

radical

ation news and views from aotearoa

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CHANT SHEET
INSIDE

liberate

autumn 2009, issue 3



informant
arrested



rats



campaign
updates



**ROB GILCHRIST
POLICE INFORMANT**

For more information turn to page 21



Mission Statement

Liberate is a magazine written by and for the animal liberation community in Aotearoa. It aims to encourage discussion amongst the community about animal abuse issues, strategies, tactics and goals. In no way does Liberate aim to create a homogenised centralised approach to animal liberation but rather we wish to acknowledge our diversity of thought, action and collective experience, knowledge and passion.

We acknowledge that industrialised animal abuse is the result of an oppressive global regime that puts power and profit before the preservation of life, whether it be that of an animal, human or mother earth. This system not only encourages and legitimises animal abuse but also racism, sexism, homophobia, colonisation and environmental destruction.

Liberate draws links between the struggle for animal liberation and the liberation of our communities and mother earth with the aim of creating solidarity between movements. One Struggle, One Fight!

With Love and Solidarity

The Liberate Editorial Collective



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ON THE COVER:

Campaign Update:

This issue we have put together an update on all the major grassroots campaigns being carried out by groups around New Zealand and how to get involved in these campaigns. To read these updates see page 67.



The Life of Rats in New Zealand:

Read about what rats are like in the wild and how they are treated in New Zealand by people as 'pets' and by scientists.

See page 55.

Kia ora,

Well what can you say about Rob other than FUCK! Being an (ex) close friend of his for a while now, it is sad to say that when Rochelle called me and we looked into it more I was not surprised by what we found. There are so many lessons to be learnt from these revelations and hopefully we will. It is also hopefully time for healing after the destruction, splits and bullshit that he has caused or made worse. For more on the recent revelations about Rob Gilchrist check out page 21.

Yet again we have added a new section 'actions speak louder than words'. This new section will report back to readers on all the awesome above ground actions and campaigns being fought on the animals behalf across Aotearoa. Check it out on page 64. Also in this issue you will find a DVD called 'Who Are You Having For Dinner' attached to the cover. This is a documentary about where meat comes from in Aotearoa and was produced by Animal Liberation Aotearoa. You will also find a pull out chant sheet in the middle of Liberate, to help you along at demos.

In the spirit of change, we also say goodbye to one of our editors this issue. We are now looking for a new editor. If this sounds like something you would be interested in please read our ad on page 85.

A big thank you to John for all his hard work in getting Liberate off the ground and to this point. No doubt we will be reading some of his contributions in the future.

See you all at the National Animal Rights Conference in Auckland this March (for more information see page 88).

Love and Solidarity, The Liberate Editorial Collective

Submissions

Please send us your submissions, thoughts, art and/or ideas. We will try not to edit your writing but it might be necessary if it is too long. Please send a title and images with your article.

Maximum Length for Submissions:
Features (A3): 1,300 words
Opinions: 500 words

**Deadline for next issue:
15th August 2009**

Please send all submissions to liberatemagazine@yahoo.com or via snail mail to Liberate, PO BOX 7523, Wellesley Street, Auckland.

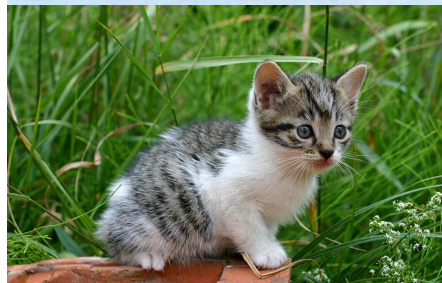
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THIS SIDE OF
THE BLACK
STUMP



AT LAST ... I CAN SIT
DOWN AND RELAX!



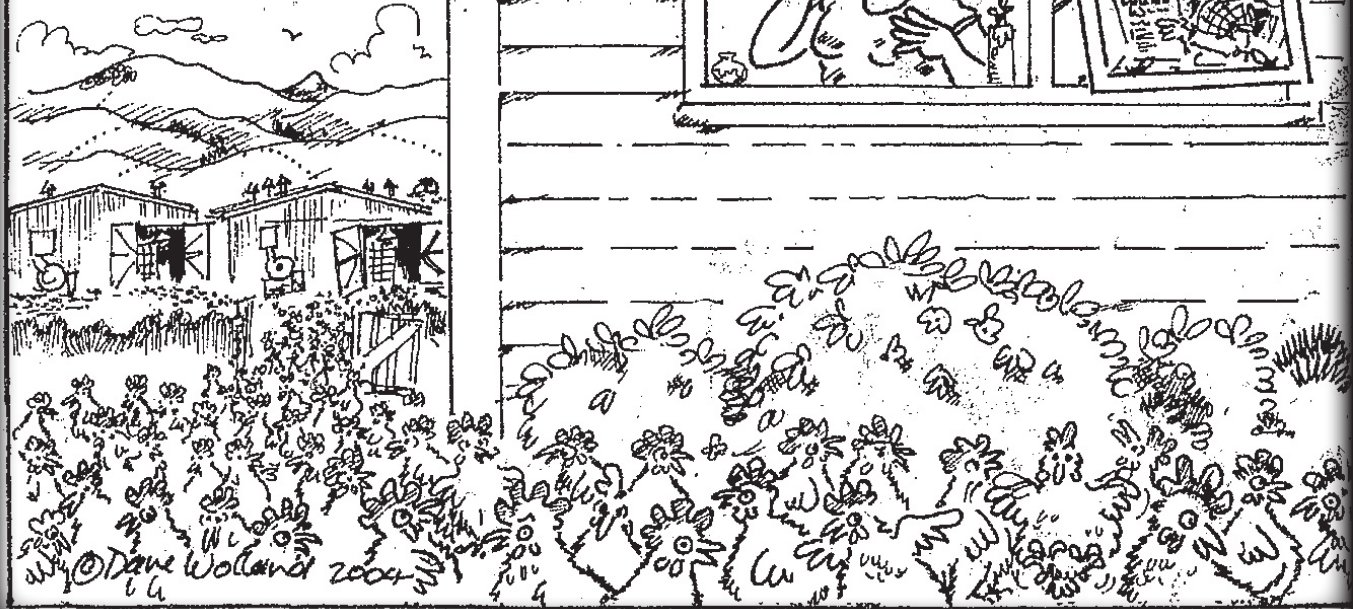
THE HAY IS IN, THE DIPPING AND
SHEARING DONE, THE BATTERY CHOOKS
HAVE BEEN FED... AND BEST OF ALL
OUR RELLIES HAVE LEFT AFTER
DOING THEIR "CHRISTMAS DOWN ON
THE FARM" THING.



BY THE WAY MARG. WHAT'S YOUR
SON JACK BEEN UP TO THIS YEAR.
IT WAS G.E. LAST YEAR, SAVING WHALES
BEFORE THAT. HE WAS VERY QUIET
WHEN HE STAYED HERE THIS TIME!



I'M NOT SURE, BUT I HAVE A STRONG SUSPICION HE MIGHT BE INTO ANIMAL RIGHTS!



© Dave Wollard 2004

BECOMING AN EXTREME VEGAN



It is a day much like any other ... a day during which over two hundred and twenty thousand animals will be killed.

A day when countless animals will suffer through being burned, electrocuted, beaten, denied enough room to even turn around, and otherwise tortured, exploited and enslaved. Step inside a slaughterhouse and see the horror for yourself.

Bodies strewn about, dead and dying, the stench of the blood of thousands is in the air. Yet the butchers continue their work, slashing the throat of one chicken after another. Their still-quivering bodies then immersed in boiling water. Some still alive, until in their last moments they are boiled alive. Some fall from the hands of their killer and lie twitching on the floor living out their last hours in futile desperation trying to re-gain control of their bodies for just long enough to drag themselves away. But there is no place to go no place to run – they are powerless before their butchers.

It's just another day in New Zealand. The plight of these animals is so extreme it seems incomprehensible that anyone who cares about animals would do anything less than they possibly could to help as many of these animal as they can.

Becoming vegan is a great place to start. It saves lives, and every life is precious. But in our fast-food nation these lives are a mere drop in the bucket. Simply trying to avoid taking an active part in the exploitation, abuse, and killing of animals is not enough. Nor can the animals afford

for us to become complacent, settling for only avoiding supporting animal industries when it's easy for us.

Think of the animals being tortured and killed as you are reading this and ask yourself: is there really nothing more you could be doing to help them? Whether it be engaging in direct action, protesting a vivisection lab, doing public speaking, supporting vegan businesses, rejecting consumer society, campaigning for legislation, or simply urging businesses to not use bone-char refined sugar in vegan products, the bottom line is the animals need you to get active and do your best for them today and every day.

Our society is incredibly apathetic and it's all too easy to get mired in one's doubts over which campaign to spend one's time on, or simply give up out of despair that one can never do enough. But look into the eyes of a calf as she is taken off to slaughter and tell her that you're really doing everything you can. Tell her that it's more important for you to go to a show than to hold out flyers about veganism. Tell a chicken imprisoned on a factory farm that you would rather stay home and watch TV than free her.

Certainly this doesn't mean one needs to spend every waking moment of every day fighting for the animals. We all need our down time to recharge and keep from getting burnt out. The trick is not to use that as an excuse to do less than we can, but instead **constantly challenge ourselves to do more to help the animals.**



MY FIRST TIME

Until recently I never thought I would be able to go into a slaughterhouse but in the last six months I have managed to go into two on four separate occasions.

The first time came in June last year and was a true spur of the moment thing. Driving back from Wellington we noticed a sign in Levin saying Abattoir. Without really thinking (or indicating) I turned down the road and went in the stock truck entrance.

After parking in the middle of their grass round-about I approached the stockyard with my video camera on record. Not expecting to get much further than this I wanted to at least get footage of the lambs in the stock truck. Much to my surprise the truck driver and stockyard manager had no problem with me filming. Small town ignorance can be useful sometimes; especially when you look down and realize that you are wearing feminist patches, your tattoos are visible and you're only wearing jandals. I made my way through the stockyard closer to the kill floor. The stock yard at this time was filled to the brim with sheep who had just been delivered. They were frightened off the truck by the truck driver and dogs and were herded into the stock yard to be water blasted clean with a high pressure fire hose.



As I walked further up the 'production line' I found that I was able to chat with ease to the workers, who for some reason, did not seem at all suspicious that I was filming. I also found that I was very detached from what was going on, viewing everything through my camera as if were watching it at home on youtube.

All of a sudden the sheep and I hit the end of the road; the captive bolt pistol. The slaughterhouse worker at this station did not even notice my presence. He was pre-occupied; singing along to his ipod and hitting the sheep on the head in time with the music.

As the sheep fell from the conveyor belt onto the kill floor I realised for the first time that the sheep I had been admiring through the camera were being killed.

For weeks afterwards I was deeply concerned about my experience in Levin; not because of what I had seen but rather how I had felt, or rather not felt. I did not engage with what was happening to those sheep the whole time I was at the slaughterhouse and I felt it was as if I did not care. I thought that there was something very wrong with me. Considering that just a year ago I would not have been able to enter a facility like this with out crying I did not understand my lack of feelings.

It took me ages to realise that it was my mind protecting me from the experience and allowing me to continue working towards animal liberation. If I fell apart every time I saw someone mistreat an animal, everytime I heard someone commend the American war effort in Iraq or everytime I thought of the total destruction our civilization is having on the environment I would



never get out of bed. I realised what made me shed a tear was not destruction but love and creation; it is a cat returning home after being lost for nine years, a battery hen experiencing grass for the first time, it is people showing compassion and understanding towards each other and seeing beyond socially constructed hierarchies based on age, race, gender, sexuality and status. It is communities collectively taking a stand against the destruction of mother earth that makes me engage emotionally.

It was five months until I would be back at a slaughterhouse and strangely it would have probably not have happened without Rob. A week before the 'Rob story' was going to hit the papers Rochelle and I made the long drive to visit Suzy's sister and let her know that her sister's best friend had been working for the filth the whole time they had known each other.

I had always thought that the AFFCO Slaughterhouse in Morewa would be a good place to try and get into; being a very small isolated town I thought that they might not immediately think of animal rights activists when random strangers asked to have a look around. I was right. As seems to be our style, thanks to Suzy, we decided to try our luck at the slaughterhouse and we veered off State Highway One into the workers car park. Our attention was immediately caught by a 'dairy' cow in an AFFCO paddock. She was beautiful and we named her Bessy. She was cream coloured with a cute black nose. She also had the biggest udders I have ever seen on a cow; they were much larger than the other cows in the paddock and they were chaffing her back legs. The closer we got we noticed that she was finding it hard to breathe and she had an infection covering her udders. At least one of her teats was dripping blood.





After spending time with her trying to feed her and her friends grass we headed to the slaughterhouse. It was a Saturday afternoon and no one was there (human, cow or sheep). We climbed the fence and had a look around the stockyard and the ramps to where the animals enter the building. I helped Rochelle straddle the sheep conveyor belt and put her head into where the captive bolt pistol was located. It was eerie but nothing like what we would experience the following day.

After returning from Sandra's house late that evening, we could not help thinking of Bessy. Rochelle was hell bent on helping her and naturally I thought it was a grand idea so we went about hatching a plan. We secured a home, found somewhere that hired out horse floats and rounded up a crew to help.

After an early morning phone conference with Marky and Nicky, about you know who, we made the long trek back to Morewa. We were overjoyed that we could help Bessy and made plans on the journey of stuff she could do when she was better.

Just after lunchtime we arrived at her paddock and she was gone. It was the worst possible feeling in the world that we were too late for her. We could not figure out where she went until we saw cows in the AFFCO stockyard. We climbed the fence and tried to have a look for her but could not find her.

We came across a lone yard worker who was fine with us having a poke around. We went through the stockyards documenting all that we could. We then found that the door to the kill floor was open, though that part of the slaughterhouse was not in use at this time.

We walked the path the cows follow from the captive bolt pistol to the point that their throats are slit and then through to where they are butchered and finally to the freezer.



It was a haunting experience; the place was dark, damp and so quiet that everything echoed. Despite every surface having been sterilised I could smell the stench of blood and death. I thought that this was the strangest place I had ever been to and that it almost seemed more disturbing without any actual animals being killed and dismembered. I was wrong, very wrong.

All of the animals slaughtered at AF-FCO end their journey on the property at the freezer. We approached the large industrial freezers and much to my relief they were locked. Though I knew only too well what the fate of the cows in the stockyard was I did not want to face it right then.

Not wanting to miss an opportunity like this the others convinced me to continue probing. We went around the back in time to find a truck driver arriving to collect the butchered frozen bodies of our friends who had been killed the week before. He was only too happy to answer our questions and act like 'the man' in front of the camera. The freezer was insane; large, nearly human sized, parts of cows were hanging frozen and blood red in the white freezer. The contrast between the white walls and red blood made the carcasses stand out even more. Inside the freezer truck were the whole bodies of pigs who had been killed in Auckland and plastic bags filled with the hearts, livers and kidneys of various victims of the meat industry. These were all going to local butchers and supermarkets, the truck driver explained.

And with that we went home quietly and reflective upon what we had seen and what Bessy was going to experience on the following day.

On the night of the 8 Foot Sativa music video release Rochelle and I could not attend the celebrations in Henderson as we were playing netball at the same time. While I wanted to join the festivities and acknowledge the hard work of all of



those involved in the project I was quietly happy that I did not have to think more about the fact that in less than 15 hours I would be standing on the kill floor at Morewa. This feeling was validated after speaking with Brendan who was coming in with me. He had seen the music video and on the ride to Morewa he explained how the footage in that video had made the anticipation of what we might see so much worse.

We were still not even sure if we would be allowed inside but as luck would have it we had no problems getting in the door with our cameras. Walking into the captive bolt pistol room, where I had been a few weeks earlier, it was completely different than last time. So much more real and so much worse. There was a bull with his head secured in the knock box and the captive bolt pistol was applied to his head. With a bang both Brendan and I jumped and the stunned bull fell out on to the kill floor.

We walked down tairs on to the kill floor in time to see the bull strung up and have his throat slit. Blood was pouring out so fast and the entire floor was swimming in his blood and the blood of those before him. Behind him were several other bulls who had been killed and the

workers were starting to dismember them.

The next bull rolled out from the knock box and stared straight at us; his tongue hanging out and there was a red spot of blood on his head where the bullet had entered his skull. Even if we could have helped it was too late. As he was strung up and moved along to the man who would cut his throat I could see that he was very much aware of what was going on. Soon his blood was gushing out everywhere and his big beautiful eyes closed.

This was repeated several times over as more and more bulls fell out onto the kill floor. Some were still very much alive and conscious as they hung from the roof, their immense weight being held up by one foot. They swung violently in the air and had an electric current applied to their nose by a slaughterhouse worker.

While all of this was going on the slaughterhouse workers were trying to make friendly banter with us and smiling. Strangely after a few minutes we also seemed to become accustomed to what was going on. Of course it did not make us approve of what was happening but we were no longer shocked. We stood there for half an hour and

watched many of our friends' die so that someone out there could eat beef.

When we left we had become so used to be sound of the captive bolt pistol that we were able to film this process without flinching. That was until the man responsible for this step of the process started telling us that he did not mind posing for us with the captive bolt pistol and the bulls if we needed a better shot. This brought me back to the reality of what was going on and that this employee had no engagement with the fact that he was taking a life at all. We backed out and left disgusted. As we walked past the bulls heading into the kill floor one of them looked me straight in the eye pleading with me to do something. He had shyed away when the slaughterhouse worker walked past so I think he could sense that I was different, that I was his friend. As I walked away I felt some much guilt that I had done nothing to help him and his friends. Much like how I felt when we let Bessy down.

This week I was compiling footage from the slaughterhouse from our investigation into the meat industry and I saw Bessy in the AFFCO stockyard footage. We had not seen her but she was right in front of us the whole time.



Bessy



A Small Glimpse of Animal Rights Issues in China

Animals all over the world are exploited, abused and killed for the capitalist industrial complex to profit a few people. In China, this is no different. The main animal rights issue those of us in Aotearoa would've heard about is the fur trade and probably cat and dog meat. One thing that is disgustingly visible in both the city and rural areas of China, which I have been to, is the popularity of fox and rabbit fur trim on jackets. Walking past high fashion branded stores, real fur coats are shamelessly displayed behind the windows. On the street, every third person you see is wearing real fur trimmed coats. There was even this woman with a dead fox around her neck! Fake fur is also out there but real fur trim jackets can be quite cheap so a lot of people can afford it. To put a real stop to the fur trade, something needs to be done in China and there are activists here working towards a fur free future. Aside from the fur industry, there's the usual forms of animal abuse or neglect that exist. These are some animals that I've met from wander



ing in the city and visiting the countryside.

Cats, Dogs and other "Pets"

Cats and dogs have become common household pets, both in the city and countryside. I've seen people selling animals on the street as pets. There were puppies in cardboard boxes, baby rabbits in chlorofoam containers and mice in plastic containers. These animals were all huddled together to keep warm, but even then, I could still see them shivering. In the winter, the temperature is below zero degrees celcius, the rivers are frozen and it snows. Stray animals would

find it hard to keep warm without a home.

The popularity of keeping cats and dogs as pets is a reasonably new phenonemon in the cities, probably because of western influence and the growth of the middle class. Some of the kids I've met don't have much respect for animals, I had to stop this 2 year old boy from hitting a kitten with a toy truck. But there are people who take care of and feed stray dogs and cats, or otherwise these animals can scavenge and find enough food in the city to survive. I haven't seen a cat or dog that looked starved yet. A relative of mine homes and feeds about ten cats and two dogs in Beijing, and she regularly feeds other stray animals.



Cat and dog meat are extremely rare these days, perhaps because of the trend in keeping them as pets. The relationship between humans and pets is closer to friendship and kinship, where humans can get to know animals a bit better and understand that they too are sentient beings. The way we treat friends and family is quite different to the way we would treat an object or tool, which is what animals farmed for their body parts are treated as. This change in attitude towards cats and dogs has been beneficial for these animals. In 2007, about 100 Chinese animal





rights activists rescued 400 cats from being slaughtered for their flesh and fur in a Tianjin market.. There was a scuffle with police who were protecting the animal abusers, as there is no animal protection law in China at the moment and the cat traders were licensed. One protestor was injured during the scuffle.

Rabbits

Something that shocked me as I was walking down the street in a small town near a rural village was the dead bodies of two rabbits hanging on a hook. Rabbit meat is sold on the street in some places and in some restaurants. Rabbits can be sold for between 40-80 yuan each, about the equivalent of \$10-20NZ, as meat. Recent footage from an undercover PETA investigation shows caged rabbits used for fur, the furless bodies of rabbits can be seen on some street vendor's stalls sold as meat. I visited a small-scale rabbit hut in a village in Henan, there was maybe 10-15 rabbits caged rabbits. Some were in individual cages, some were put together. I remember one particularly large rabbit who was very angry and biting on the cage door, trying to push it open. Rab-

bit meat is considered a delicacy, they sell it in some restaurants in the cities. But people also hunt wild rabbits to eat.

Hens, Chickens and Roosters

In the rural areas, I've seen both caged and free roaming chickens. The free roaming ones are obviously in much better condition than the caged ones. In family courtyards, sometimes there are caged hens, between 3-8 hens in a coup. Sometimes they are allowed out, other times they're put

back into the coup. Factory farms here are not much different to the ones I've seen in Aotearoa, battery hens cramped up in tiny cages. The one I visited had four hens in a cage, they had all been debeaked, many were missing feathers from their neck. Some of the hens had featherless wings. They are kept in a brick hut with square holes as windows, but these are covered with plastic over winter to keep the heat in. While it keeps the heat in, the air inside becomes stagnant, and the air becomes filled with the smell from their faeces and urine. They are fed specially mixed feed to increase egg production. In the city, I've seen a couple of homes with hens outside at groundfloor apartments. One family keeps them in an enclosed yard made out of bamboo, they can walk around freely inside, they have a coup they can retreat to. The other family lets them out during the day, they have cages to go back to but most of the time I see them walking around pecking at food.

