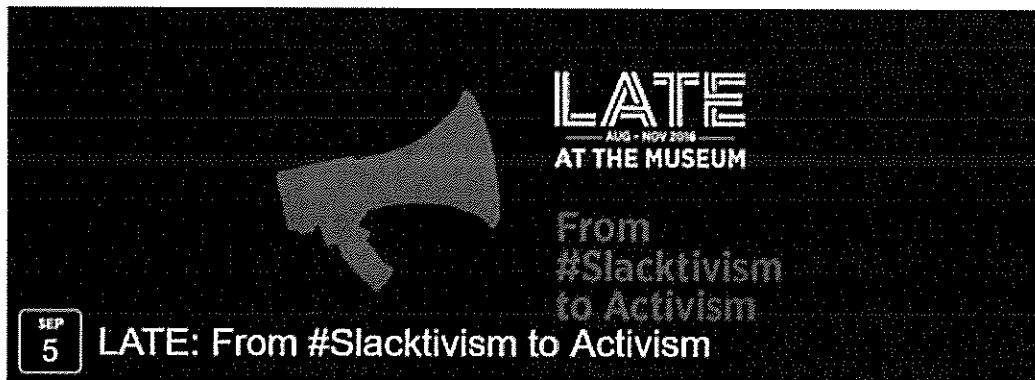


Auckland Debate on Activism

05 September

The Auckland Museum is hosting a debate about activism and how it can be effective. Titled 'From #Slacktivism to Activism' this event aims to discuss how online awareness is transformed into action on the ground.

The discussion panel for the evening features director of campaigns at direct action group ActionStation, a leading cartoonist and illustrator, an environmental activist and senior campaign advisor for Greenpeace New Zealand, and a commentator on Indigenous rights. At the Auckland Museum, 6-9pm.





Wellington Animal Rights Art Exhibition

28 November

Direct Animal Action is holding a fund raising art exhibition in Auckland 28 November - 03 December at the Allpress Studio in Freemans Bay. All proceeds are going to the 'Paws Awhile' animal sanctuary in Raglan. Direct Animal, Action says the theme of the exhibition is 'Animals - Seeing the Sentient Being'. Most of the works will be auctioned on 01 December.



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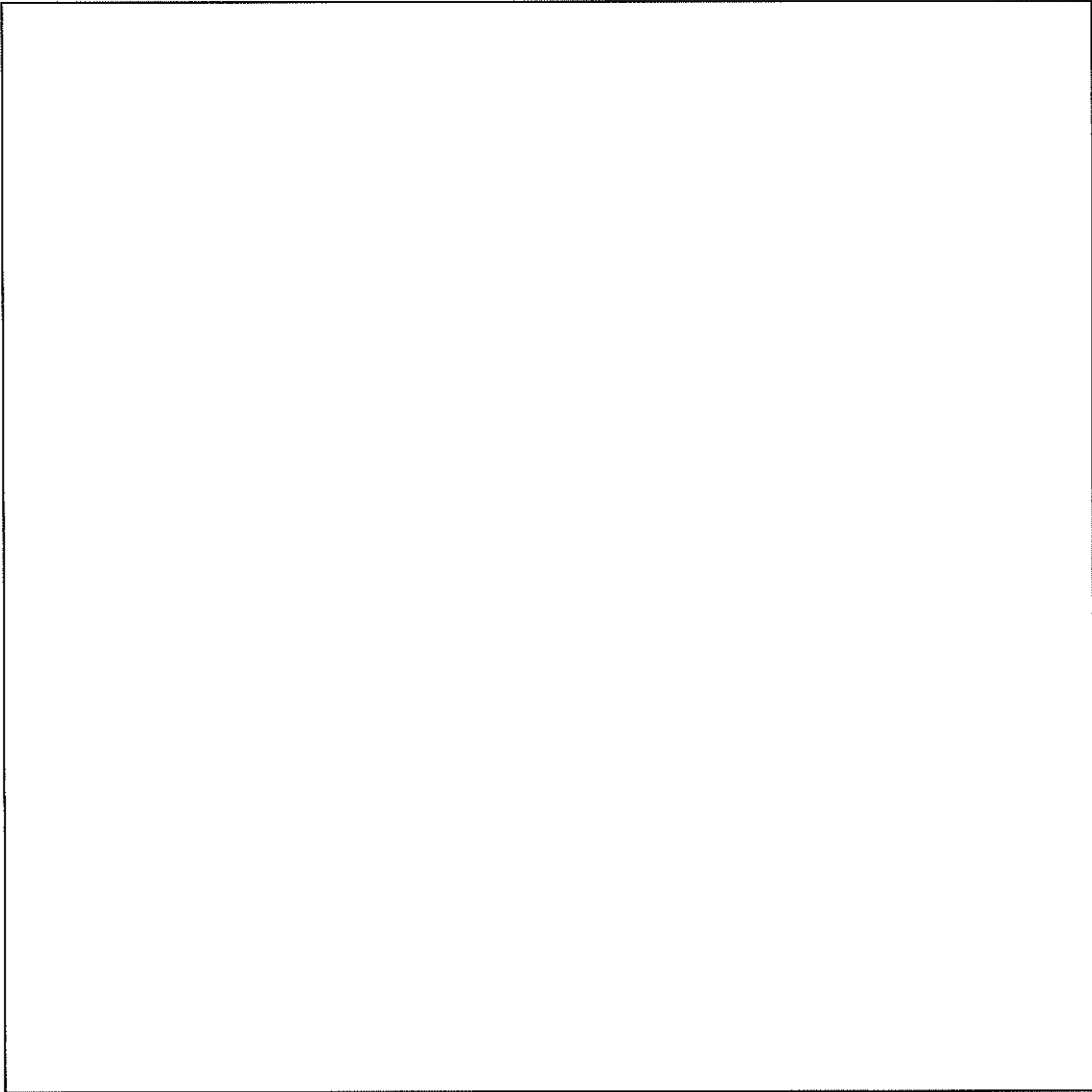
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Sent: Tuesday, September 06, 2016 7:00 AM

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Govt Looking at GMO Law Change?

06 September

Following last week's High Court ruling upholding the Northland Regional and the Whangarei District Councils' rights to decide whether to allow genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in their region through the Resource Management Act, the Environment Minister has indicated the Government will now review councils' role in regulating GMOs after concerns the plans could affect current medical trials and veterinary applications.

"I am seeking advice from the Ministry for the Environment on possible solutions. Options include changes in the law or regulations to clarify that approvals and controls on GMOs are to be determined by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and not councils," he says.

The Minister further says, "The problem with councils regulating in this area is that they do not have the technical expertise, resulting in regulations that have unintended consequences. The further problem is that there are no biosecurity controls between councils, so having different rules in what organisms are allowed in different districts becomes a nonsense."

However, the convenor for the Inter-council Working party on GMO Risk Evaluation and Management options says the plan provisions only apply to GMOs released to the environment or outdoor field trial of GMOs.

"This does not apply to medical trials as medical applications are specifically excluded from council provisions. They do not apply to indoor use in contained facilities, laboratories, hospitals or to medical applications or most veterinary applications," he says.

The working group comprises Auckland Council, Whangarei District Council, Far North District Council, and Northland Regional Council.

One of their main concerns, says the councils, has been not enough accountability for GMO trial applicants, with possible damage and cleanup costs caused by organisms getting into the environment falling on the council and therefore on rate payers.

"The councils' plan provisions make outdoor field trials of GMOs a discretionary activity under the Resource Management Act. This means they need a resource consent from council to conduct a field trial in addition to approval from the EPA," the inter-council convenor says.

"The resource consent will require strict liability from the party conducting the trial for any environmental or economic damage that may occur as a result of the trial together with a bond to cover any costs should they arise."

GMOs are regulated under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act (HSNO) which does not require this. However, the Auckland Unitary Plan would allow



Review of Councils' Role Welcomed

05 September

NZBIO has welcomed the Government's decision to review local government involvement in regulating Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs), saying it has never made sense to duplicate the role of the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) in regulating the use of GMOs throughout New Zealand.

NZBIO, which represents the majority of bio scientists in New Zealand, last week warned that the country was in danger of becoming a "backwater for bioscience" after an appeal by Federated Farmers against councils in Northland, who wanted to be able to ban GMOS using the Resource Management Act, was dismissed (see above item).

The Government's review comes on the back of Auckland's Council's Unitary Plan now deferring to that Northland judgment when it comes to the use of GMOs in its boundary. The response to that from the Minister for the Environment is that could put a liver cancer treatment trial at Auckland Hospital at risk.

NZBIO's Chief Executive says NZBIO has been calling for a public debate on GMO since the science around genetic modification has developed significantly since the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act was enacted in New Zealand 1996.

"Many New Zealanders still rely on emotive, 1990s GMO rhetoric, not realising what has happened around the word since that time," he says.

"All we have been asking for is a chance to have New Zealanders talk about the issue and to be part of the decision-making of where this country goes with modern GMO. That decision should not be the responsibility of any one group, whether they be anti-GMO lobbyists or indeed bio scientists. This country needs people to make an educated and informed majority choice."

Second Thoughts of a Researcher

04 September

The Dunedin Animal Rights Collective (DARC) has promoted an article published on the front page of the New York Times entitled 'Second Thoughts of an Animal Researcher' and has asked the question "Are you paying attention Otago University?" DARC is referring to the university's decision to build a new animal research centre. DARC quotes from the article, in which the author (an emeritus professor of psychology) asks, "What did I learn from my research? These manipulations cause such drastic damage across many behavioral and physiological systems that the work should not be repeated. Non-animal alternatives are required, and we should be focusing more attention on developing them. We already accept that ethical limits on experiments involving humans are important enough that we are willing to forgo possible breakthroughs. There is no ethical argument that justifies not doing the same for animals."

See: www.nytimes.com/2016/09/04/opinion/sunday/second-thoughts-of-an-animal-researcher.html?_r=2



Not a Tui Advert Anymore

03 September

The animal rights group Direct Animal Action has claimed another victory in its battle against rodeo by getting Tui Breweries to cease sponsoring rodeo events.

The group says that "Over the last couple of weeks" it had been in discussion with Tui after spotting their advertising billboards at this year's Warkworth rodeo.

Direct Animal Action says Tui has assured it that the company is not sponsoring rodeos in the future and have even contacted the New Zealand Rodeo Cowboys' Association and asked for all their signage to be removed as they no longer want to be associated with rodeos.

Direct Animal Action says its members are attending rodeos to identify sponsors and then the group engages with the sponsor in an effort to convince them to cease their sponsorship - so far the group has been quite successful in this tactic and hasn't reported a rejection yet.



Review of Councils' Role Welcomed

02 September

Further to the above item, the animal rights group SAFE has announced that the national real estate firm Harcourts is the latest business organisation to agree to a request not to sponsor rodeos in the future.

SAFE, the SPCA, Direct Animal Action and militant group Farmwatch have an ongoing campaign to attempt to shut rodeos down by depriving them of commercial sponsorship.

SAFE 'Wades' into Water Quality Debate

01 September

The animal national rights group SAFE has 'waded' into the current debate over water quality which is being championed at the moment by other issue motivated groups such as Greenpeace NZ and the Green Party.

In a move which is an attack on the farming industry, SAFE has come out in support of active campaigns by the Greens to improve the water quality of New Zealand's rivers and make them safe for swimming, and another one by Greenpeace to stop large scale irrigation schemes.

SAFE says New Zealand's dairy industry has a significant detrimental effect on our environment. It quotes the 2015 Environment Aotearoa report as recording a 28 percent surge in the land area used for dairy farming over the last 10 years.

This increase, says SAFE, in the national dairy herd is causing a corresponding increase in compaction of land (at around 80 percent of dairy farms), pollution of waterways and greenhouse gas emissions. The main source of water pollution is from animal excrement, it says. One individual cow produces 15 times more effluent than a human. SAFE says figures released in 2013 by the Ministry for the Environment show that 60 percent of monitored New Zealand waterways were not fit to swim in, let alone had drinkable water.

A high prevalence of dairy farms correlated with the worst water standards: Canterbury had nine waterways graded "very poor", while Manawatu-Wanganui, Southland and Taranaki each had seven. The Waikato River, the Manawatu River, and Lakes Ellesmere, Taupo and Rotorua are heavily polluted, says SAFE.

SAFE claims some farmers are still allowing cows direct access to waterways, while others hold the animal waste in large ponds or lagoons, which can overflow into waterways. Even where animals are prevented from having direct access to waterways by fencing them off, SAFE says it doesn't stop the leaching of nutrients, (including those from superphosphate fertiliser and nitrogen which are used to make pastureland more productive), into groundwater.

SAFE says another source of water pollution is 'ponding', where dairy animal waste is over-applied to paddocks by a farm's irrigation system, leading to ponds of waste accumulating on the soil surface and then seeping into ground water and subsequently into watercourses. The nutrient enrichment caused by dairy farming leads to loss of species, algal blooms and undrinkable water.

SAFE says non-compliance with environmental regulations has been an ongoing problem in the dairy industry. During the four years from 2008 to 2012, there were over 150 prosecutions involving 300 charges of unlawful pollution by dairy effluent. Environment Court fines collected for the period totalled \$3.2 million.

SAFE says a 2015 report by Environment Canterbury found more than a third of



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Wellington Animal Rights Meeting

11 September

The Wellington Animal Rights Network (WARN) is holding its September meeting at the New Crossways Community to discuss greyhound racing. The meeting will involve a screening of the TV Farmwatch greyhound investigation from 2013 and discuss about how members and supporters of the group can help greyhounds in New Zealand. The meeting starts at 2pm and so far seven people have shown an interest on Facebook in attending.

Auckland Animal Rights Protest

24 September

The 'Auckland Animals Earthlings Experience' is again holding a mass public screening of the 2005 animal rights documentary 'Earthlings' which purports to document humanity's use of other animals as pets, food, clothing, entertainment, and for scientific research. The film is narrated by actor Joaquin Phoenix, features music by Moby.

The protest involves a massed group of animal rights activists standing together in silence in public, wearing masks and holding laptops or tablets on which the documentary is playing. This is regular event, the latest one being on 24 September at 1pm, and again in Auckland's Aotea Square.

Wellington Animal Rights Art Exhibition

28 November

Direct Animal Action is holding a fund raising art exhibition in Auckland 28 November - 03 December at the Allpress Studio in Freemans Bay. All proceeds are going to the 'Paws Awhile' animal sanctuary in Raglan. Direct Animal, Action says the theme of the exhibition is "Animals - Seeing the Sentient Being". Most of the works will be auctioned on 01 December.

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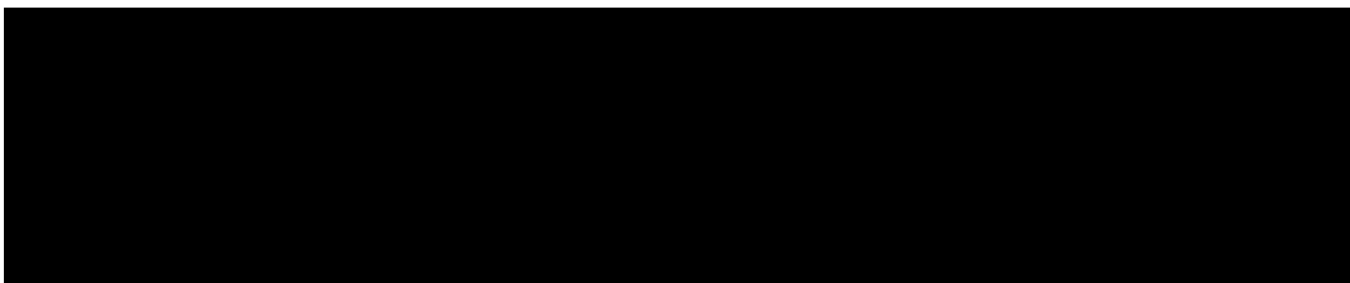
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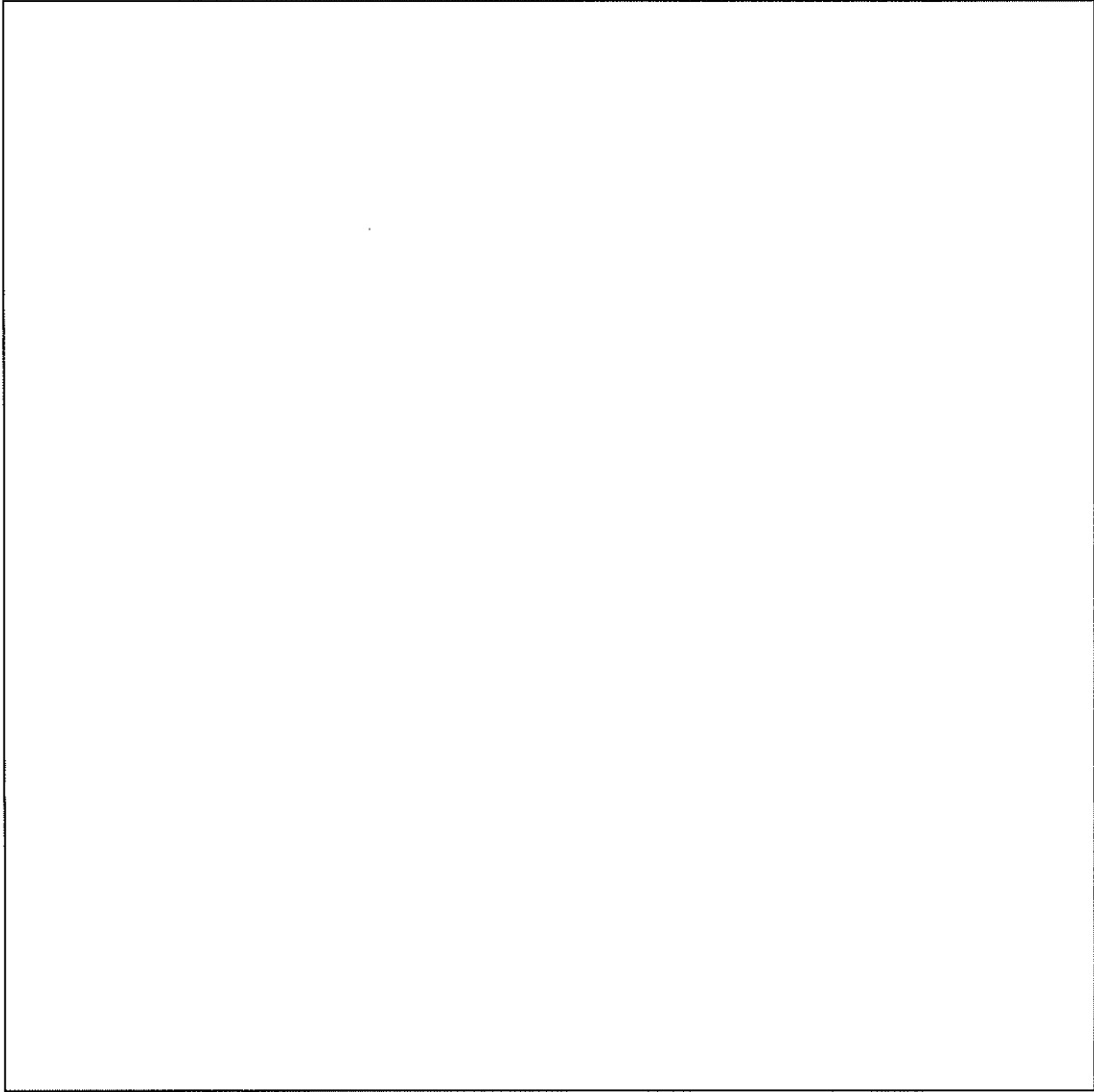
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Stop the Lab Protest on Campus

29 September

The Christchurch-based New Zealand Anti-Vivisection Society (NZAVS), with help from the leader of the Dunedin Animal Rights Collective (DARC), set up a protest stall opposing Otago University's new animal-based research laboratory at the university's regular market day this week.

