



# Your VOICE for the future



Garth McVicar - Founder

## Chairman's Report

# New Zealand A land fit for Criminals WHY?

**The first responsibility of Government is the safety of its law-abiding citizens.**

Welcome to the Sensible Sentencing Trusts most daring and adventurous project yet; made possible by you – our supporters – and the many courageous survivors of some of this country's most hideous and repugnant crimes.



**Enclosed with this Newsletter is a DVD that graphically exposes the corrupt ideology and catastrophic outcome of policies that have wreaked havoc on our communities and exposed citizens and vulnerable children to a totally unacceptable risk.**

## New Zealand - A land fit for Criminals - Why?

This is a chilling but factual account of how for decades, civil servants and various Minister of the Crown have deceived the public as they implemented a disastrous politically correct social experiment.





Repeat offenders and career criminals being granted parole, bail, concurrent and community sentences or home detention, have cost hundreds of innocent lives and put thousands more at risk.

What you are about to see in this DVD is the sad reality of a dysfunctional justice system.


Some of the interviews are unapologetically emotional but are a candid insight into the lives of those left behind – the survivors and victims of what has become a shamefully negligent legal process...a travesty of justice.

New Zealand's escalating violent crime rate means the old debate on what works is dead...the new debate must be **WHY** past and present Governments have misled us. They have allowed their obsession with the well-being of criminals to override any concern for their victims – or the safety of innocent members of society.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

-  Attend political meetings and ask political candidates why they have underwritten and supported this absurd /disastrous experiment?
-  Also write to politicians and your M.P asking them what they intend doing about it?
-  Invite friends/associates to coffee mornings or organize functions and show this DVD. Encourage others to do the same.
-  Encourage others to join SST - No matter what the mix and mingle of the next Government this issue will not go away - SST will be needed for many years yet.

This DVD can be played on a computer or a DVD player. If you do not have either of these perhaps someone could play it for you.

Enclosed is our brochure for you to encourage a friend to join  together we can make a difference.

# Sentencing Council Sham

## HIDDEN AGENDA - EXPOSED

When Graham Burton murdered Karl Kuchenbecker the Government made all sorts of promises about Parole reforms.

The Prime Minister said Parole would again become a "privilege" and there were promises that criminals would serve two-thirds of their sentence before being able to apply for parole.

Fantastic we all thought, finally common sense prevails.

The Parole Amendment Act 2007 was duly put before Parliament, and there it sits!

**We were conned. There was no intention to make criminals serve longer sentences.**

What was intended was to set up a Sentencing Council which will LOWER ALL sentences by approximately 25%. With that in place the Government could then deliver on its promise to raise parole eligibility to two-thirds! Without criminals serving any more time in prison.

This has all been part of a devious plan to reduce the prison population at any cost. The loss of innocent lives like Karl Kuchenbecker's and skyrocketing violent crime rates are a direct result of the Government's plan.



To the political party/parties who will adopt Sensible Sentencing Trusts policies.

- Life to Mean Life for premeditated murder
- No bail for violent criminals
- No Parole for violent criminals
- Victims' Rights before Criminals' Rights

## REPEAT OFFENDERS CAN BE IDENTIFIED

The Corrections Department has a fool-proof method, [ROC\*ROI] of predicting behaviour of criminals. It is virtually 100% able to identify those likely to re-offend. Yet none of this information is made available to the Judges or Parole Board.

## JUSTICE SYSTEM ON LIFE-SUPPORT

For the last 4 decades New Zealanders have been subjected to a disastrous social experiment that has been overseen and fostered by ALL Governments - not to mention the bureaucrats and academics who aid and abet them.

Violent crime has increased by an alarming 43.6% since 1999 and an astonishing 12.3% in the year 2006 / 2007.

## A GOVERNMENTS FIRST DUTY IS TO PROTECT ITS CITIZENS?

### New Zealanders are giving up....

(Letter received from a member 20/6/08)

To Sensible Sentencing Trust,  
I am unable to continue my support for your organisation - along with many others. New Zealand is so far down the tubes that it is no longer worth the effort to try and save.

We did and should still have a great country. It's a pathetic little country which I hope not to be part of for much longer. All the best for the future.

Yours (name withheld)

# Murders... Murders... Murders...

**How can our Government in all honesty write to New Zealanders stating :**

*“Although it seems like there are more murders because we now hear about them in the news, this is not actually true. The number of murders per year have remained relatively stable over the last decade. You may be interested to know that the number of murders in New Zealand was at a decade low last year, at 45 murders.” Justice Minister Annette King 28/6/08.*

**Are we meant to take comfort from such a statement? It would be good to know what is “actually true”?** Is it true that figures, statistics and categories are massaged and manipulated to lower figures? Whatever the truth, every murder should be taken personally and should not be regarded as just another crime. Murder is an act of unique brutality and one murder is unacceptable. However what we do know to be true, is that vast numbers of murder victims’ families contact the Trust because they have been let down by our Justice system.

We have a system which gives murderers greater rights than the families of the people they have murdered. There is no redress, consequences or compensation when the system has failed them. If a killer is sentenced to Life, a Life Sentence should mean a lifetime of incarceration. The victim’s family serves a true life sentence without Parole.