Fish, turtles and crustaceans

In a lot of urban middle-upper class restaurants, there are tanks of live fish, crustaceans and even turtles! There are also restaurants like these in NZ, where the lobsters barely have any room to move around and then are killed for food on the spot. But these tanks are much larger and there are more





types of sea creatures living in these tanks awaiting death.

The struggle for animal liberation is global and where there is animal abuse, there are people who do care and do something about it. In recent years, a burgeoning animal rights movement has emerged in China. In 2004, the Chinese Animal Protection Network (CAPN) established, it has many affiliations and projects. The focus of animal rights activists in China seem to be on cats and dogs, many of the organisations focus on the welfare of companion animals. This is better than nothing but hopefully animal rights philosophy will spread and more campaigns will emerge to stand up for all exploited animals. In 2008, the first World Lab Animal Day was commemorated in China by CAPN. International Meatless Day was commemorated and CAPN organised the first national World Animal Week in China, calling for a reduction in meat consumption. These are small beginnings for a national animal protection network, other organisations work rescue, shelter and rehome stray cats and dogs in various cities around China. Besides from these organisations, there are individuals

and groups who take direct action and rescue animals from a life of misery or death. After reading this story of a woman from Hunan province who rescued a goose from a restaurant and has been nursing it back to health, I know there is hope for the animals here. On a Chinese blog that posted this story about this goose liberation, its last words (roughly translated) were:

“Don’t wait until one day when we look up at the sky, we can’t see wings soaring across the sky, or a summer when we cannot hear birds singing, to finally think of protecting them. I’m afraid when that time comes, the main characters of the tragedy is not birds but us humans!”

Animal Welfare/Animal Rights Organisations

Beijing Human and Animal Environmental Education Center – www.animalschina.org

Chinese Vegan Outreach Page - www.chinavegan.com

Chinese Animal Protection Network - <http://www.capn.ngo.cn/en.asp>

Animal Rights in China - www.arc.ngo.cn/

China Small Animal Protection Association - www.csapa.org/

Changchun Animal Protection Association - <http://www.capa.ngo.cn/web/index.html>

Chinese Companion Animal Protection Network - <http://www.ccapn.ngo.cn/>

Pioneer of Vegetarianism China - <http://www.povchina.ngo.cn/>





Do not Forget that Words also are Weapons

- Subcomandante Marcos

It is not because of any criminal activity that the animal rights scene in New Zealand and across the world receives the kind of state repression it does. A couple of liberated animals here and there, a bit of symbolic property damage does not justify infiltrations, raids, police photographers, arrests and all the other hallmarks of any animal rights scene anywhere in the world. Instead I think this harassment is because the philosophy of animal liberation presents a clear and real

threat to those in power. I think it's important to recognise the implications of our message and to try and see ourselves through the eyes of those in power.

So why are our beliefs so threatening to those in power and why do they react in the way they do? I believe our beliefs shape a movement which presents a serious challenge to those in power.

Obviously the animal liberation

movement challenges our cultures deeply ingrained belief of human dominance over animals. Our movement calls into question the privilege we accord ourselves as species. Like someone pointing out that women are equal to men or a person of colour questioning the racism inherent in our society the reaction we get is almost always going to be anger lashed out towards us. For how dare we question that men should not hold power over women or that white people should not rule the world or that humans cannot do as they please to animals. This lashing out, this anger is because we have challenged the position of power and dominance that humans benefit from in our current system.

Not only does the animal liberation movement call into question the species privilege our society is based on, we also refuse to see private property as sacred. In the same way those involved in fighting the slave trade refuse to view slaves as property the animal liberation movement refuses to view animals as property. Instead we view every animal as an individual capable of feeling pain, joy and everything we as humans are able to feel. As a result we believe that no animal should be deprived of the right to a full meaningful existence. And where we believe any animal is suffering, in distress or has no opportunity to a full life we have no qualms in taking that animal and giving him or her another home or if possible releasing him or her into the wild where he or she will have a shot at a normal life.

The animal liberation movement does not believe that the law represents what is morally right. Instead, it is obvious to us that laws are crafted to enrich those in power and to protect the rich from threats to their position of power. We do not believe that private property is an untouchable right. Instead we believe that if a piece of equipment or a building is involved in causing the suffering of animals then the



building piece or piece of equipment should be taken out of action. And if money is made through the suffering of animals, then that property is a fair target when standing up in defence of animals.

Those in power have tried to tell us that when fighting for humans, animals or the environment we must constrain ourselves to promoting our message. We must leaflet or yell but we must never cause economic harm. Most mainstream groups buy into this and when they do break a law it is done symbolically. The animal liberation movement has shown that it is not afraid to step beyond the bounds of socially acceptable pressuring of companies and governments. Instead the animal liberation movement has been fighting as if this was a struggle which mattered. Taking whatever action is necessary to end the suffering of animals, which in a capitalist society often means

targeting property. To us taking immediate action to prevent suffering or death appears entirely rational, to those in power it represents a movement which fights by its own rules rather than those set down by government or industry.

The animal liberation movement has shown it is a real threat to the economy with such campaigns as against the fur and vivisection industries. Against a much larger and more powerful enemy backed by the entire might of the state, the animal lib movement has successfully identified and exploited weaknesses to bring companies to their knees. If a movement in its infancy can do this, it is clear what it will be capable of as support for it grows. In New Zealand the Auckland anti fur campaign has shown that a small group of committed people can force major stores to stop selling fur. If the AR movement were to grow in New Zealand it is

clear activists would stand a good chance of seriously disrupting the agricultural industries. The blood of the animals tortured and killed by these industries fuels the New Zealand economy and the state and business know that the animal rights movement must not be allowed to grow in strength.

When fighting we are surprised and angered when peaceful actions are met with violence and repression. But we are fighting to end the largest and most pervasive form of slavery and I think it is instructive to see how the movement to end human slavery is repressed by governments. Around the world people are still being killed for standing up to economic and literal slavery. Western governments are complicit in these killings supplying training, weapons and sometimes troops to paramilitary squads used to keep third world workers and nations under control. Western



governments realise that enslaved workers are necessary to maintain the lifestyle we in the west live and are quite prepared to use violence to maintain that lifestyle. To quote expresident Bush "Our way of life is not negotiable". If this is what happens to workers organising against the enslavement of humans is it any wonder that animal rights activists face the kind of repression we do?

Regardless of the tactics we use the state will harass then imprison us as we become more effective. Increasingly any form of activism which has any form of economic impact on corporations or governments is labeled "economic terrorism". And those the government pick out as so called leaders are jailed for years as a result. This has been starkly illustrated by the reprisals those heavily involved in the SHAC campaign have faced. Recently the UK "SHAC seven" were jailed for between four and eleven years each for helping run a campaign aimed at shutting down the contract animal testers, Huntingdon Life Sciences.

What we have seen in New Zealand has shown that talk of treating us as terrorists is not hyperbole. Indeed the two units that seem devoted to disrupting animal rights activists the Threat Assessment Unit and the Strategic Intelligence group were both set up to combat terrorism and organised crime in the pacific. What they have done is a textbook example of how to shut down a liberation movement. Infiltrating our ranks and placing us under heavy surveillance to gain a detailed picture of the makeup of our movement. Identifying splits and conflict between individuals and exploiting these so as to divide and conquer. Encouraging individuals to focus on becoming more militant rather than on building an effective mass movement, and tying up activist's time with spurious arrests and charges.

If divide and conquer does not work then any movement that becomes effective will face physical repression. Like we have recently seen in the UK with the SHAC seven the government has picked seven

people out as supposedly leading part of the campaign to shut down Huntingdon Life Sciences and jailed them all for between four and eleven years apiece.

So why are some groups targeted more than others? Because most mainstream groups do not challenge the supreme right of private property or the rule of law. Instead of arguing for the liberation of animals by whatever means necessary, they stress that we should work our way through the legislative process. Even where something exists solely to torture or kill animals such as a slaughterhouse they would oppose its destruction if it were not through the correct legal channels. This horror at breaking the law is often not a pragmatic thoughtout strategy but is instead a dogmatic fixation with not breaking the law.

When laws are broken by mainstream groups such as Greenpeace they are usually done in such a way that they do not challenge the underlying morality of the legal system. The law is broken



openly and after doing some kind of symbolic action everyone involved allows themselves be arrested. In the process they do not question the right of the state to make laws or the underlying morality of the legal system. They do not for example refuse to accept that the state has any right to arrest them or interfere with what they are doing as many who mask up and resist the police on protests or action do. Many animal rights activists simply do not care what the law is around animals because it is fundamentally irrelevant to them. Instead of letting their energy be harnessed by the legislative process by appearing in front of select committees arguing for bigger cages and more effective stunning mechanisms they are directly trying to shut down the companies responsible for animal abuse.

Mainstream environmental and animal rights groups also do not present a threat to the capitalist system. They are made up of dozens or hundreds of people all being paid, meaning that thousands or tens of thousands of other people must be labouring away working in capitalist businesses to pay donations to the groups. These mainstream organisations are entirely willing to use advertising, marketing and all the other tools of the capitalist system to sell their message. As such even if these groups are successful in improving animal welfare or the state of the environment the underlying structure of our current system remains.

Even if we do not see it those in power can see the radical consequences of the animal liberation philosophy. They see their wealth and power challenged and see a movement of people that believe more in preventing suffering than obeying arbitrary laws. They realise that the animal liberation and earth liberation philosophies cannot be easily co-opted and therefore must be resisted.



DEFEND THE RNC 8

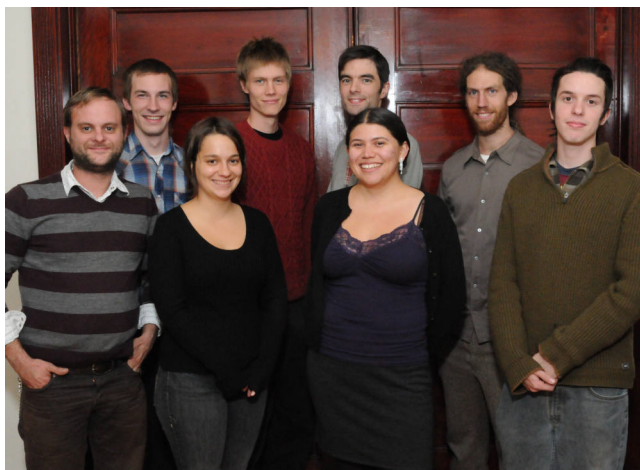


OR YOU'RE NEXT.

www.rnc8.org



ANIMAL LIBERATIONISTS TO ANARCHISTS GUESS WHAT? YOU'RE NEXT



Recent news posting on Indymedia Aotearoa concerning the issue of the newly ousted informant, Rob Gilchrist, has led me to address the similarities between the struggles here in New Zealand and my home in the Twin Cities, Minnesota. As a United States activist still sorting out the heinous aftermath of infiltration and oppression during the Republican National Convention (RNC) in 2008, it is easy to see that the criminalization of dissent in New Zealand is all too similar to that in the United States. From animal liberationists in New Zealand to anarchists in Minnesota, we all continue to be subject to a war on terror from those that issue state-terrorism every single day.

Eight Twin Cities-based activists were arrested preemptively for their open anarchist organizing days before the GOP descended onto our homes and community in Minnesota last September. The "RNC 8" were originally charged with one felony count of "conspiracy to riot in the 2nd degree in furtherance of terrorism". This charge was based on infiltration and a two-year investigation from the FBI and the Ramsey County Sheriff's Department into the RNC Welcoming Committee, an open anarchist/anti-authoritarian group organizing logistical infrastructure for protesters during the RNC.

Flash forward to December 2008: Ramsey County Attorney Susan Gaertner (who is also running for Governor of Minnesota as a Democrat) added three more felony charges to the already politically charged case: 2nd degree conspiracy to riot (without the terrorism enhancement), 1st degree conspiracy to commit criminal dam-

age to property in furtherance of terrorism, and 1st degree conspiracy to commit criminal damage to property (without the terrorism enhancement). The RNC 8 are now facing 12 ½ years in prison each for being logistical organizers for a mass mobilization and--even more frightening!--for being anarchists.

We can see a comparable link between the RNC 8 case and instances of government suppression on earth and animal liberation activists: inciting fear through infiltration, harassment and raids on activist homes with the hopes of halting direct action all together. Similar to the experiences of activists in New Zealand, the RNC 8 are being targeted for the ends of the state. As it has been done to many political prisoners and arrestees in the past, the government is seeking to broaden the definition of terrorism to condone malicious behavior and tighten their grip upon resisting communities and those that support them.

When Operation Backfire took place in 2005 in the U.S, the reasoning behind the trumped-up charges was that the defendants were "eco-terrorists" – bent on committing "violent" acts against the U.S. government and corporate tyrants. Though the charges they received did not hurt anyone, four activists were eventually convicted under terrorist enhancement charges and sentenced to 7 years in prison. Similar cases have happened in the U.S. since and have also stretched across the pond to places like England, France and

Oceania. The government continues to use hyped up evidence, the mainstream media and the corruption of city politicians to help set a dangerous historical precedent for the future of not only anarchist organizing, but organizing of any kind that delegitimizes or questions the state and its means.

As we move farther along in our movements of resistance in the U.S., New Zealand and beyond, we must continue to fight for those that have already suffered from the chains of the legal system, whether or not we agree with the tactics behind their struggles. A solid network of defense and solidarity across borders for the victims of state repression will help us facilitate success in the legal system and otherwise. If we do not continuously support and fight the political charges of those like the RNC 8, the victims of the October 15th raids or those who still remain in incarceration for their political motives with every ounce of strength we have to give, we can't win. Even more, we could be the next person sitting in the prison binds of Big Brother.

For more information on the infiltration during the RNC 2008 please visit: twincities.indymedia.org and rnc08report.org and search under the keyword "informants".

To receive more information, to donate or to request literature about the case of the RNC 8 please visit: rnc8.org OR e-mail info@rnc8.org.



ROB GILCHRIST

POLICE INFORMANT

A few months ago it was revealed that Rob Gilchrist had been a Police Informant within the activist community for over ten years. What follows is in place of our advertised feature. This is an article that was posted on Indymedia and covers the issues well. This is followed by an interview with animal rights activist Rochelle Rees (Rob's ex-girlfriend).

In mid December news broke in New Zealand that long time activist Rob Gilchrist had been a police informant for the last 10 years. Working for the Special Investigations Unit - an anti-terror, national security police unit - Rob had been informing on animal rights groups, environmental groups, unions, peace groups, even the Green Party.

His reports included not only communication methods, phone numbers, demonstration plans etc but also information on sexual relationships, travel plans, sources of income, etc.

Much of the behaviour of Rob Gil-

christ is what one would consider classic informant and COINTEL-PRO behaviour – most people I've talked to didn't react with shock at the news – instead everything suddenly clicked into place. I had once considered Rob to be a close friend, but hearing this news I realised deep down I already knew it to be true.

Many people had previously expressed distrust of him and some had already broken off contact with him or stopped working with him politically, but for various reasons there was no collective confrontation.

Before I get into how Rob got away

with it for so long, I want to summarise some of the key signs that something was seriously wrong.

MR I'M BORED

Rob was a self-confessed adrenaline junkie and always very keen on 'fucking shit up', would often during quiet periods say he was bored and suggest doing something illegal just for the hell of it.

He promoted violence against cops and fascists at every opportunity, but when push came to shove, he either escalated a situation when it wasn't strategic to do so, or wasn't there. For example, we would take on the role of driving, police liaison, or listening to police scanners



Rob on a visit to the Sanctuary in Matakana, July 2008



during an action/demo (all things that people are generally happy to let someone else do). Or he would simply make up a reason at the last moment why he wouldn't take part.

This is not to say Rob limited his behaviour to provocation and incitement. Criminal acts include breaking and entry, amongst others. Footage released to television for example clearly show Rob breaking into a high security intensive chicken farm.

MR SECURITY EXPERT

Although seldom arrested during his 10 years on actions and protests, he led the majority of workshops on what to do if arrested or interrogated. Likewise at conferences Rob led workshops on anti-surveillance, getting away if police were chasing you (and police dogs - quite a terrifying discussion), how to move around in country and city spaces without people noticing you. Rob didn't just suggest to people they should commit criminal acts, he showed them personally how to do it. He also distributed booklets on how to break into factory farms and how to commit acts of eco-sabotage.

Although security conscious in many ways, he would definitely pick and choose aspects of security culture he liked (ie. good for his ego) and ignore the ones that weren't convenient. For example Rob never cared about talking about sensitive issues in easily surveilled spaces. He was a scanner geek and had fancy equipment that could apparently check for (nonhuman) bugs. His car was always 'clean', the office was always 'clean', etc...

MR FINGER

Rob was expert in calling other people out as being not trustworthy, or being corporate/police spies. In general he spread paranoia about other people. Numerous mass actions he knew about were stopped from happening by

police beforehand (ie. a planned mass action at a GM field), but he was highly skilled at pointing the finger at someone else. Especially if that person had been questioning his authenticity.

If an action happened without him, Rob would sulk, and behave hurt he hadn't been invited. He would pick people he thought could be responsible for it, make comments about it to see how they reacted and try to make them feel guilty for the exclusion.

MR SECRET

Rob would tell people more explicitly of his trust of them, and entrust them with some secret only they or very few people could know about, be it a personal secret, a fancy new camera he got in some suspect way, or an upcoming action. Entrusting someone with a secret is an effective way to get trust reciprocated. And of course its even better if you have someone elses secrets to hold over them if the relationship breaks down.

On a broader level, he promoted the creation of unnessecarily closed, secretive groups with vetting processes. This created not only an extremely false sense of security, but a general feeling of paranoia, hierachies and 'in' groups of people.

MR 'PUT IT ON MY ACCOUNT'

Rob had his own business selling scanners, radios etc, but in reality he wasn't getting much money from this, if any. He didn't pretend it was a major source of income, but he somehow had a lot of money. He explained this by having a large inheritance - not so unusual for a white activist in New Zealand.

And he was very generous with this money. He was constantly insisting on paying for everyone's lunch, drinks, etc and putting it on his 'work account'. And if someone he wanted to be in close contact with didn't have a cell phone for example, he would just give them

one, implying that it was acquired in some kind of criminal way so not to tell anyone.

QUESTIONABLE RELATIONSHIPS

Rob slept with as many female activists as possible, or at least tried to. But not in an open free love kind of way - in a behind someones back, you have to keep it secret kinda way....This not only helped him get information, but was effectively a weapon against people speaking out against him in case he reacted by telling other people things he shouldn't.

This included recently discovered relationships with two 16 year old activists, one of whom he took naked pictures of and emailed to his bosses. Also found on his computer were photographs of both the young women posing with his guns, and naked photos taken while one of the girls was sleeping.

Rob excelled at gossip and generally shit stirring between people. In this he went beyond plain informing into classic COINTELPRO methods, facilitating splits of several groups, destroying friendships and ruining planned actions.

Rob either lived alone or with his current girlfriend, and was protective of his private space. People did get invited to his house, and also stayed the night there sometimes. But he never left people alone in his house.

WHY DIDN'T HE GET CALLED OUT SOONER?

It's so painfully obvious in hindsight. Perhaps it was simply a case of not seeing the forest for the trees, as he was in fact challenged on some of the individual points above - the problems just weren't put together to make a whole picture.

This theory is useful to a point, but since people were discussing his authenticity since early on in his informant career, it's obviously more complicated than this. Rob

had very effectively sown seeds of discord amongst people and there was a lack of concrete evidence to call him out, but more importantly he had established credibility and a variety of close personal relationships which protected him.

PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS

Rob was a friend of many people. He could see when someone was not feeling good, needed emotional support, and would be there for them. I knew I could ring him in the middle of the night crying my eyes out and he'd tell me everything would be alright (and I did more often than I care to admit). He was also in several longterm relationships with other trusted politically active people. The creation of emotional ties and loyalties protected him for a long time, and built a deep network of trust. He supported people who were stuck in abusive relationships, he supported people getting harrassed from neo-Nazis, he supported people experiencing depression – in other words, he saw people's vulnerabilities and used them to his advantage. People got drunk with him, did actions with him, cried on his shoulder. All this creates bonds and loyalties that are hard to break.

ANY FRIEND OF YOURS IS A FRIEND OF MINE

Networks of trust can be very useful things, but dangerous if treated as infallible. They work both blatantly (ie. when someone explicitly vouches for someone else) or

more subtly and both kinds were at play in this situation. If someone you trust completely trusts someone you don't know so well, or feel uneasy about, like it or not its usually going to influence your feelings on that person.

Rob was assumed to be trusted by 'key' or respected activists, purely by virtue of association, when in reality it was sometimes more a kind of tolerance than trust.

Common reactions for example, posted on indymedia:

'I never liked Gilchrist personally, but while he was such a close mate of Mark's I never questioned his loyalty, because I trusted Mark as a more experienced and politically savvy activist.... perhaps we all need to take responsibility for ourselves, and obey our gut instinct.'
- Michael Morris

'Although I thought he was a friend, I had had suspicions that he might be an informant which I had raised with my previous girlfriend, an animal rights activist who was also very close friend with Rob,' he says. "It led to serious problems in my friendship with Suzy that I can't repair now that my fears had been proved correct because she died earlier this year.' -Simon Oosterman

By the time Rob had been caught out, he had been active within activist scene for at least 10 years. This was not 10 years limited to

inciting and committing illegal actions, but also periods doing basic organising such as making posters, getting stuff printed, email list admin (he was list admin of a lot of email lists – also a warning sign in the wider context). He researched local wannabe-Nazis, conference venues, addresses of animal researchers, and more.

RELUCTANCE TO CALL SOMEONE OUT

After the Operation 8 raids and arrests last year it was undeniable that there was at least one informant in the left wing/anarchist scenes.

As Sally Darity from the Justice NOW! Collective writes:

"The police affidavit which was used as evidence to gain interception warrants against these people and many others is filled with 'informant information'."

"The 'informant information' is not available to the defendants. The identity of the informant is secret. This leaves the defendants in a legal black hole – defending themselves against information they do not have access to, from a person whose credibility cannot be questioned."

And it's now clear that Rob had given reports on at least 3 of the people facing charges from the Operation 8 raids.



Rob lurking round the edge of a demo during the NZUS Partnership Forum, 2007

But it is a big call to accuse someone of being a police informer – few people do this lightly especially if its ‘just a feeling’ and you have no proof.

