

Your **VOICE** for the future



Chairman's Report

OPTIMISTIC

There is very positive and exciting development happening in New Zealand. In my opinion a revolution is underway as we see a number of courageous

Mayors and Judges coming to the fore and demanding legislation to control escalating violence in their communities.

Following the murder of Scottish tourist Karen Aim in Taupo, Mayor Rick Cooper and his Council joined forces with the Sensible Sentencing Trust to hold a public meeting which over 1000 people attended frustrated by the lack of Government action regarding escalating violence and the role of repeat offenders.

Two weeks later Papakura Mayor Callum Penrose organized a Law & Order rally supported by 1250 residents calling for their Police Station to be manned and open 24 hours a day. Traditionally Law & Order has been the domain

of Central Government and already busy Mayors have been reluctant to intervene. Local body elections last year saw a number of very community minded leaders coming to the fore. Following Taupo and Papakura a number of other Mayors are preparing to show the same leadership and put this debate firmly in the hands of the community they represent.

This is a decision these courageous civic leaders have not taken lightly but obviously feel they have no alternative as successive Governments have introduced various forms of legislation that have put violent offenders back on the streets either via Bail, Community Sentences or Parole. October last year saw the Government introduce new Bail laws which have resulted in a **dramatic increase in Bail being granted to offenders charged with extremely serious and violent offences.**

GARTH

THE TRAVESTY OF BAIL

This tragedy had its beginnings when Michael Curran, a repeat offender was charged with the murder of Natasha Hayden. Through the combined antics of his lawyer and sloppy judiciary Curran was granted Bail. Aaliyah Morrissey aged two years and eight months was a completely defenceless child yet she died in Starship hospital eight days after a beating administered by Michael Curran. The police opposed Curran's Bail, but were ignored by both Curran's lawyer (*as we would expect*) and also the Judge. Neither of these **upstanding members of our community** have been held to account! **YET!**



Natasha



Baby Aaliyah

The Government's absolute determination to lower the prison population has often had dire consequences, including the death of baby Aaliyah Morrissey.

Proactive Mayors Take Decisive Action On Law & Order

It is no wonder Mayors are feeling obliged to start a counter action against Governments and civil servants who have promoted this disastrous liberal experiment (*see our graph page 5*).

Mayors experience first hand the consequences of escalating violent crime and the ripple effect it has on their communities.

While previous Elections have become lolly-scrambles on many issues there now appears to be consensus from many parties that New Zealand can not continue with this disastrous liberal experiment. Acknowledging a problem is the first step in finding a solution.

We would like to acknowledge the Mayors who have added weight to this debate and urge those who haven't, to do so.

The Sensible Sentencing Trust has come of age. We are by far the most dominant voice for Justice Reform and Victims Rights. Many of our policies are now being adopted by various political parties. As the Election draws closer we will be advising which parties we believe will ultimately make New Zealand a safe paradise once again.

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ADVANCING VICTIMS RIGHTS CONFERENCE 2008

The Sensible Sentencing Trust's Victims Conference held in Wellington 19th/20th April 2008 was attended by over 100 murder victims families. Garth opened the Conference by introducing the family members present and briefly outlined their tragic circumstances that brought them to the Trust. This was a very emotional and sobering experience for everyone present as there were so many preventable tragedies in the room. The majority of these crimes had been committed by repeat offenders, many on Parole or Bail.

Being Election year the Conference focused on what the different political parties had to offer victims in advancing their rights. Each party took the opportunity to promote their respective policies relating to victims. While most acknowledged that victims needs are not being met, the Policies being offered still fall short in addressing victims needs but are steps in the right direction.

More funding for Victim Support Organisation is positive **only** if the money promised reaches the victims and is not soaked up in Administrative costs. Increasing the use of New Zealand's present form of Restorative Justice is concerning as it is tied to legislation and Offenders are using the process to obtain a discount on their sentence and gain credits for parole applications. Victims are being coerced into meetings which often re-victimizes them. Many at the Conference were repulsed by the mere thought of meeting with the killer of their loved one through Restorative Justice.

The major benefit and feedback from those attending the Conference was the collective and positive support they received from being with others who had suffered similar tragedies and truly understood.

