

READER'S COMMENTS

# Keeping a lid on liquor shops

Shame on Mr Singh for pulling the racism card in a bid to cloud the issue. The crux of the matter is that the good citizens of Rangiora are objecting to the proliferation of liquor outlets – not the race of the owner of the prospective liquor store. If Mr Singh is going to use his ethnicity and his donations to Red Cross as a lever for getting another booze outlet in the town then perhaps he should be looking at his own moral compass – not casting aspersions on folk who wish to keep a lid on the over-availability of alcohol.

If Mr Singh had been setting up a business that benefited the wellbeing of the town there wouldn't have been a squeak of opposition. Another liquor outlet will bring more problems than benefits. Mr Singh should get real and stop using hackneyed obfuscation to push his own financial barrow.

R.Anderson  
Fernside

## Nothing to do with race

Mr Singh can be assured that racism is certainly not any part of my objection to his opening a liquor store. Let him try to open a model aeroplane shop and I would be encouraging. It is the liquor we object to, not him?

Margaret McAlpine  
Rangiora

## Try a different store

Mr Singh's claim of racism for the opposition to a new liquor outlet in Rangiora (*Outlook*, September 29) is simply sour grapes. Mr Singh may open any other retail store in Rangiora and he will be welcome. The exception being maybe a brothel or herbal high drug store. Perhaps Mr Singh can think of some other enterprise that will benefit the region as well as his bank account.

Hugo Hausin  
Rangiora

## Silencers the answer

My sympathies are with the Hurunui District Council (re motorcross, *Outlook*, September 26). The raucous "stuff you" noise of competition motorbikes is probably reviled by the 99 per cent of people who have no interest in riding them.

Blame lies with Yamaha, Kawasaki, Honda etc, for making squillions of dollars selling stuff that most people dislike. However, those gullible enough to spend up large on anti-social mechanical toys must accept some of the blame for being sucked into expecting that people who dislike the noise they make will keep on providing places for them to wreckreate (sic).

Instead of beating up the Hurunui District Council, the solution to the Off Road Motorcycle Club's problem lies in their own hands – require all competing bikes to have effective silencers.

Fred Murray  
Leithfield

## Ancient behaviour

Homosexuality, including same-sex marriage, is not an enlightened idea. The Romans practised homosexuality. Surely, after 2000 years, our level of intelligence should have evolved somewhat, so that we can truly pride ourselves of being cleverer than our forebears.

If homosexuality spreads, it can cause human evolution to come to a standstill. It could threaten the human position on the evolutionary ladder, and say, ducks, could take over the world. Ducks always nest in pairs and if we allow same-sex marriage, then the ducks will have evolved further than we have. We will be in danger of all being equal, with ducks more equal than us.

We should learn from history and not be stuck with copying ancient behaviour. The government has no right to bring us back to the stone age. I don't want my children to have to compete with ducks. I want them to evolve further than I have. Any self-respecting human would aim for that too.

None of this really bears any weight for me, because I do not believe in evolution. However, the powers that be believe in evolution, and have made many decisions based on it. They should be consistent: If you believe in evolution, you can't be in favour of homosexuality, or the ducks will get you in the end.

Jasmin Harrison, aged 14,  
Homeschooled, Scargill

## Start from the top

When a director of Wiltshire Rest-home and Hospital makes a statement that the audit outcome was reason to address concerns, then one wonders what directors and management are paid for. The problems have a history of several years and no outfit can run satisfactorily without internal audits for the purpose of making sure that acceptable standards are met. While growing old is unavoidable, ending up in a dumping place called "rest-home" is scary to say the least. If one then reads that CDHB allows Wiltshire to carry on operating without insisting that the board and management responsible for the flaws in the care find themselves something else to do, one wonders. While some people have expressed positive comments, there seems to be a culture of below-standard performance, not only in general care but

also in medical care. Incompetence can never be blamed on the people at the coalface, provided that these people have received the appropriate training and support needed to do the job as can be expected. However, if the top is incompetent, the skills and efforts of the staff cannot make up for it, and as a result abuse of respect for the elderly and the right to be treated well are the threats in the last years of their lives.

His Admiral  
Ohoka

## Chlorination not new

Kerry Edmunds (September 22) seems to have written her letter from the standpoint that the council is proposing to start chlorinating the Rangiora water supply. The Rangiora water supply has been chlorinated for decades. The council is asking people, now that the town's water is coming from a new source in Kaiapoi, whether they want chlorination to continue. The same question is being asked of people in Oxford township, because they too have a new source of supply.

David Ayers  
Mayor of Waimakariri

## Turn off the chlorine

I am a little confused by Kerry Edmunds' letter. Kerry seems to be attacking the council for recommending that they discontinue chlorinating the water and at the same time condemning the use of chlorination. I support the council's recommendation to discontinue the chlorination and I urge all residents of Rangiora to support council in this recommendation.

Greg Miller  
Rangiora

## Thank you

I'd like to say thank you to the lady who was kind enough to stop and help when I fell in the road crossing Hilton Street on Monday afternoon. Thankfully I wasn't badly hurt, just bruised and very shaken, but very grateful to be helped up and the lift home. Sorry her name has slipped my mind but thanks to a good samaritan.

Anne Rutherford  
Kaiapoi.

## Lake still polluted

The latest *Living Here* propaganda from ECan has just arrived in my

## Have your say

We welcome your letters. They should be no longer than 200 words. The editor reserves the right to abridge letters and decide whether letters are suitable for publication. Letters must include a full name, address and phone number. Pseudonyms will not be accepted with letters. Email to Geoff.Mein@northernoutlook.co.nz, or post to: Editor, *Northern Outlook*, Private Bag 4722, Christchurch 8140.

mailbox. The commission's leader, Dame Margaret Bazley, comments that one of their flagship projects is the restoration of Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere. This comment is a bit hypocritical, considering that our very own elected Member of Parliament, as a minister, allowed the farmer to renew his lease of the lakeside pasture so that he could continue to pollute the lake. This was despite the Conservation Department strongly opposing the renewal of the lease. Words fail me.

Corran Vincent  
Rangiora

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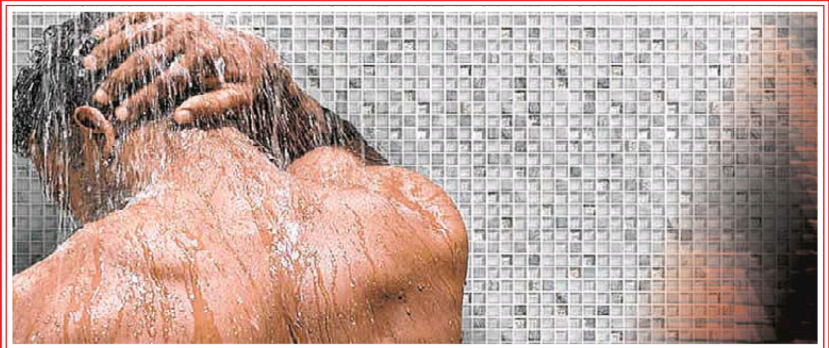
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