Many people had stopped working with Rob - some because he was simply disruptive, others because they just didn't trust him - but there was either no or little direct confrontation with him. And besides, who wants to believe someone close to them has been telling the police who they are sleeping with, the fights they have with their lovers, and what they had for breakfast that day.

In the end Rob was only caught after asking his then girlfriend Rochelle Rees, a computer programmer, to fix his computer.

After checking to see if his emails had been corrupted, she found hundreds of strange emails where the sender and subject lines were all blank, being sent to the same anonymous email address. This email address was traced back to the Christchurch central police station and then the Special Investigations Group. Wanting more evidence, she then installed spyware on his phone to monitor his text messages and calls, and set a script on his computer to continue sending his emails to her. She even downloaded a years worth of phone bills and decrypted documents he had encrypted.

Giving a computer filled with sensitive information to a computer programmer seems to be a stupid thing to do. Opinion is divided as to whether it was just a case of getting too big for ones boots, or actually wanting to be exposed. But lets give Rochelle some credit here - she's pretty damn smart. Personally if I was going to knowingly expose myself I'd get rid of the photographs of my illicit affairs playing with my guns first. But who knows.

WHAT NOW?

Now I am left with the problem of how to move beyond a reduction



Rob listening to the scanner at the NZUS Partnership forum demos in Auckland, 2007

of the situation to emotion vs logic, openness vs secret.

Emotions and vulnerabilities were expertly exploited by Rob but cold hearts with walls around them is not my idea of the revolution. I don't want to live in a community where no one gets close to each other, where no one can show vulnerability or rage, where everyone is suspect. And it's not going to get us any closer to the world we want to live in either.

Listening to each other and taking collective responsibility for looking out for each other would be a good start. Meeting with each other personally, face to face instead of relying on email lists and text messages would also help. Emails and texts messages are not only loved

by police and surveillance agencies, they also de-personalise relationships. It was the people who had day to day contact with Rob who picked up that something was wrong first.

No doubt the debate between ‘taking the moral high ground’ of open actions versus working in closed anonymous groups will continue for eternity. The reality is that informants fuck up everyone, open or not. State repression aims to crush both. But we do need to reconsider when we need to keep secrets, when we don't, and keep the line between them clear. Because as well as being generally destructive, hierarchies and paranoia damage security conscious behaviour, and will not make any social movement inclusive.



CATCHING A POLICE INFORMANT

Rob's long time (ex)friend, fellow activist and (ex)girlfriend, Rochelle Rees, talks to Liberate about how she found out Rob was working for the Police, the Police units Rob was working for and the information they were after as well as her thoughts on where the AR movement can go from here.





Who was Rob, what groups was he involved in and for how long?

Rob was involved mostly in animal rights groups, however he was also involved to various degrees with pretty much every lefty activist group in the country – for some, simply by being on their email lists, for others by attending meetings and protests. Rob first got involved in activism in 1998, joining the beneficiaries action collective in Christchurch. In 1999 Rob attended the APEC protests in Auckland, and this is what he claims to have been recruited by the police for. Unfortunately due to the continuous lies about everything, it is hard to tell when what Rob says is true and when it is not.

Longtime activist Mark Eden recalls first meeting Rob in 1999 when he travelled to Wellington to take part in protests against an animal research conference. Over the next few years, he was involved in a lot of anti globalisation and anti-capitalism campaigns, he even ran a national campaign email list for anti-capitalist activists. He got heavily involved in animal rights campaigning and was active in organising protests and animal rights gatherings around the country. By 2004, Rob had moved to Wellington and was living with his then partner, who had also been involved in animal rights for a couple of years. He spent two years in Wellington, during which some people started to notice some of Rob's strange behaviour. At the time he was supposedly living off his business selling radios and police radio scanners, and seemed to have all day to sit around buying coffee for the many broke but caffeine addicted activists around Wellington.

What sort of stuff did he do as an activist? What was he like at demos etc?

Everyone who has come across Rob over the past 10 years has a different story to tell about him. His actions and spin seem to have differed depending on who was

around and who he was trying to impress. For example, he was known to some as someone who would continuously hit on young women, and often make very sexist comments. To others, including myself, he never portrayed this side of himself.

Quite some time before Rob was ousted, one activist accused him of always standing across the road at protest, holding a cup of coffee and looking cool. It was claimed that this was all he ever did. I disagreed with this at the time, as Rob had been involved in organising some major events (though it turns out he played up his role in these). Also, when Rob was standing across the road, he was generally listening to the police scanner and keeping us up to date with what the police were up to. I always found this a useful function, as with Rob around we would generally know in advance and be able to prepare when the police were about to round us all up and arrest us.

At the same time, Rob was never involved in the action, and never did anything generally useful at protests. I don't think I ever saw him hold a banner or placard, or even chant at a protest – looking back, it's very strange we never thought much of that – as I can't think of anyone else who behaves that way.

Mark recalls that Rob spent most of 2001 organising protests and establishing himself as a trusted activist. He even organised an illegal raid on a factory farm that was filmed by the Havoc and Newsboy TV show. He was interviewed on camera wearing a full camouflage outfit as he broke into the farm. By this time Rob had been active in all sorts of groups around the country and was considered part of the activist 'scene' in Wellington and Christchurch. He had organised a lot of stuff (always behind the scenes though, never out front with a placard or a megaphone), had been arrested and even suc-

cessfully sued the police. He was apparently earning a living as a meter reader at the time as well as running his website that sold radio equipment and police scanners.

How did you come to suspect Rob was working for the police?

I had recently moved back up to Auckland, and was visiting Rob in Christchurch every second weekend. During my second visit back to Christchurch, Rob asked me (not for the first time) to fix his computer. It was running really slow and had got to the point where the best way to fix it was going to be to wipe the hard drive and rebuild the operating system. Rob had lost his Windows XP CD and serial key, and was unwilling to pay for a new copy, so we decided to install a nice user-friendly version of Linux (OpenSource). Rob had previously stored his emails in Microsoft Outlook, which cannot be installed on Linux, so I had to transfer his emails into Mozilla Thunderbird, which is a similar program, but open source and free and available on any operating system. Due to the Microsoft Outlook and Mozilla Thunderbird differences in the way they store data, the transfer was going to take a lot longer than I had initially thought. This was also largely due to Rob having many gigabytes worth of emails stored – all his emails from the previous 3 years. I ran out of time to complete the job while I was still in Christchurch, so I made a copy of the emails onto my laptop, and told Rob I would complete the transfer back in Auckland, and bring them back down on my next visit.

Two days later, on the 7th October 2008, I completed the data transfer, and went to do a quick check through all the email folders to ensure that no emails had been corrupted. Everything looked fine until I got to the sent folder, where I saw a whole bunch of emails that at first glance looked as though they were corrupt. In the listing, it showed hundreds of emails with a blank sender address, and a blank subject. I as-



sumed that the contents of these emails would also be blank, and so looked at one to check. I saw some random activist list email that had been forwarded to a strange email address - "chuat@paradise.net.nz". I then looked at the next email, which turned out to be a completely different activist related email, also forwarded to the same address. It may say something about my paranoid nature that I immediately had this sinking feeling, and somehow knew that Rob was working for someone. I looked through a few more finding exactly the same sort of thing, and I started to freak out.

I phoned Jasmine on her cellphone, who was at work, and asked her to come over. She asked if everything was ok, and I said no. She said she'd come over after work, and we hung up. I looked through a few more emails, freaking out more and more, and I phoned Jasmine and asked her to leave work and come over immediately. Jasmine agreed, knowing I wouldn't have asked if it wasn't urgent. When Jasmine arrived I told her my thoughts and asked her to tell me I was going crazy. I handed her my laptop and showed her through some of the emails. She came to the same conclusion as me, and we (mostly Jasmine) kept looking until we found more proof - emails with personal notes on them, and intelligence reports which could not have been written by anyone other than Rob.

When you found out what did you do?

Jasmine and I talked through what to do, but really had no idea what to do next. We both very much wished Suzy and Jesse were there, as they would have been who we would normally turn to - but with Suzy dead and Jesse overseas, it was left to us. In the end we decided to phone Mark, who we weren't even on speaking terms with, largely due to Rob. But we desperately needed advice from someone "older and wiser", and felt we had no choice. So I phoned Mark out of the blue, told him we needed to talk about something that I couldn't go into over the phone, as we were worried about the police listening in. Fortunately Mark agreed to meet us, and we arranged to fly to Wellington and meet him the following day, at the supermarket near where he lives. When we arrived the first thing we told Mark was that Rob was a cop and we had the proof. Still paranoid about possible police surveillance, we stayed on the move with our cellphones off, wandering from place to place, including the library where my laptop could be plugged in, and Mark could read the intelligence reports.

We talked through the options, like whether we had enough to make it public straight away, or whether more information could be obtained first. We talked about whether publicity would be a good idea, or whether Rob should only be ousted within the activist communities. In the end we made a decision to contact Nicky Hager, as he's an investigative journalist, and had been involved in the ousting of the last two spies caught - Ryan Patterson and Somali Young who had infiltrated for the private investigation firm Thompson & Clark. Nicky also knew Rob, and had written a story for the front page of the Sunday Star Times earlier that year featuring Rob's ousting of Gavin Clark from Thompson & Clark for approaching him to also spy for them. We went back to Mark's house and

Mark phoned Nicky. Mark asked Nicky to come over, but wouldn't say anything over the phone except that yes we had found "another one". When Nicky arrived we told him about Rob, and he was as shocked as we had been. It was agreed that we would keep things quiet while we finished looking through the emails etc, and that I would continue things with Rob as per normal for the time being.

Did you manage to gather much info on his spying?

I already had flights booked to visit Rob that weekend, and I decided to go ahead with that visit for two reasons. Firstly, I didn't want Rob to know anything was up, and secondly I wanted the opportunity to search his house and see what else I could find out. During that week I was too messed up to work, so I spent my time off continuing to read Rob's emails, and planning how to gain more information.

We did a title search on Rob's house and found out that he didn't own it, despite him claiming that he did.

There was one encrypted word document in the emails, and naturally I thought it must contain some pretty big information, given it was the only thing encrypted, and it was titled "AK Op". I, with a close friend who is also a computer programmer, searched for ways to decrypt the document. First we tried running a password cracker on the document, however it turned out the password was a decent one - it wasn't made up of dictionary words, and it was greater than 8 characters in length, so was going to take a super computer and a lot of time to crack it that way! I spent hours searching the internet, as I knew being Microsoft the encryption would be pretty crap and there had to be some easy way of doing it. Eventually I found this nice website where I could upload the encrypted word document, and it would decrypt it for me. After uploading, the website showed me the first para-

graph of the document, and told me I could get the rest if I paid AUD \$40.98. The first paragraph had me sold, and I paid the money - giving cash to a friend outside of activism to use their credit card, as I couldn't risk any unusual transactions from my own accounts. A few seconds later I was reading through the decrypted document, which turned out to be of a similar nature to the two non-encrypted ones we had found.

My next brilliant idea was to find some spyware to put on Rob's phone so I could monitor his phone calls and text messages. Since Rob had a Windows mobile phone, I knew this wouldn't be too difficult a task - Microsoft are notorious for leaving gaping security holes in their software. I found a website where for NZD \$86.01 I could open an account that would allow me to use some nice spyware for 3 months. I downloaded the spyware, read through the instructions and had it all ready to install on Rob's phone when I got to Christchurch.

Next, again with the help of my computer programmer friend, I wrote a nice shell script ready to set a cron task on Rob's computer that would upload any new emails and documents to me every hour that his computer was on. Fortunately, due to having installed Linux on Rob's computer, this was also going to be an easy task, as the Linux operating system is designed to be used as a server or a developer's computer, and is therefore easy to modify to get it to do what you want. The entire script ended up being less than 20 lines of code!

So I arrived in Christchurch that Friday night, and when Rob went to the bathroom, I bluetoothed the spyware from my laptop to his cellphone, installed it, and from that moment on I could log into this website and view any new text messages and phone calls he made. The beauty of the spyware was that it was completely invisible on Rob's phone, and the only way



Rochelle getting arrested at an anti fur demo in Auckland, 2007

to get back into it was by typing a special code.

The next day while I was in bed having a nap, Rob was texting another female activist telling her he wanted to sleep with her. Of course he had no idea that when I was sitting on my laptop next to him, I was reading the text messages he was sending.

I asked Rob to borrow his phone, with the excuse that I was trialing some websites to run on mobile phones, and since he had such a

cool phone with nice web browsers, it would be great to test my websites on his phone. I then sat down and typed into my laptop all of Rob's contact phone numbers.

Next, I hopped onto Rob's computer with the excuse that I was transferring all of his old emails back onto it. I took a backup copy of all of his files, and installed the script to automatically upload for me anything new.

Then I got Rob out of the house for a couple of hours so I could search



it. Unfortunately, he kept his house pretty clean, no doubt because I had been living there until recently. I took copies of all storage media – CD's, floppy disks etc, but unfortunately none of them had anything of use on them.

When I got back to Auckland, I signed up for "Your Telecom" on Rob's account, which I could do easily as I already had a login to view his broadband usage, as I had needed it when I lived there. Logging into that gave me his account number which was all I needed to gain access to his phone bills from the past 12 months. I downloaded and stored these and later used them to match up dates and phone calls for other purposes.

It also turned out that Rob had his diners club credit card, and Kiwibank account statements emailed to him – so I had the past 3 years of each of these. Unfortunately none of these statements contained any details of money from the police. We did get proof of payments however, as Rob was receiving text message alerts regarding any deposits on a completely different account – called "Urban Camouflage Limited" - a company Rob owned for which we never knew anything about. The texts showed



weekly cash deposits of \$600, one of which happened to coincide with text messages between Rob and his handler, talking about a trip to the bank the following day.

What kinds of information was he sending to the police?

Rob was forwarding any and all activist related emails he received to the police. Of course it helped that he was on almost every public and organising email list for almost every activist group in the country. He was also forwarding personal emails from activists. In most scenarios Rob was removing the headers from the emails he forwarded – and the only conclusion I can possibly draw from that is that he was trying to make himself look more important by not telling the police that they were easily obtained emails from email lists.

Rob would also comment on particular emails, and organise with them to get funds to fly around the country and attend protests – this included giving them quotes for flights, accommodation, rental cars, and "general expenses".

We also found three "intelligence reports" - one being the encrypted one mentioned above. Two of these had lists of questions posed by the police, with Rob's answers to them. The other one was simply a report by Rob after a trip he made up to Auckland. The information was largely to do with the Auckland Animal Rights scene and the people involved. He gave the police updated addresses, photographs, and licence plate numbers of the Auckland animal rights activists, presumably to help them with further surveillance.

The reports also contained information about who was in a sexual relationship with who, who was fighting or bitching about who, and other general gossip. He also answered questions about what printers etc we had access to, who the current main organisers and decision makers were, and what future

protest actions we were likely to take.

The reference to what printers we had access to was because the police had wanted to know who was responsible for printing the Tegel stickers we made to stick on poultry products in supermarkets.

The reports also had questions answered about other groups in Auckland, including anti-war and climate change groups, and possible actions planned for visits by foreign diplomats.

Rob's phone bills showed that he was in constant contact with his handlers during any major events – including many phone calls right after Suzy died.

There were also many references in the emails to other forms of communication. For example, some emails were subject-lined things such as "discuss with me". There was also another email that simply said "She's working from home today, I'll let you know when I can escape". This was referring to a day when I had been working from home, and Rob was clearly trying to "escape" from me so he could talk to them. In the intelligence reports, Rob also makes reference to photographs on an "attached CD" - so presumably he was generally posting or handing over directly his intelligence reports or other information.

Was the information focused on specific individuals or groups and campaigns?

The information focused both on specific individuals, and on groups and campaigns. Some examples of the questions the police asked Rob are:

Climate Change Groups

What is happening with climate change groups in Auckland?

Who is involved?

What actions might they be considering for the future?

What specific plans are in place for



Climate Day of action 07/07?

Auckland Animal Action (AAA)

Q - What is the structure of AAA and who fills the key positions?

Q - How does AAA communicate and promote demonstrations?

Q - Do they use / have access to chat rooms etc?

Q - Update Addresses / Ph (cell and landline) Numbers / Vehicle details of AAA members.

Q - What is the proposed activist activity for the rest of the year?

Q - Who is responsible for the stickers on Tegel products?

Q - Where is the printer / scanner / etc for the above stickers?

Q - What other activity is proposed against Tegel or any other chicken suppliers?

Q - Are there any anti war / anti US demonstrations planned to coincide with the Turkish Prime Ministers visit? (Early December)

Q - Information regarding the 26th November Grey Lynn festival.

Q - Are there any other plans for that weekend?

Anti War/Anti American Groups

What is happening within these organisations?

What sort of numbers are now involved?

What activities or targeting do they have planned for the future?

ANZCCART

Who from New Zealand will be looking at travelling to Melbourne for ANZCCART in early July.

Where will they be staying and mode of travel in Australia?

Who is their contact person in Australia?

US independence Day 04 July?

What protest activity is being organised around this event in Auckland and Wellington?

Who will be involved?

APEC Sydney September 2007

Who will be looking at going to this event?



Rochelle at a slaughterhouse, 2008

Realistically who is likely to end up actually travelling?

Where will they be staying?

Who will their contact person be in Australia?

What will their mode of travel be?

Pre/Post APEC in NZ

Is there any intell that suggests people are aware of the possibility of visits to NZ by VIP's either side of APEC?

Are there any plans afoot for protest activity for any such VIP's they think may be visiting?

How detailed was the information he was sending through?

The information Rob sent to the police was extremely detailed. He included very personal information about activists and the activities they were involved in.

Do you think it was particularly accurate or useful to the cops?

Large amounts of the data Rob gave the police would have been useful to them in forming a picture of who the core organisers were, and therefore who to target or surveil further. Most of the information he sent them was fairly accurate, however there were many bits that were either mistakes or complete lies. For instance, Rob claims in

one of the documents that for security measures in Auckland Animal Action's fur campaign, we were apparently "picking targets out of a hat" so no one would know the protest location in advance. Not a bad idea given how much we now know about the police interest in what we do - but seriously, we have never done anything so ridiculous!

Do you think Rob's work as an informer was aimed at intelligence gathering or at disrupting groups and campaigns?

I think most of Rob's work as an informer was aimed at intelligence gathering - in particular where it would help the police use further surveillance on us, and know who to target. However a fair bit of Rob's work was disrupting groups and campaigns.

In the first instance, Rob was notorious for stirring up trouble between various activists. He was very good at manipulating situations so he could discredit anyone he deemed to be a threat, and at the same time ensure it never came back to bite him. For example, he spread a rumour that one young activist was a police informer, no doubt because that particular person didn't like him, and he wanted to discredit



Rochelle being pushed out of a shop selling fur, 2007

that person to ensure that they couldn't cause him any damage. Since the truth has come out, everyone seems to have a different story about the ways that Rob disrupted activities, and caused arguments between various people.

Secondly, the intelligence Rob gave to the police helped them to disrupt our activities. In October 2003, Auckland Animal Action staged a symbolic protest at the Tegel Chicken head office, where we spread some hay through the office to highlight the fact that Tegel don't even give chickens the basic necessities like hay. Jesse, who is a school teacher, and therefore

was very careful about not getting himself into trouble, decided that while he didn't want to participate in the hay throwing, he would hand over a letter to the Tegel receptionist explaining why the rest of us were.

While the rest of us expected we might be arrested for disorderly behaviour or some other minor charge, we never expected the extreme reaction from the police that we got.

Before the protest, only nine of us knew about the protest, and seven of us participated. We never spoke about the protest on the phone, in

a car or house, with our cellphones on etc, as we didn't want the police to know about the protest before it happened in case they would stop it happening.

As it happens, the police knew well in advance what we were planning, as Rob had told them. Below is something I wrote in 2004 proving that we had an informant in our midst, though of course at the time I had no idea who it was.

The Police TAU monitoring and following protesters:

Firstly, until the house raids and charges in relation to the Belucci case in May 2004, we had never heard of the Police Threat Assessment Unit (TAU). Throughout Jesse's Tegel Case, no mention was made in any disclosure of the TAU, despite it being them who brought this case. I believe they intentionally hid their identity from us, so as not to alert us to their covert monitoring of our group.

It wasn't until the second round of house raids and charges by the TAU in the Belucci case that they revealed their identity to us. I believe only did so as it was necessary to prosecute the case.

It was only after the Belucci case when I re-read Jesse's police disclosure from the Tegel case, that with all the further information about the TAU and the officers involved, I realized that they must have been heavily monitoring us and have followed us to the Tegel demonstration. The following is information to prove this (all facts and time estimates other than when stated are from the police disclosure):

The Tegel protest occurred on the 2nd October 2003 some time between 2.00pm and 2.30pm. The demonstration lasted less than one minute – the entire thing was videoed.

According to a statement from Detective Sergeant Mike Paki, he arrived at the Tegel office at 2.40pm.



According to a statement from Detective Malcolm Jones, he arrived at the Tegel office at 2.15pm.

In the search warrant application for Jesse's house and car, written by Detective Sergeant David Nimmo, he states he was in the Auckland suburb of NewMarket at approximately 2.15pm on an unrelated matter. He claims to have seen six persons run from the entrance to Tegel Foods Limited.

Both Detective Sergeant Mike Paki and Detective Sergeant David Nimmo were involved in the later house raids in the Belucci case, and then identified themselves as being from the TAU. In both cases, Detective Sergeant Mike Paki was the officer in charge.

I believe this on its own is enough to prove that the TAU knew in advance that we were going to do the the Tegel protest, and followed us there on the day.

The TAU is located at Harlech House Police Station in Otahuhu, which is at least a 25 minute drive from Newmarket. I believe that had these detectives been at work at Harlech House, there is no way that they could have arrived in Newmarket as quickly as they did. They must have already been in the area.

In Detective Sergeant Mike Paki's statement, he opens with:

"While conducting enquiries with Detective JONES to possible targets for Animal Action Week, in the Auckland Region we went to the business premises of Tegel Foods Ltd, Carlton Gore Road, Newmarket Auckland.