"The best thing for me about the conference was the bond with the other families, meeting others in my position and being truly recognised as someone who has lost someone so tragically"

Guest speakers included:

Detective Inspector Steve Rutherford who is greatly respected by the many families whose cases he's been involved in. He was extremely supportive of the Trust's work.

Nigel Latta forensic psychologist /author and presenter of TV Real Crime series "Beyond the Darklands" echoed the thoughts of everyone at the conference and was very informative and enjoyed by all.

Andi Brotherston Media specialist whose experience and advice when dealing with media issues was invaluable.

Nikki Pender Wellington Barrister spoke on the need for victims to have legal representation at various times throughout the justice process.

Kevin McNeil spoke of the violent murder of his mother, school teacher Louis Dear and the effect the loss has on his family.

Ida Hawkins whose 16 year old daughter Colleen was murdered, received a standing ovation after her speech. (*"My Journey with Sensible Sentencing Trust refer page 6*).

Marty Devlin was After Dinner entertainer. His humour and rendition of "Dancing with the Stars" and other life experiences was certainly appreciated by all and had everyone laughing.

WENDY

"I don't know what we would do without SST. It is a bloody tough road"



Quotes from the conference:

"Sharing experiences, tears and laughter in a relaxed atmosphere of like minded people who fully understand"

"This was a powerful weekend for me and it really has impacted on my life"

"It was good meeting other families knowing we are not alone in our grief, having others care and know how you are really feeling"

A representative from each political party had been invited to give a 20 minute address on their party's future commitment to victims.

Labour Party	- Hon Annette King - Panellist Louisa Wall
National Party	- John Key - Panellist Chester Borrows
NZ First	- Ron Mark
United Future	- Hon Peter Dunne
Act Party	- Heather Roy
Maori Party	- Declined to attend
Progressive	- No response

British Crime Expert And Author To Visit New Zealand

David Fraser is an author and specialist on the inner workings of Britain's Criminal Justice system. He worked for 26 years in the British Probation Service, Courts and Prisons also working as a Criminal Intelligence Analyst for many years and in 1998 gave verbal evidence to the House of Commons on Alternative Sentencing.

David Fraser argues that community based sentences and probation orders have simply left criminals free to cause mayhem in their communities, while the systems obsession with the well-being of criminals has overridden its concern for their victims, whose interests and sufferings are callously ignored. He suggests successive Governments' and Community leaders failure to carry out what is their first duty - to protect their citizens - threatens to undermine democracy itself, as more and more people, exasperated by the blatant injustice of the criminal justice system, take the law into their own hands.

His book "A Land Fit for Criminals" is the result of many years of research and involvement with the British Criminal Justice System. David Fraser is coming to New Zealand as a sponsored guest of the Sensible Sentencing Trust and will undertake an extensive tour and media campaign.

Our message will be simple – many communities are being plagued by graffiti and vandalism which are presently treated as petty crime, but are in fact the doorway to more serious offending. While many regions have implemented various management measures these are extremely expensive and are no deterrent at all to the offenders. We believe the classifying of these crimes as petty is a dominating factor in the increase in youth violence New Zealand is currently experiencing.

The purpose of David Fraser's visit is to instigate debate on the appalling state of law and order in New Zealand and how for decades, civil servants and various Ministers of the Crown have deceived the public as they implemented a disastrous politically correct social experiment that has cost hundreds of innocent lives and put thousands more at risk.

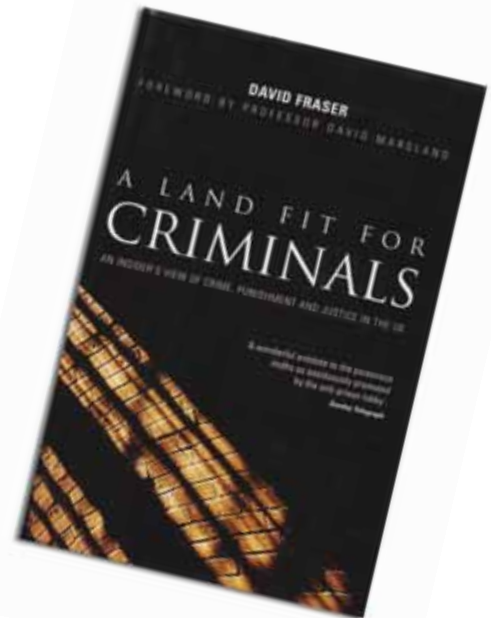
A web-site dedicated to the Fraser tour will be launched on 1st June and will include Fraser's itinerary as well as many revealing facts behind what has caused the free-fall of our Justice System to the point where it now dangles perilously between life-support and total annihilation.