The society says it is trying to raise student awareness of and opposition to the laboratory's construction because it has discovered the level of awareness amongst Otago University students is not that great.

SAFE Scores Major Celebrity Support

29 September

The national animal rights group SAFE has scored a major Hollywood celebrity supporter in the form of block-buster director James Cameron, who now describes himself as a proud Kiwi and Wairarapa resident.

While best known for his Hollywood blockbuster movies like 'Avatar' and 'Titanic', Cameron is lesser known as the owner of Greytown's, Food Forest Organics cafe and grocery store in the Wairarapa.

About his small town sideline foray into New Zealand's cafe society, Cameron says, "it's great to get feedback from the community, and to see our little store embraced by the locals. Greytown is a wonderful little town. It reminds me a lot of the town I grew up in Canada, so you had the small town feeling, but also a big flow-through of tourists. In Greytown you have the overlay of vacationers on the locals, which is good for business and good for spreading the word about organics and plant-based nutrition back to where the visitors are coming from, Wellington or wherever. We've found the store is catering particularly well to the locals who know us and appreciate our reputation for quality of produce and products. It's great to see people asking questions and wanting to know more about organic foods and health products, and about the benefits of plant based diets."

An interview with Cameron leads SAFE's October issue of its monthly online magazine for supporters. In it he says he expected more resistance to his vegan-based organic farm and store in an area known for its animal agriculture, but he claims people seem to be embracing the health benefits of organic and plant-based eating.

On this point Cameron says he wants to "tread lightly in spreading the word, because animal agriculture -beef, dairy and lamb in particular, is such an important part of the economy of New Zealand, and of the culture and history. But if people are interested and want to learn more, we will be helpful and supportive."

Speaking as a farmer, and not as a Hollywood celebrity, he says "I want to be solution-oriented. I want to be able to offer farmers profitable alternatives. We're still exploring the best practices to do that, treating our farm as a test site for eco-agricultural research. Over the long haul we want to expand our organic produce operations, and our no-till/low input cropping operations. In addition, I want to look for ways to add value locally in the supply chain, such as building processing facilities for pea protein, hemp and some of our other eco-agro crops."

On the subject of animal rights, however, Cameron says his reason for becoming a vegan was not the plight of animals. He says, "once I realized that not only were animal foods not necessary, but they were actively working against my health, and that of our little world. I changed my diet accordingly and never looked back."



Rodeo's Biggest Sponsor Pulls Out

27 September

Animal rights activists campaigning to have rodeo banned in New Zealand appear to have successfully knocked off the sport's biggest sponsor, with news that Cyclone Wire is the latest sponsor to pull out of financing the controversial sport.

The double edged campaign mounted against rodeo in New Zealand very much reflects classic animal rights tactics - these involve lobbying through such things as petitions to Parliament; while mounting protests and efforts at economic sabotage (in this case pressuring sponsors to withdraw their funding).

The news that Cyclone Wire will not be sponsoring the national rodeo circuit this year is being hailed as the activists' biggest win to date. Commenting on this development, the national animal rights group SAFE said in a statement this week:

"Pressure is increasing against the abuse of animals in rodeo events with the news that Richmond Rodeo has been cancelled for 2017 and rodeo clubs have lost their major sponsor. It was at Richmond Rodeo in January 2016, that a bull was euthanised after he broke his leg in a bull riding event. In the footage, filmed on a mobile phone, he is seen with a broken hind leg and is left hobbling around as his injured limb flaps about.

"In September we also reported that Harcourts have distanced themselves from their previous support of Richmond Rodeo, after being contacted by local SAFE volunteers. Rodeo events rely heavily on support from business sponsorship, and they struggle when companies withdraw. Cyclone Wire, who were one of the main sponsors of the NZ Rodeo Cowboys Association (NZRCA), as well as many individual events around the country, have decided to stop funding rodeo.

"In their September newsletter, the NZRCA say: 'Sponsorship will be down in 2016/2017 as Cyclone are no longer a sponsor. There are no other sponsors interested in at the moment.' The NZRCA have yet to remove Cyclone branding from their website. Rodeo events subject animals to fear, stress, risk of injury and death, all for the sake of entertainment. It's time for them to be banned altogether."

SAFE is part of a coalition with two other animal rights groups (Farmwatch and the SPCA) which is campaigning to have rodeo banned here in NZ.

A number of other animal rights groups, such as Direct Animal Action, are also actively supporting this campaign, which is one of two major national campaigns many animal rights groups are focussed on at the moment. The other campaign is one which is trying to pressure the Countdown supermarket chain to announce a date when it will stop selling cage eggs.

Christchurch Vegetarian Expo

26 September

The New Zealand Anti-Vivisection Society's (NZAVS) vivisection stall at last week's Christchurch Vegetarian Expo. The society claims Christchurch has more than 10,000 vegetarians living in the city, and may help to explain why the society has its head office there.

Call for Minister's Resignation

25 September

GE Free New Zealand has claimed that the "scaremongering and misrepresentation" of the Auckland Unitary Council's long term plan shows that the Minister for the Environment is "deliberately twisting and misrepresenting the facts, and raising fears that important medical research will be banned."

GE Free NZ says the Minister "knows any such concern is false" and that the Auckland Unitary Plan for Genetically Modified Organisms (AUP) expressly excludes medical and veterinary applications stating; "potential GMO activities of relevance include GM food crops, trees, grasses, animals and pharma crops, but, exclude research within contained laboratories involving GMOs, medical applications involving the manufacture and use of GM products..."

GE Free NZ's president has said in a statement this month, that the Minister, "in seeking to mislead the public, is following the lead of Federated Farmers of New Zealand."

GE Free NZ remains incensed that Federated Farmers through the courts challenged the right of councils, who govern under the Resource Management Act (RMA), to place precautionary GE wording in their plans. The challenge was not upheld and Federated Farmers then appealed the Environment Court's decision to the High Court, which dismissed the appeal.

GE Free NZ claims, "the Minister's anti-democratic panicked response of introducing a new law that expressly prohibits councils to consider environmental and land use protections around GMO's, shows a cynical contempt for due process and local democracy.

"It is an indictment on Dr. Smith and shows that he is not working for the good of the country but is using his powers and influence to pursue an agenda outside of his responsibilities as a Minister," it says.

In a call that is unlikely to be taken too seriously by the Government, GE Free NZ contends that, "this serious breach of conduct transgresses his responsibilities as a minister. He is apparently unable to avoid his conflicts of interest around the GE issue. This terrible situation leads us to call for his resignation as a Minister of the Crown."



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October Vegetarian Challenge

01 October

The New Zealand Anti-Vivisection Society is holding a meeting for its Christchurch supporters and members at its national offices at 21 Disraeli Street, Addington, Christchurch, 6-8pm. So far, 16 people have indicated on the NZAVS events Facebook page that they will be attending.

Auckland Greyhound Protest

08 October

A number of animal rights groups say they are planning to protest against the AGM in Auckland on 08 October of Greyhound Racing New Zealand at Rydges Hotel, Federal Street, at 10:30am.

The Greyhound Protection League New Zealand, Christchurch Animal Rights Action, Direct Animal Action, and Wellington Animal Rights Network all say they will be supporting this protest. Protests are planned for Christchurch and Wellington, in addition to the one planned against the Auckland AGM.

The activists claim that "every year, hundred of greyhounds go missing in the name of sport and entertainment. Investigations have uncovered horrific cruelty in the industry and have resulted in NSW and ACT committing to banning greyhound racing".

The organisers of this protest say, "it's time NZ stood up and put an end to an industry which is only interested in the profit these loving dogs can generate."

So far, 18 people have indicated on a Facebook page set up for this event by Direct Animal Action that they will be protesting at the AGM over the way the greyhound racing industry treats dogs.

Whangarei Vegan Expo

29 October

Northland's first vegan expo is being held at the Whangarei Intermediate School, on 29 October, 10am-4pm. Adults, \$5, are children free.

Auckland Animal Rights Art Exhibition

28 November

The Auckland-based animal rights group Direct Animal Action (DAA) is holding a fundraising art exhibition in Auckland 28 November-03 December at the Allpress Art Studio in Freemans Bay, Auckland. All proceeds are going to the 'Paws Awhile' animal sanctuary in Raglan. Direct Animal, Action says the theme of the exhibition is "Animals - Seeing the Sentient Being". Most of the works will be auctioned on 01 December to raise campaign funds for DAA.

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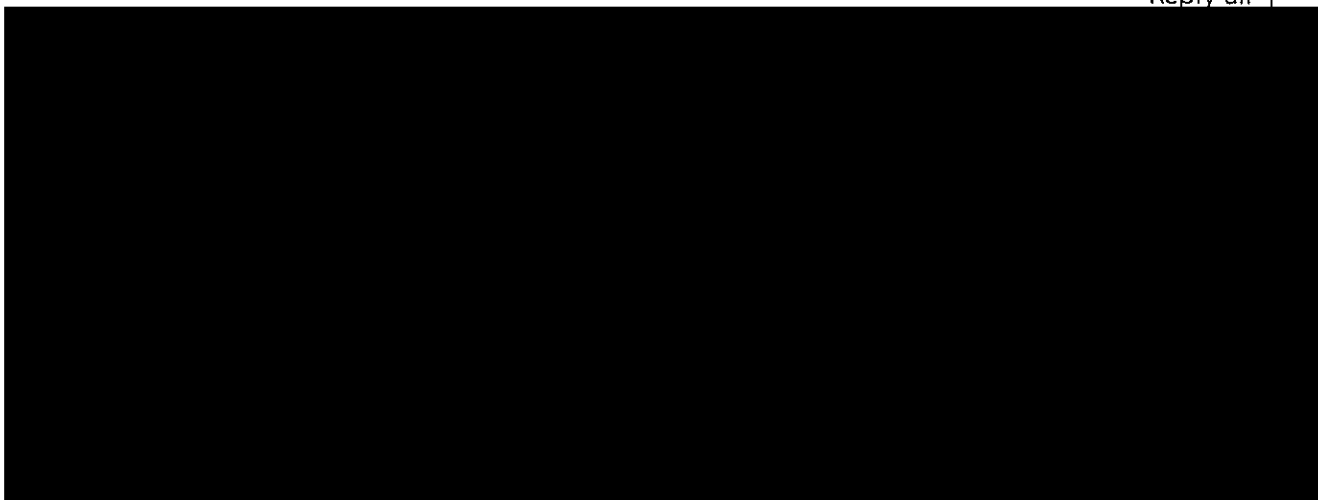


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Thompson+Clark SITREP: Animal Rights and GE Issues: 13 October 2016

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Weekly Situation Report

Animal Rights & GE Issues

Thompson+Clark Fusion Centre

Date: 13 October 2016

Contact:

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No Let Up on Caged Egg Campaign

13 October

The national animal rights group SAFE is not giving up any time soon on its long running campaign to have caged eggs banned in New Zealand. This week SAFE released this image on social media with the caption "No crime: just the egg industry determined to make a profit out of her hell."

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Claim Colony Cages Are a 'Con'

12 October

SAFE also posted this image below on its Facebook page as well, stating, "WATCH OUT. Seen the new 'colony laid' or 'colony eggs' in your supermarket? Don't be fooled by the big colony con."

Auckland Animal Rights Group Thrives

11 October

One of the newest animal rights groups on the scene, Direct Animal Action (Auckland) celebrates its first birthday this month with a special celebratory meeting on 16 October. The group has got over 1100 likes for its Facebook page and normally attracts over a dozen people to its fortnightly meetings on a Sunday morning in Grafton.

The group was very active in supporting the successful campaign to oppose the expansion of Craddock Farm's layer hen facility in south Auckland and is now currently focussed on campaigning against greyhound racing.

SAFE Highlights 'Speciesism'

11 October

Animal rights group SAFE has published this painting by American activist-painter Dana Ellyn entitled 'Coequal' to underscore a common argument in animal rights activism - what the activists call 'speciesism'.

Speciesism is what animal rights activists refer to as assigning different values, rights, or special consideration to animals solely on the basis of their species membership, ie: cows and pigs get treated differently by society than pet dogs and cats. Animal rights activists see no difference in how they should be treated.

World Vegetarian Month

10 October

SAFE has been promoting the fact October is World Vegetarian Month with an

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internet campaign called 'The Choice is Yours' and which links to SAFE's free Vegetarian Starter Guide. See: <http://dev.safe.org.nz/vsg>

Animal Law Advice When Harm Occurs

09 October

The Auckland-based New Zealand Animal Law Association (NZALA) has published advice on what recourse owners can take legally when their animal is harmed in anyway.

The society says it expects that most people would be surprised to learn that it is not a crime under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 to kill an animal, if it is done humanely. The Act prohibits the causing of pain and suffering that is unreasonable or unnecessary in the circumstances in which it is inflicted - so it is the causing of suffering, rather than the act of killing, that is prohibited.

Oddly, knowingly threatening to kill or injure an animal carries a maximum penalty of three years' imprisonment under s307 of the Crimes Act 1961 whereas killing an animal carries a maximum penalty of only three months' imprisonment or a fine not exceeding \$2000 under s11 of the Summary Offences Act 1981 (under which the animal would likely be considered 'property').

However, in any event, harming another person's animal may attract criminal liability under s269(2)(b) of the Crimes Act 1961, which prohibits "intentionally or recklessly and without claim of right destroying or damaging any property with intent to [...] cause loss to any other person." This section carries a maximum penalty of seven years' imprisonment

The property status of animals also means that a person who harms another's animal may face civil liability in tort, for example for trespass to chattels or conversion. Under such actions, the person may claim damages for the value of the animal. Damages for intangible loss may also be available, to recognise the pain and suffering that the interference with the animal may have caused to its owner or carer.

Membership of the NZ Animal Law Association is restricted to lawyers and enrolled law students.

Large Protest at Greyhound Racing AGM

08 October

Over 100 animal rights activists gathered outside Greyhound Racing NZ's annual AGM at Rydges Hotel in Auckland last Saturday morning.

The peaceful but noisy protest was part of nationwide action to highlight the

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hundreds of greyhounds which opponents to the sport say go missing (presumed killed) every year in the racing industry.

A Direct Animal Action spokesperson said during the protest the industry has a bad track record for animal abuse. "Every year, overbreeding is required by the industry in order for them to have the number of dogs they require to race," she says. "Those dogs can't be rehomed, so a lot of dogs - hundreds of dogs every year - are euthanised."

She went onto say that the Greyhound Protection League estimates that about 600 dogs are euthanized per year as a result of over breeding, lack of suitability to race, a short racing life, and injury.

Direct Animal action is part of a coalition of groups that is working towards a nationwide ban on greyhound racing. Greyhound racing is banned in many states of the US and is legal in only eight countries around the world.

The anti-greyhound racing lobby here has expressed dismay at the unexpected 180 degree turnaround by the New South Wales Government this week to rescind its ban on the sport and allow greyhound racing to continue, albeit under tighter controls and restrictions.

Wellington Greyhound Protest

08 October

Wellington animal rights protesters staged this protest (see photo below) in the Capital's Frank Kitts Park to mark a National Day of Action for Greyhounds to coincide with the NZ greyhound racing industry's AGM. Protest actions were carried out in Auckland (by Direct Animal Action) and Christchurch (by Christchurch Animal Rights Action and the NZ Greyhound Protection League).

The protest was carried out by the Wellington Animal Rights Network (WARN) and members of the league. It consisted of the protesters erecting 60 white crosses on the park's lawn. WARN says each cross was meant to represent 10 dogs, because the total number of greyhounds destroyed by the racing industry every year in New Zealand is estimated to be at least 600.

'Huge Win' Claimed For GE Free Status

07 October

The chairperson of GE Free Northland says the decision by Far North and Whangarei District councillors to unanimously restrict outdoor uses of genetic engineering "constitute a huge win for Northland, and their commitment to realise the aspirations

Reply all | Delete Junk |

of their constituents."

In a commentary published in the Northern Advocate, she says that for 12 years, the councils have worked collaboratively with the Auckland and Northland Regional councils to plot a path that works best for their communities and environment.

She says the GM (genetic modification) policies they have now adopted are "no hasty, knee-jerk reaction but are a sophisticated response following detailed review of the issues." Despite this, she says the Environment Minister continues what she calls "his odious attempt to quash our carefully considered policies."

She goes on to claim that, "In his campaign to overturn our democratically developed and fiscally prudent response, the Minister has tried unsuccessfully to cast local bodies as anti-science and anti-progress. His claims are untrue and denigrate our councils."

Northlanders, she asserts, have a huge appetite for innovation, but it "must benefit our land, reflect our cultural aspirations, and provide economic benefits. We rightly want a say on technologies that pose unnecessary risks.

"Despite the Minister's shrill and factually incorrect statements, GM food is widely condemned in markets our local producers supply. Market resistance to GMOs is deeply entrenched. Therefore, market-focused producers don't want GMOs near NZ fields and forests. It's also why economic opportunities for Northland growers involve supplying non-GM products, in keeping with our valuable Northland, Naturally brand," she says.

She adds that recently, the Minister has attempted to "generate a storm of political condemnation against the regions by focusing on GM medicines. To be clear, GE medical research in the laboratory is not subject to Whangarei or Far North plans prohibiting GM releases," she says.

She also says Members of Parliament will, "Need to step up soon", because the Minister wants to change the Resource Management Act to do the job. "Unable to get support from his parliamentary colleagues to extinguish the regions' ability to control GMOs", she claims the Minister is attempting a backdoor route to eradicate GM-Free zones by "seeking sweeping new powers over the regions, set out in s360D of the National Party's RMA reform bill."

She says the pretext for the powers is that councils' rules duplicate Wellington's. The Environment Court disagreed, and the High Court has affirmed its decision, she adds.

"The Ministry's officials also disagreed and admitted to Hastings District Council that the regions cannot create GM-Free zones under the national legislation. That is only possible under the RMA. In short, there is no duplication. With the sweeping powers he seeks, the Minister could overrule regional initiatives on lesser grounds than perceived duplication or even no grounds at all," she says.

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12-Year Old Takes on Supermarket

06 October

A south Auckland youngster has upped her campaign to stop Countdown supermarkets selling caged eggs by protesting directly to their doors.

The 12-year-old, along with 18 other youths who are part of various animal rights groups, protested outside Ponsonby Countdown dressed in chicken costumes and with one of them sitting in an upturned shopping trolley to represent a colony cage.