As we entered the premises, on the fourth floor we arrived into the reception area. Farm hay had been thrown throughout the area and further down walkways between office petitions. The hay had also been thrown over desks and com-

puters."

This seems to me to be a fairly far-fetched coincidence that these detectives just happened to be making enquiries about possible animal rights protests at almost exactly the same time as the protest finished.

In the search warrant application written by Detective Sergeant David Nimmo he states:

"On 02.10.03, at approximately 2.15pm, I was in the Auckland suburb of Newmarket on an unrelated matter.

At this time I observed a group of six persons run from the Morgan Street entrance to Tegel Foods Limited situated at 100 Carlton Gore Road, Newmarket.

I watched the group run up Morgan Street in the direction of the Auckland Domain. The group of persons consisted of both males and females.

A short time later I was listening to the Auckland Central Police Radio. I heard the Police Dispatcher request Police attendance at a situation which had just occurred at Tegel Foods Limited situated at 100 Carlton Gore Road, Newmarket.

As a result of hearing the Police Dispatcher I drove my plain police vehicle into the Auckland Domain to look for the group that I had just seen run from the Morgan Street entrance to Tegel Foods Limited situated at 100 Carlton Gore Road, NewMarket."

This seems to me like another far-fetched coincidence – that a detective from the police TAU just happened to be in the area, in a plain police vehicle, apparently on an unrelated matter, and see us leave the Tegel building.

Further evidence from Detective Malcolm Jones says that a while after arriving at the Tegel office, he was directed by Detective Ser-

geant Paki to make contact with the Northern Communications Centre to request the assistance of a uniform incident car. The police statements in the disclosure also show that apart from Detectives Paki, Jones and Nimmo, no other officers were on the scene until 2.55pm.

It would be strange for 3 plain clothed detectives with plain cars to be at the scene before any standard uniformed police and cars if Tegel had phoned 111 when the incident occurred, but makes sense if the TAU had arranged prior to the protest to be there.

Further evidence of the TAU's surveillance is that before the protest we only talked about it with the people involved. No emails were sent about the protest, and no communication was made with the wider group. We were also careful not to talk about the protest on a telephone. Therefore for the TAU to have known about our protest in advance, they must have had us under surveillance either by having an infiltrator in the group, or by following us.

What unit in the police was rob working for?

We found out what police unit Rob was working for by working out who his handlers were. We looked at the contact numbers in his phone, and then how often he was in contact with them from his phone bills, and then who we thought was dodgy from our knowledge of him. Rob had this mysterious "Uncle Pete" who he often talked about. Rob had claimed his "Uncle Pete" was an old friend of his fathers, and like Rob, was ex-SAS. Since we now knew from another email that Rob had never been in the SAS, and in fact not even in the regular army – he had only been (in his own words) "low-level grunt" in the territorials – we thought it was unlikely his "Uncle Pete" had been either. Also strange was that in the whole year I had lived in Christchurch with Rob, I had never met his "Uncle Pete".



We also had a police identification number from the questionnaires sent to Rob, which were Microsoft Word Documents. They showed the organisation as being “The New Zealand Police”, and the author as being “PG4369”. Police identification numbers start with the officers initials, so “Pete” fit with this.

Further investigations done by Nicky Hager showed that “Uncle Pete” was in fact a police detective by the name of “Peter Gilroy”, working for the police Special Investigations Unit (SIG).

We then looked at the other “Uncles” on Rob’s phone, and found that they were all also police officers, one - “Uncle John” - turned out to be John Schoberg, the head of the SIG in Christchurch.

Since the SIG was only set up in 2004, I assumed that before then Rob had worked for the Threat Assessment Unit (TAU), as they had been the main police unit until then involved in activist surveillance. In any case, both the SIG and the TAU are part of the Combined Threat Assessment Group (CTAG). When Rob was confronted, he confirmed that he had been working for the TAU before the SIG was set up.

What does this unit do?

Both the SIG and the TAU were set up to monitor and counter domestic terrorism threats. Other than activist surveillance, it is quite difficult to ascertain what these units do, as there really aren’t any domestic terrorists in New Zealand. No doubt they also have informants inside mosques, and any other groups they consider a threat.

Apart from using Rob do you have any other idea about how this unit monitors activists?

We know from the police disclosure in some of our protest cases that the Threat Assessment Unit have plain clothed detectives who come to our protests. A statement written by Detective Darryl Petherick in the search warrant application for the

Belucci case says:

I am currently attached to the Threat Assessment Unit. Included in this role is monitor and gather intelligence on animal rights groups and activists.

This intelligence gathering includes attending protest action of various kinds without making my presence known to protesters. By doing this I can familiarise myself with protesters identities, involvement, and associations with each other and groups they are representing.

One of these is animal rights group, Auckland Animal Action. My role in monitoring this group involves being familiar with its member’s identities, and their actions, and monitoring and following ongoing campaigns.

We also know from the October 15 “terror” case that the police have used interception warrants to bug phones and cars, and that they have also used other informants.

Was this the same unit that raided your and several other’s houses a few years back?

Yes – the police Threat Assessment Unit were responsible for all of the raids on the homes of Auckland animal rights activists over the past few years.

Why do you think the police are so interested in activist groups and what do you think the broader picture is?

I believe the police are interested in activist groups because these specialist units were set up to counter “terrorism” and “national security” threats. Since they have nothing better to do, there being no terrorists in New Zealand, they are using activist groups as target practice, and to justify their existence. The government were warned this would happen when these units were set up as a reaction to the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Centre, now it has been proven. Unfortunately

it doesn’t seem as if either major political party in New Zealand has any intent on changing anything.

How do you think the police were using the information he provided?

After being confronted Rob claimed that he was just a “gatherer” and that his information went to the “profilers” who would assess the information and work out whether there was any risk. This may or may not be true – certainly Rob’s role was as a “gatherer”, but whether or not there are some sort of high-level police “profilers” working on activist stuff I have no idea.

The police also used the information Rob provided to target further surveillance at us, and disrupt our groups with pointless house raids and arrests.

Are you surprised at the things he did as an infiltrator, for example inciting illegal acts?

Nothing surprises me anymore! But seriously, it makes sense that police informers would incite illegal acts. Firstly, any informer will be trying to keep their job – that means of course proving that they have a reason to exist. Being able to prove some sort of illegal activity keeps them in work.

Rob ran the “direct action training camps” for animal rights a few years ago. He came up with the idea, invited people, organised, and ran them. The people who were there attended for various reasons – some would have been there just for fun, some to learn how to plan civil disobedience actions – such as chaining yourself to a shop selling fur, and some no doubt wanted to learn how to break into factory farms to gain video footage to get on television, and to liberate animals. I attended really for all three of those reasons. Interestingly, the only illegal actions I have heard of since have been those mentioned. The only other illegal action referred to in any of Rob’s “intelligence” was a meat billboard which



was spraypainted in Wellington. Interestingly, the people who he claimed did it were in Auckland at the time and can prove it.

Rob wasn't particularly involved in many campaigns in 2008 before he was ousted, do you think that the police are using other infiltrators instead?

I think it is fair to assume that the police will already have other infiltrators within our groups. And if they don't, no doubt they will be attempting to get others in. Likewise, it has been over 2 years since the two spies for Thompson & Clark were ousted, so it would be fair to assume there are other spies for

private investigators involved.

At the same time I don't think it's anything to get paranoid about or worry about. Rob was involved for 10 years and aside from causing some shit between people, and a few arrests that led nowhere, nothing bad has happened. We should be alert for any signs of infiltrators, but we shouldn't let our focus be deterred from the things we are fighting for. We also shouldn't get so paranoid that we exclude new people or are suspicious of each other.

What lessons do you think the AR community as well as the

broader activist networks can learn from this?

Most importantly what we can learn from this, and the ousting of the Thompson & Clark spies, is that we are so bloody effective in what we do that they actually consider us a real threat!

The other lesson we can learn from Rob, is that when someone is causing shit, we need to talk to each other about it, and we need to get rid of people that cause trouble. Not because all troublemakers are spies, but because all troublemakers generally do damage to us.

How has this saga affected you?



Will you continue to be involved in activist groups?

On a personal level, obviously this has affected me a great deal. I wouldn't say that I was "devastated" or anything about Rob, as to be honest I don't think I ever saw our relationship as that serious anyway. Towards the end the only reason I didn't leave him was because he continued to beg me to stay with him. But no doubt this whole thing has affected the level of trust I will place in people. I largely inherited my trust of Rob from the fact that everyone around me when I met him seemed to like and trust him. That makes me re-assess everyone I know and think about why I like and trust them.

I will continue to be involved in activist groups. If anything, this makes me more determined to keep going and prove that they can't shut us down no matter how hard they try.

In the recent V word Podcast the commentators discussed why it was that we, as a movement, and some of us, even more so, as close friends of Rob's, put up with Rob's sexist behaviour. I thought it was interesting because as V word commented many of us would consider ourselves staunch feminists and so should be speaking out against such behaviour. As someone who has been good friends with Rob for some time what are your thoughts on this?

Rob was very good at modifying his behaviour depending on who he was around. The people I associated with would never have tolerated the sort of sexist or other disgusting behaviour we have heard about from others. For that reason I believe Rob never acted like that around us. Certainly I would never have gone near him if I had known the sort of person he really was

(spying aside).

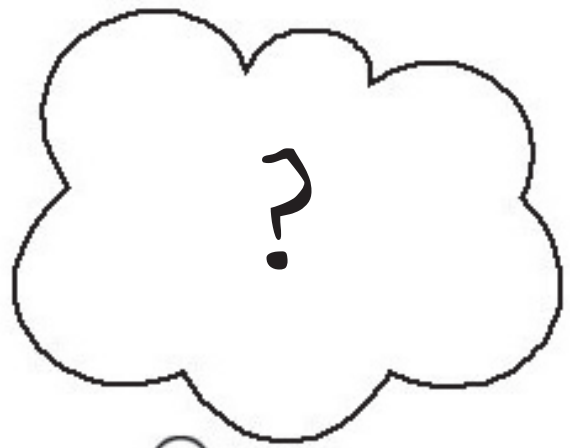
Rob also seemed to have acted rather differently around males than females. With the males he seemed to try and incite illegal action more overtly. He would also put on the macho attitude and make more sexist comments. Perhaps the groups I was in being more female-dominated is another reason why I didn't see much of his disgusting behaviour.

Finally, will you be taking further action such as a private prosecution or a complaint to the so-called "Independent Police Complaints Authority"?

I have some ideas in the pipeline for further action – however I won't publicise them yet, as I don't want to give the game away to the police.



GAMES WITH ROB



THE 'WHAT'S ROB THINKING' CAPTION GAME

Send Liberate your captions and we will print the best ones in our next issue. The top five, as judged by the Liberate Editorial Collective, will receive an ALF poster.

Send your caption and address to liberatemagazine@yahoo.com. Entries close on July 1st 2009.

YOUR VERY OWN POCKET SIZED ROB GILCHRIST VODOO DOLL



- JUST CUT OUT AND STAB WHEN EVER THE MOOD TAKES YOU!

direct action gets the goods



= PRISONER



= PICTURES



= SABOTAGE



= LIBERATION



= VANDALISM



= VIDEO



= ARSON (unfortunately we doubt we will have much of this to report ;)



World Vegetarian Day '08: Activists Rescue Lambs, Battery Hens and Broiler Chickens



To celebrate World Vegetarian Day animal rights activists rescued two lambs, ten battery hens and two broiler chickens. These animals have since been placed in loving homes. (See page 38 for the communique). Video and photos available at www.animaliberationaotearoa.org.nz

World Vegan Day '08: Activists Rescue Pullets



To celebrate World Vegan Day animal rights activists spent the night in countryside at a pullet farm. They rescued 12 young pullets who had spent their whole life caged on the farm.

In a communique the activists said *'This is light years away from what life on the factory farm was like dark, cramped and filthy. This is sadly still the reality for over three million pullets and battery hens nationwide. These animals have no one but you; go vegan and get liberating.'*

Photos are available at www.animaliberationaotearoa.org.nz





In celebration of World Vegetarian Day and World Farm Animals Day we liberated two lambs, two broiler chickens and ten battery hens from a life of suffering and an untimely death. We also attempted to rescue ducks from the factory farm however upon entering, we found that the whole farm was empty. Hopefully for good. The animals were rescued to spare them from slaughter and challenge the assumption that animals are food. . . .



for animal liberation. There is no such thing as ethical meat, milk or eggs. All involves the killing of individuals and the infliction of fear, pain and suffering. . .

From the communique . . .

The myth of Aotearoa's clean, green countryside masks a deadly truth. That this countryside is home to pain, suffering and murder. When you drive in the country what you see is land stolen from indigenous inhabitants, hills and streams stripped of their native forest cover and animals trapped on pastoral and factory farms. These animals are waiting to be killed, their babies ripped away from them and their bodies abused. This is the real truth of the Aotearoa countryside.

. . . Everyone loves springtime, the daffodils, the re-emergence of the sun and cute young animals bouncing around the countryside. What people choose to forget is that those very same lambs, calves and kids that they stop to admire will soon be taken from their mothers and sent to the slaughterhouse to be killed. So that the people that stopped to admire them can eat their young butchered bodies. . . .

. . . Animals are all individuals, with personalities, desires and relationships with other animals. People do not want to see this and they do not want to know who is suffering and being killed for their dinner.

This World Farm Animals Day we challenge you to think about it, to get to know those killed for your food and to open your eyes and heart to their suffering. We challenge you to go vegan.

. . . We are not asking for bigger sheds, no cages and better killing practises and we are not asking for welfare advances. We are ghting to challenge our destructive culture; we are ghting

Live for the freedom of the earth, the people and the animals!



DIRECT ACTION STARTER GUIDE

If you are making the switch to direct action, you will be pleased to find that it is a wonderful addition to activism!

Please note: The information provided in the following article have been reprinted from Bite Back Volume 3 Issue 2. It is third party sourced and is not the original work of the Liberate Editorial Collective and hence does not necessarily reflect the views of Liberate. This information has been reprinted here merely to entertain and is not intended to incite any criminal action on the part of its readers.

Are You Feeling Blocked Up?

You may someday find yourself inside a business that exploits animals, and despite feeling an urgency to crap in an executive's office, a visit to the bathroom is more appropriate.

Plugged toilets are a major annoyance. Sponges can be the perfect tool to make animal abusers call the plumber.

- Soak a large sponge (NOT the ocean-dwelling variety) in water.

- Wrap the sponge tightly with string or rubber bands and let it dry.

- When dry, remove the binding. The sponge should not expand until you...

- Flush it down the toilet. As the sponge swells it will block up the pipe.

For a bigger obstruction, try more than one sponge at a time.

Driving Without Tires

The invention of the air-inflated rubber tires made for much smoother driving, but it left vehicles vulnerable to sharp objects.

A hole in a tire's head can result in a pleasant hissing sound as air escapes, but these punctures can be patched.

Much better is a cut in the tire's sidewall with any sharp knife; these cuts are usually non-reparable.

Make sure the cut is deep enough to flatten the tire (unfinished jobs can be very dangerous to drivers). Also, avoid tires under high pressure, such as, those on heavy equipment or semi-trucks.

Nails spread in the road and small pieces of wood spiked with nails and placed under parked cars, also do the job.

As troublesome as one flat tire can be, imagine if all four tires were flattened.



Recipes for paint

Do you remember water balloon fights on hot summer days? Well those youthful energies can be directed towards something useful, such as decorating billboards, storefronts or trucks with paint.

In a little soda bottle or similar container, mix oil based paint (your choice of colour) 50/50 with paint thinner to dilute the paint so it splatters. Create a funnel with rolled paper and fill one of the following containers to make your own paint grenade:

- Lightbulbs: check out the 'how to guide' (see page 41) for the professionals of the Swedish ALF!
- Balloons: fill medium-sized balloons (the balloon

will expand with the weight of the paint) and tie them up. Plastic sandwich bags also work.

- Glass bottles filled with paint may be difficult to break unless you have a strong throwing arm.
- Green peppers: 100 percent vegan, but have a tendency to leak.

The insides of vehicles and buildings can be decorated with paint by first removing the windows (try a brick).

Paint, like glue, has a habit of getting everywhere. Dress appropriately!

Tips for Making the Switch to Spray Paint

Letters and phone calls are fine, but sometimes paint is the best way to reach your audience.

Decorating a building with a message requires only a steady hand and the ability to spell under pressure (Nobody wants to see 'Go Veagn' painted on a butch-

er shop). Also, make a quick check to make sure you know which way the nozzle is pointing. The biggest challenge may be to condense your anger into a two-to-four word slogan.

Remember, paint can be removed – reapply often.



If we learned anything in physics class, it was that a brick on the ground ain't gonna do nothing. But if you pick up a brick and throw it, it will continue until the downward force of gravity, or a pane of glass, stops its motion. Slingshots and a ball bearings work well too.

In addition to bricks, sling-shots, glass etching fluid and spring-loaded center punches (which can quietly crack a window) are popular tools for use with glass.



Making Lightbulbs

'On the night of October 19th and October 23rd 2004, a fur shop in Malmo, Sweden, had several paint bombs thrown over the windows and walls by the Swedish DBF (ALF).'

Sounds like fun, but wonder how they did it? This cell decided to give the world a peak:

- First you take a screwdriver and put it in the side of a lightbulb. Bend out the black bottom so there is an opening.

- Gently scrape the inside of the bulb and remove all the pieces. Be careful so that you don't break the bulb.

- Fill the lamp with paint using a funnel. Don't use water-based paint, and mix it with thinner so it spreads more on your target.

- Close the opening with tape. Make sure that it's tight so you don't get paint in your pockets when you are on your way to your target.

- ... and then ACTION!



The Four-Step Way to Strip paint - From a Car

Paint stripper is a chemical solution with dissolves paint on contact. It's usually sold as a liquid or gel. your skin!)

- Purchase paint-stripper (available at hardware or automotive parts stores; remember to PAY IN CASH).

- Read the directions carefully and heed all warnings and cautions (wear gloves, paint stripper can burn

- Apply the stripper liberally (apply to doors, roof and hood of vehicle).

- Wait approximately 20 minutes until the paint bubbles up and dissolves, revealing beautiful bare metal; or, apply and run like hell.

The How and Why of Gluing Locks

Superglue was first sold in 1958, but it was not until the 1980's that activists discovered it was the perfect supplement to traditional animal rights campaigns.

Superglue sets in seconds and sticks to anything which makes it a fast and easy way to jam locks. Superglue will cause permanent damage to the lock mechanism; locks filled with superglue have to be removed and replaced.

Locksmiths charge a lot of money, and new locks aren't cheap either. But the real headache for a busi-

ness owner is having their doors closed during business hours (don't forget to treat the back door). After all, time is money.

How do you glue a lock? Put the tip of the superglue into a lock and squeeze. Some locksmiths can use a solvent to dissolve the glue without needing to replace the lock so it can be good to also place a small piece of plastic or wood (that cannot be pulled out with fingers or tweezers) in the lock as well. Don't forget to think about hair and fingerprints.



BUSTED



WHO WILL BE NEXT?

HOW TO LOOK FOR INFILTRATORS AND CONTINUE BEING ACTIVE

Following the discovery that Somali and Ryan were spies for Thompson and Clark (for more on T and C see page 58) and the recent exposure of Rob Gilchrist as a police informant it has become clear that we need to start taking the issue of security very seriously. Both the State and corporate interests are watching what we do from the outside and the INSIDE. Somali, Ryan and Rob will not be the only 'comrades' actually working against us; but that does not mean that all new (and existing activists) are informants. The following article is about how to look for informants while continuing to remain open and active.

The first thing to do is to make sure before commenting on whether someone is dodgy or not. Many people when they first get involved are often excited by what they have read and heard. They may not have had a chance to adjust to our security culture and needs. It does not make them spies, and jumping down their throats immediately or not explaining the situation to them because you've gone into paranoid mode will do nobody any good use and simply do long term damage as they get driven out or put off. What may seem obvious to us is only because of our experience as activists; it may not be that way to an outsider so allow them that initial space. Explain to them first! We were all young, naïve and eager to take action once, so think back to what it was like then.

If they still do not get it, then is the time to become somewhat more concerned. If your campaign is structured securely, a grass or infiltrator should only be able to achieve limited damage, plus you should not be exposing new people to sensitive material anyway.

It is always good to visit people at their homes or just learn about their backgrounds. Maybe even meet their parents if such an opportunity arises. This helps build the trust. But the main thing is to avoid letting paranoia taking over – think back to when you were first joining your group or movement and all the mistakes you made then. People do not join a group fully clued-up, so don't ex-





pect them to be. A group run along paranoia lines to the point it is near impossible or exceptionally impossible to join is not going to go far. This sort of paranoia also prevents accurate instincts from developing.

Saying that if they truly believed, new people would put up with the paranoia and exclusion is a poor excuse, and symptomatic of a group which is not dealing with security on a rational level.

Why would you suspect you have an infiltrator in the first place?

- Things going wrong when they've not been doing so previously.

- Your opponents seeming to know what you are planning (though this may be part of a disinformation program to cause infighting).

- Constant internal disruption.
- You are a high profile campaign.
- Your opponents have a history of covert action against campaign groups.

There are ways and means to identify people you suspect, but we suggest you approach an organisation with experience in dealing with these issues.

Infiltrators tend to go for positions where they can either do the most damage or get the most informa-

tion. Watch out for people who:

- Volunteer for tasks providing access to important meetings and papers such as financial records, membership lists, minutes and confidential files, even indirectly such as typing up notes and 'recycling' the paperwork. Often they are not the most glamorous but quite dull tasks so people are happy to pass them on to others despite how much they expose the details of the group's members.
- Do not follow through or complete tasks, or else does them poorly despite an obvious ability to do good work.
- Cause problems for a group such as committing it to activities or expenses without following proper channels; encourage the group to plan activities that divide group unity.
- Seem to be in the middle of personal or political differences that are disruptive to the group. Seek the public spotlight, in the name of your group, and then make comments or present an image different from the rest of the group.
- Urge the use of violence or breaking the law, and provide information and resources to enable such ventures.