GARTH

DATES FOR JUNE TOUR:

Auckland:	Saturday 14th, Sunday 15th, Monday 16th & Tuesday 17th June
Tauranga	Wednesday 18th June
Christchurch	Thursday 19th June
Napier	Friday 20th & Saturday 21st June
Wellington	Tuesday 24th & Wednesday 25th June
Auckland	Thursday 26th, Friday 27th & Monday 30th June

For further information visit www.landfitforcriminals.org.nz



"We do not need psychologists to tell us the simple truth that if you reward bad behaviour you will get more of it. We should not be surprised that we are now engulfed in crime."

David Fraser



Garth rehearsing for the 'Land fit for Criminals Tour'



No Tools in the Tool Box! Rick Cooper - Mayor of Taupo

As I look out of my Mayoral Office across a mirror-like Lake Taupo to the spectacular and serene sight of Mounts Ngauruhoe and Ruapehu in the distance one could be drawn into a feeling of complete euphoria. But all is not picture perfect in Taupo and I sense that most towns and cities in our beautiful Country are starting to feel the same way as I am.



Photo courtesy of Catherine Preston / Taupo Times

I understood when I became elected as a Mayor that my main role would be to protect and enhance those wonderful things that we have in our district for the good of everyone. The more time that I spend learning about my civic duty the more I become aware of problems that we face in local government and the people that we should be able to look to for assistance are the very people that seem to be the major problem creators and the barriers to improvement.

We have an underbelly of criminal activity in Taupo, just the same as every community does. I see two real groups of problems that if we do not get onto as a nation then we will just drift into mayhem and a level of anti-social behaviour that we will not be able to escape from.

How can it be that the Bay of Plenty Police Force can be praised for exceeding their targets in reducing crime and producing the statistics to prove it when we all know that anti-social behaviour is on the increase? The simple fact is that their targets are written in such a way as to avoid the real issue. It's not their fault, that's the way they've been told to write their plans. My plan target is simple. **No Crime, no antisocial activity and no intimidation is acceptable**, any more than that is not acceptable.

The first and most critical group of problems relate to the way we deal with crime. Whether it is serious violent crime or whether it is low level offending, the tools available to our criminal justice system enforcers are being eroded. Eroded is putting it politely.

I believe that there appears to be a systematic politically correct crusade to remove all common-sense from our society.

Teachers struggle to discipline students and parents are being made to think twice before reprimanding their own children to keep them from harm's way. Police seem forced to be more focussed on paperwork that protect offender's rights than they are on keeping them off the streets and judges are given wet bus-tickets to slap criminals with rather than being able to display leadership by saying "you will not want to offend again because you will be properly punished." Give the enforcement agencies the power to enforce is my call. Stop this politically correct crusade now-for the sake of our sanity.

The second group of problems relates to the "Sausage-Sizzle" mentality that seems to have been created within our social services caused by the incessant passing down of central Government responsibilities to Local Authorities. We seem to have more groups involved in social service activities that spend more time applying for funding than they do on getting their job done.

My call would be for a coordinated and consistent level of Government funding with acceptable and measurable checks and balances. Social services should not be a charity case! Especially when it's the local ratepayer constantly being asked to be the money tree.

I once again take a look across the lake to the Mountains in the distance and I hope that when I finish my time as Mayor of Taupo that this Town and the Agencies that it relies upon to keep us safe are in a far better place than they are today.



Christchurch Police Draw 'Line in the Sand'

Garth was guest speaker at the "Cut Crime in Christchurch" public meeting on 7th May with over 500 people attending. Christchurch Mayor Bob Parker, Canterbury District Commander Superintendent Dave Cliff and Central City Commander Inspector Gary Knowles all addressed the meeting and took the opportunity to announce a new initiative to cut crime in Christchurch. The announcement that Christchurch would adopt New York's Broken Windows - zero tolerance approach met with huge approval from the audience.