The 12-year old started an online petition earlier this year, calling on the supermarket chain to stop selling caged eggs, and which has been signed by more than 17,500 people. The Waikowhai Intermediate School student says the protest was organised without notice to the supermarket after having conversations with the animal rights organisation, SAFE, about how to get more exposure for the petition.

She has however had one meeting with Countdown, who then announced the Egg Producer Programme for Free Range and Barn eggs. However, the 12-year-old says she won't be satisfied until Countdown has ditched cage eggs completely and will continue to protest until they do.

The youngster's mother says she was a bit nervous about the protest as her daughter hadn't done anything like this before, but knowing she has the support of SAFE and the backing of nearly 18,000 people who had signed her petition reassured her "that she'd be doing the right thing standing up in this way."

SAFE's Campaigns Officer says the organisation will continue to support the girl through her campaigning as she is, "a great example of someone who cares and is taking action." SAFE says it supported her in organising the petition and the protest.

A Countdown spokesperson said the company has had conversations with the girl and her family, and SAFE, and they have let them know that they are increasing the amount of free range and barn eggs on their shelves but at the moment, only about 18 per cent of eggs produced in New Zealand are free range and the company also has an obligation to offer affordable options.

Waikato Bobby Calf Protest

22 October

Animal Action Waikato (AAW) is holding a protest to mark the end of the calving season in what the group says will be a vigil in memory of the 1.5 million bobby calves slaughtered this year. It will be held at AFFCO's Horotiu meatworks, a large slaughterhouse just outside of Hamilton, where the group says many of those animals met their fate.

AAW says, "The dairy industry in New Zealand slaughters millions of these innocent, days old calves every single year. All so humans can consume the milk that was

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intended for them. This is a draconian, cruel and unethical practice. Help us to remember these calves, each of who had a distinct personality and most importantly, the will to live. These calves were born to be killed.

"We will be attaching signed placards to a rope that will stretch alongside the slaughterhouse. If you are unable to attend but still want to participate, please send us your name and we will put in on a placard.

This is a peaceful protest; there will be no engagement with the employees of the slaughterhouse or with passerbys. We ask you to wear black. We have some signs and banners to hold, but please feel free to bring your own signs."

The protest is scheduled to run for an hour between 11am-12pm on 22 October.

Auckland Animal Rights Meeting 26 October

The NZ Anti-Vivisection Society is holding a meeting for Auckland supporters to brief them about the society's campaign to stop the new Otago University Animal Research Centre. This meeting is being held at the Auckland Friends Centre, 113 Mount Eden Road, Mt Eden, between 6pm-8pm. This meeting has been organised by the society's Auckland Volunteer Coordinator.

Otago University Animal Lab Protest 29 October

The New Zealand Anti-Vivisection Society (NZAVS) has organised another protest against Otago University building a new animal-based research centre to replace existing facilities.

In a message to supporters announcing the 90 minute protest on 29 October at 11.30am outside the building which houses the university's current animal research centre, the NZAVS said, "Located in the central region of the University of Otago's Dunedin campus is the Hercus building - the current animal lab of the University of Otago. People walk past this building everyday without knowing what it is and what is going on inside.

"Not many people stop for long enough to notice that the top story has all of its windows blacked out... this is where thousands of animals are used for experiments every year by the University of Otago. We will be coming together to teach the public what this building is and what happens behind those blacked out windows!

"The University of Otago will be replacing this old facility with the new \$50 million animal lab that they are currently building. Bring friends and family and come to our peaceful protest to help inform the public of what this building truly is. The

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University have no intention of stopping this outdated practise. Instead they are investing millions of dollars into their new 'upgraded' animal lab."
So far, 17 people have indicated via a Facebook events page for this protest that they will be going.

Whangarei Vegan Expo 29 October

Northland's first vegan expo is being held at the Whangarei Intermediate School, on 29 October, 10am-4pm. Adults, \$5, are children free.

Auckland Animal Rights Art Exhibition 28 November

The Auckland-based animal rights group Direct Animal Action (DAA) is holding a fundraising art exhibition in Auckland 28 November-03 December at the Allpress Art Studio in Freemans Bay, Auckland. All proceeds are going to the 'Paws Awhile' animal sanctuary in Raglan. Direct Animal, Action says the theme of the exhibition is "Animals - Seeing the Sentient Being". Most of the works will be auctioned on 01 December to raise campaign funds for DAA.

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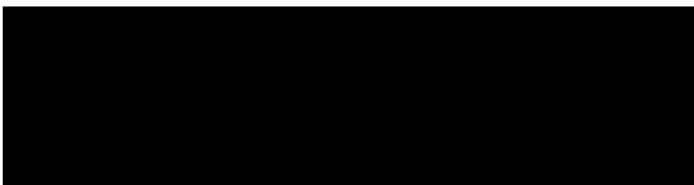
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Weekly Situation Report

Animal Rights & GE Issues



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Out of the Labs Petition

03 November

Almost 5,000 people (4,784 to be precise) have now signed a petition by two animal rights group calling on the Government to ensure all laboratory animals are rehomed at the end of the research they are used for.

The petition is being run by the NZ Anti-Vivisection Society (NZAVS) and HUHA of

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Wellington (Helping U Help Animals). According to the society, more than 100,000 laboratory rats are euthanised in New Zealand every year.



Another Hidden Camera Expose

02 November

As a follow up to last year's 'expose campaign' against what it says is institutionalized cruelty in the dairy industry, the militant animal rights group Farmwatch has released another covertly shot piece of footage - this time of a cow being suspended from a tractor.

The video was filmed at a Waikato farm last year, and shows the cow being suspended from the hip clamps until its front legs collapse with its dead calf lying metres away. A man then arrives and drags the cow along the ground with the tractor.

In a statement a Farmwatch spokesman said the footage has been reported to the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) but "they have done nothing to reprimand the farmer".

Use of hip clamps to support a cow that is unable to stand is legal, but in a media release, the national animal rights group SAFE said the treatment of the cow clearly failed to meet the minimum standards of the Dairy Cattle Code of Welfare.

Last month, Farmwatch released covert footage that was filmed in August showing further apparent mistreatment of bobby calves. The SPCA has condemned the treatment revealed in the hidden camera footage as "deeply disturbing and inhumane."

An investigation has been launched into the footage, taken on dairy farms in the Waikato and Taranaki in August by animal activist group Farmwatch. It comes after the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) introduced new regulations to improve how

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calves were treated, following previous hidden camera footage released in September last year. The SPCA New Zealand said the handling of the calves for transport to slaughterhouses, including throwing, dropping and dragging, as shown in the footage was not acceptable.



SAFE Collects More Than \$1 Million 01 November

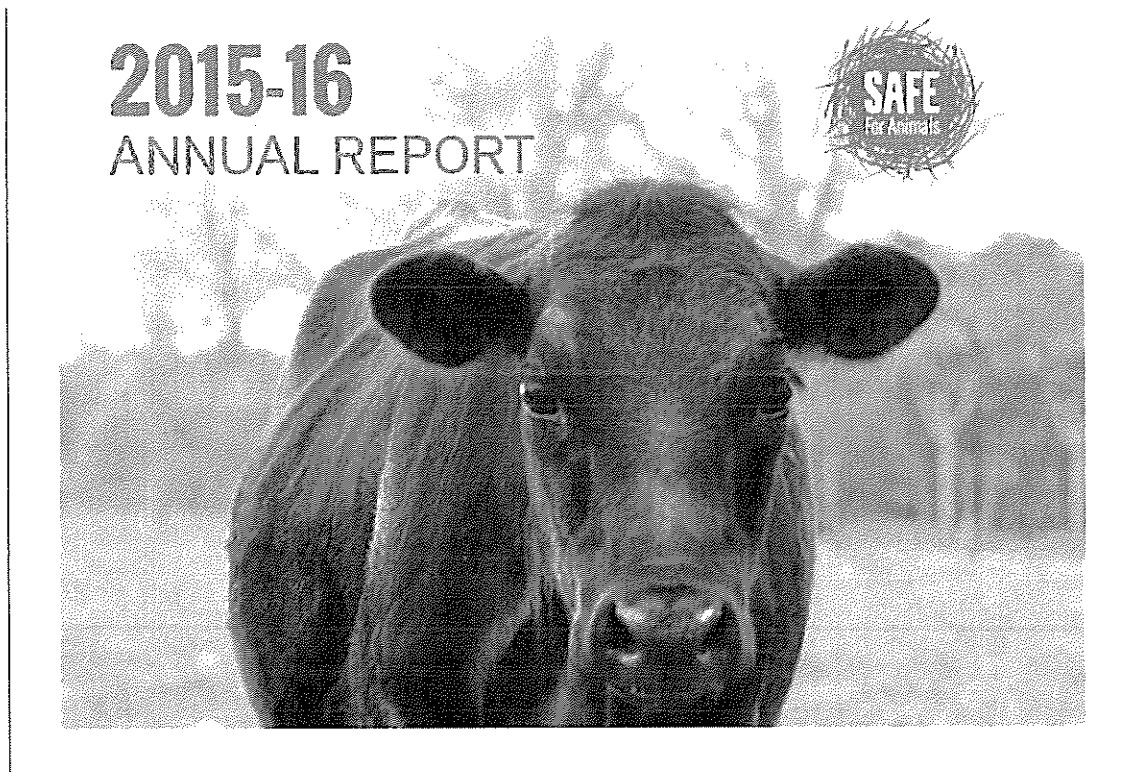
The annual report for the national animal rights group SAFE has again reported annual income in excess of \$1 million in donations and bequests.

Total income for 2015-2016 was \$1,373,951, with \$888,190 of that coming from donations and \$426,771 in bequests.

Total expenditure for the 2015-2016 year was \$1,057,484 with \$344,498 spent on "animal cruelty campaigns."

SAFE spent \$110,000 last year operative its three permanently staffed offices in Auckland, Wellington, and Christchurch. That left SAFE with an excess of income over expenditure of more than \$300,000.

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Research Centre Targeted in Protest

29 October

About 50 people (as reported by the media, although the activists claim 60) protested in Dunedin last Saturday outside the University of Otago's existing animal research centre in the Hercus Building.

The protest was organised by the NZ Anti-Vivisection Society (NZAVS), and challenges the construction of a new \$50 million animal research centre at the University of Otago to replace the one in the Hercus Building.

The Anti-Vivisection Society says the university euthanised more than 1100 animals for research last year alone, and that not only is animal research cruel, it doesn't work.

"We believe that animal-based research is not the most relevant or applicable research method when it comes to finding cures for humans," says the Anti-Vivisection Society's Christchurch-based Executive Director.

The main reason for Saturday's protest was public awareness. "As we've progressed through this campaign, we've noticed that more and more people aren't even aware that there's a current animal lab in Dunedin, let alone a whole new one being built," she added.

The protest was supported by other animal rights groups, including the Dunedin Animal Rights Collective, and whose leader told the news media, animal based models did not work in research into human health issues. "It's not producing the data we need to solve human health issues. Alternatives are needed. There are



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currently three universities working on these alternatives," he said.
"Nine out of 10 animal tests fail. So I'm not just here for the animals; I'm here for proper human-based medical progression," another protester was quoted as saying.



Activists revisit Bobby Calf Issue

31 October

Animal rights group Farmwatch says the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) needs to carry out its own pro-active investigations because it is spending a

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disproportionate amount of time chasing up the instances of abuse in the dairy industry that they have uncovered.

A spokesman for the group said, "They are still investigating last year's footage, which is with the legal team who are deciding whether any action can be taken. They say they are disappointed we didn't come to them earlier with our footage, but it takes ages for them to act."

It was difficult to assess the scale of animal abuse, he said. In virtually all of the cases Farmwatch had recorded, farmers or transport operators had been abusive, although Federated Farmers disagrees, saying they were carrying out best practice.

The MPI has responded by saying it was not possible to police farms on a 24/7 basis but it would be boosting the number of welfare inspectors across the country to complement its nationwide team of compliance officers who also undertake animal welfare enforcement activities.

Farmwatch's spokesman says that in one instance where he was filming, the worker knew he was being watched and had behaved impeccably towards the calves as he was loading them on to a truck. But in other instances it was a case of "out of sight, out of mind".

However, fewer bobby calves have died on their way to processing works this year than last, according to the MPI. A spokesman for the industry said the season was not yet over so the data was provisional. However, information to date shows that mortality rates have reduced significantly compared to the 2015 season. The MPI said the death rate of transported calves had fallen from 0.7 per cent in 2008 to 0.25 per cent in 2015.



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University Hit in Dawn Protest

28 October

Dunedin animal rights activists staged a protest at 4am one morning last week when they got up early to stick on a wall over 11,000 cardboard hearts representing each animal they say that died in University of Otago teaching and research last year.

The 11,358 pink hearts were stuck onto the wall that has been erected around the the building site of the university's new animal research facility.

"Each heart represents one animal that was killed by the University of Otago for research, testing and teaching last year," the Executive Director of the NZ Anti-Vivisection Society, which helped organise the protest, said.

The group wants the university to switch the purpose of the \$50 million building to non-animal-based research.

However, the protest was short lived, as within two hours, the hearts had been removed by university cleaners and which prompted a quick response from the society.

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"We are really concerned by this reaction," the society's Executive Director said. "If animal-based research truly was the best and most advanced research method that the university had access to, why would they feel the need to hide it so quickly?"

A university spokeswoman, however, described the hearts as graffiti. University staff had met the group about the protest. The university says it holds the view that animal-based research is a vital component in important medical and scientific advances and that all such research undertaken goes through a strict ethics approval process and is carried out as humanely as possible. It adds that the university has always explicitly forbidden the testing of consumer products on animals, and supports alternatives to animal-based research where these are feasible.



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Kiwi Support for 'Monsanto Tribunal' 26 October

Kiwi anti-GMO activists in Auckland supported the international NGO Monsanto Tribunal held in the Hague last month.

The tribunal is an international civil society initiative to hold Monsanto accountable for alleged human rights violations, for crimes against humanity, and for ecocide.

The coordinator for the GE Free Auckland Coalition said it was important for her members to get out on the street and show solidarity with the Tribunal and also for World Food Day.

"It is time people became aware of the damage to health and the environment caused by profit motivated industrial agricultural companies," she added.

The Tribunal hearing room was filled to capacity with participants and interested community representing 30 nationalities. Many thousands also watched it lived streamed all over the world.

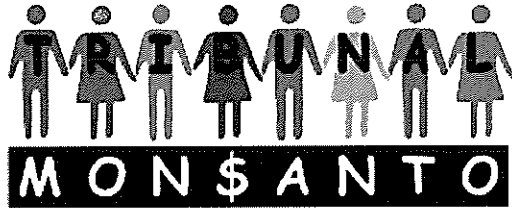
The opening statement set the stage for the proceedings with one delegate saying, "This is a struggle not against one multinational corporation, it is a struggle for life, it is a struggle for liberty. A struggle to stop big companies from colonizing our food systems, colonizing our agriculture, holding mother Earth as a slave for their profits," he said.

The Tribunal heard evidence and testimony from lawyers and witnesses who say they suffered from the effects of Monsanto's and other corporations' pesticides and agricultural biotechnology over the past decades.

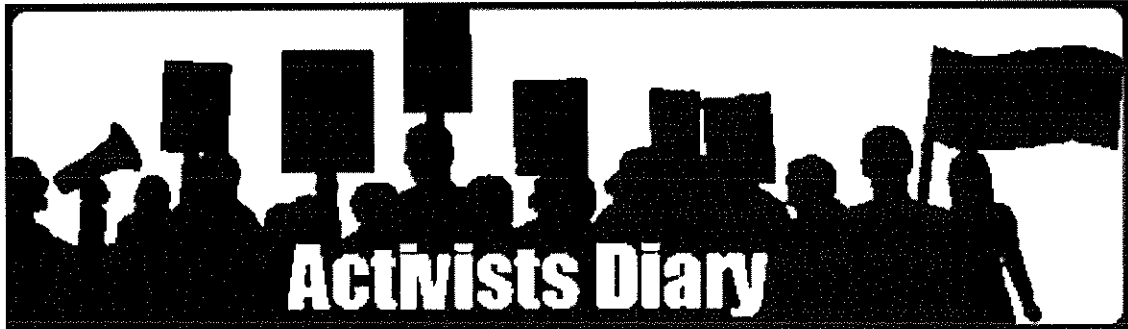
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The chairwoman of the five judge Tribunal, stated, "The questions of the access to water and to healthy food are old... It is our duty to set legal tools to face those issues. The Monsanto Tribunal is a step and a tool within this dynamic.

The evidence presented over the weekend shows that ecocide is one of the biggest crimes and threats to society and existence we have ever faced," said the President of GE Free NZ. The Tribunal has reserved its decision until 10 December, the International Day of Human Rights.



**International Monsanto Tribunal
in The Hague 14th -16th of October 2016
for crimes against humanity and ecocide**



Auckland Vegan Ball 05 November

The Vegan Ball is an annual fundraising event designed to help raise awareness and funding for New Zealand based Animal Rights Charities and Organisations. This year the Vegan Ball is being held in Auckland after its initial appearance last year in Whangarei.

The theme this year is Spring Soiree, a cocktail style event featuring mix of vegan musicians, entertainment, guest speakers, raffles, an auction supported by artists and businesses, plus vegan cocktails and food. It is being held at Western Springs, 6pm-11pm.



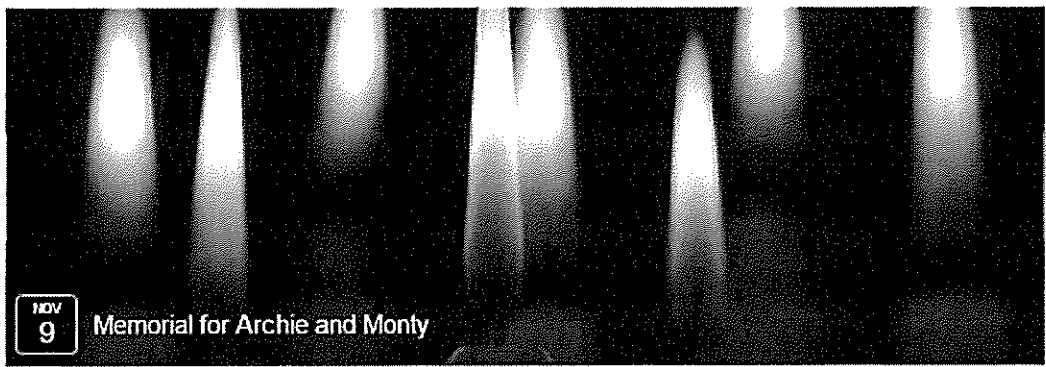
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Funeral Service for Lab Rats 09 November

The NZ Anti-Vivisection Society (NZAVS) says it is holding a memorial service at its Addington, Christchurch, head office for two 'rescued' laboratory rats which had become office pets, but passed away recently. This event starts at 6pm and will run to 9pm on 09 November. The rats known as Archie and Monty were part of a small number of animals the society says were 'rescued' from a "vivisection facility in New Zealand."