This depends closely on the nature & atmosphere of your group. Context is important here, especially on how heavily monitored the group is.

- Have no obvious source of income over a period of time, or have more money available than their job should pay.
- Charge other people with being agents, (a process called snitch-jackets), thereby diverting attention from him or herself, and draining the group's energy from other work.
- Are inconsistent about their background – lies at this level are hard to maintain completely, and slip-ups do occur; take note of inconsistencies and follow up on any 'facts' about themselves that they tell you.
- Will be regularly overgenerous



with their money buying people drink and/or drugs so getting activists into a condition where they are more likely to be off-guard and talkative.

- Make false claims and exaggerate about their background in other movements.

Remember, none of the above are by themselves proof that you have an infiltrator. It may be that information is leaking through carelessness or bugs. Or that you simply have a pain-in-the-arse in your group who needs to be dealt with (we will not deal with this here, but it is a security issue in some ways as it causes others to become disaffected, feel betrayed, etc).

So then how do you go about selecting people to work with for those more 'secret squirrel' actions?

Depending on the nature of your action you may need to be careful about who you inform regarding it.

Approaching People

Approaching potential participants in an action needs to be done correctly. Ask people what they feel about the type of action you are planning in general, on an abstract level to check that they would be

interested in what you have to say. As affinity groups are built on trust (and often friendship) you will know for the most part how individuals file or whether they are "up for it" in general.

If you ask them about doing an action and they initially say no ask about it later. Unless they are expressing an interest in being involved, tell them it has been called off. Once committed warn people against backing out later or talking about it.

The degree of secrecy needs to be made clear right from the start so people are clued in otherwise there are inadvertent breaches of security made early on. As someone putting together an action you should NEVER assume everyone automatically has a clear idea of the level of security needed – it is up to you to remind them.

Gradually Introduce People

It is best not to throw people in at the deep end, unless you are very confident in your action and in them. Better it is to work them up the ladder, watching how they react in different situations, how well they keep their cool, etc. Sometimes people make out to be more

confident and skilled than they actually are. The problems will not become apparent until they are actually in action, by which point it may be too late.

If you are not 'invited' to actions and feel bitter about it, put yourself in their place and understand that their security needs may be playing a part. Those involved need to be wary about not letting it slip so inviting inopportune questions – this includes behaviour as well as what is said. Do not arrange or hint at meetings in front of those not involved as it is quite disheartening to future activists.

Watch Out for Bravado

People will talk themselves up, and make out to be more experienced than they really are. Recognise this in people and be ready for it in case they end up bottling it and leave the rest of you in the lurch. Often they will not even turn up for very low risk stuff or get very uptight and show erratic behaviour when they do attend. It may be better to be blunt with them by saying that you haven't worked with them enough yet, and that you personally don't feel comfortable in that situation, especially one where there is a lot of risk. If they are genuinely com-





mitted to movement happening they will accept this.

If you suspect that someone is more boasting than action, then check out if they've actually done the stuff they've claimed (eg, fly-posting, graffiti, etc.)

Watch Out for the Boasters

Like with bravado, these people can be a risk. It is hard for them to not tell people about what they are up to before and after an action, even after they have been warned to secrecy – some become smug and extra secretive, which can be little better than giving away that they have something to hide. So when introducing people into your affinity group note their ability to keep secrets as they become involved more deeply. At the end of the day our main reason for being active is to achieve social change or save lives, not to make people feel better.

High Profile People

Some people are naturally under a lot of attention, whether by police or otherwise. This maybe due to their apparent organisational role or simply their history of being arrested (especially for serious offences). Even though they maybe excellent activists, they may end

up compromising your action by bringing unnecessary attention to you. If they don't need to be involved, keep them out of it.

People with Issues

Although we like to be inclusive and bring many people into our movements, it does not mean everyone is suitable for every action you plan. If you are going to take risks then you have to be doing it with people you can rely on if things do go wrong, or can be counted on to do their part to make sure that things do not go wrong in the first place. We are active not to run self-help groups, but to make changes. That may sound harsh, but so is losing your freedom because of someone else's personal issues which they were unable to put to one side.

Drug users and heavy drinkers are a liability, as are people with money-draining habits such as gambling. As well as being unreliable, they are much easier to turn or trick into talking. Recently, much of the "Green Scare" in the US, where large numbers of ELF (Earth Liberation Front) activists were arrested up to a decade after they were involved, was by using one activist's heroin addiction to break him and use him to leapfrog into the rest of

the groups and to entrap people by talking about what they had done years previously.

Addictions can also cause people to fail to carry out important tasks properly and lie to cover up their mistakes, so putting the action or rest of the group in jeopardy, this runs the gamut from not turning up on time to go to a hunt sab or demo to acquiring equipment and being in place at the right time on a covert action. Another problem is when people get argumentative at unsuitable times such as on the way to an action, jeopardising the morale and energy of the group, and whether the action itself goes ahead. This can apply to people with addictions or mental health issues.

We would also recommend against bringing along people with mental health issues where the stress of taking risks may prove too much, or that later on, after the action, they may not fully understand the need for maintaining security in respect to it.

If you are a heavy drinker, drug user, etc consider how you may be jeopardizing others so consider moderating your consumption so you are not losing control, or





else stop doing actions where you would have knowledge that could put others at risk.

A less obvious risk are people who have personal reasons for joining a group and are not necessarily motivated entirely by the aims of the movement. They may consider activists as cool people to hang around or as introducing an element of excitement as they swing close to the “danger”. Others are simply needy people who are preying on the inherent kindnesses to be found in the people active in social movements. It maybe that, depending on the needs of your group and actions, that such nicety needs to be put aside. People with the wrong motivations are less likely to understand the need for security and often talk without thinking, even to police, as they like the attention. It is not malicious, but just how they are.

Security and Your Affinity Group

The final point when bringing your team or affinity group together is to ensure that everyone is working to the same standards.

Differing standards may mean that some people are not doing enough to keep the group secure and oth-

ers are being too paranoid to the point it is disruptive or disempowering. Discuss it through and make sure that everyone knows what security measures they have to take and why. As in campaign security, it is best to reach a consensus whereby everyone is clued in to the needs of the situation and acts appropriately. Such discussions are also a good way to spot people who are only giving lipservice to the requests or being too blasé about security.

Security measures reached by consensus and understanding are much more likely to be adhered to than ones imposed on people. Also, it makes it easier for people to be pulled up if their security is getting slack. A classic case of this is mobile phones at gatherings. If the group decision is that mobiles phones have batteries removed and not taken to meetings, and that decision is clearly broadcast, then it is much easier to call people up for ‘lapses’ where they are turned on or brought to meetings.

Have a security run-through before the action. Make it clear that these are not a case of someone being on a power trip or distrusting people but good security practise – mention it at the start of planning

so people know to expect it. Even experienced people make mistake and it shouldn’t be a case that individuals are made to feel embarrassed by slip-ups. A security run through is there to refresh and remind people, ego aside.

Create a situation whereby people can feel able to admit to mistakes. It is better to have it out, than hidden where it may come back to haunt you. Likewise, if you have made a mistake, it is important that you own up to it, even if it jeopardises everything, so your group doesn’t go through with an action which may have been compromised. You have a responsibility to the group you are working with. Also, if it becomes clear that you were the one responsible for the security breach and didn’t let people know then people will not trust you enough to involve you in future actions.

When setting up an action people do not necessarily have to be practising security at your level, but it may be an opportunity to teach them about it through example, explaining why you are taking certain measures.

In the next issue we will look at security when carrying out actions.





How to Run a Campaign

This has been adapted from a talk given at the 2006 National Animal Rights Conference by members of Auckland Animal Action. While it relates to the Fur Free Auckland Campaign this simple format could be adapted to suit any campaign where stores are the target. The Foie gras and Kwila campaigns are examples that are adapting, some or all, of this format.

Kicking Off Your Campaign – How to Find Your Target

Checking and Monitoring Stores

It is important to check stores regularly. It can be effective to give people an area to check regularly so that no one person gets over-worked, it saves time and enables more people to be involved.

When you find fur, it is important to collect information such as the store name, the manufacturer, what the garment is (and if the fur is trim etc.), the price, how many garments there are, the country of origin and whether or not the it is labelled as fur. If the fur is labelled, does it specify what kind?

Following checking the stores, it can be useful to prioritise the stores into which will be the best target, the hardest target etc...

We have found it really useful to stay in one area and target a few shops as word gets around, and you can use this to make your group seem larger and more imposing. After a few demos, other stores will do anything to not have you outside their store.

Approaching Stores with Fur with a Letter

It is important to approach the store before you hold a demo for

two reasons;

- It makes you appear more reasonable by giving them a chance to remove the fur
- It can save time. You would be surprised how often stores will remove fur without us having to go to the effort of holding a demo.

Auckland Animal Action would send out letters to a handful of stores that would potentially be targeted. The reason for this is to keep the momentum of the campaign up but we will get to this soon.

The letters outline the conditions of the factory farms in which animals

live, how they are raised and how they are slaughtered.

It is important to give the stores a specific date to respond to you by. Auckland Animal Action would give most stores two weeks if we had never dealt with them before. Alternatively, if we had approached them previously we would often only give them one week. It can also be advantageous to have a response date on a weekday so that there is time for a follow up phone call and time to arrange a demo before the weekend, if needed.

It sounds simple but make sure that your have plenty of contact details on the letters you send out to en-

FUR FREE AUCKLAND - A HISTORY

Auckland Animal Action (AAA) began the Fur Free Auckland Campaign in 2000, focusing primarily on the use of factory-farmed fur in the fashion industry. From the first Smith and Caughey's demo the campaign has gone from strength to strength and to today can claim responsibility for the removal of fur from over 70 stores in Auckland (and nationally). These stores include Harper Fashions (Hartleys), Max and Farmers.

In 2008, AAA dissolved and the Auckland Animal Rights Collective (AARC) took over running this campaign. To get involved please contact AARC at animalrightscollective@gmail.com.



sure that the store representatives can get in contact with you easily. Important information to include is a group email address, a group cell phone number, postal address and website. Try not to give out personal details.

In addition to these letters Auckland Animal Action would also include brochures about various related issues (such as traded fur, how the different fur bearing animals are slaughtered and cat and dog fur) from groups such as CAFT (Campaign to Abolish the Fur Trade), Humane Society of the United States and PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals). These brochures can often be sent to you free from CAFT and PETA.

It can also be useful to include a copy of the undercover Chinese Fur Farm footage obtained by East International and Swiss Animal Protection. This can be downloaded from <http://www.peta.org/feat/chineseFurFarms/index.asp> and then burnt on to a blank CD.

These letters are always hand delivered to ensure that the letters are definitely received and so that the store owners cannot pretend that they did not get it.

The Follow Up Phone Call

The follow up phone call can often save you the effort of a demo or at the very least enables you to assess what the people are like that you are dealing with.

Call on the day that you specified in the letter you sent. Remember to remain polite and professional at all times.

Typical questions to ask in a phone call are:

- Hi, how are you?
- Have you received the information pack and letter?
- Were you aware of the issue?

How do you feel about the issue?

What do you intend to do with the fur?

Talk a bit about the conditions that the animals are subjected to because of the fur industry.

At this point, one of four things is likely to happen:

· *The store representative will say that they will remove the fur:* If they have other stores, confirm that the store does not intend to simply move the fur from one store to another. Remember to ask about outlet stores as well. If you are comfortable, ask them to put that in writing or sign a fur free contract; not all stores will be comfortable with this. Always do spot checks to ensure that they have not put it back, check all of their stores. It can be handy to email other activ-

ists and ask if they can check some too, so that you are not driving all over Auckland.

· *The store will want to arrange a meeting with you:* this does not happen very often, but if it does always read up on the issue beforehand and take someone with you.

· *The store will try and cut a deal:* do not do deals over the phone; always advise the store owner that you are only a group representative and that you need to go back to the group and ask them. This allows the group time to discuss any deal and ensures that the caller does not get backed into a corner.

· *The store refuses to remove the fur:* remain polite but advise them that a protest campaign will start against them and ALWAYS FOLLOW UP.





Time For Action

The Demo

It really depends on your style as to what kind of demo/campaign you have, but Auckland Animal Action found it useful approaching stores through several different tactics; that way they never know what they are going to get.

Cyber Protests – Phone and email days: To keep the pressure on during the week, Auckland Animal Action often used co-ordinated phone and email-in days. These can be organized by choosing a day where everyone will call and email the store and tell them what you think of them selling fur. Auckland Animal Action would simply email our members with a date, a little information about what the stores were selling and contact details for the stores. This is also good as it include people who are keen but may not be able to attend demos because they have children etc...

TIP: If you are going to email anything a bit nasty, set up a new email address at hotmail or something so that there are no repercussions, or if you are going to call then use a pay phone.

The Quiet Demo: When you cannot secure many people to come to a demo or people are not up for a loud demo it can be a really good idea to simply hold placards and leaflet. This is good because you get the opportunity to talk to members of the public and other store owners. It is important to still take banners and placards so that it is obvious why you are there.

Loud and Proud – The noisy demo: Auckland Animal Action found these very useful for a first demo, to get the stores attention and make them realise that we take the sale of fur very seriously and will do what it takes to get them to remove the offending items.

The best time of day for this kind of demo is either at the busiest time of day for that area (usually lunch-





time) or at the close of business. Auckland Animal Action had many demo successes by staying until the shop closed and the shop owners had to walk past the placards showing the cruel reality of the fur trade. Or alternatively, being there before the store opens so that you are there when they arrive for work is also good.

Direct Action: When you are not really getting anywhere with a particular target and have a few people willing to get arrested then direct action can be a very effective means of protest. In the past Auckland Animal Action made their point by locking on to fur shop doors and window grills using bike 'D' locks.

TIP: When locking on to a shop, the best kind of bike locks are titanium ones as the only way that they can be removed is with the Jaws of Life. It sounds stupid but pick what you lock on to carefully; some door handles can be easily removed from the door and you do not have as long to make your point.

- Things to Remember for Demos:*
- Megaphone (preferably with a siren – for moments when you do not feel like chanting)
 - Placards (if you are lucky you can ask groups like PETA and they may send you some for free)
 - Whistles
 - Airhorns (these can be obtained from sports shops)
 - Banners
 - Chants
 - Water
 - Leaflets (for the public)
 - A camera and/or video camera

The Win

Often stores will seem stubborn at first, but it does not usually take them long to realize that removing the fur is a better idea than keeping it. Often a shop will approach you during a demo and say that they are going to remove the fur, this is great but always make sure that the store owner knows that you will be checking to make sure that they do not put the fur back or move it to other shops (if they have any).





**ZERO GRAZE
GOAT DAIRY FARMING**





Whangarei Open-air Intensive Goat Sheds

Those of us who shop at the supermarket will have at some point seen goat milk products on the shelf, and most of us would not have even given a second thought as to how this is produced. For those of us who have, we probably thought of goats on pastoral farms much like those that dairy cows are reared on. For some dairy goats that is how they live but for others they are reared on 'zero graze' farms where they live in sheds much like those used for broiler chickens.

On a zero graze dairy farm, female goats live in large open or closed air sheds with hundreds of other goats. I have visited two of these types of farms; one was open

and the other closed. The open air sheds are located near Whangarei. On this farm there were six sheds, three housing the kids and three housing the milking does with a small section fenced off for a handful of bucks. Gates and fencing prevent the goats from entering the neighbouring sheds. The floor of the sheds was earth covered in sawdust. The closed air sheds that I visited are owned and managed by Emma and Colin Osment and are located at 241 Pukemoremore Road, Cambridge. This farm had one big shed with a couple of stepped layers.

As these goats do not get to go outside to graze, their food is provided

to them daily. The goats are provided with hay in feeders and the rest of their food is provided to them on a conveyor belt. They are fed a mixture of grass, brewers' grain, maize silage, hay, meal, canola and lollies. The farm worker at the farm near Whangarei informed me that the goats are fed lots of lollies from the Cadbury factory. He also commented that this is most likely the reason why some the goats on the farm were missing teeth.

The goats are milked twice a day from around mid-July to mid-April. On the Osment's farm their two 'top milkers' produce about 8 litres a day at their peak. The average for their goats is about 4.5 – 5.5 li-

Goat Breeds

Over 80 percent of the goats on New Zealand dairy farms are called Saanens. This white breed is popular because on average they produce the highest volume of milk; they are also the earliest to mature with does being able to be impregnated at only 7 months of age and producing milk by the time they are one year old.

Farmers tend to be paid for their milk by the amount of milk solids rather than by the volume; as such the Anglo-Nubian (brown goat in the image to the right) is also popular. This breed has much higher levels of milk solids than the Saanens. There are currently several farms undertaking cross-breeding between the Saanens and Anglo-Nubian to produce a goat with high volumes of milk and high levels of milk solids.





tres a day. Milking on the farm near Whangarei involved a dog being used to chase the goats from their shed into the holding pen of the milking shed. The goats were then forced to walk up a ramp to a circular milking platform about a metre from the ground. I saw several goats fall when walking up the ramp and were trampled on by the other goats. The teatcups were put on to the teats of the goats and the milking platform rotated. After

a full rotation, the teatcups were removed and the goats were ushered back to their shed. This is the goats' daily routine until kidding time which is around late June.

On average the does will have twins but they can also have one kid or triplets. For the first 24 hours after birth, the kids are nursed by their mother who gives them much needed colostrum. After this, the kids are taken away and placed in

small groups where they are fed for 3 months on cows' milk from rubber teats. The Osment's website states that 'goats milk is the best for the kids'; amazing - who would have thought? They then go on to justify their use of cows' milk by saying that 'the value of goats' milk is higher than what they pay for cows' milk so it works out more economical in the long run'. Before they are a week old, the kids have their horn buds removed because 'being in a dairy herd horns can be very dangerous to other goats and their handlers'.

At four to five months of age, the kids are placed in the large sheds where they eat from the conveyor belt system and are prepared to be mated in the few months time. Like cows, goats cannot produce milk unless they are first made pregnant as the milk is only ever intended for their young. The breeds that they use for goat milk production can be impregnated at the age of seven months and be producing milk within a year of birth.

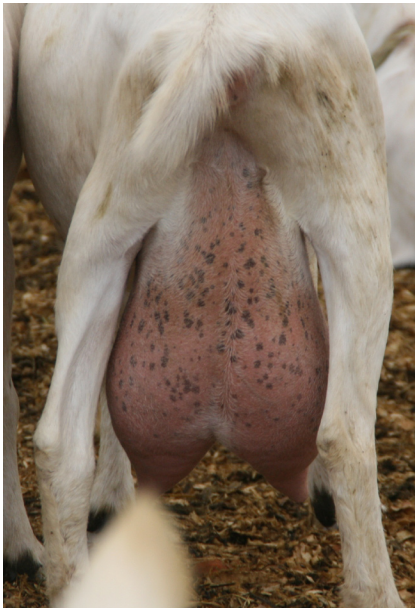
Like with male calves on a cow dairy farm, male goats cannot produce milk and thus are not economically useful to the farmer. Furthermore, only a fraction of the female kids produced each year will be retained for doe replacement. The farm hand at the farm near Whangarei stated that they retain about 20 percent of the female kids annually to replace 20 percent of the milking does. These

Goat Milk Market and History

Goats have been associated with humans for up to 10,000 years and are thought to have been the first farmed animal to be domesticated. From domestication until the present day, goats have been exploited by humans for their meat, milk and fiber (cashmere and mohair). Today humans drink more milk, and eat more meat, from goats than they do from any other species. Goats are particularly populous through Asia and Africa, with over 80 percent of the world's goat population being found within these two continents. The production of goat dairy products has become a commercialized operation in places such as Europe, Oceania and the Americas. In countries such as France and Holland the goat cheese industry is very large. In New Zealand, much of the goats' milk produced here is used in the manufacturing of nutritional products based on goats' milk.

In New Zealand, goats are used for the production of meat, milk and fiber. In recent years, the industry has been in decline. In 1989 there were an estimated 1.3 million goats on local farms, by 2002 this had reduced to approximately 153,000 goats. Of these 40,000 are dairy goats. As with the dairy cow industry, the goat milk and meat industries are closely integrated with most of the kids born each year on goat dairy farms being sent to slaughter. In the year ending June 2005 there were 130,000 goats slaughtered; from this 1,300 tonnes of goat meat were exported from New Zealand to 17 countries.





does are then killed as they are no longer producing 'enough' milk to be profitable. The male and female kids who are not retained will be sold to other farmers as pets and to the meat industry. As with the dairy and beef industry, the goat meat industry could not exist without the goat dairy industry providing tens of thousands of kids every year for slaughter.

Aside from the obvious ethical issues associated with the use of animals to produce milk and meat for humans, there are many welfare issues associated with this type of intensive farming. The biggest of these is related to their behavioural needs; goats are brows-

ers and enjoy picking food from branches. This is quite different to sheep who are grazers and primarily eat grass from pasture with their heads down. Being kept on these style farms severely restricts their ability to browse. There are also welfare issues associated with the soft sawdust floors as they result in overgrown toe nails and lameness in a large number of goats. Furthermore the does on these farms are susceptible to mastitis (as are other 'milked' animals). Mastitis is the inflammation of the mammary gland and causes pain to the doe due to heat, swelling and redness as well as altering and reducing the milk secreted.



Goat Milk Co-Op

Dairy Goat Co-operative (NZ) Ltd (DGC) is a New Zealand based farmer-owned co-operative that manufactures and markets products derived from goat milk. The product range from DGC is focused on nutritional products for infants and young children but also includes milk for kids, milk powder and long life milk (under the name of Nanny Goat Lane).

For more information visit www.dgc.co.nz





THE LIFE OF RATS IN NEW ZEALAND

(For most it is sadly not as good as it is for Mitzi and Pippa)



our friends Mitzi and Pippa hanging out in their hammock



Mitzi as a little Ratty playing outside

History

The genus *Rattus* first emerged from the Muridae family about 5-6 million years ago. *Rattus Rattus* more commonly known as the Black rat, roof rat and old English rat and *Rattus Norvegicus* also known as Brown rat, ship rat, Norway rat, field rat and sewer rat diverged from each other around 2 million years ago.