Sentencing should reflect society’s abhorrence to such crimes. The community delegates the task of sentencing to the Courts and they should respond to the widespread public concern to such horrific brutality. Inadequate sentencing undermines the value of human life. Not only does it show contempt towards the surviving relatives, it sends out a disastrous message to society regarding the State’s attitude towards killing. Sentences do not meet public expectations and confidence in our Justice system has diminished. (refer graph)

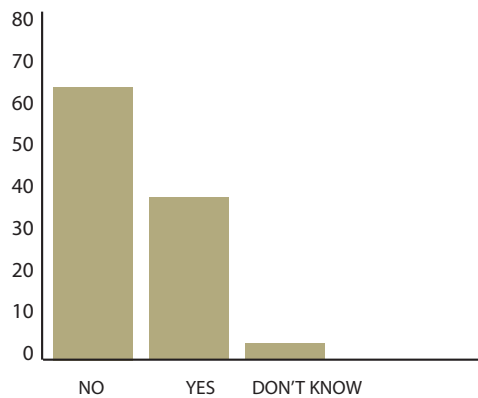
Unfortunately sentencing is now being designed to prevent even more criminals from going to jail with the formation of the new Sentencing Council and the push towards Community Sentences. There appears to be greater emphasis on reducing the prison population than protecting the public from violent criminals. We are constantly being reminded of New Zealand’s shamefully high imprisonment rate, which is myth-making. In actual fact **New Zealand jails fewer offenders** than the European average when measured correctly against our crime rate.

It is our Government’s first and foremost responsibility to protect its citizens. Their focus should be on lowering the crime rate - not the prison population.

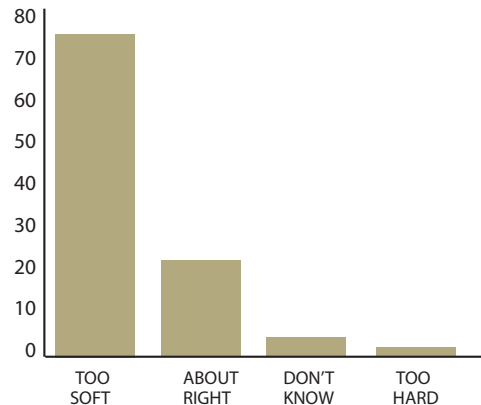
Wendy Pedler

**Research NZ Poll (August 2008)**

Do you have full trust and confidence in the New Zealand Justice System?



In your opinion, the sentences handed out to criminals are...



***“The world is a dangerous place to live, not because of the people who are evil, but because of the people who don’t do anything about it”*** Albert Einstein

# Thank you for your support

## **"A Land Fit for Criminals" Tour.**

Thank you for your feedback regarding our June tour by British Crime Expert and author of "A Land Fit for Criminals" - David Fraser. The Tour was hugely successful and David was in great demand throughout the Country for TV, Radio and media interviews. His views and comments which are based on his personal experiences within the British Criminal Justice System were difficult to challenge and well received. It is greatly concerning that New Zealand appears to be adopting Britain's failed policies.

*"Thank you for arranging David Fraser to come to NZ. His solutions seem to be the most sensible I have heard so far"* **Email received 18/6/08**

*"Great to see him on Close Up. The fact that a Law Society Representative argued against his Book simply tells me that all Lawyers and Judges cannot be trusted to bring about longer sentences because they have a vested financial interest in offenders committing crime"*

**Email received 17/6/08**

**CONGRATULATIONS GARTH** - The Trust is very proud of the recent award **Auckland Toastmasters Communicator of the Year 2008** won by Garth.

**A huge thank you must go to the many Victims who help us in many different ways. Your input into the Trust is invaluable.**

Congratulations to John and Val Hargreaves who are doing a wonderful Job on behalf of the Trust they average at least 2 speaking engagements a week and bringing in a huge number of new members... Thank you both.



Thanks to Sharlene and Malcolm Barnett who walked 21.2 km in the recent Taupo marathon to raise money for the Trust. They raised a fantastic \$1785.00.

The Trust would like to thank the families involved in the making of our DVD. Without your participation this project would not have gone ahead.

## **GOLF TOURNAMENT Friday February 13th 2009**

Once again we are holding our annual Charity Golf Tournament at the exclusive and challenging Hill country Estate 9 hole Golf Course thanks to the generosity of Andy Lowe.



This is a fun day filled with entertainment, food and wine, finishing with a Charity Auction. Perhaps you may like to bring a team to Hawkes Bay as it coincides with Napier's world famous Art Deco week – not to mention the many great wineries that deserve a visit.

We welcome your support either by entering a Team, donating Auction items or sponsoring a Victims team. Any and all donations are gratefully appreciated. This event is held to raise funds for our annual "Victims Rights Conference".

To register your interest or for further information please contact Louise Parsons on [louiseparsons@xtra.co.nz](mailto:louiseparsons@xtra.co.nz) or phone 027 2058356.

## **Thank you members**

We were overwhelmed and encouraged by your wonderful response to our Invoice in our last newsletter.

**Your continued support keeps us going !**

## **A word from our members...**

"Thank you for your hard work, many of us feel so helpless to do anything about the increase in violence. One assumes the people we elect are dealing with these problems... but then realize that is not the case."

**Christchurch**

"From all of us affected by these senseless acts of devastation thank you."

**Perth**

"Thank you so much for all you have done and continue to do. There is a huge ground swell out there and hopefully it can be channelled to achieve your goals.

Guaranteeing our support."

**Tauranga**

"Thank you for the time and energy you put into the Trust. My outrage at our limp wristed justice system is somewhat assuaged by making a contribution to your cause which I passionately endorse"

**Paeroa**

"For some time now I have considered becoming a member of your Trust. Now is the time, as I am so disgusted with the limp Government policies that relate to law and order in this country."

**Lower Hutt**