The society says Archie and Monty are "both getting cremated together and they will continue to watch over NZAVS headquarters in Christchurch."



Wellington Animal Rights Meeting 11 November

The New Zealand Anti-Vivisection Society is holding a meeting for Wellington supporters on 11 November to update them on the national wide campaign the society is running to stop the construction of the new Otago University Animal Research Centre. This meeting is being held on 11 November at the Thistle Hall Community Centre, at 6pm.

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Auckland Animal Rights Art Exhibition 28 November

The Auckland-based animal rights group Direct Animal Action (DAA) is holding a fundraising art exhibition in Auckland 28 November-03 December at the Allpress Art Studio in Freemans Bay, Auckland. All proceeds are going to the 'Paws Awhile' animal sanctuary in Raglan. Direct Animal, Action says the theme of the exhibition is "Animals - Seeing the Sentient Being". Most of the works will be auctioned on 01 December to raise campaign funds for DAA.



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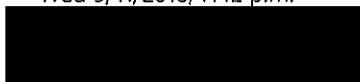
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Thompson+Clark SITREP: Animal Rights and GE Issues: 10 November 2016

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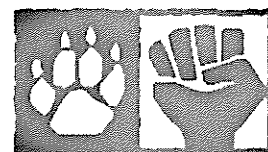
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Weekly Situation Report

Animal Rights & GE Issues



Thompson+Clark Fusion Centre

Date: 10 November 2016

Contact:



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Militant Activist Back on the Scene

10 November

One of the country's previously most militant animal rights activists appears to have come back onto the scene and is taking an active role again in the

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Wellington group (WARN) he founded over a decade ago.

The activist, who is a committed anarchist, founded the Wellington Animal Rights Network (WARN) and the now defunct Open Rescue group, which specialised in farm break-ins in the mid-2000s.

However, he took a back seat in the animal rights protest movement after racking up more than a dozen arrests for burglary and protests against animal rights targets and after discovering that one of his closest friends in the animal rights movement was in fact a long-time police informer who had been reporting on him for several years.

Prior to this, the activist had become close to several leading British members of the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) and had travelled to the UK to train with them.

However, after a hiatus of some years, this week the Wellington-based activist has popped up several times in photographs on the WARN Facebook page, including one showing him with a former Auckland member of Open Rescue who has relocated to Wellington and is helping run WARN. The photograph shows the two posing with a bundle of protest banners they have received from another animal rights group, SAFE (see image below).

In October 2008, the activist got a final warning from a Palmerston North District Court judge who told him that despite his "sincerely held views" to expect a custodial sentence the next time he appeared on charges of breaking into farms and stealing animals. On this occasion, the activist was sentenced to 150 hours' community work and ordered to pay \$180 compensation to Turk's Poultry for "liberating" 20 layer hens during a 2006 break-in.

Prior to this, the activist had a history of targeting butcher's trucks and animal research facilities such as the one formerly at Wallaceville.

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Memorial for Laboratory Rats

10 November

The NZ Anti-Vivisection Society which adopted two rats stolen by animal rights activists from a research laboratory, held a candle-lit memorial for them at the society's Christchurch offices after they had to be put down recently.

The rats were kept at the society's head office as a symbolic reminder of all laboratory animals at research facilities across New Zealand and which the society would like to see released. Even after death, the society says the two rats will remain at its head office and will be interned at a special shrine created for them after the society had them cremated and their ashes put into a custom made and inscribed coffin (see image below).

The memorial was also marked in a separate ceremony by some of the society's Wellington supporters. Commenting on the event, the society said in a Facebook post, "Isn't it amazing how some people can treat rats as if they are nothing more than mere lab tools (contributing to thousands of them being used and killed in NZ for RTT every year). Then there are people who see how

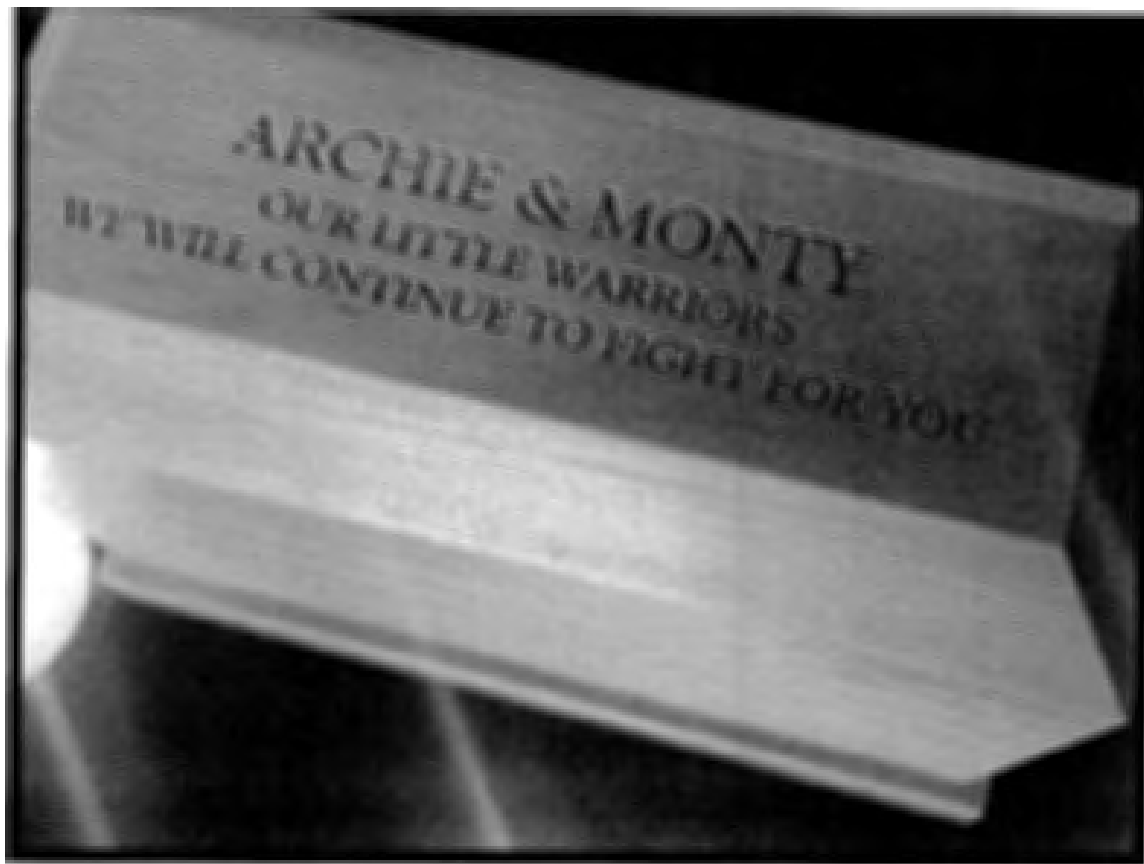


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intelligent, caring and loving rats are - these are the people who instead of killing rats, help fight to end their suffering."



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Wellington Slaughterhouse Protest

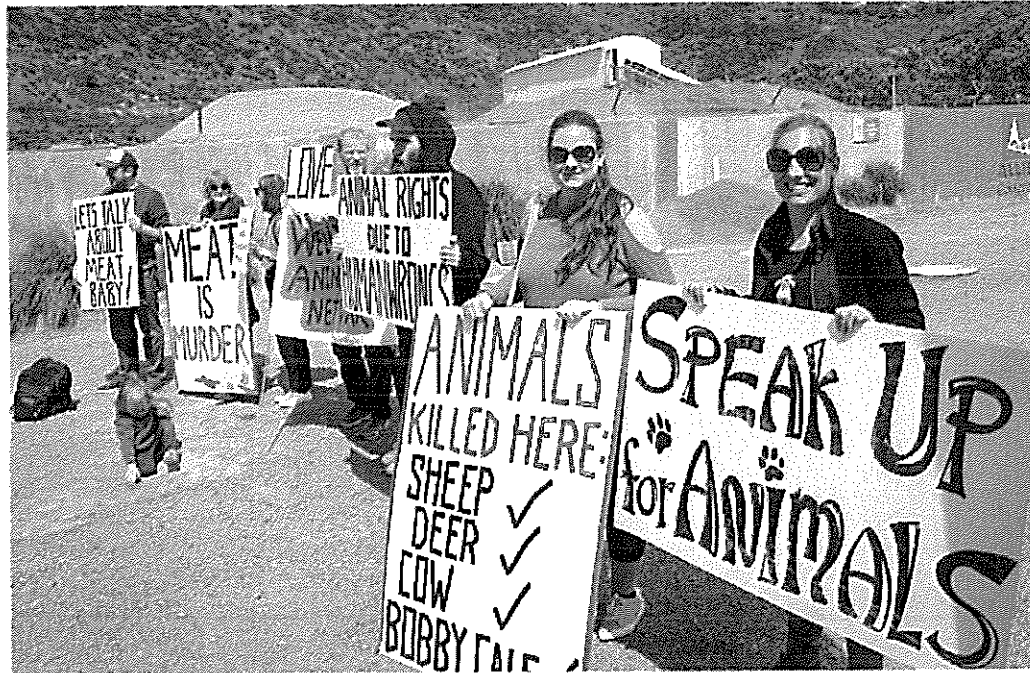
09 November

The Wellington Animal Rights Network (WARN) again protested this week outside the Wellington meat processing plant of Taylor Preston in the Ngauranga Gorge, posting the photograph of the protest on its Facebook page on 09 November.

It appears about a dozen people (excluding children) attended the protest which provides a good insight into the numbers this group can assemble for a protest.

This time WARN says it teamed up with another Wellington animal rights group to stage the protest - 'Speak Up for the Animals'.

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Activists Oppose Prison For Animal Abuse

09 November

Perhaps surprisingly, the militant animal rights group whose undercover video footage of animal abuse has sent a slaughterman to prison for two years is opposed to him being jailed. This is despite the same group criticising the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) for not taking a more aggressive line with abuse of farm animals.

Farmwatch says it doesn't agree with the outcome of a successful appeal taken by the MPI which saw the High Court overturn a District Court sentence of home detention for a Waikato slaughterman convicted of abusing bobby calves after Farmwatch fitted covert cameras at his workplace to capture the abuse.

Farmwatch's Auckland-based spokesman and camera installer said this week that the slaughterman has been made a scapegoat and the prison sentence handed down will not help address the issues which cause such problems. Prison was not a good environment for rehabilitating people, and he would have preferred a restorative justice sentence.

"We would have preferred to have seen an investigation into what was behind his actions, and what we believe is a systemic failure in the industry. Going after this one guy is not going to help the millions of calves born in New Zealand every year," he told the news media after hearing of the appeal's

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outcome.

SAFE and the SPCA had put a lot of energy into creating new rules and pragmatic solutions for dealing with bobby calves, and they would like to see more effort put into enforcing those, including more surveillance, he said.

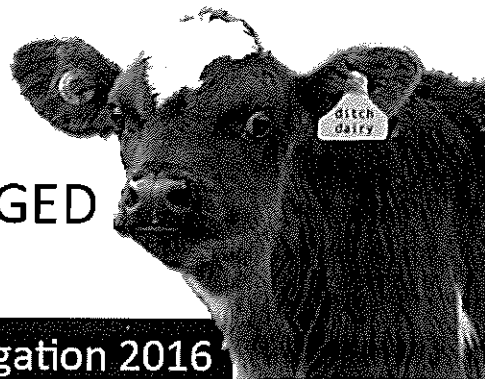
"If they had done that I would have given MPI more credit, but achieving a prison sentence is an easy way for them to get kudos," he added.

He claims animal abuse was widespread in the industry, and other workers at the slaughterhouse where the slaughterman worked must have seen what was happening and took no action themselves.

Farmwatch says a neighbouring farmer had known how the slaughterhouse dealt with bobby calves and as a result had stopped sending them there.

From August next year farmers will have to have loading and unloading facilities when young calves are transported for sale and slaughter and appropriate shelter. Primary Industries Minister Nathan Guy said there would be a cost on farmers, but the benefit in terms of looking after calves and protecting reputation was more than worth it in the long run.

NZ Dairy Industry NOTHING HAS CHANGED



farmwatch follow up investigation 2016

Decision Not to Ban Rodeo

Disappoints

08 November

The Government's announcement that it will not ban rodeos following a 63,000-signature petition from New Zealanders, has angered leading animal welfare organisations who have protested outside Parliament following the decision.

The national animal rights group SAFE (which is by far the largest and best resourced after the SPCA) has called the process a big disappointment, both for animals and the public who, the organisation says, made it clear that they wanted rodeo banned.

In addition to the petition, a poll supplied to Parliament's Primary Production Select Committee, tasked with making the decision, found that more than half

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(59 percent) of the respondents supported a ban on using animals in rodeos in New Zealand. Just 25 percent of respondents opposed a ban.

In July 2015, SAFE joined with two other animal rights groups - Farmwatch and SPCA New Zealand - to form a coalition calling for a ban on rodeo, saying it is both unethical and inherently cruel, and that it breaks New Zealand law that says animals must not be subjected to unnecessary pain or distress.

Footage shot around New Zealand by the activists showed animals suffering fear and distress after being prodded, slapped, having their tail twisted, and collapsing from stress.

"We have filmed at many rodeos over the last three seasons. At every rodeo we have seen animals who were clearly terrified and distressed by being forced to participate in these events. We have seen animals being punched, kicked and electrically prodded," Farmwatch's Wellington spokeswoman is quoted as saying in response to Parliament's decision.

The three groups are vowing to continue the campaign to end rodeo and are asking people to boycott rodeos in the upcoming season.

A report on the petition by Parliament's Primary Production Select Committee concluded there are adequate animal welfare safeguards already for rodeos. The Committee noted that the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC) in October 2014 concluded a lengthy review of the 2003 code of animal welfare, which called for a ban on sheep riding at rodeos and made attendance by a vet and safety officer compulsory.

The Committee also noted that the Rodeos' Code of Welfare included requirements such as animals being inspected by a vet before performing, and that they be handled in a way to reduce distress.

The Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) has an enforcement role to ensure the welfare code is being met, and told the committee that compliance was sufficient. The MPI and NAWAC also submitted that the petitioner's claim that scrapping rodeos would have little negative social and economic effect was untested and that on the contrary, rodeos are one of the many competitive events that occur in rural communities and that they play an important part in building and maintaining the cohesion of these communities.

The Committee however noted that NAWAC was currently considering guidelines for "closer regulation and reduction" of animals used in rodeos.

In a minority view, the Green Party said the code of welfare for rodeo animals did not go far enough, and it was highly concerning that electric prods, rope burning, flank straps and calf roping were all currently permitted.

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Rural Antipathy Towards Activists

05 November

The antipathy that is starting to develop in some rural and farming circles towards the militant animal rights group Farmwatch has been illustrated by the publication of an opinion piece in the rural newspaper and social media website 'The Country'.

Written by South Island media personality and commentator Jim Hopkins, the article pulls no punches and describes Farmwatch as, "A bunch of veggie venerating vengeful vegans hell-bent on making New Zealand 9 billion dollars poorer. They plan to be the conqueror who sinks 'cruel farming industries.' The real purpose of their bobby calf expose is clear. If you want people to 'turn their back', you turn their stomach first. You use a minority to ruin everybody else. And, so far, it's working. Never have so many been so harmed by so few."

The article describes Farmwatch's mindset as one that "[H]ates dairy. No, Farmwatch loathes dairy. If they could turn every cow shed in the country into a turnip nursery, they would. Farmwatch is at war, waging a hidden camera campaign to win the battle for hearts and minds."

The Country article says that if you're a dairy farmer, Farmwatch gotcha. "They

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gotcha good. You were always their target. The repugnant abuse of bobby calves was a means to an end. Farmwatch hopes the savagery of a few thugs will give them a bigger victory. They want to destroy an industry."
For the full article, see: <http://tinyurl.com/oj9fc93>



Wellington Animal Rights Meeting 11 November

The New Zealand Anti-Vivisection Society is holding a meeting for Wellington supporters on 11 November to update them on the national wide campaign the society is running to stop the construction of the new Otago University Animal Research Centre. This meeting is being held on 11 November at the Thistle Hall Community Centre, at 18:00hrs.

Auckland Animal Rights Meeting 13 November

The Auckland animal rights group Direct Animal Action is holding is regularly fortnightly meeting on Sunday 13 November between 11:30-12:30hrs at the Hum Salon, 123 Grafton Road, Auckland central. Eight people have indicated on a Facebook events page for this meeting that they will be attending.

Auckland Animal Rights Art Exhibition 28 November

The Auckland-based animal rights group Direct Animal Action (DAA) is holding a fundraising art exhibition in Auckland 28 November-03 December at the Allpress Art Studio in Freemans Bay, Auckland. All proceeds are going to the 'Paws Awhile' animal sanctuary in Raglan. Direct



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Animal, Action says the theme of the exhibition is "Animals - Seeing the Sentient Being".
Most of the works will be auctioned on 01 December to raise campaign funds for DAA. So far, more than 180 people have indicated on this event's Facebook page that they will be attending.

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Weekly Situation Report

Animal Rights & GE Issues

Thompson+Clark Fusion Centre

Date: 24 November 2016

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SAFE Launches a Fax Protest 24 November

In one of its more novel forms of protest of late, the national animal rights group has decided to launch a protest campaign of sending faxes to Countdown Supermarkets, urging the chain to cease selling cage eggs.

SAFE claims that Countdown is still "stuck in the past still selling cruel cage eggs, so maybe going 'old school' with our messaging is what will hit home."

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SAFE's campaign material also says it will send the faxes on people's behalf and urges them to "Think about it; Countdown probably receives hundreds of emails a day compared with a handful of faxes.

"Simply add your message to Countdown in the comments below saying you want them to stop selling cage eggs and why, and we'll make sure it gets sent through as a fax."

Maori Party a 'Threat to GE Free' 23 November

The issue motivated group GE Free NZ claims GE Free zones from Hawkes Bay to Kaitia are at risk from the Maori Party's support of the Resource Legislation Amendment Bill (RLA) through to its second reading.

GE Free NZ says it is urging the Maori Party to reconsider their support of the Bill that it says gives the Minister powers to override local government rules and policies on land use in their regions. The Resource Management Act (RMA), allows Councils to place precautionary policies in their plans that will protect GMO-free production and exports. However, the RLA would take away Councils' authority, says GE Free NZ.

"In essence the Maori Party is agreeing to remove New Zealand's GE Free status, and undermine our world class standard for safety and zero tolerance on importation of viable GE seeds," says GE Free NZ's national spokesman.

GE-Free NZ says it rejects claims that GE-Free zones must be sacrificed to remove trade barriers for ratification of free trade agreements like the Trans Pacific Partnership. "Clean agricultural production is New Zealand's point of difference, not a trade barrier. Recent decisions allowing US States to regulate GMOs supports this view. The United States Court Of Appeals For The Ninth Circuit has ruled that if state law allows regulation of harmful plants, they can declare GE Free Regions."

"Minister Smith's legislation is using a false premise to strip regions of their rights and to get rid of New Zealand's GE Free status. At the same time as the proposed RMA amendments, Federated Farmers are challenging the Far North and Whangarei District Councils plans to place prohibitions on the growing of GE crops in the Northland region, as well as appealing the High Court decision allowing the Whangarei Regional Council long term plan on GE crops."