Below are quotes taken from the Christchurch Press following the meeting.

District Commander Dave Cliff said "The approach known as Broken Windows policing, saw low-end crime fall away and was matched by a decrease in high-end crime"
CHCH press 9/5/08

Canterbury District Commander said "The Broken Windows approach proved effective in transforming New York from one of the United States most dangerous cities in 1980s into one of its safest."
CHCH Press 9/5/08

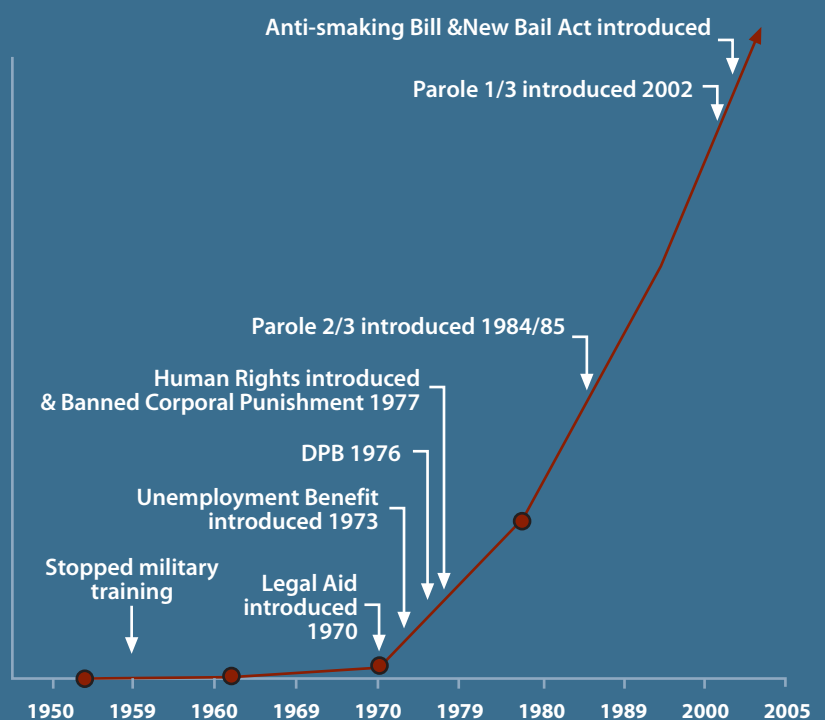
"Returning respect for the laws of the land to Christchurch streets is the main aim of the police's new Broken Windows policy," Canterbury's top policeman says.
CHCH Press 9/5/08

After Christchurch's first weekend of **zero tolerance policing**, the city's Mayor issues a challenge: "Get tough on crime". Christchurch Mayor Bob Parker wants all citizens to play their part in cutting crime in the city. Parker said it was important it was not just left to the police to try to make the city safer. "I think it's a tremendous initiative and I want to congratulate them," he said.
CHCH Press 12/5/08

THE LIBERAL DISASTER

The graph opposite shows the chain reaction of the politically correct experiment that has all but destroyed the tried-and-proven values of accountability, responsibility, respect and discipline from young peoples lives; the result a catastrophic disastrous escalation in violent crime and prison population. Combined with the introduction of Family Group Conferences and Restorative Justice the outcome has been a catastrophe that will haunt us for many years yet.

In the year 2006
NZ Police records show
56,983
violent offences



MY JOURNEY WITH SENSIBLE SENTENCING TRUST

(*Ida's presentation to our Wellington Conference*)



Today, I'm going to share with you my journey with Sensible Sentencing Trust.

The murder of my daughter, Colleen Burrows in Napier in 1987 is how I got involved with Sentencing Sensible Trust. Two thugs took her from the street to the riverbank. She refused to have sex with them. They then drove over her repeatedly and kicked her to death. They were both wearing steel capped boots.

Her body was so badly mutilated, that I couldn't see her to say goodbye.

Sam Tehei & Tad Sullivan murdered her. Colleen is my eldest child. She was 16 years of age.

I was a widow with two younger children, Joseph aged 5, and Tracey aged 13.