Rattus Norvegicus originated from the plains of Asia (what is now Northern China and Russia), and *Rattus Rattus* originated from further south in the Indo-Malaysian area. Norway rats followed their smaller relatives *Rattus Rattus* and traveled to Europe in human ships in the 16th century and reached the New World in the 18th century. Being that Norway rats are larger and more aggressive, they soon became the dominant species in most of the western world. Norway rats then began to live in human cities, suburbs, and agricultural areas in a human-dependent relationship called commensalisms.

Wild/Natural Behaviours

Wild rats live in colonies, the females live in complex burrows usually with their own nesting chamber but quite often they share the raising of their young in communal nesting. In a low population density there is one male who defends the burrow and surrounding territory and mates with only the females in his burrow. In a high population density there is one dominant male and the rest become subdominant, they no longer defend the burrow. Instead, when a female comes into heat most of the males will mate with her.

The average lifespan of a wild Norway rat is 1 to 5 years with a common average of 3 years. A rat's home range radius is 30 to 50 metres. Norway rats are omnivorous and feed on grain, green vegetation, meat, eggs, nestling birds, in-

sects, fruit, and garbage. A rat will eat a third of its weight in food in 24 hours and apparently prefers to feed shortly after dark and again in the early morning

Some common natural behaviours of wild rats is digging, swimming, burrowing (including making new burrows, extending existing burrows, maintaining and fixing existing burrows), climbing, play fighting (chase, flee, rollover, boxing, jumping) cleaning (themselves, their friends and there living area) aggressive behaviour (boxing, teeth gnarling, wrestling) and food foraging.

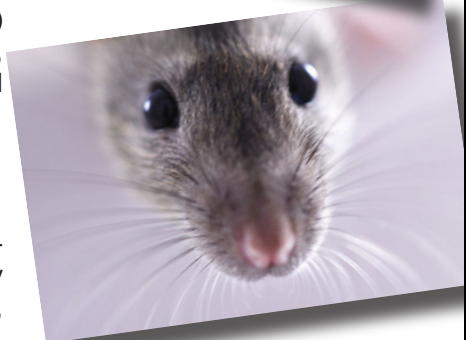
Domestication

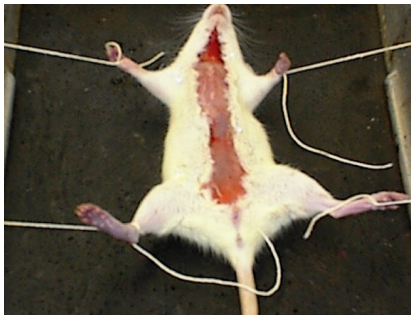
The Norway rat became domesticated in the 18th to 19th century when they where caught for food, rat fights, rat coursing, and rat pits. Rat catchers captured and housed wild rats as well, during this time naturally occurring albino, black and hooded rats began to occur and people began to keep them and breed them as pets and for research. They are now known as the fancy rat.

Rats as Pets

Pet rats in New Zealand are often bred from a few major breeders which will then sell the babies to pet shops. In pet shops the rats are kept in small cages often made out of glass or plastic which aren't well ventilated, they usually have no toys and nowhere to burrow and hide. They are kept on pine shavings which is very dusty and bad for their respiratory system, giving the rat's pneumonia and long term health issues. Rats are often kept in cages with both sexes and because they can breed at such a young age a lot of the young girls get pregnant.

When people buy rats from pet stores, a lot of the time they don't really know much about them so they also keep them in small





Rat dissection



Standard Rat housing in a lab

cages with not much to do. A lot of people also just get one rat as a pet not knowing that they are very social intelligent creatures leaving the rats with a lifetime of isolation.

Animal Testing

In New Zealand there are approximately 20,500 rats used a year in animal testing. It is unknown how many rats are used worldwide but in U.S.A it is estimated at 15 to 20 million a year. In New Zealand rats are mainly used in veterinary research, basic biological research, medical research, commercial testing, teaching, production of biological agents, environmental management, and species conservation.

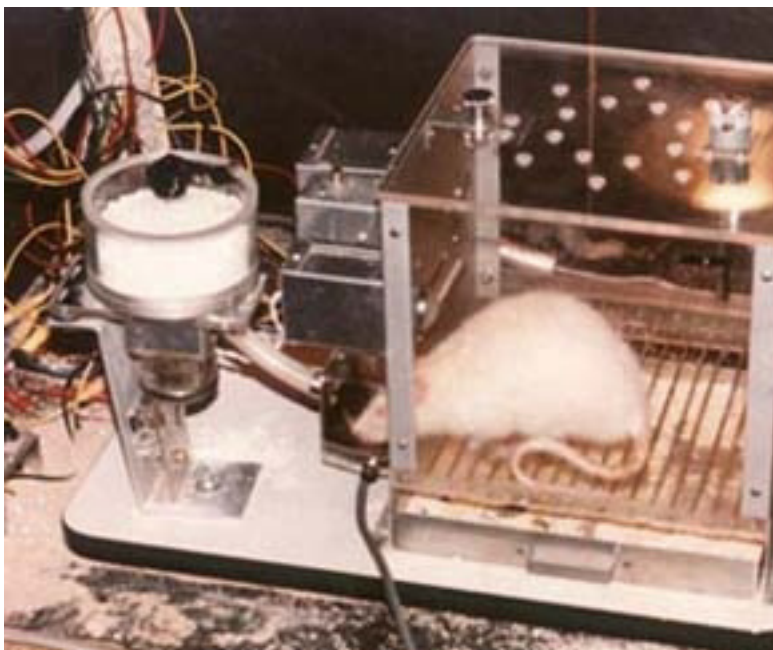
Rats in laboratories are most often

kept in small, shoebox-like cages made of perspex, glass or wire mesh. The cage is lined with absorbent shavings or pellets, and has a water bottle and food pellets. Some rats are kept on wire mesh flooring, which can cause sores and calluses on their feet, and their feet and hands can get stuck. They are either kept alone in isolation or in groups of between 6 to 10 other rats. They have nothing to play with or entertain their intelligent and inquisitive personalities.

As well as the inappropriate housing conditions, rats in labs also have to live with routine lab procedures such as cage transport, isolation handling along with the many experiments carried out on them such as toxicity testing which is testing

chemicals, drugs, pesticides etc by drawing blood, gassing having chemicals applied to their skin, eyes and shoved down their throat. The tests can be done for one day, daily for a month or throughout their entire life span. In one year 97% of rats used in experiments die or are euthanised.

Despite generations of domestication, research has revealed that rats will quickly adapt to life in the wild when given the opportunity. A zoologist from Oxford University released 50 lab born and bred rats into an outdoor enclosure and followed their activity for six months. Within several days, the rats were able to locate food, water and shelter and began to form hierarchical social groups just as wild rats do.



THOMPSON AND CLARK INVESTIGATIONS LTD

KNOW YOUR ENEMY



Nicholas Thompson

Gavin Clark

WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT THOMPSON AND CLARK INVESTIGATIONS

What follows is a series of bullet points about what we've learnt about TCIL up to this point. Please publish another article if you have more information or if anything needs correcting.

We live in a time where surveillance increasingly pervades our lives, and is increasingly privatised. Firms like TCIL can seriously fuck with how we organise. We know the state is also obsessed with massive surveillance (Operation 8). It pays to learn what we can. Share that knowledge around, and remember SECURITY CULTURE :)

- Thompson and Clark Investigations Ltd are the key private investigation firm that surveils activists in Aotearoa.

- TCIL formed in 2003, originally as "security providers to the biotech industry."

- The directors are Gavin Clark and Nick Thompson.

- GE Free activists, animal rights activists, people who went to Wellington demos, Greenpeace and Save Happy Valley (SHV) activists became aware that TCIL were operating fairly early on.

- Two men, and later a video camera, were found surveilling Happy Valley. Clark has admitted the camera was TCIL's.

- In early May 2007, the Sunday Star Times ran an expose on Somali Young (who had been spying on Wellington Animal Rights Network (WARN) and Peace Action Wellington (PAW)), and Ryan Paterson Rouse (who had been spying on SHV). There was a bounced email from both proving they had been forwarding emails to Gavin Clark. Ryan also fessed up and provided more details about the scope of his spying.

- Requests under the Official Information Act and Privacy Act can provide snippets of information.

- Other people have done action research.

- WARN, PAW and SHV recently

lost a complaint taken against TCIL before the Private Investigators and Security Guards Registrar in the Christchurch District Court. Unsurprisingly, TCIL operates with impunity.

- 'Thompson & Clark describes itself as New Zealand's leading corporate intelligence agency. It is part of a worldwide trend for companies to use the techniques of police and intelligence services against groups that oppose their activities. Thompson & Clark's public face is a website that offers clients "highly specialised skills" and "on-call tactical support, complemented by teams of covert surveillance operatives and a consultant security-guard force".' - Sunday Star Times (SST), 27/3/08

- Before the Spy Debacle, their website contained header tags including "covert physical and electronic surveillance", "real-time intelligence", "political activism" and "protesters". These are no longer part of the site.

- Spies are used in the same way as cops use 'undercover operatives.'

- They provide monthly updates on activist activity in Aotearoa to various agencies including Massey University.

- Massey has also admitted to utilising 'consultancy services from TCIL to undertake a security re-

view, and subsequently to facilitate the tendering of guard services on the Palmerston North campus.'

- AgResearch has admitted to contracting TCIL since June 2006 'for risk management and security services to assist in managing the risk of property damage and harm to staff and the public,' and 'assessment of risk of potential protest activity and crisis management.'

- NZ Pork has admitted to purchasing services from TCIL 'including the provision of security around events such as conferences when required....updating of national trends relating to activist activity; and general security services such as security advice and physical protection.'

- It's on the public record (2006) that they engaged in 'unspecified activities' against Greenpeace.

- Clark admitted engaging spies like Ryan and Somali is common practice.

- The biotech industry lobby group, NZ Bio, (Genetic engineers and vivisectors) names Thompson & Clark Investigations as a "NZ Bio partner" in its publications. NZ Bio has confirmed it hires TCIL around annual conferences, and has seen the monthly updates. A SST source has claimed that they received the monthly updates and that Somali was recruited through NZ Bio.



THOMPSON AND CLARK INFORMANTS

Paid by Thompson and Clark to spy on Wellington Animal Rights Network and Peace Action Wellington

- Somali joined WARN in June 2005, a week before the protests against ANZCCART. She then took part in all key WARN events for almost 2 years, even travelling to Canberra for another ANZCCART protest.
- She passed on information about legal defences, finances, and a myriad of other details.
- She regularly took minutes at meetings.
- She became involved in PAW in order to gather information on the 2006 Te Papa protests against the weapons conference.
- In Court, Clark looked very nervous every time we mentioned that Somali was de facto legal counsel for arrested activists, and collected written statements and video footage.
- Recently, all those arrested at the protests outside Neal Garnett's house, in the build up to Te Papa, had their charges dropped. Somali had been summonsed by the defence. Presumably, Garnett, chairman of the New Zealand Defence Industry Association (NZDIA), was anxious about coming under cross examination as to his engagement of TCIL.



SOMALI YOUNG

Who is Working for Thompson and Clark

- In June 2007 there were at least the following people with certificates to work for Thompson and Clark's firms, including their security firm:
 - ProVision Security Guards:
 - Jacob Moran 702473
 - Philip Green 703050
 - Timothy Wadley 725720
 - Michael Ellis 729295
 - Thompson and Clark Security Guards:
 - Philip Jackson 711609
 - Thompson and Clark Private Investigators:
 - Philip Jackson
- And of course, Thompson and Clark themselves had various certificates.
You can find the current information on line at <http://www.justice.govt.nz/pisg/forms.html>
- 7 private investigators with certificates of approval to work for TCIL.
 - TCIL is also a registered security guard firm, allowing them to escape even the pretense of legislative control that does exist for private investigators.



The Industry

- The President of the NZ Institute of Professional Investigators is Trevor Morley, ex cop (1961-77).
- He has been lobbying for years to get the section of the Act that prevents private eyes from taking photographs (without the express written permission of the subject) repealed.
- The Registrar and Morley obviously work very closely together and it showed in their interactions in Court.
- While claiming that Ryan and Somali were not private eyes, he did state that he does at times use his own staff, registered private investigators, to go in to situations where they assume false identities.

The legal system

- The Private Investigators and Security Guards Act sets up a Registrar who is adjudicator (decision maker) but also administrator for the industry.
- The Act is the only legislation governing private investigators. It states that its purpose is 'a means of affording greater protection to the individual's right to privacy against possible invasion by private investigators' etc. Ha ha!
- It also states that all private investigators must be licenced, and that they cannot take video footage without written permission.

**THOMPSON AND CLARK
INFORMANTS**

Paid by Thompson and Clark to spy on the Save Happy Valley Coalition



**RYAN
PATERSON ROUSE**

- Clark sought out Ryan. His name, among others, were supplied to Clark, and he was preferred because Clark thought he was someone who would fit in with the activists.
- TCIL have a specific method they use when selecting spies.
- Ryan passed on information about legal advice, occupations, action planning, strategy, an upcoming national strategy hui, who was in relationships with who, and personal details about new and existing members. Clark was going to send Ryan to the national hui.
- Clark sought information about particular individuals, including their involvement with Greenpeace, how people had learnt various skills (eg climbing), and knew for example, of various flats some people had lived in over the years, and some people's employment situation.
- All emails received by Ryan were automatically forwarded; Clark also had joint access to his email account, and asked for regular updates and particular information.
- A TCIL technician set it up so that Clark could do all this emailing from his own (gavin.clark@tcil.co.nz) email address.
- Invoices provided by Clark show Ryan was paid at least \$3780.
- Clark would not answer as to whether they had (or have had) other spies in SHV.
- Clark denied having other cameras in Happy Valley (but everything he says should be taken with an ocean of salt...)

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT THOMPSON AND CLARK

THE PEOPLE

(apart from that they are scumbags)

NICK THOMPSON

- Ex-detective
- His partner Jo is a part owner of the company.
- Addresses
 - 215 Foster Road, Kumeu
 - 300 Richmond Road, Grey Lynn, Auckland (This is just a virtual office. <http://www.300richmond.co.nz/>)



Nick leaving for the office in the morning, Nissan Ute, DRP11



GAVIN SHANE CLARK

- Previously worked as a fulltime cop
- Armed offender's squad member, according to the SST. (Could this be true??)
- Nationally competitive kayaker
- Addresses:
 - 1/9 Wairere Avenue, Mt Albert, Auckland 1025 (He does not appear to live here; when last checked the man residing here worked at a Great North Road Audi dealership)
 - 300 Richmond Road, Grey Lynn, Auckland (This is just a virtual office. <http://www.300richmond.co.nz/>)
 - 1094 Whangaparaoa Rd, Tindalls Beach (His partner, Karen Botica, receives mail to this address)





John Campbell, ProVision Security Guard (ex-Gibson)

Thompson and Clark Owned Security Firm

- Established Nov 2006 to do Thompson and Clark's security guard work; intersects closely with TCIL.
- Also having a security guard licence proved helpful to TCIL in arguing that they had a right to have a 'security' camera. It is possible this is one reason why ProVision was established.
- Have been the subject of several complaints from SHV members to the Department of Conservation (DOC).
- They are currently in the process of applying for a concession to operate on 110 km sq of DOC land around Happy Valley!!
- A ProVision employee was a winner of the National Police Golf Championships
- In Oct 07 they had at least 14 people with certificates of approval.
- www.provisionsecurity.co.nz

What about Gibson Security?

- Were the previous security guard firm contracted by TCIL. Eg paid approx \$500,000 to provide security for a Solid Energy mine and their CEO in 2006.
- Have claimed they sent all info (including security tape footage) to TCIL.
- Services ended in December 2006.
- Gibson Security have stated this was in part because they deemed it immoral to use 'moles'.
- Clark has stated that the change was because two key personnel left Gibson Security (They now work for ProVision).
- Presumably, a major reason for the change to ProVision was that Clark and Thompson wanted to keep the profits to themselves.
- A quick google will find some bitter history here (eg factions within Gibson, between Gibson and ProVision etc).
- www.gibsonsecurity.co.nz





Welcome to our newest section, *Actions Speak Louder Than Words*. We wanted to add this section because we are always reporting and celebrating the actions of those in the Animal Liberation Front and Open Rescue but we do not always keep people up to date with all the above ground action.

That is where this section comes in but we need your help. Please send us your demo photos and campaign updates so that we can show everyone the awesome work we are all doing.

We will also be reporting on 'the big actions' meaning we will be feeding back on all the national demos and conferences that we attend. We will still want your photos and input if you attend these as well.

This month we have an update from the Save the Beagles, Fur Free Auckland, Foie Gras Free Auckland, Farm Tour and Stop HLS campaigns, as well reports from World Vegan Day (Auckland), Anti-McDonalds Day (Hamilton) and the Abolition of Meat Day (Auckland).

Keep up all the good work for the animals (and don't forget to let us know about it)!

campaign updates



The Save the Beagles Campaign began in 2007 after activists found out that a Hawkes Bay man, Dr Allen Goldenthal, was operating a contract animal testing facility called Valley Animal Research Centre (VARC), which tests primarily on Beagles.

So far the campaign has generated a lot of support from local Hawkes Bay residents and many of them have attended demonstrations at the VARC research facilities and the home of Allen Goldenthal.

VARC's beagle dogs are kept in unpleasant and unsanitary conditions. They live in cages either with concrete floors or wire mesh over dirt floors. When the beagles are being used for a drug trial, an experimenter regularly comes in and removes them from their social group, and takes them to a frightening environment where they are dosed or injected with a drug. Dogs have excellent memories, and will soon get to know and fear the routine of being removed from their cages and experimented on – a routine which may continue for weeks or years. At the end of the experiment, they may be killed and dissected, or sold to whoever happens to bid for them on Trade Me.

Save the Beagles and Save Animals from Exploitation have also joined forces on two occasions to organize successful, and well attended, marches in Napier and Palmerston North.

This campaign is not over yet; there are still many beagles trapped inside VARC who need your support. Please get in contact with Save the Beagles and see how you can get involved in this campaign in 2009.

They can be contacted on nzarinfo@gmail.com and they also have a website www.varc.org.nz



FUR FREE AUCKLAND



Following the breakup of Auckland Animal Action, animal rights activists in Auckland gathered and formed Auckland Animal Rights Collective (AARC). AARC are a largely vegan, non-hierarchical, consensus based, animal rights (as opposed to animal welfare) group. Despite only being established since July 2008, they have had considerable success in their involvement of new animal rights activists and the two major campaigns, 'Fur Free Auckland' and the 'Foie Gras Free Auckland' campaign.

often a couple of times, almost all remove the fur they stock without need for protests. This has been a very successful approach and one which leaves both parties positive about being compassionate toward animals.

Continuing on the 'Fur Free Auckland' campaign, AARC have been successful in making over 14 stores go fur free in the last 7 months. Factory farmed fur is a cruel and unnecessary commodity, with the fashion industry as its major supporter and buyer, AARC are committed to ending the suffering of the millions of animals farmed for fur by stopping its demand in Auckland. Kept in cages for the duration of their lives, the untimely deaths of these foxes, rabbits, minx and so many others, are especially grim. They are skinned alive, anally electrocuted, gassed or poisoned in the factory farms of Asia and Eastern Europe. Taking a revised approach to previous fur protests, AARC contact stores which sell fur, talking to them in person as well as on the phone and distribute information about the fur trade. After talking to the managers of the stores

Foie Gras, a 'delicacy of despair', is touted as a luxury amongst the rich, being sold at numerous delis and French restaurants across Auckland. Foie Gras is the liver of Geese and Ducks, factory farmed in France, force fed several kgs of a corn mix daily. Fed three times a day through pneumatic tubes the practice is sickening and cruel, resulting in a fattened and diseased liver, which sells for over \$100 for a small jar. The campaign which started in September 2008 has already resulted in several delis removing it as well as the number one restaurant in Auckland (the French Cafe) removing it without a single protest! Getting the French Cafe to remove it resulted in a decent amount of media in the Sunday Star Times and the local newspaper. Lately AARC have been having protests outside one particularly stubborn deli, Sabato.

For more information, to get involved or updates on what the group is up to, check out the blog:<http://aucklandanimalrightscollective.blogspot.com/> or email animalrightscollective@gmail.com

FOIE GRAS FREE AUCKLAND



FARM TOURS

Since June '08 Animal Liberation Aotearoa (ALA) has taken people on farm tours to a battery hen farm, two pig farms (in Auckland and Wellington) and attempted to get into a broiler farm (see the farm tour report from the Abolition of Meat Day on page 70).



These tours are a good opportunity for vegans, vegetarians, animal rights activists and meat eaters alike to have a look at what is really going on behind the closed doors of the nation's factory farms.

The tours started from an idea to give people a better understanding of where their food was coming from and how animals are kept in New Zealand. Film screenings and speakers cannot convey the reality of life on a factory farm the way that seeing it for yourself can. The smell, the noise and the sheer number of animals in such a small area is something that really needs to be seen, smelt and heard to be fully comprehended.

So far there has been a good attendance and positive feedback though it is still mainly people from within animal rights who are attending. In 2009 there will be a push to involve non activist people.

In 2009 ALA are hoping to get these tours to farms outside of Auckland and ALA would like to take you. If you are interested please contact ALA via email admin@animalliberationaotearoa.org.nz

STOP HLS

Internationally there is a campaign against Europe's largest contract animal research facility, Huntingdon Life Sciences, and their suppliers, investors and well basically anyone who is involved with the company.

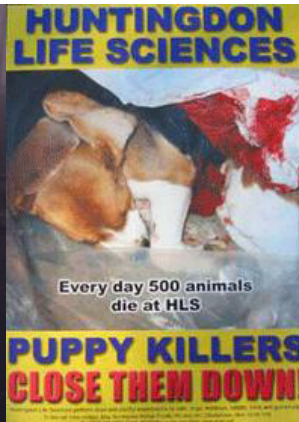
For years Auckland Animal Action (AAA), and some times Wellington Animal Rights Network (and occasionally the Animal Liberation Front) have been campaigning against HLS customers and suppliers here in Aotearoa.