GE Free NZ says the Minister is not listening to farmers but is, "Following an agenda that is led by a lobby of corporate businesses that have promoted genetic engineering for the last 19 years. New Zealand has benefited from not adopting GMO agriculture. The comparison by the New York Times of EU and US outcomes for agriculture supports protection of New Zealand's GE-free status."

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Inquiry into Greyhound Racing

22 November

An inquiry into the welfare of greyhounds will be undertaken by the New Zealand Racing Board.

The inquiry will look into aspects of the racing and breeding of greyhounds and will be conducted by former High Court judge Rodney Hansen.

Judge Hansen will review breeding and racing practices, life-cycle tracking of New Zealand-bred and imported greyhounds, and what happens when the animals are retired from racing. However, it won't be open to public submissions.

The Chair of the New Zealand Racing Board said since a Select Committee review three years ago, the greyhound racing industry has made progress in the protection of dogs.

She said the inquiry would look into whether there was a need for further review and whether there was any need for improvement.

The inquiry is due to completed by the middle of next year.

SAFE Spoof on Colony Eggs

21 November

SAFE has used TV personality and known animal rights advocate Suzanne Paul to front a spoof video attacking colony eggs.

The video is presented as a satirical look at all the benefits colony cages offer layer hens over the old battery cages. It sets out to establish that there is no real difference or welfare benefits.

The video can be viewed here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=INPk1YV2LPg

Volunteering for Animal Sanctuary

16 November

Members of the Auckland University Animal Rights Group, who on 16 November spent the day volunteering at the Matakana Animal Sanctuary north of Auckland. Volunteer days at the sanctuary are a regular event organised by the group.

Animal Models a 'Wild Goose Chase'

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15 November

Laboratory mice are leading medical researchers on a "wild goose chase" when it comes to developing new drugs, with only one in nine drug trails which succeed in animal trials making it to market, according to the NZ Anti-Vivisection Society (NZAVS).

It is a position supported by Stanford University associate professor of comparative medicine Joseph Garner, whose research focuses on why many studies of new medicines which show promising results in mice, fail to work when they are tested on humans.

Dr Garner is quoted as telling Radio NZ's told Nine to Noon this issue has been discussed since the mid-1980s and there is a growing realisation in academia and the public about the problem.

"There are two possibilities," he says, "either mice are inherently bad test subjects or there are systematic problems in how we perform animal experiments. And I actually think that the wealth of evidence is that it's the latter," he says.

"I think mice are actually fantastic models for particular problems ... but from behaviour research to cancer research I think we can see some pretty systematic issues ... that are actually low hanging fruit."

However, he says the problem is "very fixable". The underlying problem is that mice are not treated the same as human patients and human research keeping mice in these "very barren, very standardised – arbitrarily standardised" - environments and, at the end of the day, variability is what's special in biology. Variability is what makes us ill."

"Mice were phenomenal testing models," he says, "because they are the only species that have followed human population expansion around the globe, adapting to every environment we create, and can contract the same types of diseases that humans can.

But keeping them in barren laboratory environments had the counter-intuitive result of making the experiments more difficult to reproduce between labs, he says.

"Because there will be something different in one lab that you don't even know about because you can't hear ultrasound or you can't see ultraviolet light or you can't smell the things that mice smell.

"The real trick to all this is to embrace the variability that's inherent in mice rather than trying to control it."

Dr Garner says a particular problem is that mice do not accurately model the disease which researchers are trying to treat - particularly conditions such as autism, obsessive compulsive disorder and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder.

Mice are not useful for investigating the social deficits of autism - lack of social play, eye contact or the ability to understand private mental states in other individuals - because they do not possess these traits in the first place, he says.

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Wellington Animal Rights Christmas Event

10 December

The Wellington Animal Rights Network (WARN) Christmas dinner held in conjunction with the Black Sheep Animal Sanctuary at the St Johns in the City Presbyterian Church. WARN will be serving a vegan dinner and dessert and presenting a summary of its protest action for the year. Waged \$20, unwaged \$15, children a donation. All profits will be split evenly between WARN and the Black Sheep Sanctuary.

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Weekly Situation Report

Animal Rights & GE Issues

Thompson+Clark Fusion Centre

Date: 01 December 2016

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The \$2000 Chook 01 December

This corrugated iron and hand painted hen donated by Helensville artist Jeff Thomson is expected to fetch at least \$2000 for the animal rights group Direct Animal Action which is auctioning it and other art works in Auckland this week as

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part of its 'Seeing the Sentient Being' exhibition to raise funds for the Paws Awhile Animal Sanctuary in Raglan.

Around 30 established and emerging artists including Flox, Paul Walsh, Jeff Thomson, Greta Anderson, Erin Simpson, Bronwynne Cornish and Mary McIntyre have donated work to be auctioned on 01 December at Auckland's Allpress Gallery.

In addition, Auckland artist Paul Walsh created a bespoke art piece on the night in a temporary studio set up on the balcony of the Allpress Gallery and which was auctioned to the highest bidder.

See: www.seeingthesentientbeing.com/

SAFE Plays Christmas Grinch

30 November

The national animal rights group SAFE has launched a campaign asking people not to buy Christmas hams in the interests of animal rights.

SAFE says pigs are intelligent animals; they are smarter than dogs and three-year-old children. They have complex emotions and feel pain and experience joy. Pigs dream, have long memories, can solve mazes and other puzzles, and like to play. So it's sad, claims SAFE, that most pigs in New Zealand, especially those who become a traditional Christmas ham, lead miserable lives on factory farms.

"While we celebrate, for a sow on a factory farm December 25 will be a day of suffering just like every other day of the year. Kept in a farrowing crate, a mother pig is denied her most basic rights and needs - even being unable to turn around - whilst her piglets are kept in barren concrete pens to be fattened up to be hams."

However, SAFE says, "The best way you can help end their suffering is to leave the ham off the menu. Instead, enjoy a delicious Christmas dinner with our easy, cruelty-free, festive recipes."

SAFE says it and its sister group Farmwatch have "exposed the ongoing cruelty on pig farms." SAFE claims the animal welfare standards in New Zealand are so low that ham from pigs living in the manner shown in covert footage taken by Farmwatch during break-ins at pig farms may be 'Pig Care' approved.

"Even the worst factory farm practices are approved under the NZ pork industry's 'Pig Care' scheme, which makes the label meaningless. It's nothing more than a marketing ploy to trick caring people," says SAFE's Head of Campaigns.

'No Need for Risky GM Technology'

29 November

The Research Manager at Pacific Biocarbon (Alfred Harris) has written in an opinion

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piece published in the NZ Farmer claiming that, "New Zealand can once again become world leaders in pastoral farming without the need for expensive and risky GM technology."

He writes that despite what scientists might like to think, research is just one of the many factors farmers have to juggle. "Farmers take the simplification of uncertainty that is science and combine it with their own innovations and new technologies to make the small incremental changes in farming practices that constantly improve farm productivity and sustainability. To do this, farmers need plain English access to research, and to talk with scientists," he says.

The piece goes on to say that, "Nowhere is such communication more urgently needed than in the groundhog country of genetic modification research. When I read that Dr William Rolleston is once again lobbying for GM crops and pastures, or that GE-Free NZ is saying that GMOs cannot be part of a sustainable future I suspect that I, like many farmers, wonder whether anything has really changed since the Royal Commission on GM 15 years ago.

"On some fronts not a lot has changed. Consumer perceptions continue to shape market considerations. I still remember Zespri politely informing the Royal Commission that any field trials on GM products could ruin the emerging trade in the then relatively new gold kiwifruit.

"Zespri's view was the public could easily come to believe that what is a different species might be a genetically modified green kiwifruit.

"The politics of GM has seen the Green Party move on from the misguided belief that they could 'prove' that a moratorium on GM was absolutely necessary. After quietly dropping anti-GM as a major policy platform the Greens have moved further to the right with multiple policy personalities ranging from anti-fracking to climate change. What has not changed is the firm view by the Greens that they know what is best for everyone, including farmers.

"What has changed most is the science. Fifty years of molecular biology has produced results requiring a deep rethinking of basic evolutionary concepts. Instead of proving the hard genetic wiring of living things by an all-determining genome, molecular biologists now understand much more about how microbes and organisms regulate the expression, reproduction, transmission, and restructuring of their DNA molecules.

"Since the Royal Commission on GM, molecular biologists have established that natural genetic modification (NGM) plays a substantial role in evolution. These processes are significantly different from what GM-Free NZ opposes and Dr Rolleston proposes.

"NGM does not proceed by selection of random mutations in DNA. Things thought to be impossible less than 20 years ago, such as gene transfer between different species, are now known to be the norm in microbes, and to play a key role in evolution. NGM most commonly occurs by the rearrangement of existing DNA sequences, and in a surprising large number of cases the rearrangement of whole genomes.

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"The really good thing for plant or animal breeders is that GM in the old-fashioned sense of shifting genes from one organism into another or around in the same organism is not the only option and probably not the best. Better technical methods such as CRISPR for more precisely introducing or shifting around genes may have reduced but do not eliminate concerns among researchers about the risks of non-target effects.

"The other tsunami of change overtaking the scientific world and just beginning to register in the public consciousness is the importance of the vast number of bugs that live on and in us. Farmers, students and the wider public need to hear more in plain English about this exciting new research.

"A better understanding of NGM and microbial interactions with plants, animals and humans has the potential to revolutionise plant and animal selection and human medicine, and reduce antibiotic and fertiliser use. It will also improve food productivity and food quality.

"Some of the best and most exciting research in these fields is being done by New Zealanders working both here and abroad.

Scientists at AgResearch in Palmerston North showed that the white clover that for many years underpinned pastoral agriculture in New Zealand has a relatively recent evolutionary origin, probably from a natural hybrid between two other clover species. Hybridisation as a way of better meeting more exacting environmental requirements such as nitrogen leaking from high input dairy farms is a cheaper and less risky option than the rather more random methods of GM.

"Perhaps one of the most exciting areas pioneered in New Zealand by Dr Robert Hill from Lincoln University is the use of selected beneficial root-associated fungi to improve plant growth and disease resistance. He has won multiple awards for this work.

"Put simply, Hill reaps the results of millions of years of evolution by selecting beneficial root fungi from healthy plants. He then carefully isolates different species of a group of symbiotic fungi known as Trichoderma, and then laboriously tests them in various combinations to address specific problems in forestry, horticultural, pastoral, and arable farming.

"The bonus is not only improved plant health but also improved plant growth. Hill's research has already been used to address specific plant disease problems such as PSA-V in kiwifruit. He says there are still enormous gains to be made in improving growth and reducing fertiliser requirements, eg in kiwifruit and pastoral farming.

"Changes in agricultural practices can help the world reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve food security. New hybrid clovers with lower leaf N could see a return to biological N fixation in dairy farming. Management of beneficial root fungi can improve plant health and productivity while reducing antibiotic and fertiliser requirements.

"New Zealand can once again become world leaders in pastoral farming without the need for expensive and risky GM technology. What is urgently needed is for the word to get out there and for farmers and scientist to begin to work together again,"



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he says.

Complaint 'GE' is Being Normalised

28 November

The chairperson of GE Free New Zealand has claimed that there is another definitive study showing damage to the intestinal tract from Bt insecticide GE corn.

She says, "We still have no studies on humans yet we are subject to eating it as labelling is non-existent.

"If we had labelling and choice then we could actually see if those people whose diet has a large proportion of GE is affecting their health as opposed to those who choose to avoid GE.

"In the mean time GE is being normalised so our children will not know what it is to be healthy. Big business is socialising the cost of tumour forming GE foods. We need to stop this straight away."

Wellington Animal Rights Christmas Event

10 December

The Wellington Animal Rights Network (WARN) Christmas dinner held in conjunction with the Black Sheep Animal Sanctuary at the St Johns in the City Presbyterian Church. WARN will be serving a vegan dinner and dessert and presenting a summary of its protest action for the year. Waged \$20, unwaged \$15, children a donation. All profits will be split evenly between WARN and the Black Sheep Sanctuary.

Animal Sanctuary Volunteers

18 December

Eight Auckland animal rights activist have volunteered so far to attend a volunteers' working bee at the Matakana Animal Sanctuary. This particular sanctuary often is the recipient of animals and birds taken in break-ins at intensive farms by the militant group Farmwatch.

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Weekly Situation Report

Animal Rights & GE Issues
Thompson+Clark Fusion Centre
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'Govt Promoting GE Release' 24 December

The anti-GE issue motivated group GE-Free NZ claims the country's export success has been underpinned by its GE-Free status but remains at risk from Government policy to promote environmental release of GMOs in agriculture.

It claims the National Party and regulators have been heavily pressured by pro-GE lobbyists to make any GE approval the sole decision of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

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For this to occur, legislative changes to the Resource Management Bill that governs councils would have to be passed by parliament, it says.

The group's spokeswoman said this week that, "Minister Nick Smith is pushing the Resource Legislation Amendment Bill, which will allow him to overrule provisions in local body plans, including GMO-Free zones and other environmental protection."

She went on to say that, "Despite this there is good news that the Maori Party fully supports a GE Free Aotearoa. New Zealand now has four declared GE Free regions.

"Removal of regional protections would damage New Zealand's agriculture and consumers if GMOs were introduced. Ground breaking research in multi-omics, published in Nature, shows that GE corn NK603 has been approved with insufficient information and has found dangerous off target effects that could pose health risks to the consumer."

She claims that the regulations of GE applications have been superficial and evidence is growing that emerging health dangers are of real concern.

"Research by Professor Heinemann of Canterbury University has recently been reconfirmed by the New York Times. The studies found that GE-free agriculture in Europe has reduced pesticide use, maintained or increased yield, and improved biodiversity compared to the United States where GE is grown. Russia has declared itself a GE free nation, and now China's Heilongjiang province, one third bigger than New Zealand, has also prohibited GE crops," she said.

The photo below shows a recent GE-free message ploughed into in a paddock at Tauroa Station near Havelock North.

SAFE's Year in Review

23 December

The national animal rights group SAFE has posted a three minute video on YouTube reviewing its highlights for the year.

First up in the video is a review of SAFE's ongoing campaign against the Countdown supermarket chain to stop selling cage eggs. Next up is SAFE's campaigns against steeple jumps; live sheep exports; rodeo; and bobby calves.

SAFE's campaign to encourage people to go dairy-free and its 'cruelty-free' shopping app also get a mention. As does its guide on how to become a vegetarian, and the text book it has published for schools condemning factory farming.

See: www.youtube.com/watch?v=tWOqOBxH_A8

12-Year-Old Gets 18,000 Supporters

22 December

A petition to the Managing Director of Countdown Supermarkets asking him to tell

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his stores to stop selling cage eggs has so far attracted over 18,000 signatures. The Auckland 12-year-old girl is being backed by the national animal rights group SAFE, which is promoting the petition on its Facebook page. She says she has four chickens of her own, and two of them are rescued from "cruel cage backgrounds. Playing with them and observing their natural behaviour shows me that life in any cage would be torture for chickens," she says on the petition's website.
See: <http://tinyurl.com/zcaoqfg>

Protests Planned for Rodeos 21 December

Auckland and Northland animal rights activists are promising that the first day of 2017 will see animal rights protesters demonstrating outside the Warkworth Rodeo again.

New Year's Day 2016 saw about 50 members from the Auckland-based group Direct Animal Action protest outside the A&P Showgrounds after the rodeo was cancelled due to wet weather.

Several weeks later the group returned to protest with bigger numbers at the rodeo's rain date. This time around they say they plan to hold large heart shaped signs, asking locals to 'have a heart' and boycott the rodeo event (see photo below). A spokeswoman for the protesters says, "We'll be outside the rodeo calling on locals to boycott it because animal cruelty for entertainment is not ok."

"We're asking people to think about setting a good example for children in the community by teaching them values like empathy and compassion. Boycotting the rodeo shows kids that tormenting and exploiting animals for entertainment is not part of Kiwi culture.

"New Zealand has so much to offer both locals and tourists, there's plenty of family friendly activities available that don't cause harm to animals. We're encouraging people to choose these cruelty-free forms of entertainment over the brutality of rodeo," she said.

Other Protests Planned

Meanwhile, the national animal rights group SAFE is calling for a boycott of three upcoming Bay of Plenty rodeos - including the Boxing Day Rerewhakaaitu Rodeo. However the head of the New Zealand Rodeo Cowboys Association says the call by SAFE is unjustified and rodeos operate completely within the law.

As well as the Rerewhakaaitu Rodeo, SAFE has singled out the Taupo Rodeo on 29 December and the Opotiki Rodeo on 28 December 28, urging residents to avoid the events it says are, "nothing more than bullying for entertainment".

In a statement, SAFE said more than 62,000 New Zealanders signed a petition to ban rodeo, which was delivered to Parliament in March. The tide was turning against

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the abuse of animals for entertainment, it said.

"Rodeo is essentially bullying animals for entertainment. Normally docile bulls and horses are induced into aggressive behaviour by painful or irritating means such as flank straps, electric prods, tail twisting, and painful spurs - leading to aggravated and enraged animals who will perform. Vulnerable young calves are put through the stress of being roped around the neck and yanked off their feet at high speed," said SAFE's Campaigns Officer.

But head of the New Zealand Rodeo Cowboys Association believes these kinds of statements are unjustified. "We are completely within MPI (Ministry for Primary Industry) guidelines, and within the laws of this country," he insists.

As for the allegations of injury or death to animals involved in the sport, he said he had, "32 years' of vet reports" which would show this was not in fact the case.

Warkworth Rodeo Protest 01 January 2017

The Auckland animal rights group Direct Animal Action is organising a protest against the annual Warkworth Rodeo on New Year's Day. Direct Animal Action says the protest will be the first the group is planning to stage at rodeos over the top half of the North Island this summer.

So far, 23 people have said on the Facebook events page set up for this protest that they will be attending.

National Animal Rights Conference 31 March-02 April 2017

The Wellington animal rights group WARN (Wellington Animal Rights Network) has announced it is hosting a national animal rights conference at an undisclosed venue near Wellington in late-March, early-April 2017.

A Facebook events page for the conference says the conference, "Will be centred around the theme 'thinking big' so that we can make the most change for animals. This is about working collaboratively within our movement and campaigning in a smarter, more effective way to make bigger change for animals, about the position of the animal rights movement in the wider struggle for social justice, and about creating broad social change."

The organisers say the conference format will consist of, "keynote speakers, workshops, group caucusing, and plenty of social time for networking," and

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has provide the additional information about this event.

- "Keynote speakers: these will be from a diverse range of movements and roles, including the environmental movement, academia and politics. They will bring fresh ideas, experience and inspiration to our movement.
- "Workshops: these will be run by local animal rights activists and will focus on practical ways that we can be more effective in the work that we do for animals. Workshops will be streamed and run simultaneously.
- Group caucusing: Groups are the foundation of our movement so we wanted to make some space for existing groups to meet and talk about what they have learnt, the questions this has raised and how this might impact the work that you do as a group. For those involved in sanctuary and animal rescue work there will also be space during this time for you to come together and discuss how you do your work.
- "Social time and networking: the best things at conferences always happen in the down time so we wanted to make sure that there was plenty of time outside the formal timetable for people to get to know each other, chat about what they are up to and start plotting something great."