For 17 yrs my children and I had suffered in silence, not knowing what to do, or whom to turn to. Each day I wanted to reach out and share with someone the anguish and the pain. Finally, I heard Garth McVicar. Thank God, I felt an angel had touched me. I had waited for such a long time; hoping & praying "help me! I need help!"

Subsequently, Tracey and I met Garth, Anne, Wendy Graham and the rest of the compassionate team from SST.

Since that day, I have been on many journeys with SST. I slowly regained my strength, strong enough to make a difference. I gained confidence to stand up and speak out. These scums had murdered my daughter.

I recall my first reaction with media. A story had been published about Sam Tehei claiming compensation, saying his Human Rights had been abused whilst in prison. How despicable is that!

I felt nauseated I was so sick. I needed to speak out to tell someone; "this is a sick joke!" What about Colleen's Human Rights? He had murdered her. Thereby, depriving her of any rights at all. It's so unjust! From there on, I vowed & declared I would endeavour to fight for my daughter's rights and victim's & their families. That was my first huge step into my journey.

I travelled to Wellington to put in a submission to try and convince the Government to stop Te Hei receiving any further compensation payments. A plea I made to the Parliamentary Committee asking it not to reward crims.

It gave me an opportunity to come face to face with politicians. I was frustrated, angry, and emotionally exhausted.

I was reliving the entire trauma again. There were many more pleas after that.

Numerous TV appearances, interviews, phone, media and radio. Eventually, I had to attend my first Parole Board Meeting. Only to be told, "to move on & get over it." I should consider Restorative Justice. And what? Confront the murderer, and forgive him?

Forgive him for murdering my daughter. I felt gutted. Shattered.

We are all experiencing a journey. Losing our loved ones at the hands of these scumbags is a life time journey.

There is no place in a civilised society for criminals like Sam Te Hei & Tad Sullivan. It's a simple philosophy, the rights of victims comes before criminals.

Each year as I attend a conference, sadly, I see many new faces. I am so humbled by the empathy, caring and support that Tracey & I have gained from each and every one of you, in your own little way. We all share the same hurt and pain. I am only one of hundreds of Victims that has lost a loved one to murder.

It totally destroyed our lives mentally and physically. A murder that was senseless.

I am so fortunate to belong to a Trust that has nurtured and embraced my family throughout the years. A Trust that aims to bring about fundamental changes in NZ's justice system.

With determination and willpower, I will continue on my journey; to fight for justice for victims!

I sincerely thank you S.S.T.

Ida's Poem to Colleen

I luv you so MUCH

I luv you so DEAR

I luv you with every little TEAR

Without you I cannot BEAR

Without you it is not FAIR

You are my reason for living this LONG

You are the reason I try to be STRONG

With determination and willpower, I will continue on my journey; to fight for justice for victims!



THUMBS UP

JUDGE ADEANE

"Tagging down after Judge's tough ruling".

Judge Adeane jailed a Hastings tagger for 28 days. Labelling graffiti a "cultural slur", the Judge warned other graffiti vandals that he would have no qualms dishing out more jail time.

The tough stance seems to be working with a noticeable decrease in the amount of tagging since jailing the Hastings teen last month. Hastings District Council environment enhancement officer said, "We've definitely noticed a decrease in the last three to four weeks".

Hawke's Bay Today

JUDGE HUGH WILLIAMS

For his empathy with Victims.

An Auckland High Court Judge broke down as he read out victim impact statements at the sentencing of a man who drove his car into a crowd killing two people. Justice Williams was forced to stop as he recounted how the deaths had affected friends and family after a "few minutes of motoring mayhem". The offender was jailed for life with non-parole period of 18 1/2 years.

NZ Herald 17/11/07 (We understand this sentence is going to be appealed).

JUDGE GEOFF REA

for handing down a 7 year imprisonment sentence to a youth who was "spoiling for trouble" and nearly killed a man in a totally unprovoked assault. The only mitigating factor was the offender pleading guilty two days into a three day trial.

HB Today 21/5/08



THUMBS DOWN

HONE HARAWIRA MP

In parliament Hone Harawira described a Judge who jailed a recidivist tagger as a "dickhead" when the Maori Party **opposed** a bill that strengthens graffiti penalties.