In 2008 Animal Liberation Aotearoa (ALA) started to continue this campaign where AAA left off; with

GlaxoSmithKline (GSK). GSK are HLS's biggest customer. So far ALA have carried out two demo's at the home of GSK director Michael Bryant and have also leafleted his neighbours and those of Paul Rose, the other GSK director.

Other companies affiliated with HLS in Aotearoa are Phenomenx, Novartis, Industrial Research Limited, Pfizer and Monsanto.

Email ALA on stophls@yahoo.com to get involved in this campaign or start your own campaign. For more information on HLS customers visit www.shac.net





WORLD VEGAN DAY

oct 1st
auckland

On World Vegan Day over a hundred vegans, vegetarians and interested people from around Auckland attended a celebration and information evening at the Loft on Beach Road. The Loft is a Hare Krishna run food and meditation center in central Auckland and was celebrating going completely vegan :) . In recognition of this they held the World Vegan Day event which had speakers, stalls, music and most importantly heaps of yummy vegan food; including vegan trifle.

Speakers from Animal Liberation Aotearoa, the Auckland Animal Rights Collective, S.A.F.E., the loft, an Auckland Hare Krishna Collective, the Sustainability Network and the Urban Sustainability Network told everyone about the campaigns they are involved in (and importantly why), actions they had done and how everyone there could get involved.

The event was great and resonably well attended. It would be good to see if bigger and better next time but was definately a step in the right direction with the emphasis being placed on the animals and action rather than food as is the case with the Vegetarian Food Festival which was the month earlier.





ANTI-MCDONALDS DAY
oct 16th
hamilton

On World Anti-McDonald Day (October 16th) a group of Hamilton activists held the first McVegan event in New Zealand. McVegan began in North America as a campaign by Vegan Action and has built a reputation over the past ten years for its ridicule of McDonalds, who eventually took the McVegan campaign to court and McVegan won.

World and Foodtown and scoring so much loot that the ute was loaded. We got about 20 packets of Caffè L'affare plunger and espresso coffee. Bonus, but now we're all hooked. Other scores included a multitude of canned food, flour, oats, rice, nuts, dried apricots, fruit pie filling, seeds, vegan breads, and two healthy chive plants.

were set up in Garden Place in central Hamilton with a healthy turn out of anti-McDonalds supporters. All the food was free. Met quite a few vegans who none of us knew and even a vegan dude who had driven from Tauranga! Sold some McDeath and McVegan shirts and sold some Liberate mags, and got a lot of signatures for anti-AgResearch 'new organisms' campaign.

We didnt definitely decide to do McVegan until a week before the date. We began by 3 people squeezing into a small ute and dumpster diving a posh New

So with our ute load of food we baked some cookies, fruit cake, fruit slice, rice risotto, and some apple and raspberry pies. After lots of coffees and leafleting we

We will do McVegan again, hopefully in the near future.





ABOLITION OF MEAT DAY

jan 31st
auckland

In recognition of the first World Abolition of Meat Day, Animal Liberation Aotearoa organised a Meet your Meat Farm Tour to a pig farm and broiler farm for anyone who wanted to have a look.

On the day before the tour a workshop was held to organise the tour and debut a film called *'Who Are You Having for Dinner?'* which was made during an investigation by Animal Liberation Aotearoa into the meat industry in Aotearoa. The tour was also meant to complete the final section of this film about broiler farming.

On the tour day a handful of interested people headed out to an Auckland pig farm at the crack of dawn. They went to the fattening pens where hundreds of young male and female piglets are kept in small, filthy pens to be 'fattened' up for slaughter. Some of the pigs had large soccer ball sized growths on their underbellies and at least one had a broken leg.

The tour then carried on to a broiler farm nearby. As the activists approached the unlocked shed the farmer's dog started barking and the farmer came out. He approached the activists and asked what they were doing; they replied 'we wanted to look in your sheds, do you mind?'. Naturally he did but it was worth a shot. The activists left after trying to engage the farmer in a conversation about broiler farming.

Those going on to the Farm Tours were always going to bump in to a farmer at some stage. It was good to finally get that experience over and done with and to take the fear out of it as it was fairly uneventful. Next time everyone will have a lot more confidence.



LEGAL SELF-DEFENCE: REPRESENTING YOURSELF IN COURT

In recent years, state repression of activists and regular arrests has meant more time spent in the court room. Legal aid can be hard to get and lawyers are expensive, luckily we have some lawyers willing to defend animal rights activists for free, but it is a useful skill to know how to represent yourself in court. Two animal rights activists, Marky and John have decided to represent themselves. Marky's arrest and charge was based on an Open Rescue action and has already presented his case in trial. John's arrest and charge was at a commemoration of World Lab Animal Day on the rooftop of Auckland University Medical School building, his trial is coming up in April this year. The Liberate Editorial Collective interviewed them about their experience and thoughts.

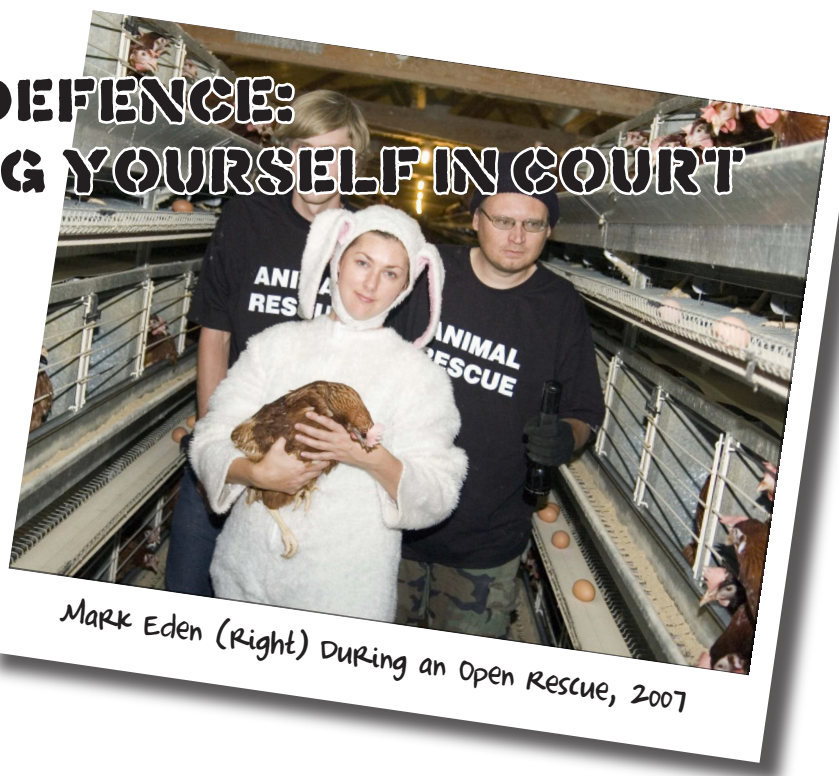
First of all, what was the situation that led to your charge(s) and what were you charged with?
Marky: Well it all started when ARLAN (www.arlan.org.nz) made a complaint to parliament about bat

tery hen cages a couple of years ago. ARLAN are a bunch of animal rights lawyers and they asked a parliamentary committee to look into the codes of welfare for battery hens. Parliament did so and found that battery cages did not comply with the Animal Welfare Act which specifies that all animals must be able to 'exhibit natural patterns of behaviour'. So a parliamentary committee had just made a decision that battery cages should be banned. Then of course the Ministry of Agriculture decided to ignore

this decision as it would cost too much for the egg industry. So a bunch of us decided that we had to do something to highlight the fact that the Ministry of Agriculture was ignoring the law. We came up with the idea of Open Rescue.

This meant openly going into factory farms and taking the animals without hiding who we were. A lot of groups had done it in Australia and other places but there had only been one open rescue in NZ which was in Easter 2003 after the animal rights conference that year. So we decided that it was time to do it properly and in an ongoing way as a direct response to the government ignoring public opinion and ignoring even its own advisors. After all, if they can ignore the law when it suits them, why can't we?

So on November 5th (the anniversary of the death of UK activist Barry Horne) 2006, a group of us entered Turks Poultry farm in Foxton and rescued 20 hens. The next day, we released video footage and photos and admitted that we had broken into the farm and expected to be prosecuted. There



Mark Eden (Right) During an Open Rescue, 2007



an activist during the foxton open Rescue, 2006



was a huge amount of media interest, mainly because we had openly admitted to what seemed to be a burglary. We were expecting to be arrested almost immediately but nothing happened. A month later the police raided my house and the Wellington animal rights office, looking for evidence. I told them I had already admitted it on TV so why did they need more evidence. In any case they overlooked the bag covered in dried chicken shit, full of tools, open rescue t-shirts and other stuff, that we had in our laundry, and took lots of our personal stuff instead. Even after that it still took them six months before they finally decided to charge me with burglary. None of the other people involved were ever charged.

John: For World Lab Animal Day last year I and another activist climbed onto the roof of part of the Auckland University Medical School to protest against animal testing. After standing on the roof with a banner for about an hour the cops finally managed to get a window open and we were both charged with being unlawfully on a

building.

Why did you decide to represent yourself?

John: I don't like sitting in court powerless and unable to say anything as usually everything has to go through a lawyer. By defending myself I have a tiny bit more power in the legal system. I find the legal system interesting and am quite looking forward to the challenge of representing myself. Also I don't like the idea that every time I put myself in an arrestable position I have to think about who is going to represent me. By representing myself I can go into a situation confident that regardless of what happens I can get a decent defense.

Mark: I originally talked with a couple of different lawyers and eventually decided that representing myself was better than having a lawyer because I was intending to argue that I did the right thing, and bring up the parliamentary decision on the codes of welfare etc. I wasn't disputing that I took the hens and wasn't denying anything so there wasn't much point in having

a lawyer speak for me. If I was going to talk about cruelty to animals and how the law has failed animals then I know those arguments better than a lawyer so it made sense to represent myself.

What do you see as the pros and cons of self-representation versus using a lawyer?

John: I think the biggest downside is not knowing case law as well as a lawyer. Also legal jargon and court procedure are set up solely to disempower people who haven't been through several years of training. Once you figure out what the hell they are saying, the court room isn't as intimidating. Though once again, the layout with the judge up the front towering over everyone is designed to show you who has the power in the room. Aside from the weird alien environment the court is a really cliquey environment and the police prosecutor will know the judge and there is a good chance they will both be pissed off you are representing yourself.

Marky: The advantages were that I could speak throughout the entire





Demo outside TURK'S Poultry in Foxton during Mark Eden's trial in 2008

trial. I got to cross-examine witnesses and run the case myself. If I had a lawyer, then I would have spent most of the trial sitting down with my mouth shut. As a political activist running a political defence it was the right decision to make. The Judge was fairly lenient as he knew that I was not an expert so he had to be helpful to me and I got away with a lot of stuff that a lawyer wouldn't be allowed to do. And, representing yourself is free!

The disadvantage is that a lawyer knows the system a lot better and knows all those technical legal issues that you don't. Since I wasn't denying any of the facts or expecting to win, that didn't really matter in my case.

How did you prepare for your case?

Marky: Well, it took just under two years of court hearings before the case got to the trial stage so I had a bit of practise talking in court before the trial. Also I had represented myself in minor cases a few times before so that helped. Mostly I just read up on the codes of welfare for battery hens and went through all the evidence and worked out what I was going to ask the various wit-

nesses.

John: I have spent ages in court lately which sucks but has meant I have a good idea of court procedures and I'm not as intimidated by the whole environment as I once was. I spoke to a couple of lawyers and as I was charged and acquitted at ANZCCART with the same charge I have gotten well acquainted with it.

(For Marky) What was your experience of cross-examining witnesses?

Marky: It was fun. Part of my defence was that I was preventing cruelty, the judge allowed me to question the farmer (Mr Turk) about his operation and show evidence of cruelty in the farm. Mr Turk didn't have a clue about the animal welfare laws and wasn't expecting to have to answer questions about how he ran his battery farm. He couldn't get his head around the fact that I was admitting everything but the judge was still letting me question him. I made him watch a film we made inside his farm two weeks before the main rescue, showing the usual horrible cruelty and suffering and he was outraged that I had filmed inside another

shed and wanted me charged for this as well! It was good to see him try to explain himself in court and failing miserably.

Can you use yourself as a witness if you're representing yourself?

John: Yup, as far as I understand you just talk through what happened and what all your major points are. I think it will be quite weird to do.

Would you have presented your case differently depending on whether it was a judge or jury making the decision? If so, how? What has been your experience with that?

John: Um it depends on the situation I guess, with a jury I would try and keep things simpler and focus more on my presentation and I would be more likely to focus on emotive issues such as the suffering of animals. Judges don't like emotive arguments and should be more focused on facts and legal issues so I will focus on those when I go before the judge.

Marky: Yes I deliberately chose a jury trial because I wanted to try and convince the jury that I did the right thing, not just leave it to a judge alone. And if you are representing yourself in front of a jury, the judge has to be quite nice to you while the jury is watching.

What are some court etiquette or customs that are useful to know?

John: The list is endless but here are a couple I have picked up. Always address the judge as "Your Honour" when asking questions. Always bow when going forward into the area where lawyers stand. Never disagree outright with the judge and don't make him or her look like an idiot. There is a set formal process for exactly how a trial proceeds, make sure to talk to a lawyer about what this, otherwise you will be in trouble.



Marky: The big one was that in a jury trial, the defendant is kept locked up during the trial (unlike a lesser trial with a judge alone). This was a bit of a surprise as when I arrived in the morning two prison guards came out and asked me to come down to the cells with them (aren't I supposed to have a trial first?!). Luckily I was representing myself so I was allowed my legal paperwork so I had something to read and do while I was locked up. Lots of vegan treats were hidden in my legal files too so I had food to eat.

What resources do you recommend that are available to people who may need/want to represent themselves in future cases?

John: The Bush Lawyers Handbook is a good place to start. Talking to other activists who have represented themselves is vital. Talking to at least one lawyer about your case is really important.

Marky: The first thing you should do is get a copy of the law you are charged under, and find copies of previous cases to see how the law is applied. The second thing is to go to court and sit through a few trials, preferable ones that are similar to yours, so you can get an idea of how the court system works. It's not that hard when you have done it a few times.

And talk to other activists who have represented themselves before. If you haven't done it before, ask a more experienced activist to come along and be your McKenzie friend (this is a court term meaning a helper who assists a person who is representing themselves). Lawyers don't like admitting it, but most of the stuff they do can easily be done by an activist who has prepared well.

(For Marky) What was the outcome of your case? Was there anything you would've done differently?

Marky: Well, I lost! The judge allowed me to use a defence of necessity (meaning I was allowed to argue that I had to rescue the hens because there was a threat to their lives and safety if they remained in the farm, and that I had tried all legal means to get them out before resorting to breaking the law). But he directed the jury to find me not guilty only if they truly believed it was an emergency and not a pre-planned rescue. So I was found guilty of burglary and sentenced to 150 hours community service. The worst case scenario was a few months in prison so this was pretty good really. We got a lot of media coverage and were able to educate people about factory farming on a nationwide news programme so that was good. And, the twenty

hens that were rescued are still out there somewhere doing well!

It was a lot of work doing it by myself. I had lots of help but when you are standing up in court facing a jury for two and a half days it would have been good to have gone to trial as part of a group. That way we could have had more options and more brains plotting together in the cells under the courtroom during the tea breaks. Unfortunately the police decided to arrest me only and not the others. Oh well.

Any other comments, advice or stories about self-representation?

Marky: Don't be afraid of arrest or court or even prison. Trust your friends and do the right thing, even if it means breaking the law. If I had gone to prison I would have got out again in no time, unlike nearly four million battery hens in New Zealand. If we really mean it, start taking risks, breaking laws, and liberating animals.

Liberate will catch up with John after his hearing in April 2009 and let you know how he found representing himself and the outcome of his hearing.





Unlawfully in an Enclosed Yard

This is a new hopefully regular section summarising charges which the police commonly threaten activists with. It will include a bit of information about the charge how the charge is used and useful defences. As a disclaimer I am not a lawyer and this is based on my understanding of the law.

the charge

Section 29 of the Summary of Offences Act

- Being found on property, etc, without reasonable excuse
 - (1) Every person is liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or a fine not exceeding \$2,000 who is found without reasonable excuse—
 - o (a) In or on any building; or
 - o (b) In any enclosed yard or other such area; or
 - o (c) In or on board any aircraft, hovercraft, or ship or ferry or other vessel, train, or vehicle.
 - (2) It is not necessary in a prosecution under this section for the prosecutor to prove that the defendant had an intention to commit any other offence, but it is a defence if the defendant satisfies the Court that he had no such intention.

This is a charge which the police seem to have rediscovered and it is being used increasingly on both the homeless and activists. The police seem to be trying to use this law to prevent activists from going anywhere on private property. As being on private property isn't of itself illegal the police haven't been having much luck with this charge.

How it is applied

This charge implies that you have gone into an area which is normally private and that you are in this area with some illegal intention. This law covers areas like peoples' backyards, behind commercial premises or possibly a front yard if you have to go through a gate.

In Auckland the police used this charge a couple of times last year. Activists on part of the Auckland University medical school roof were charged with it, someone filming activists in a front yard were charged with it and several activists that had gone out the wrong door during an ANZCCART protest were charged with it. In all



Activists climbing over the fence at a Landcare Research demo



cases the activists weren't really doing anything much which could be seen as illegal so the police fell back on the unlawfully in an enclosed yard charge.

Legal stuff

This is actually quite a hard charge for the police to successfully prosecute. To gain a conviction the police have to prove that you had an unlawful purpose for being in the yard. For example your unlawful purpose may have been to intimidate someone or to steal something. Furthermore even if they do prove that you were there without lawful purpose it is a defence if you did not intend to commit any other crime while you were there. So you have two defences when your case ever gets to court, that you weren't in the area unlawfully

and even if you were you had no intention to commit any other crime than being there.

So for example with the ANZCCART case our lawyer argued successfully that we hadn't intended to go into the yard therefore we didn't have any unlawful purpose. Also that there was no evidence when we were in the yard that we intended to commit any other crime. The judge absolutely hated us but as the police couldn't prove we were there to commit an offence we were all acquitted.

In another case an activist was inside a pig farm taking photos as another person locked onto a sow crate. When the police arrived this person was arrested and charged with unlawfully being in a building. As the activist had no intent to

commit a crime inside the building they were duly acquitted.

Practical stuff

To avoid being charged with this it would probably pay not to climb a fence to get into a yard and to avoid going into places where there is not normally public access. This however doesn't stop me wandering round on private property during protests or when I am going to look over a place before a demonstration. I usually just have a good excuse for why I am there and make sure I am not carrying anything which would imply I was there to commit a crime e.g. burglary. Since being charged I have become a bit more careful about where I go but overall I have become more confident of my right to go onto private property.





WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT THE SECURITY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE FILES SAY ABOUT YOU?

In 2003 the Security Intelligence Service (SIS) apparently adopted a policy that meant that it would more readily release information held by the agency on individuals. Over the last few weeks there have been several stories in the Sunday Star Times about people who's files have been released. It has made for some interesting reading. If you are interested in getting any files held on you by the SIS you can request this by writing to The SIS, PO BOX 900, Wellington or visiting the SIS website www.nzsis.govt.nz

As a complete aside it seems weird that the SIS have a website and post box but even weirder still they have an 0800 number. Their website states the purpose of this is to report information of security concern. The number is 0800 SIS 224 (0800 747 224).

So if you have concerns about the security of your fellow citizens or people in other countries because of the Police and/or the use of military forces such as the SIS maybe you should let them know. Just remember pay phone with out camera's are always a good idea.

WE FOUGHT THE LAW; AND THE LAW DIDN'T WIN

Over the last year there have been many animal rights activists before the courts defending charges such as burglary, unlawfully in an enclosed yard and disorderly behaviour. These charges have related to protests against vivisection and fur as well as the first Open Rescuse of battery hens in Foxton.

With only two court cases left to be heard we seem to be winning with all but one of the cases being either dropped, withdrawn or won by activists.

RESCUED HENS COST ACTIVIST \$9 EACH

Last October Open Rescue activist Mark Eden represented himself in court against charges of burglary. These charges related to the first Open Rescuse in Foxton in late 2006. While there were many people on this rescue Mark was the only person to face Police harrasment and arrest. But then he was also the only person from the rescue to go on TV and in the paper to encourage the Police to arrest him; so he did ask for it really.

The case Mark put before the courts was that rescuing the hens was to necessary to save lives and prevent animal welfare laws from being broken. As many people will know parliament upheld a complaint by the Animal Rights Legal Advocacy Network (ARLAN) that battery hen cages are in breach of

the Animal Welfare Act. Mark used this as the basis for his case that he was helping to prevent a law being broken under the Animal Welfare Act.

Following a three day trial in the Palmerston District Court the jury took only 15 minutes to find Mark guilty.

He was convicted of burglary and sentenced to 150 hours community service and a fine of \$180. This amounts to \$9 for each hen who was rescued from the Foxton battery hen farm. These hens are still free; living in safe, loving homes enjoying the grass, sunshine and fresh air as all hens should be. A mere \$9 for each of these girls freedom is worth every penny and



so much more.

As Mark said to the Dominion Post he 'got off lightly' and things could have ended much worse for him. However we should not let this deter us from doing what is right; from liberating animals from hell holes like Turks Foxton Poultry farm and letting them experience the freedom that they should have.

QUALITY TIME IN THE COURT SYSTEM?

It took a long time for me to go to a home demo, probably about 4 years! So what a disappointment to be arrested on my first time!

This home demo had to be one of the tamest I've heard of. We rocked up at about 8.30am to the house of a GlaxoSmithKlein (GSK) director to protest GSK's involvement with Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS). We did a few chants on the road and a few chants on his front yard, took a few photos of us there and then the Popo showed up.