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Weekly Situation Report

Animal Rights & GE Issues
Thompson+Clark Fusion Centre
Date: 11 February 2017

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Christchurch 'Power base' for Society **11 February**

The New Zealand Anti-Vivisection Society's (NZAVS) stand at the Lynchgate Wellness and Spiritual Fair at the Hoon Hay School Hal in Christchurch today.

The society has its 'power base' in Christchurch, where thanks to a number of generous bequests, it owns freehold property and has sizeable term deposits which allow it to employ a small full-time staff at its Addington head office.

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The Lynchgate Fair is not the only event in the South Island where the society is promoting itself today. In Dunedin, Otago volunteers are holding a similar stall at the the Thieves' Alley Market Day in the Upper Octagon.

Events such as the Lynchgate Fair are a popular recruiting opportunity for the society which is leading the campaign to stop Otago University building a new animal-based research centre.

Wellington Animal Rights Protest

10 February

The Wellington Animal Rights Network (WARN) has released a series of photographs it took at the protest it held outside the Martinborough Rodeo earlier this month.

The photographs provide a good insight into the numbers of supporters WARN can muster when it decides to organise a protest.

Like with the majority of animal rights protests in New Zealand, the participants tend to be overwhelming more female than male.

Animal Rights Job Advertised

09 February

The national animal rights group SAFE says it is looking to fill two full time appointments - a Head of Supporter Engagement and a Supporter and Volunteer Engagement Assistant.

The Head of Supporter Engagement requires the successful applicant to manage and oversee SAFE's national fundraising and supporter engagement activities in conjunction with the Senior Management Team and the Board. It is also requires the successful applicant to be responsible for managing a small team of four staff.

Like all jobs at SAFE, the successful applicant needs to be a vegan, and will have the choice of being based at SAFE's offices either at Auckland, Wellington, or Christchurch. A minimum of five years fundraising experience, including at least 2 years in a senior fundraising position is required.

The other job is based in SAFE's Wellington office , is also full time, and calls for the successful applicant to strengthen and expand SAFE's Wellington volunteer network, together with assisting with SAFE's programme of supporter engagement. Advertisements for neither job do not state what the salary expectations might be.

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GE Grass to be Tested Overseas

08 February

It has been announced that genetically modified grass that could lower farming's environmental footprint will be taken offshore next year for field testing because of New Zealand's strict laws on GM.

Developed by AgResearch at their Grasslands site in Palmerston North, the plants will be shipped to the United States for testing.

The plants produced 50 per cent more yield, between 10-15 per cent more energy and lower methane. AgResearch scientists also discovered by accident two years ago that the plants had heat tolerant properties after an air circulator broke down.

AgResearch says the technology still needed to be validated and tested in field trials to see if its benefits transferred from the glasshouse to the field.

Perhaps a little unsurprisingly, the announcement has drawn a highly critical response from GE Free New Zealand which has in the past closely watched any research on GM conducted by AgResearch.

This month, GE Free NZ responded to the announcement by saying, "New Zealand taxpayer research funds are being channeled to overseas partners to find a 'magic bullet' instead of being applied to practical solutions that will benefit New Zealand farmers today."

In a statement GE Free NZ claimed, AgResearch's GE rye grass has been in development since 2001 and was supposed to be finished and commercially available in 2004. More recently trials were undertaken in Australia in 2012.

However the projected benefits are only supposition as no animal feeding trials have been done, whilst proven benefits of mixed forage have been ignored and left on the shelf, it said.

GE Free's national president claims that New Zealand has benefitted from quality research using non-GE High metabolic energy rye grasses with proven safety and performance. Research by Dairy NZ showing a reduction in methane and increase in production, from available grasses and mixed forage pastures, is profiting farmers.

"A systems approach based on diverse pasture plants and sustainable practices is the best way to add value to exports and live up to the reputation of Brand New Zealand that benefits farmers. AgResearch must respond to the premium for ethical GE-free products rather than going in the opposite direction," he said.

Sponsorships Withdrawn

08 February

SAFE has published this list of commercial organisations it says have withdrawn their sponsorship of rodeos (see photo below).

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While cooperating with two other animal rights groups (Farmwatch and the SPCA) to protest and petition against rodeo, the most effective tactic so far by these groups has been to attack the economic support rodeo has enjoyed through commercial sponsorship.

This example of secondary targeting is a classic animal rights tactic which has been successfully employed in numerous cases where other forms of protest have not succeeded.

Farmwatch Promotes Break-in

07 February

Last week, the militant animal rights group Farmwatch posted this image below on its Facebook page, taken inside a layer hen farm by a member of the group and which criticises the condition of a hen they found during a break-in.

As it transpires, the photograph is an old one taken in April 2016 during a break-in at Heyden Farms in the Waikato. In naming the farm, Farmwatch says it is the, "same kind of operation as all new colony farms which are currently in action or being built in New Zealand."

SAFE (Save Animals From Exploitation), which laid a complaint with the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) over the footage, said it was proof the new colony cages were no more humane than battery cages, which would be banned from 2022.

The post has received 154 likes.

Greenpeace Helps with Training

The NZ Anti-Vivisection Society (NZAVS) is holding an outreach and training session in Dunedin on 13 February at the The Hub , 174 Princes Street, Dunedin, between 6-9pm for animal rights volunteers.

The society says it has arranged with Greenpeace NZ for some of its staff to provide training in how to engage with the public and how to make an "impact when protesting".

The society says the meeting will be focussing on how volunteers can upskill in their ability to engage with the public and make more inroads in its campaign to stop the new Otago University Animal Research Facility from being built.

This appears a signal the society is switching its campaign of protest against the university to one of direct action.

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National Animal Rights Conference 31 March-02 April

The Wellington animal rights group WARN (Wellington Animal Rights Network) has announced it is hosting a national animal rights conference at an undisclosed venue near Wellington in late-March, early-April 2017.

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Date: 13 March 2017

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Campaigners Welcome 'Egg Scandal'

13 March

Animal rights groups campaigning to end the selling of cage eggs, have welcomed almost with delight news that the Serious Fraud Office may launch an investigation into a major North Island Countdown Supermarket chain selling eggs wrongly labelled as being free range.

The allegations have come after an undercover investigation by the news website

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Newsroom.co.nz. into the business practices of one south Auckland egg producer which has a major contract with Countdown to supply free-range eggs in the upper North Island.

Enquiries by journalists working for Newsroom have revealed that millions of free range eggs sold at Countdown were likely to have been laid by caged hens. To get this story, it appears the website deliberately put a director of the company under surveillance in order to gather evidence for the story.

SAFE Looking for Board Members

10 March

The national animal rights SAFE is looking for three new honorary board members, and says it will keep the vacancies open as long as it takes to fill them.

SAFE says it is looking for new board members with with professional experience in Fundraising; Marketing and Communications; Legal; and Change Management.

SAFE says board members must possess a compassionate attitude for all life, a personal commitment to improving the wellbeing of all animals, and an understanding and belief in a vegetarian/vegan lifestyle.

Board members must show a demonstrated commitment to the goals and objectives of SAFE, including being a vegetarian or vegan.

SAFE says board members must not have a clear and demonstrable conflict with the goals and policies of the Society. Any previous conflict must not have existed within the previous 12 months of being appointed.

'Govt Owes Duty of Care'

09 March

The President of GE Free NZ says it is absurd for central government to be absolving itself of its duty of care to demonstrate the safety of GMO's, yet simultaneously forbidding regional government to apply policies and measures that protect communities and regional economic development for the long term.

She claims the Environment Minister is effectively setting up a system that will enable destruction of the environment and sabotage the interests of people and communities.

Referring to the government's Resource Legislation Amendment Bill (RLA), she says this threatens changes to environmental legislation, and the "manipulations (by the Minister) pave the way for destruction of New Zealand's economic advantage and further loss of valuable habitat.

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She says the RLA Bill's aims are ambiguous but fundamentally change the ground rules to leave councils subject to Ministerial interference.

From her standpoint, the democratic process of consultation and civil society engagement will become vulnerable to the whim of the Minister. There was no cross party support for the Bill, she adds.

"Recently the Maori Party changed its position, but is now reconsidering its backing. The threat to New Zealand's environmental legislation is a two-pronged attack. The proposed National Environment Standards for Plantation Forestry (NES-PF) is in its final stages, if adopted, will also remove the right of councils to apply land use precautions on GE trees," she said.

She says she is worried environmental harm caused by release of Genetically Engineered Organisms and costs associated with economic loss will also be forced onto regions, despite the communities wanting to preserve GM-free production.

"New Zealand businesses that are successfully exporting to the world are at risk from powers that will allow the Minister of the day to remove precautions around GMOs," adds the national spokesman for GE-Free NZ.

"Moves to override regional controls on GMOs in agricultural production would be tantamount to self-sabotage of the national brand and destroy any hope of reaching the government's stated economic goal of doubling exports.

"The proposed RLA legislation, section 43A(3)(b), signals a power grab by the Minister as the government would not need to demonstrate that the permitted activity has a significant adverse effect on the environment, undermining the very purpose of the Resource Management Act as well as the Hazardous substances and New Organisms Act," he said.

This means, he adds, that the purpose and principles of the Acts, which require scientific research, community consultation, and a precautionary approach on land use activities, would be immediately nullified.

Email Campaign Against GE Trees 13-15 March

The issue motivated group, GE Free NZ, is calling on all its supporters to join a concerted email campaign 13-15 March to email the Minister for Primary Industries, his associate minister as well as to all National MPs asking them to ensure that GE trees are removed from the National Environment Standard for Plantation Forestry (NES-PF).

GE Free NZ says the National Party caucus is set to vote on the recommendations this week, not the whole parliament (something the group says goes against the principles of democracy). GE Free NZ has provided people with a templated email they can send, and which says:

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Protect the right of Regions to choose to say NO to GE-Trees

Dear National Member of Parliament, I am writing to you regarding the National Environment Standard for Plantation Forestry (NES-PF). The Ministry for Primary Industries received 16,000+ submissions, of these 15,500 sought the removal of clause 6.4 on the planting of GE trees and GE rootstock.

The clause, if enacted, removes the democratic process around community protections for the environment through the RMA and would make the planting of GE Trees a permitted activity if approved by the EPA. This means that it would override any Council precautionary GE provisions placed in their plans. The dangers of genetically modified trees on New Zealand's ecosystems, including essential soil organisms, plants, birds and insects could be both widespread, permanent and economically damaging.

These effects could be detrimental to biodiversity and trophic systems, undermining what the RMA is designed to protect. I understand that the Hon. Nathan Guy will be signing off the NES-PF, after discussion with his caucus colleagues. I urge you to ensure that in light of the high number of submissions received by MPI the clause regarding GE trees (6.4) is removed.

The decision we would like the Minister to make:

- 1. Remove clause 6.4 from the draft NES-PF*
- 2. Remove all wording referring to genetically modified trees and rootstock from the draft NES-PF in Appendix 3; Afforestation & Replanting.*

Rodeo Protests Continue

17 March

The Wellington Animal Rights Network (WARN) says it plans to protest this weekend against one of the last rodeos to be held this season at the Parklee Bullride at Manfeild Park in Feilding this Friday at 6pm. WARN says it is car pooling protesters to this event and plans to keep the protest peaceful and orderly.

Otago Animal Rights Conference

20 March

The Otago University Student Animal Legal Defense Fund is holding its AGM on 20 March in Seminar Room 3, Eighth Floor, of the Richardson Building at the university in Dunedin. The fund is asking supporters on campus to consider standing for executive positions.

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Animal Rights Petition Handover 27 April

Two animal rights groups (HUHA and the NZAVS) plan to handover their petition to parliament on 27 April calling on the government to enact a mandatory animal retirement policy for animals used in research, testing, and teaching, which will ensure these animals are offered up for public adoption through registered rescue organisations instead of being euthanised.

HUHA and NZAVS says they have gathered almost 10,000 signatures for the petition. They say they want to give these animals a second chance. Currently, there are no regulations in place that encourage or require facilities that use animals for research, testing and teaching to rehome lab animals once they are finished with them.

Animal Law Conference 01 July

The New Zealand Animal Law Association has announced that it will be hosting the 2017 Animal Law Conference in Auckland on 01 July. The association is yet to release more details, except to say the conference will feature a keynote international speaker (but has yet to name who this is).

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Date: 06 April 2017



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GE Free Group Happy With Changes

06 April

The issue motivated group GM Free Pure Hawkes Bay has reacted with glee to the announcement that Hawkes Bay's GE free status seems likely to endure with news that the Maori Party had agreed to support the Government's amendment to the Resource Management Act.

The Maori Party's support comes with the concession that the Environment Minister

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would not be able to override the local councils' decision for GM declarations as far as crops were concerned under section 360D.

Commenting on the decision, GM Pure Hawkes' Bay said on its Facebook page, "Finally the National Party and Maori Party saw the light and we can stay GM Free! An amendment in the RMA changes will exempt GM crops from the scope of new ministerial powers overriding local decision-making."



Bayleys Join Anti-Rodeo Boycott

05 April

The coalition of animal rights groups campaigning to bring an end to rodeo by pressuring sponsors into dropping their support, has announced they have secured the agreement from real estate giant Bayleys to no longer sponsor rodeos.

The commitment from Bayleys is the latest in a series of successes the activists, spearheaded by the national animal rights group SAFE, have achieved.

The activists are running a campaign which identifies sponsors and which then results in a letter writing and emailing campaign to the sponsor company, threatening them with reputational damage if they continue to sponsor rodeos.

SAFE has set up an electronic email page where supporters who identify sponsors can send them an email, which includes the statement:

"By choosing to sponsor rodeo your company is sending a message that, up until now, you are happy to be associated with tormenting and abusing animals for entertainment; something that can be damaging to your brand and be viewed negatively by your customers. It is better that companies instead lead the way in embracing positive events that enhance community spirit, not ones that teach

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people, especially impressionable children, that animals are there for our amusement and to abuse."



SAFE Release New School Book

03 April

Further to its ongoing campaign to recruit youth to the animal rights cause, SAFE has launched the fifth issue of its 'Animals & Us' secondary school textbook series, 'Animals in Factory Farms'.

The launch at Auckland's Grey Lynn library was fronted by SAFE's new CEO, who was previously the Chief Executive of the UK Vegan Society and who holds a MSc in animal behaviour and welfare. Also speaking at the event last month, the Head of Social Sciences at Auckland's Glenfield College explained how his school has used the SAFE 'Love Pigs' campaign as a case study of social action for several years.

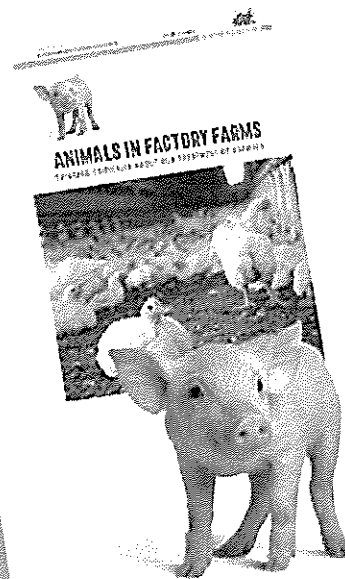
Finally, two students from the Epsom Girls' Grammar and Auckland Grammar Animal Rights Group discussed why animals matter to them and the work they are doing to fundraise and bring awareness to animal rights issues.

Over 4,500 copies of the new textbook have been sent to over 400 secondary schools throughout New Zealand.

Reply all | Delete Junk |

ANIMALS IN FACTORY FARMS

TEXTBOOK



SAFE Claims Victory over Countdown

28 March

SAFE has claimed victory in its long running campaign to pressure the supermarket chain Countdown into announcing a date when its supermarkets will cease selling caged eggs, and now predictably having won that 'battle' has now set its sights on its competitor New World and PaknSave.

In a message to supporters last week SAFE said, "Countdown has finally listened to the thousands of emails and messages on social media they've received from those of us who know that it's wrong to keep a hen confined in a space little bigger than an A4 piece of paper. They've announced they're committed to a phase out of all cage eggs, despite months of saying they couldn't do this.

"This is a huge win for people power, and for hens. Countdown sells 1 in 5 of New Zealand's eggs, so their decision will mean positive change for around 400,000 hens."

The Countdown supermarket chain has announced its plans to go cage-free in the North Island by the end of 2024, and by the end of the following year for the rest of the country.

Countdown had earlier committed to transitioning to free range and barn only eggs within its own brand by 2022, but the move was criticised by animal rights groups such as SAFE and Farmwatch as being only a half measure.

As is the case with all militant animal rights activism, appeasement is not a possibility and SAFE has now switched its campaign to focus on Foodstuffs.

Reply all | Delete Junk |

On 29 March, SAFE sent a message to its 165,000 followers on Facebook saying, "Thanks to you, we are a huge step closer to seeing a world where hens don't suffer in cages. But we can't stop here. Let Foodstuffs know that you would also support them naming a phase-out date for cage eggs sold in their stores. Please post a message to New World and PaknSave."

Foodstuffs can now expect to experience the full brunt of what will be a campaign of protest and relentless badgering until they too concede to SAFE's demand.

VICTORY!
**COUNTDOWN TO BECOME
 CAGE EGG-FREE!**



Animal Rights Conference Group Photo 31 March

This public photograph posted on Facebook gives a good idea of the attendance numbers at the AR17 national animal rights conference held at Wainuiomata 31-02 April.

The photograph shows about 50 people attended the event, and which attracted speakers and participants from as far away as Invercargill.

The conference was the second national animal rights event to be held in Wellington in a month.

The other event was the 'Vegan Future' Hui held 18-19 March and which attracted about 30 animal rights activists and campaigners from around the country.

Reply all | Delete Junk |

The aim of the hui was to discuss strategy and tactics for presenting a clear, veganism and animal rights focussed message to the public and politicians in election year.



Animal Rights Conference Tee Shirts 31 March

The 'official tee shirt' from last weekend's national animal rights conference held at Wainuiomata. The tee shirt is from the same designer who designed the 'Fonterror' tee shirt featured on this page last week. The tee shirts are selling for \$30 each and available only to those who attended the conference.

Reply all | Delete Junk |



SAFE Social Media Campaign Award 29 March

SAFE last month won the award for the 'Best Social Media Campaign of the Year' in the 2017 Techsoup New Zealand Charities Technology Awards for its dairy awareness campaign.

The integrated multi-media campaign won for "showcasing innovation, communication storytelling, and technology service excellence to connect people with some of the realities of animal agriculture, challenging their beliefs and convictions, and offering a practical and digital option to personally make a difference and reduce animal suffering."

In awarding the prize, the judges said SAFE used a mixture of carefully planned and timed memes, videos, links and posts to develop interaction and story development, maintaining engagement with Facebook, Twitter and YouTube followers, and ensuring longevity and interest across the duration.