HB today 21/5/08

DR CINDY KIRO (Children's Commissioner)

"For some people, graffiti and tagging are seen as legitimate art forms. There is history and social commentary behind these art forms". **Dr Kiro's media release 2/4/08**

SELECT COMMITTEES

by Alan Monk

People make changes. People make changes by speaking up, putting their point of view to Select Committees, thence to the Legislators.

Sensible Sentencing Trust has supported a number of Victims as they appear before Select Committees to explain how the current law or legal system has failed to protect them or their families.

Initially the idea of a victim making a submission to a Select Committee is overwhelming for most people. In fact it is a very simple process.

In its simplest form, it is little more than a letter setting out your views on a particular issue.

You can choose to just leave it in a written form or you can ask to be heard, in which case you will be advised of a time and date when you go to Wellington and address the Select Committee personally.

A third option (used by Garth and me a few weeks ago) was to make the submission via telephone conference direct into the Committee room.

Select Committees consist of representatives of the various political parties in Government and there will always be people there who want to hear your point of view.

To get started visit www.parliament.co.nz then go to Select Committees followed by "Have your Say", then "Make a submission". Remember. "People make changes". **Don't be afraid to have your say.**

Alarming figures on teenage crime (NZ Herald 9/5/08)

- Up to 80% of teenage offenders have drug and alcohol problems
- 70% aren't enrolled in any form of education
- The rate of violent youth crime is rising steadily.

THREE STRIKES WILL SAVE LIVES

After our trip to America last year we were convinced a combination of various law & order policies we saw would make New Zealand a much safer society. After consulting with various interest groups Barrister David Garrett has drafted a "Three Strikes" law specifically for this country. If implemented it would identify and remove the repeat violent offender.

All Parties have been given a copy of this draft legislation to consider and we will announce their position before the Election.

2008 GOLF TOURNAMENT



In February the Trust was able to hold its second Charity Golf Tournament at the exclusive and challenging Hill Country Estate 9 hole Golf Course thanks to the generosity of Andy Lowe. This was hugely successful being bigger and brighter than last year thanks to the great team work and organising committee lead by Louise Parsons, Annette Cato and Anne McVicar. A special thanks to Golf Professional Brian Doyle for superbly managing the teams on the day.

An enjoyable and fun day was had by all participants with the after match function being just as enjoyable as the Golf. People were entertained by talented local musician John Fletcher while enjoying BBQ venison, smoked fish and local wines. The Auction exceeded all expectations with items such as the limited edition Rugby Book "Men in Black" kindly donated by Sir Russell Pettigrew and the Tiger Woods framed autographed Glove & Golf Balls selling beyond reserve price. A days sailing on Auckland Luxury Yacht "Sea Troy" was extended during the Auction by owner Annette Presley, to include an overnight trip. A special thanks to Caroline Speedy of Audio Video Design who donated over \$4,500 of audio equipment for Auction and sponsored 5 teams, 2 teams being for victims who wished to play.

The over whelming success of the Day was thanks to all participants, the people and businesses who supported the Trust by way of donating auction items, prizes, wine and food, equipment, sponsorship and those donating their valuable time. We sincerely thank you all.

Thanks to your wonderful assistance and the amazing support enjoyed by the Trust we can now look forward to Charity Golf Tournament 2009. All proceeds go towards our annual "Advancing Victims Rights" Conference.

Should you wish to donate items, enter or sponsor a team for the 2009 Golf Tournament please register your interest by phoning Annette 027 2081550 or emailing louiseparsons@xtra.co.nz

Our Members have their say!

We encourage you to write to us and have your say. We always look forward to hearing from you

"Your dedication and effort in this worthy cause is an inspiration"

Wellington

"Keep up the good work, we need you"

Tauranga

"Our Justice system is failing us ordinary folk, thank goodness for your trust"

Christchurch

"Thank you for the huge effort in bringing about Justice for Victims of Crime"

Auckland

A THANK YOU

Once again thank you to those members who have already renewed their membership and we welcome our new members.

It is a privilege to work on your behalf to bring about the much needed changes within our Justice system. We appreciate your support and look forward to working on your behalf.

IT'S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

Enclosed is a yellow renewal form.
Please return it with your much needed donation.

TO: Sensible Sentencing Trust
P.O. Box 701, Napier

OR: Directly to Westpac
030698 0096242 00
(Include initials and surname)