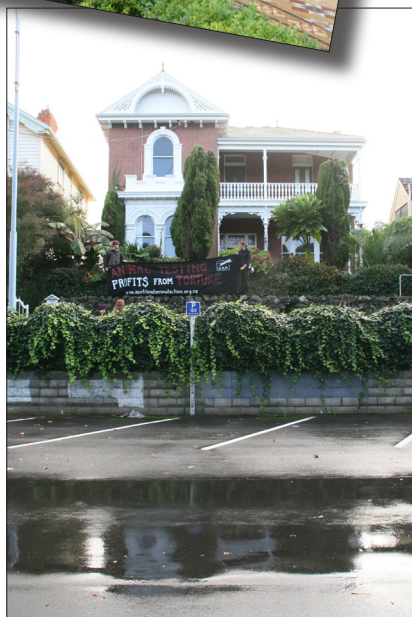
I had the still camera on me at the time and the police rather wanted to see the pictures on the camera. So they tried to convince me that I should show them the camera, claiming some shit about new laws being passed regarding footage or photos of people taken that might invade their privacy. They could probably tell that I was new to this kind of thing and figured I would be easily intimidated into towing the line. However thanks to the support of the people I was with I politely told them "not this time".

The police obviously took exception to this because as we went to leave they stopped us and gave us all trespass notices and arrested me (only) for intimidation. At the cop shop they took my finger prints and asked if I wanted to voluntarily

give a DNA sample - definitely not! The policewoman processing me obviously thought the charge was a bit lame and wanted to let me out straight away but my arresting officer quickly disagreed and thought I should hang out in the holding cell for a while. After about 45 mins they released me with a court appearance in a couple of weeks.

In total I had 4 court appearances and at each appearance, the police prosecutor seemed to have little or no idea what was happening and each time the story changed. First I was charged with intimidation, then intimidation and being unlawfully in a yard and then just being unlawfully in a yard. At my final court appearance (the defendant hearing) the judge was not impressed with the proceedings. She summarily dismissed the charges, gave the police a verbal bashing for wasting court time and also did not give them leave to charge me again.

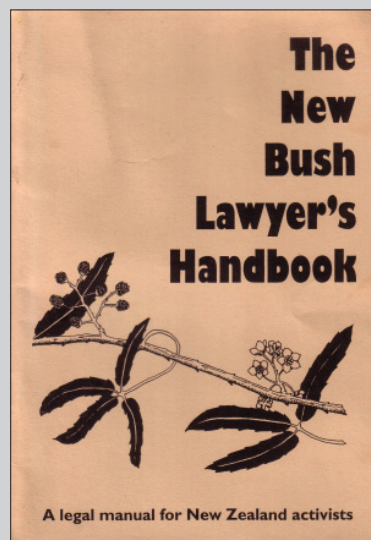
So all up, the Police wasted four days of my work time, four days of my lawyers time, four court appearances and made themselves look incompetent - I wonder if they think it was worth it? I don't and I rather hate the Police now...



THE NEW BUSH LAWYERS HANDBOOK

The New Bush Lawyer's Handbook is a guide for activists and others facing police attention or going through the court process. The state will tell you that ignorance of the law is no excuse, but the legal process is made inaccessible, mysterious and confusing, the province of experts and specialists available for hire to the rulers and the rich. If you count yourself among the ruling class, or have no interest in challenging them, you probably won't be needing this pamphlet. If, on the other hand, you're actively working to create a better world, I'm afraid you probably will. This handbook sets out to demystify legal processes and explain, in plain English, how you can defend yourself when in the enemy territory known as the 'justice' system.

This must have zine is available from Katipo Books http://katipo.net.nz/product_info.php/products_id/359





ANZCCART ARRESTEES COURT UPDATE

six activists found not guilty

The following is an update regarding the activists that got arrested during ANZCCART protests last year.

Background

Last year activists held a couple of days of protests against the animal testing conference ANZCCART which was being held in Auckland. As well as several protests outside the conference facility activists also protested against several companies and institutions involved in testing on animals. These protests avoided most of the cops and we were able to go inside a few of the places and talk to staff about why we were there.

On the third and final day of the ANZCCART conference after a breakfast time demo outside the hotel a few carloads of activists drove to Landcare Research which is heavily involved in vivisection. On the way the car I was in was pulled over by the cops and it was obvious the cops were trying to work out where we were going to avoid a repeat of the previous day's demos.

What Happened

Upon getting to Landcare Research a few of us went inside to give a leaflet to the receptionist. After handing the receptionist a leaflet we then went down a corridor and tried to go outside. Unfortunately, none of us had been to the place before so we didn't know that we were going into a car park area with a few greenhouses and a fence around.

After trying to get back in the door we had come out of was blocked by staff. We gave up and climbed a fence to get out of the yard. As we climbed the fence the first cop showed up followed soon after by two van loads of the Tactical Policing Unit (riot squad) officers. One or two protesters were immediately arrested whilst the cops fanned out to arrest anyone that looked like an activist. The cops were loud aggressive and excited at finally having an excuse to arrest us. Whilst a few people got away the cops arrested everyone that looked like an activist and took everyone back to the central police station for a few hours. There the police illegally strip searched an activist and mocked us trying desperately and

unsuccessfully to get a response. Everyone was charged with unlawfully being in an enclosed yard including someone that hadn't been anywhere near the yard.

The court case

Finally, last month the case went to court. Now its normally a joke to say a judge had come out of retirement to hear a case but that was literally what happened this time. The judge appeared to be in his late 60s and seemed to be taking this chance to relive some of his glory days on the bench.

The judge went out of his way at every point to try and make things difficult and to show off his legal knowledge and took around an hour to grant leave for a documentary film maker to film the case but only under the strictest of circumstances including requiring written permission from any witness he wanted to film. I have sat through several media applications to film or take photos over the past two years and this was one of the most unreasonable and pointless processes I have seen in that time.

During the day, the judge fell asleep at least once and spent most of his time with his eyes either closed or open a tiny slit. When he did talk it was painfully slowly and he constantly referred to arcane cases from the sixties and seventies. When I took the stand he harangued me for doing the lawyers job and stressed at least once I was very lucky not to have been hit round the head with a baseball bat. The police cross examined me closely and were gleeful when they freeze framed the footage to show my scarf which I had been wearing due to police and Thompson and Clark photographers was around





my nose rather than just my mouth as I had indicated. The prosecution was intent on getting enough evidence to prove that we had gone into the building intending to intimidate the staff at Landcare thus giving him grounds to convict us and grilled me to some extent around this.

After taking all day and wanting to read up on some relevant cases the judge refused to excuse us from sentencing and made a comment that if a Wellington activist was able to travel to cause trouble at protests, she could travel to deal with the consequences. Our lawyer continued to argue about her employment and the judge finally ruled that her and only her would be excused from the hearing next week, but the other 5 defendants still had to attend.

The hilarity really took off during the judgement when the judge explained breathlessly how he had been through the footage many times and it was obvious we had carefully planned out our assault on the poor staff at Landcare Re-

search. He talked about our use of Blitzkrieg tactics carefully planned to inflict a maximum amount of terror on the poor helpless women working at Landcare. Apparently we had marched into the building in close formation with exact spacing between people showing we had carefully planned the whole thing out. He talked about his experience as a farmer and how you just had to whack the first sheep round a bit until it would go through the gate and then all the other sheep would follow. This supposedly a metaphor for how we had mindlessly and blindly followed our leader.

He talked at length about how our pleas to be let out of the yard were obviously staged for the camera and that if we had found animals in the yard we would have definitely done more. He also spent a good twenty minutes talking about how we could choose certain camera angles to make ourselves look better and that we could stop and start the camera and edit the footage too despite the camera going the whole time and the police get-

ting the camera immediately when we were arrested.

All of this of course had no real bearing on the actual charge we were facing and after talking for an hour or two he got down to what we were charged with. Simply he wanted to convict us but he couldn't come up with any crime we may have intended to commit by being in the yard. He also very grudgingly agreed we had done everything possible to get out of the yard and hadn't wandered round trying to get into any of the greenhouses that were probably unlocked.

So after months and many wasted days we were all acquitted and free to go. The main lesson I have learned from the process is to plan things out more carefully. The whole planning for ANZCCART was very last minute and stressful and the arrests were at least partially a result of this.

OCTOBER 15TH SOLIDARITY

THE STRUGGLE (AND COURT CASE!) CONTINUES

The 18 people facing charges following the October 15th 2007 police terror raids around Aotearoa New Zealand have had a long and difficult year working through the court system.

In September and October 2008, depositions hearings (preliminary hearing) took place in the Auckland District Court. This hearing was a painful, if revealing, glimpse of the extent of the police operation which ran for more than 2 years and surveilled and investigated hundreds of people. The hearing focused primarily on the evidence of Detective Sergeant Aaron Pascoe, of the Auckland Special Investigation Group. He was responsible for collating and synthesizing all of the police surveillance and informant information. What emerged was a fantastical narrative bearing little resemblance to the truth.

At the end of that hearing, 17 of the 18 defendants were committed to trial. Rongomai Bailey, who was one of the 12 people the police wanted to charge under the Terrorism Suppression Act, was not committed to trial. One further person,

Tamara Asher, plead guilty to one charge of possession of a firearm. She was discharged without conviction.

In November, the crown brought the formal indictment against the remaining defendants. This is the document in which the crown outlines the specific charges which will go to trial. In the indictment, the crown brought a new charge of 'participation in a criminal group' against 5 people: Tame Iti, Tuhoē Lambert, Rangi Kemara, Urs Signer and Emily Bailey. This charge is in addition to the weapons charges faced by all of the defendants.

This new charge stems from the crown's failure to bring charges of 'participation in a terrorist group' in October of 2007, and seems to be a way of saving face after their bungled operation.

The next chapter of "Pascoe's Posse vs. Iti's gang" will take place in the Auckland High Court in March. Aaron Pascoe and Ross Burns (the Crown Prosecutor) want to move the proceedings against 18 activists to the Auckland High Court. The

arguments for and against will take place on 25th and 26th March 2009 in the Auckland High Court. It is our understanding that all defendants' attendance has been excused.

The next scheduled hearing in the District Court, which the defendant will have to attend, will take place on 28th April 2009. However, if the Crown is successful in their application to move the proceedings to the High Court, the hearing in April will not go ahead.

The struggle for freedom for these defendants, the struggle for justice for the victims of the raids, and the struggle for tino rangatiratanga and te mana motuhake o Tūhoe continue. In the coming year, the October 15th Solidarity crew in Wellington is organising a fundraising art auction and exhibition for the anniversary of the raids. The money will go to support the defendants during the trial, if one does go ahead.

This work, along with education and action on the streets will continue.

BOOKS NOT BOMBS

Need some inspiration, ideas or a tune for a mission out to the countryside? Check out the latest music, books and zines and see what the Liberate Editorial Collective are reading.



ON THE COLLECTIVE'S BOOKSHELF

A Practical Security Handbook for Activists and Campaigns (v 2.5)

(Can be downloaded from <http://www.animalliberationaotearoa.org.nz/images.php?oid=2720>)

Meat Market: Animals, Ethics, & Money

By Erik Marcus

Blackwater: the rise of the world's most powerful mercenary army

By Jeremy Scahill

How NonViolent Protest Protects the State

By Peter Gelderloos

Against Freedom: the war on terrorism in everyday NZ life

By Valerie Morse

(Can be downloaded from <http://www.rebelpress.org.nz/assets/againstoffreedom.pdf>)

Down with Empire, Up with Spring

From the Do or Die Journal

(Can be downloaded from <http://www.rebelpress.org.nz/assets/empirespring.pdf>)

Kill or Cure is a feature length doco-drama produced for BBC Channel Four. The film mixes real interviews, undercover footage of labs and a fictional storyline to produce an interesting look at tensions within the animal rights movement. The film starts with an animal rights activist who is about to wrap up a long-term undercover investigation into a contract animal testing lab, obviously modeled after Huntingdon Life Sciences. His undercover expose sparks major protests against the lab and he gains some status in the activist world for his work. Initially, he is involved in the developing campaign to shut down the lab, even leading a raid on one of the labs suppliers. Over time however, he comes to have serious objections to the targeting of peoples' homes by the ALF (including his former supervisor). The film comes to focus on the impact of ALF actions on his ex-boss and to what level of direct action is defensible in the fight to shut down the lab.

While the film makes an attempt to be "balanced", I was surprised by how pro-animal rights it was. Some of the most notorious footage from undercover investigations into labs around the world was used in it and the footage, shot with permission by the BBC, inside an unnamed lab was chilling to watch. The film portrays undercover investigative work very favourably and the raid on the lab supplier would make anyone smile as cute beagles are rescued from bare rooms. As is to be expected, the film focuses far more on humans than animals and focuses on how the vivisector feels when targeted by the ALF, rather than the torture that he willingly and callously inflicts on powerless animals. The film also treats the footage shot undercover as if it were the result of one-off's or particular workers rather than the systemic abuse of animals which takes place in labs worldwide.

This film is definitely worth watching.

Note this film is very difficult to get hold of so if you want a copy email liberatemagazine@yahoo.com and we will arrange to get you one.

Rating: 



battle of seattle



The Battle of Seattle is a slick new feature film about the anti-WTO protests of 1999. The activists I know that have seen the film have had mixed reactions to it, some found it cheesy and unrealistic, whilst others enjoyed it and thought it was a decent watch. The film follows a couple of activists over the course of the few days of protests and inevitably their personal relationships are focused on far more than any political reasons for why they are there (that said, this is often my experience of protests as well).

I have watched a lot of footage of the Seattle protests and read quite a bit about them as well and I thought this film was a fairly accurate portrayal of what happened. All the major action scenes, lock-downs, skirmishes with cops are there, the Black Bloc does run round smashing windows and the film's heroes do confront them saying "smashing windows will make us look bad". The funniest thing about the movie is that the four or five heroic activists are supposedly responsible for every single one of these actions instead of the dozens of groups of activists which collaborated and worked together to make things happen.

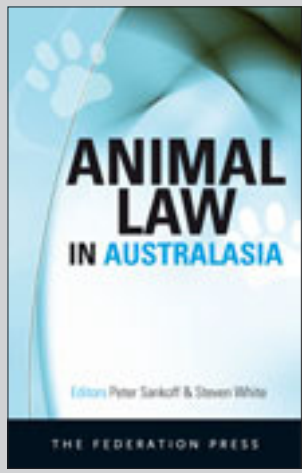
Aside from the four or five super activists, the film also follows a Fox news reporter, who in the midst of a live broadcast starts telling the truth about what is going on, a cop who viciously beats activists because his wife had a miscarriage because she was beaten by a cop (go figure) and a doctor who can't get world leaders to turn up to his pro-Africa press conference because of the protests (boo-fucking-hoo).

Overall, I found the film entertaining and worth watching but I would recommend treating it as a movie rather than any kind of activist media. The politics are appalling and will piss you off otherwise.

Rating: 🖊️🖊️🖊️🖊️



NEW BOOK



Animal Law in Australasia: A New Dialogue

This book, *Animal Law in Australasia: a new dialogue*, is the first of it's kind in the Australasia area to explore the legal relationship between human and non-human animals.

Liberate have a copy of this book on the way and will review it in our next issue but in the mean time if you are interested in this book if can be purchased by anyone in New Zealand, Australia or North America, from our Australia publisher online:

<http://www.federationpress.com.au/bookstore/book.asp?isbn=9781862877191>

THE DIARY OF MICHELLE ROKKE

The diary of Michelle Rokke details her tasks and experiences while she worked undercover at Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS) in 1996. For anyone campaigning against HLS and even vivisection in general this is a must read. It will help you to better understand what the tests are like and the mentality of the people working in this industry.

So far there have been around five undercover investigations inside HLS labs; each of these have shown workers punching beagle puppies in the face, dissecting live monkeys and falsifying scientific data. Michelle's investigation was no different; in her diary she wrote:

"I saw him pick a dog up off the floor by his front leg and toss him in a cage... when he tried to close the cage door one of the dogs tried to get out. He repeatedly slammed the cage door on the dog's head."

Co-workers also revealed to Michlle that "just because a drug has an affect on a dog it doesn't mean it is going to have that effect on a human". Her co-worker then went on to say "the point of the tests is not to protect people, but to get the sponsor (the company paying for the tests) to bring return business back to the lab. The way to guarantee return business is to get the sponsor's drug on the market".

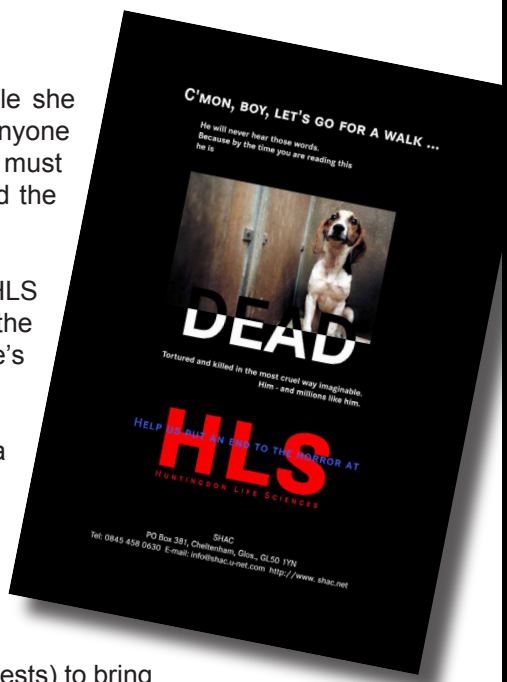
All through Michelle's diary there are comments like this from her co-workers. Many of the scientists working at HLS at that time did not appear to carry out any of the studies 'properly' and thought that the data they received was not worth the paper it was written on.

And then of course there are the stories of the many animals Michelle interacted with and the pain and suffering throughout the tests that they were subjected to. While it is good to understand what these animals go through in vivisection labs it does not make for easy reading and many times I was bought to tears and had to stop reading.

I would recommend that everyone read Michelle's diary; especially those who think that there is some merit in vivisection.

This can be downloaded free from http://www.shac.net/HLS/exposed/michelle_mokke_diary.pdf

Rating:



WE NEED A NEW EDITOR COULD THIS BE YOU?

We have a spare space on the Liberate Editorial Collective and we are looking to fill that spot with someone who has the following characteristics:

- Someone who agrees with our mission statement (see page two of this magazine)
- Someone who understands the need for, and supports, direct action
- Someone who is vegan and is passionate about animal rights/liberation
- Someone who likes to write and has an opinion
- Someone with a flare for design
- Someone who is committed, reliable and can definitely see at least two issues through to the end (that is about a year long commitment, though we are not working on Liberate all that time)

If this sounds like you please send us an email about yourself and why you are interested. Our email address is liberatemagazine@yahoo.com.

Do not worry if you are not in Auckland, until the eco-anarcha-feminist revolution we can use the interweb and snail mail to communicate.

Please get your emails to us by the end of May to give us plenty of time to get sorted before the fourth issue.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

If you would like to have a copy of Liberate mailed to you every six months, you can subscribe for \$10 per year; this includes postage. Please send this subscription form via snail mail to Liberate, PO BOX 7523, Wellesley Street, Auckland or alternatively email liberatemagazine@yahoo.co.nz.

You can either send a cheque through the mail to Liberate, PO BOX 7523, Wellesley Street, Auckland with your subscription form or you can transfer the money over the internet into 12-3039-0385212-00 just remember to put your name on the transfer.

Name:

Address:



see you on the streets



FEB 24TH: FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF SUZYS DEATH

MARCH 8TH: INTERNATIONAL WOM- YNS DAY

MARCH 28TH - 29TH: NATIONAL ANI- MAL RIGHTS CONFERENCE

See the advertisement on page 88 for more information.

APRIL 10TH - 13TH: NATIONAL A-FEM HUI

Easter Weekend at Karanga Camp in Swanson. If you would like more information please email M.A.F.I.A. on feminstmafia@gmail.com. Womyn and children only.

APRIL 20TH - 24TH: WORLD LAB ANI- MAL WEEK

APRIL 24TH: WORLD LAB ANIMAL DAY

MAY 1ST: MAY DAY

MAY 2ND: DUCK HUNTING SEASON OPENS

Animal Liberation Aotearoa will be organising something for this day. If you are interested email them on admin@animalliberationaotearoa.org.nz

REGULAR ACTIONS

There are also regular Fur Free Auckland and Foie Gras demos organised by the Auckland Animal Rights Collec- tive. Contact them on animalrightscollective@gmail.com

There are Farm Tours organised by Animal Liberation Aotearoa. If you are interested please contact them on admin@animalliberationaotearoa.org.nz

Animal Liberation Aotearoa also hold monthly demos against companies involved with Huntingdon Life Sci- ences. If you are interested you can contact them at stopHLS@yahoo.com

Save the Beagles also hold regular actions against Val- ley Animal Research Centre in Hastings. Please contact them on nzarinfo@gmail.com to get involved.





NATIONAL ANIMAL RIGHTS CONFERENCE 28 - 29 March 2009, Auckland

New Zealand's largest gathering of animal rights campaigners and supporters will be in Auckland to discuss and advance our work in animal advocacy. We will hear from prominent national and international speakers as well as two days of workshops and skill sharing from activists and campaigners from around the country.

This is the first national animal rights gathering in three years and will be an essential event for all those interested in advancing animal rights and a cruelty free lifestyle. The conference will feature a Saturday night public event featuring international and local speakers and activists. The main conference will feature a wide range of topics aimed at making our movement stronger, cohesive and more effective.

SATURDAY 28 and SUNDAY 29 MARCH

The conference is two days consisting of a series of practical workshops and presentations presented by key people within the movement. Vegan lunch and refreshments provided.

The activities will include talks, panel discussions, workshops, films, stalls, merchandise and the chance to network with like-minded people.

SATURDAY 28 MARCH, 7pm

There will be a public meeting on the evening of the Saturday with international and national speakers talking on current issues facing animals and the people who care about them.

For more information please visit: www.ar-conference.org.nz



activities page





LIBERATED



Two fluffy white broiler chickens are standing on a patch of green grass. The chicken in the foreground is slightly larger and more developed than the one behind it. Both have soft, downy feathers and pinkish beaks. The background is a dense field of green grass.

**BROILER CHICKENS
LIBERATED BY THE ALF
OCT 08**

“Don’t be afraid of arrest or court or even prison. Trust your friends and do the right thing, even if it means breaking the law. If I had gone to prison I would have got out again in no time, unlike nearly four million battery hens in New Zealand. If we really mean it, start taking risks, breaking laws, and liberating animals.”

- Mark Eden