The Farmwatch investigation and video resulted in widespread television, newspaper, digital and radio coverage, with every major news outlet covering the story, including One News, Seven Sharp, NewsHub, Prime, Paul Henry, Radio New Zealand and more. In total, SAFE achieved over 200 pieces of mainstream media

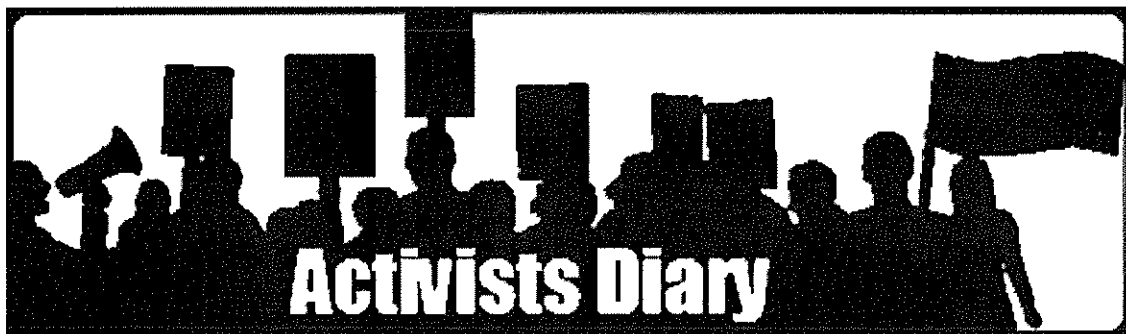
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coverage, including overseas media in the UK, US, Australia, India, Europe, and even as far afield as Korea and China.

A subsequent Facebook dairy video published in November 2016 as part of the continuing campaign with Farmwatch has attracted over 32 million 'reach', 17 million video views, and one million engagement.

One meme gained so much attention that it was eventually censored by Facebook and inevitably achieved increased attention. This graphic was shared by numerous animal protection charities worldwide, resulting, SAFE claims, in the ability to educate consumers about dairy globally.

The design was analysed by a marketing professor, who stated, "This is the type of image that will be posted and re-posted". To this day, it is still being used as many users' profile pictures on social media.



Reply all | Delete Junk |

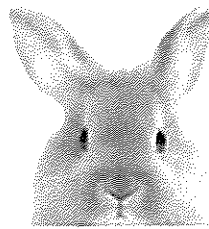
Otago Students Against Animal Testing 08 April

A new animal rights group is being formed in Dunedin to help the push against Otago University building a new animal-based research centre.

Called Students Against Animal Testing, the group says it will campaign with the NZ Anti-vivisection Society to stop the centre opening. The group is having its first meeting on campus on 08 April.

STUDENTS AGAINST ANIMAL TESTING

JOIN THE CLUB!



APR
8

Students Against Animal Testing -
Inaugural Meeting!

Animal Rights 'Terrorist' Talks 12 April

A US animal rights activist who was labelled a domestic terrorist and jailed for four years for his part in the campaign of intimidation and harassment of contract research organisation Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS) will speak in Auckland on 12 April of his experiences.

Since being released from prison, Jake Conroy, who was the American co-ordinator for the militant animal rights group SHAC (Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty), has toured the world as a guest speaker on his experiences of being the target of a multi-agency terrorism investigation, learning he was on a high-profile prisoners list, and navigating living a life branded as a terrorist in post-9/11 society.

SHAC which had branches in America and the UK waged an unsuccessful 15 year campaign to try to drive HLS out of business. This included such tactics as physical assaults, arson, and blackmail.

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APR
12

Public Talk: Jake Conroy ~ From Activist to "Terrorist"

Public · Hosted by Direct Animal Action and Whammy Bar

Animal Rights Petition Handover 27 April

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HUHA and NZAVS says they have gathered almost 10,000 signatures for the petition. They say they want to give these animals a second chance. Currently, there are no regulations in place that encourage or require facilities that use animals for research, testing and teaching to rehome lab animals once they are finished with them.



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APR 27

Let them Live Out of the Labs - Petition Handover!

Public · Hosted by NZAVS and HUHANZ

Animal Law Conference 01 July

The New Zealand Animal Law Association has announced that it will be hosting the 2017 Animal Law Conference in Auckland on 01 July. The association is yet to release more details, except to say the conference will feature a keynote international speaker (but has yet to name who this is).

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Thompson+Clark SITREP: Animal Rights and GE Issues: 18 April 2017

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Weekly Situation Report

Animal Rights & GE Issues

Thompson+Clark Fusion Centre

Date: 18 April 2017

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Factory Farming Protest

18 April

The national animal rights group SAFE has announced it will be holding a protest sometime in June in Auckland, where it will be asking 40 volunteers to spend 40 hours in a cage as a protest against factory farming.

SAFE has so far given out little more information about the protest except that it will be over a weekend, early in June, and held in Auckland in a public space somewhere.

SAFE says it is mounting the protest because, "people are so separated from farm animals these days, most people only 'see' them wrapped in plastic at the supermarket. We want people to make a connection, to help animals who suffer a terrible life in factory farms by highlighting their plight."

GE Free Group Happy With Outcome

13 April

GE Free Northland has expressed satisfaction the Maori Party has successfully blocked the Government's attempt to pass controversial changes to the Resource Management Act that anti-GE activists claim would destroy "valuable GE-free zones." The group claims Northland's and Auckland's ability to establish GM-free food producing zones under local plans has been protected following last minute changes to the Resource Legislation Amendment Bill.

An amendment negotiated by the Maori Party exempts GM crops (including GE trees and grasses) from the scope of new ministerial powers overriding local decision-making. GE Free Northland also says a further proposed amendment, clause (43A) that would have given the minister a second route to impose GM releases on the regions, has been deleted.

GE-Free Northland says it welcomes the change to the Resource Legislation Amendment Bill regarding genetic engineering, but says the change does not go far enough.

The group's chairperson said last week local councils should retain their authority and jurisdiction on a wide range of issues, including the right to prohibit or control any outdoor experimentation or release of transgenic animals.

She says this is necessary in view of what she claims is the "serious biosecurity issues, animal welfare problems, and past bungled experiments on innocent animals already undertaken by NZ Crown Research Institute AgResearch.

"Details of the AgResearch 2010 GE calf trial (in veterinary reports obtained under the Official Information Act) showed gross deformities, high animal mortality rates, and alarming health problems in the cattle. The animal welfare committee overseeing AgResearch's transgenic experimentation was miles away from the ethics and values of the community," she claims.

GE Free Northland now says the Far North and Whangarei District Councils can now be confident that the plans that protect the district's GM-free food producer status are, "safe from interference by the Environment Minister's attempt to hijack communities' ability to ban or regulate GM releases in their territories."

"We are grateful to the Maori Party for helping to protect NZ's valuable GE-Free Zones and food sovereignty," says GE-Free Northland chairperson.

"The powers that the Minister sought to override our local plans were undemocratic, unnecessary, and have no support outside the National caucus."

Good Turn Out to Hear 'Terrorist'

13 April

There was a good turn out of Auckland animal rights activists (see photo below) to hear former convicted animal liberation terrorist Jake Conroy from America speak about his transition from "activist to terrorist" (the title of his public talk).

Organised by Direct Animal Action (DAA), the meeting capitalised on Conroy being in New Zealand as guest speaker at the AR17 National Animal Rights Conference at Wainuiomata earlier this month.

DDA's Auckland convener says, Conroy spoke about his involvement in Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty USA (SHAC USA) and the "repression" they experienced from the US government and corporate investigators, as well by the Bureau of Prisons while incarcerated.

"Jake discussed being the target of a multi-agency terrorism investigation, learning he was on a high-profile prisoners list, and navigating living a life branded as a terrorist in post-9/11 society," she said.

His conviction does not appear to have prohibited him from entering New Zealand. Conroy was one of the 'SHAC 7' who in 2006 were convicted under America's Federal Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act. Conroy was sentenced to four years in a federal prison for acts of animal rights terrorism and served two before being released. He cofounded Bite Back Magazine which reports on animal liberation attacks around the world.

SAFE Pushes Cage Free Campaign

12 April

SAFE says it is making a concerted push over coming months to promote its 'Cage Free' eggs campaign on TV, billboards (see image below), and in cinema advertisements.

In a Facebook post announcing this, SAFE says, "The global movement to free hens from cruel cages is nothing short of a revolution. But there's still more to be done. So, we've given the cage-free message a big push with our new campaign. Right now a message of kindness to hens is running nationally, beaming into homes, cinemas, and appearing at top commuter locations - seen by people every single day."

SAFE is claiming the "cage egg industry is truly in free-fall in New Zealand now Countdown has become the first supermarket, and first major retailer on our shores, to join the global revolution to free hens from cages, announcing they will phase out cage eggs from their stores nationwide."

Dairy Farm Exposé 'Typical'

10 April

Farmwatch's head of investigations (see photo below) says "Dairy farmers are outraged "about a recent TVNZ 'Sunday' programme, called 'The Price of Milk' and claiming the Hauraki Plains farm criticised in the programme is not representative of their industry.

However, he claims Farmwatch has seen many farms in the Waikato and Taranaki that are identical.

He says, "We have filmed hip clamping, skinny cows and dead calves very similar to what we saw during the show. We have seen countless cows forced to live and give birth in squalid, dirty conditions without proper shelter or bedding." He says the farmer in question should not be scapegoated for what are industry-wide problems.

"The Sunday crew have just experienced what we typically experience - filming and showing the truth - resulting in outrage and name-calling from an angry industry in willful denial."

World Lab Animal Day Protest

22 April

To mark the World Day for Laboratory Animals, the NZ Anti-Vivisection Society (NZAVS) is holding a protest in Dunedin on 22 April at the site of Otago University's new animal research centre. The protest starts at noon and is being held at 309 Great King St, North Dunedin and is being supported by the Dunedin Animal Rights Collective (DARC).

How to Effect Meaningful Change

27 April

The Otago School of Law in conjunction with the Otago University's Student Animal Defence Fund is presenting an event on 27 April at the university called 'Lawyering for the Voiceless: How to Effect Meaningful Change for Animals.'

The presentation is being given by the president of the New Zealand Animal Law Association, an organisation comprising more than 200 lawyers throughout New Zealand.

The Defence Fund says that despite growing public support for animal law reform,

there remain acute problems with the legal regime that purports to prevent New Zealand's animals from unreasonable and unnecessary suffering.

This talk will examine some of the most pressing issues affecting animals in New Zealand and the work undertaken by different animal advocacy organisations aiming to address these.

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Animal Rights 'Values' Workshop 30 April

The Auckland-based animal rights group Direct Animal Action is hosting a workshop on values for people working in animal rights.

The workshop is being presented by the Campaigns Officer from the national animal rights group SAFE on 30 April after DAA's regular monthly meeting at the Hum Salon, in the Auckland inner-city suburb of Grafton.

So far 19 people have indicated on a Facebook events page for this meeting that they will be attending.

Animal Law Conference 01 July

The New Zealand Animal Law Association has announced that it will be hosting the

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The association has announced that the keynote international speaker will be retired Australian High Court judge Michael Kirby, formerly the longest serving judge of Australia's highest court (the High Court of Australia being the equivalent of the Supreme Court here). Since his retirement from the Bench, Judge Kirby has become a prominent advocate of animal welfare.

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Thompson+Clark SITREP: Animal Rights Issues: 25 April 2017

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Situation Report

Animal Rights Issues

Thompson+Clark Fusion Centre

Date: 25 April 2017

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University Refutes Allegations

25 April

The University of Otago has strongly rejected claims by a visiting Australian animal rights activist who led a protest against the university on Saturday, and who claims "Animal testing causes unnecessary pain and suffering in animals, and produces false results, which ultimately harms humans."

The university's Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Richard Blaikie has taken umbrage with this claim and says activists' use of the term "false results" is extremely misleading.

"Research using animal models has played a vital part in nearly every medical breakthrough over the past few decades and has saved hundreds of millions of lives worldwide," he says in a response to the protester.

"It helped develop painkillers, anaesthetics, asthma inhalers and insulin, and is responsible for rising numbers of people surviving cancer."

The university is permitted to use animals in research or teaching under the Animal Welfare Act if the purpose is to enhance human or animal health, or the management of the environment.

Also before live animals were used in teaching it had to be approved by an animal

ethics committee, he adds.
See further report below on this issue.

Activist Anger Over Possible Cull

24 April

A number of animal rights groups have expressed outrage over what they think may have been a mass cull of up to 30,000 layer hens in response to the recent scandal over eggs allegedly being falsely labelled as free range.

The animal rights group 'Action for Animals' is one such group and is basing this belief on media reports that the company under scrutiny for the scandal may have prematurely culled its flock of birds if it could no longer onsell its eggs to its only customer - Countdown Supermarkets.

The company had all its eggs pulled from Countdown's shelves last month when allegations arose that it had passed off millions of eggs as free range, when they were not.

The allegations have resulted in an inquiry by a number of agencies and a call from the Green Party for a Government inquiry into free range egg labelling. This call has been rejected by several Government agencies which say the egg industry is sufficiently regulated.

19,000 Views for Anti-Testing Video

23 April

In a short video clip posted on its Facebook page to mark World Day for Laboratory Animals on 24 April, the animal rights group SAFE praises the companionship animals offer, but says it is time to outlaw the use of animals in research here.

The video tells SAFE's supporters that over 200,000 animals are being used in research in New Zealand every year.

The video has been viewed on Facebook 19,000 times since its release.

World Lab Animal Day Protest

22 April

It is estimated that about 100 people protested in Dunedin on 22 April outside the site of Otago University's new animal-based research centre, to mark the World Day

for Laboratory Animals two days early. World Laboratory Animal Day is on 24 April. The protest was orderly and was organised by the NZ Anti-Vivisection Society (NZAVS), which is continuing to campaign against the building of the centre, despite the university ignoring demands from animal rights activists to focus on non-animal-based research models instead.

The protest was supported by animal rights activists from Invercargill and Christchurch. It was also addressed by prominent Australian animal rights activist and cancer survivor James Aspey (see photo below) who came to prominence in 2014 when he took a vow of silence for a year as a personal protest against the use of animals in research. During that year he travelled around Australia, cycling over 5,000km to raise awareness for animal rights.

Aspey also spoke at the Auckland Vegan Food Fair on 23 April and at the University of Auckland the following day.

In a statement released after the protest, NZAVS' full-time Executive Director, based in Christchurch, said, "Today NZAVS supporters gathered outside where the University of Otago want to build a new \$50 million animal lab in Dunedin.

"We gathered in honour of World Day for Lab Animals to highlight the growing opposition to animal-based research, happening all around the globe.

"We were lucky enough to have James Aspey attend the rally and lead the march. James gave an inspirational speech on why he is against the lab being built and why it is important to speak up for the voiceless (video to come soon).

"We were supported by 17 other organisations from around NZ and the rest of the world who back our campaign for better, more relevant science and to 'Stop the Otago Animal Lab.

A big thank you to the Humane Society International, Humane Research Australia Inc, SAFE, Choose Cruelty Free, Beagle Freedom Project, HUHANS, Dogwatch Sanctuary Trust, Christchurch Animal Rights Action - CARA, Dunedin/Ōtepoti Vegan Society - DOVeS, The Vegan Society of Aotearoa, New Zealand, NZ Vegetarian Society, Second Chance Dog Rescue CHCH, Veganism and Animal Rights Society - VARS Otago University, Direct Animal Action, Wellington Animal Rights Network, Speak Up for Animals NZ, and The Animal Sanctuary for helping us show Otago just how big the opposition is.

"We led a peaceful march from the site where the new lab is being built to the Hercus Building - where the current animal lab is situated. Thank you so much to all of our wonderful supporters who came along to stand up for what is right (ethically and scientifically).

"Every protest and action we have we grow bigger and stronger. Our voice is getting louder and louder and soon they will have to listen."

The new facility is expected to be completed by February next year. After the protest, the protesters joined the Dunedin March for Science to mark Earth Day, saying NZAVS is in fact pro-science, because "We want the best, most relevant and reliable research methods to be used. These are of course, not animal-based method. Instead we advocate human-relevant science to help advance human

medicine."

Jumps Death Condemned

20 April

The death of the New Zealand horse Wheeler Fortune after his leg was broken in a jumps race in Adelaide this month has prompted a number of animal rights groups here to renew their call for jumps racing to be banned.

For example, the Auckland-based Direct Animal Action says, "While jumps racing continues, horses will continue to suffer and die to make money for the gambling and horse racing industries." SAFE has said in response to the death, "Pledge to never bet on horses' lives, and ask your friends and family to do the same."

How to Effect Meaningful Change

27 April

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So far 19 people have indicated on a Facebook events page for this meeting that they will be attending.

Animal Rights 'Values' Workshop 02 June

The national animal rights group SAFE claims factory farming is "the biggest animal issue of our time" and to illustrate this says it is going to hold a social experiment where it will caged 40 people together in a confined space for 40 hours in Auckland on 02 June.

SAFE says the space will have food and essential amenities provided. The experiment will simulate the confined life of a caged animal. The event will be live streamed and receive targeted publicity through Social Media, TV, and Radio. SAFE says it also hopes to allow participants to vlog the experience using smartphones.

SAFE says participants will be able to leave at anytime and there will be an emergency escape button for anyone who finds the experiment too stressful to continue with.

SAFE says, "Our aim is to raise awareness of factory farming together, we don't

want it to be a traumatic experience."

The recorded material will then be cut into a commercial to be distributed through various channels.

SAFE also says it is going to create a donation/sponsorship page for the group of participants to raise money for SAFE and to stop Factory Farming.

Animal Law Conference

01 July

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Situation Report

Animal Rights & GE Issues Thompson+Clark Fusion Centre Date: 16 May 2017

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Security Guard Assaults Activist

15 May

A non-sworn police employee acting as a volunteer security guard at a rodeo has been convicted of assaulting a prominent Waikato animal rights activist.

The man, who works at the central Hamilton Police Station, admitted the assault by illegally detaining the activist to prevent her from leaving the Waikato Rodeo after she had been confronted by the guard for filming animals. He admitted placing her in an arm hold twice to prevent her from leaving the scene after he called the police about her behaviour..

The police summary of facts says the 56-year-old man was working in a voluntary capacity as a security guard at the rodeo when the activist (who is a lecturer in Education at Waikato University) began filming calves being used at the rodeo. The security guard and a member of the rodeo's organising committee approached her about what she was doing and objected to being filmed as well. The guard phoned the police about her behaviour and then tried to stop her from leaving until they arrived.

The woman made repeated efforts to leave but was prevented each time by the security guard, who forced her arm up her back and pushed her down onto the

ground.

She was only able to escape after about 40 minutes when another rodeo staff member recognised the illegality of the security guard's behaviour and let her go. The woman complained that she had suffered bruising and sprains to her arm and neck.

When asked for an explanation for his actions, the guard is said he acted to avoid the woman posting his image on social media. He has been ordered to pay the woman reparation damages of \$500 but given no other penalty and has been allowed to continue to work for the police pending an internal investigation.

Out of the Labs Petition

14 May

The New Zealand Anti-Vivisection Society (NZAVS) reports that its 'Out of the Labs' petition asking for a mandatory retirement policy for laboratory animals has been referred to Parliament's Primary Production Select Committee.

Now the society is asking its members and supporters to lobby their local MPs to support the petition by letting the select committee know that this is an important issue their constituents are concerned about.

The NZAVS claims that currently over 100,000 animals are euthanised each year in this country immediately after research is completed; this number does not include the animals used for breeding purposes.

Activists Canvass Political Parties

13 May

One of the principal aims of the issue motivated group Animal Agenda Aotearoa is to lobby political parties to adopt animal rights policies in their political manifestos.

The group has been publishing the responses it has received to date from all the major political parties it has approached.

It reports that the Greens support banning rodeos, abolishing factory farming, working to ban animal testing, requiring mandatory cameras in slaughterhouses, banning permanent chaining and tethering of dogs and goats, a ban on foie gras, and a Commissioner for Animals. They support in part a ban on live exports but do not at this time support a ban on greyhound racing. They say more information is needed.

The Maori Party says it supports the abolition of factory farming, working towards banning animal testing, banning greyhound racing, banning foie gras, and banning

the permanent chaining and tethering of dogs and goats. The Maori Party does not support a blanket ban on rodeos but supports better regulation. It does not support a Commissioner for Animals or a ban on live exports, but says that there should be appropriate regulations to protect the welfare of animals during live export.

The Mana party has responded it does not yet have a policy on animal rights.

United Future says it supports banning rodeos and greyhound racing, and placing cameras in slaughterhouses. It does not support a Commissioner for Animals or a ban on live exports. United Future supports banning the permanent chaining of dogs and tethering of goats.

The newly formed and Gareth Morgan led Opportunities Party says it would make intensive farming and factory farming more expensive, and create incentives for more extensive farming, which would improve animal welfare on farms.

Animal Agenda Aotearoa says it has yet to receive a substantive response from either National or Labour, although Labour's animal welfare spokesman has made no secret of the fact he would like to see factory farming abolished in New Zealand, and at the last general election had set the deadline for this as 2017 if it won (which it didn't).

China Can be the GE-Free Incentive

10 May

The ability for regions to declare themselves GE Free in crops, forestry, and grasses won with the support of the Maori Party is a marketing advantage, claims GE Free New Zealand.

New Zealand's free trade deal with China has seen investment in New Zealand because of the assurance of quality and the country's GE Free status, the group says.

A Nielsen survey showed that 70 percent of Chinese consumers were avoiding GMOs in foods and actively seeking to buy GE free produce.

GE Free NZ also claims that responding to USA consumer demands, Fonterra has also launched products specifying their GE free status.

These real-world market trends signal the significance of the third reading of the Resource Legislation Amendment (RLA) Bill which was passed after the Maori Party was able to preserve the right for councils to regulate, in their plans, genetically modified (GMO) crops, including grass and forestry crops, the group says.

"Originally, the Minister for the Environment had wanted to prohibit all land use regulations on GMOs in council plans, but then compromised and exempted GM crops in general. Through rigorous negotiations, the Maori Party was able to remove 43A and 43B and amend 360D, inserting a new clause that included all GE plants, including forestry and grasses, but not GE animals."

It is GE animals that represent a risk to New Zealand's reputation, the group claims.

Any commercialization for GE animals is a concern to many, as field trials have shown that the transgenic manipulations are costly and cause intense suffering to the animals.

Any large-scale release of GE animals would breach ethical and moral standards of humane husbandry New Zealand has spent years upholding, and would undermine New Zealand's brand image among consumers overseas, it claims.

"It is in the interest of the whole country that total GE-free production is preserved and regions can proceed to protect their businesses from any GE contamination," says the national spokesperson for GE Free NZ.

"The removal of the GE clauses from the RMA amendments was a great outcome for democracy, upheld by the Maori Party and everyone who has fought for the regions being able to declare themselves GE free. But the prospect of GE animals remains a significant threat," he said.

SAFE Opposes Fish Farming

09 May

It is not just traditional intensive farming methods which the national animal rights group SAFE opposes. The organisation has made it clear this month that fish farming is just another form of 'factory farming' which it wants to see abolished.

According to SAFE, this type of intensive farming is also cruel and is ranked by SAFE as no better or worse than pig farming, dairying farming and chicken farming.

SAFE claims that, "While the suffering of factory farmed chickens, hens and pigs is more widely known, the conditions experienced by farmed fish are out of sight and, therefore, out of mind. On factory farms fish can suffer in trapped and overcrowded, dirty cages, subjected to manipulation, injury and disease, and exposed to predators and pests."

SAFE says all fresh salmon in New Zealand has come from factory farm operations. This month it has appealed to consumers not to eat salmon.

SAFE says the repetitive manipulation in fish farms is a major cause of stress and pain. Salmon need to be constantly sorted by size and separated, as trapped bigger fish will bully smaller fish, it says.

"Other invasive practices include vaccinations, loading, transportation and breeding techniques in which the male is brutally stripped of sperm and the female of eggs," it adds. "Farmed fish are liable to suffer high mortality rates from injury and disease, and they are also vulnerable to predators and other hazards. Attacks from seals are a major issue in New Zealand, and in just one incident in 2009 thousands of fish were killed when jellyfish floated into a salmon farm."

Also in terms of the environment, SAFE claims fish farms are not sustainable. "There is a perception that captive fish farming takes the pressure off wild fish populations.," says SAFE.

"Unfortunately the opposite is true. Wild fish are caught and used to feed the farmed fish, which contributes to the threat to the biodiversity of the oceans. Additionally, all waste from factory-farmed fish goes untreated into the sea. Waste in the water also encourages the growth of algal bloom, resulting in depleted oxygen levels and poor water quality," it adds.

Advocating for a Vegan Lifestyle 16 May

SAFE's new Chief Executive Officer will be presenting how to advocate for a vegan lifestyle and plant-based solutions at a free public meeting at the Auckland Trades Hall this week. The meeting is based on the personal experiences of SAFE's CEO, who previously was in charge of the UK Vegan Society for almost five years.

Greenpeace Training for Activists 28 May

The Auckland animal rights group Direct Animal Action (DAA) have engaged the services of one of Greenpeace New Zealand's most senior and experienced climate campaigners to provide its members with training this month.

The Greenpeace campaigner, who has led numerous direct action protests against the oil and gas industry, is going to deliver a training session on 'How Strategy wins Campaigns' at AA's May monthly meeting this month

DAA says, "Developing a clear campaign strategy is essential if we want to create effective and WINNABLE campaigns. Using real world examples Steve will talk us through some of the campaign building tools we can use to turn ideas into successful campaigns."

Animal Rights Activists to be Caged 02-04 June

The national animal rights group SAFE claims factory farming is "the biggest animal issue of our time" and to illustrate this says it is going to hold a social experiment where it will caged 40 people together in a confined space for 40 hours in Auckland on 02 June, at a location in the suburb of Grey Lynn..

SAFE says the space will have food and essential amenities provided. The

experiment will simulate the confined life of a caged animal. The event will be live streamed and receive targeted publicity through Social Media, TV, and Radio. SAFE says it also hopes to allow participants to 'vlog' the experience using smartphones. SAFE says participants will be able to leave at anytime and there will be an emergency escape button for anyone who finds the experiment too stressful to continue with.

SAFE says, "Our aim is to raise awareness of factory farming together, we don't want it to be a traumatic experience."

The recorded material will then be cut into a commercial to be distributed through various channels.

SAFE also says it is going to create a donation/sponsorship page for the group of participants to raise money for SAFE and to stop factory farming.

NZ Animal Law Conference 01 July

The New Zealand Animal Law Association will be hosting the 2017 Animal Law Conference in Auckland on 01 July.

The association has announced that the keynote international speakers will be vegetarian advocate Dr Jane Goodall, who is quite possibly the world's most famous expert on chimpanzees.

Also speaking will be retired Australian High Court judge Michael Kirby, formerly the longest serving judge of Australia's highest court (the High Court of Australia being the equivalent of the Supreme Court here). Since his retirement from the Bench, Judge Kirby has become a prominent advocate of animal welfare.

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Situation Report

Animal Rights & GE Issues
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Date: 19 June 2017



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New Protest Group Goes Quiet

18 June

After targeting a Tegel Food's west Auckland plant for protest and casing a south Auckland meat works for another protest, the new animal rights group calling itself New Zealand Animal Save has suddenly gone quiet.

After promising to mount regular protests at animal production plants around Auckland, the group has not made any public announcements or social media posts since 28 May.

One possible reason is that one of the group's two founders and main organisers has been preoccupied over recent weeks launching a new kombucha drink business in Auckland.



New Zealand Animal Save

@nzanimalsave

University Not Swayed by Protest

16 June

University of Otago administrators say they are not swayed by student opposition to its new \$50 million animal testing facility.

This comes after protests (see image below) and students recently narrowly voting in a referendum in favour of the Otago University Students' Association (OUSA) lobbying the university to cease development of the Great King Street animal-based research facility until students were consulted on the issue.

The university's Vice-Chancellor Research and Enterprise says the university is fully committed to developing the facility, which would future-proof Otago's status as a leading institution by providing world-class facilities for biological and medical research and education.

Animal-based testing had played a vital part in nearly every medical breakthrough in the past few decades and had helped saved hundreds of millions of lives worldwide, he said.

"Such research, carried out by many scientific institutions, aims to help both humans and animals live longer, healthier lives."

The Otago Student Animal Legal Defence Fund, which was behind the referendum on the issue, said there had been a lack of transparency over the development of the facility.

Just over 50 percent of the 3713 students who responded supported the group's view that the development should cease until students were consulted on the "financial, ethical and scientific value and implications of investing in animal-based research."

The group's president said instead of investing millions in an animal testing facility, the university should be moving towards modern alternatives.

The project had been developed in secrecy and the group had not been able to get any information on the project or what consultation had been undertaken with students, he claimed.

"Our assessment of it is that it's a fundamentally flawed decision."

The group believed animal testing was inefficient and scientifically unreliable and there were alternatives.

He accepted the university was unlikely to overturn its decision, but hoped the referendum would result in a more open discussion about the merits of the facility and animal testing in general.

The president of the OUSA said as a result of the referendum the OUSA would now oppose the facility. However, given the project was already going ahead "there was not too much" it could do to stop it, he admitted.



Appeal to Stop GMO Potato Approval

13 June

Allowing GE potatoes into the food chain in New Zealand would be a mistake and threaten public health, claims the issue motivated group GE Free New Zealand.

In asking its supporters to oppose the move, the group says that for the first time a GMO version of a staple food is set to be signed off by authorities here.

Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) is calling for submissions on five lines of genetically engineered (GE) potatoes. What is worrying, says GE Free NZ, is that FSANZ has historically approved all previous applications for GE foods, without independent safety testing.

"The application for GE potatoes (A1139) admits the potatoes have significantly altered vital constituents (glutamine and asparagine) to allow easier processing. However, they have not been safety tested on any organism to see what adverse effects they might have when eaten, making any approval irresponsible and unwarranted," the group's president says.

FSANZ has provided only the industry references from Dow Chemical to support claims of safety. Even the industry studies reveal significant nutritional changes between the parent lines and the engineered potatoes. But the implication for consumers of these known differences, and of unidentified changes, are being ignored, she adds.

GE Free NZ claims it is irresponsible for FSANZ to dismiss significant differences that demand proper testing and claim instead that those differences are within the bounds of natural variation in other potatoes.

"GE-Free NZ calls on all industries to refuse to use these potentially harmful potatoes in their products. The public is being treated as collateral damage," she says.

"If FSANZ approves the application, it will be up to McCain's, Watties, and other manufacturers of potato products to keep GE spuds out.

"Fast food chains like McDonalds and KFC, and supermarkets like Countdown and Foodstuffs, must also prevent these untested spuds ending up in New Zealand larders and restaurants.

"The drive to commercialise a GMO that is a vital staple food in kiwi diets, is seeing safety for the consumer cast aside. Despite previous approvals over the last 20 years there are no available diagnostic tests or human studies to establish what effects there are from GE foods. This is a serious failing in the system, when digestive complaints, allergies, and organ illnesses are at epidemic levels.

"It is now known, however, that animals fed genetically engineered soy and corn have suffered liver and kidney malfunctions, blood and immune system failure, and tumour development. There are serious concerns that basic changes in the potato amino acids could cause brain damage and problems for pregnant mothers and developing babies.

"It will not be good enough just to warn women to avoid the essential staple potatoes if they are pregnant. It is reckless of FSANZ to let the application proceed this far, let alone rubber stamp it with an approval. This shows that they do not have the requisite expertise to carry out their statutory duties and may also indicate inappropriate bias."

GE Free NZ claims this application should never have been released for comment until the safety of these foods has been determined, which neither FSANZ or industry has done. "FSANZ needs to stop the clock immediately on the applications and require lifetime feeding studies, and full 'omic' analysis of these potatoes before any consideration can be made," GE Free NZ says.

The GE potatoes application is open for public submission until 07 July 2017.



Animal Testing Production Wins

10 June

College students from a North Island school behind a winning regional stage challenge production have highlighted the plight of testing cosmetics on animals.

The irony was not lost on the Wairarapa College students that their production required a lot of make-up of its own, they say.

This month, Wairarapa College won the Wellington Regional Stage Challenge and J Rock competition at with their production Cosmetic Animal Testing.

Teacher in charge of Stage Challenge said it was a coup for their school to scoop the top prize in the open division with their performance 'Cosmetic Animal Testing'.

She put their win down to their clear storytelling and good characterisation.

"I think it was the fact that our story was really clear. You could follow it and it slowly built and built and it finished with a really strong message."

The conclusion the students came to was sobering, she said.

"At the end of the day – do people really care that our cosmetic products are tested on animals? And the kids wanted to show that actually, people don't care."

This led them to questioning their own use of make-up in their production, which

like most performances, employed liberal use of cosmetics, she said.

Year 13 student choreographer said they tried hard to tie all the elements of the story together with their dances for each type of character from scientists, to abused rabbits, to consumers.

"We had 'pretty girls' who were representing us as a society and how we can see it's happening right in front of our eyes but we just choose to ignore it because we're the consumer and it's benefiting us. We're not really involved in the whole process that goes into it before it comes to us," she said.

Judges said the 102-strong Wairarapa College team brought raw emotion and passion to their performance with a theme that was inspired by the cries of millions of animal each year.

The Design Judge for the event said they were impressed by the level of performance, production and design presented by Wairarapa College calling it, "A captivating performance and a visual feast. They focused on how it is most likely the cosmetic products we use, are tested on animals, this was highlighted beautifully through their set and performance."





Rare Praise from Anti GE Group

09 June

The anti-GE issue motivated group has given the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) rare praise for acting on reports that genetically modified petunias might have been illegally imported into New Zealand.

The MPI has sent seed stock to testing laboratories to see if the seeds are genetically modified in a move praised by the group, which only recently had been criticising the MPI for not monitoring or recording the percentage of GE content in imported animal feed.

The notification to nurseries followed confirmation by the Australian Gene

Technology Regulator (OGTR) that GE petunias were growing in Australia were illegal and had been ordered to be destroyed.

"We congratulate MPI on their quick precautionary action in removing this potential biosecurity breach," says the president of GE-Free NZ.

"If this biosecurity threat is proven, then the importers must be held responsible for the costs and any damage caused by this breach.

"There is increasing concern at the loss of biosecurity staff who control the borders and are tasked with protecting our industries and economy from dangerous incursions. Our border controls are failing. Some importers are being cavalier and are not abiding by the law, putting New Zealand at significant risk."

"Consumers at home and abroad want produce grown in New Zealand to be GE Free. It would be devastating if a GE incursion hit our potato or tomato growing industries."

Last month in the United States, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced US flower distributors had destroyed countless petunia plants after federal scientists confirmed that they were genetically engineered to produce vivid orange, red, and purple blooms. The agency says the flowers pose no risk to the environment or to human health, but GE organisms need special permits to be sold in the United States.



Animal Rights Activists Caged

04 June

Forty animal rights activists spent much of Queen's Birthday Weekend caged up and cramped together in a small cage with no entertainment, in a protest which animal rights group SAFE says simulated what it is like to be a factory farmed animal.

'Caged Being: A Social Experiment' saw 40 volunteers spend 40 hours in a cage



about the size of one-and-a-half boxing rings. SAFE's Campaigns Director said each person had about 1.2 square metres of personal space each.

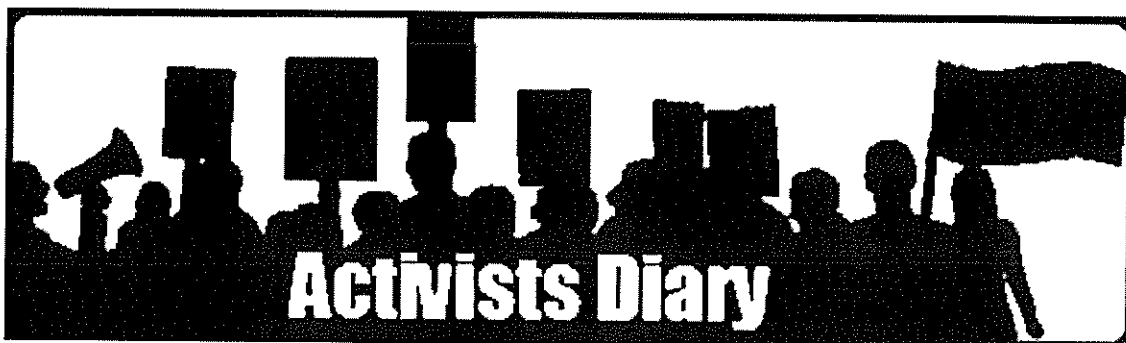
"It's a really small amount of space, it's just over the size of a phone box. They're only going to be allowed to go to the toilet at set times, so they're going to have to get used to not having that freedom to come and go as they choose."

Like factory-farmed animals, she said they were fed "a very boring grain-fed diet of muesli and soy milk four times a day, so it's going to be a life of deprivation and restriction."

As well as no privacy for nearly two days, there was no creature comforts or entertainment and only let out to go to the toilet.

But a psychologist was on hand to help any of the 40 should had they struggled with the experiment. It appeared she wasn't needed. The event was held in a Ponsonby office building and was live streamed.

Some of the volunteers were only in their teens.



NZ Animal Law Conference

01 July

The New Zealand Animal Law Association will be hosting the 2017 Animal Law Conference in Auckland at 10am on 01 July in the Kensington Swan Conference Centre.

The association has announced it has secured a larger venue after the initial seats sold out, and another 120 made available. The association says 100 of these additional seats have already been sold. Tickets for this event are \$65 each (\$25 for students).

The association has announced that the keynote international speakers will be vegetarian advocate Dr Jane Goodall, a world most famous expert on chimpanzees, and who is also speaking at a sold out public address at the Logan Campbell Centre on the evening of 01 July.

Also speaking will be retired Australian High Court judge Michael Kirby, formerly the longest serving judge of Australia's highest court (the High Court of Australia being the equivalent of the Supreme Court here). Since his retirement from the Bench, Judge Kirby has become a prominent advocate of animal welfare.





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