

Pieces 28/8/14

New releases

Don't waste your money buying

Dirty Politics because there's some great books coming out soon.

These include Nick Smith's *Dirty Rivers*, where he uses the double-double rule to deal with DOC and Fish and Game.

Cameron Slater's insightful book, *Dirty People*, is an expose on the people of Christchurch and the West Coast.

Sure to be a bestseller, *Dirty Lady*, is Judith Collins' biography. In the fiction category there's John Key's book, *She's not a Dirty B*.

My own book takes a light hearted look at National's housing affordability policy and child poverty policy and it's called *Dirty Jokes*.

For those who like the latest in fashion, Kim Dotcom has a new clothing brand out called Dirty Laundry, ideal for those with a fuller figure who like wearing black fleece over the summer. The fabric is treated with anti-odour agent.

ROGER O'BRIEN
Alexandra

The token gesture by the Government to water quality of the public's rivers should not go unnoticed by voters on September 20. I had hopes National might deal with the problem but Environment Minister Amy Adams' wish to have rivers only fit for "wading or boating" is sadly a long way short of the desired mark.
BUD JONES, Eketahuna

Dominion 28/8/14

DOC & 1080

Conservation minister Nick Smith just does not understand this or doesn't want to. His "Battle for the Birds" is not about saving birds or the environment, it is just a phoney "threat" that got DoC another \$21 million public money to wantonly poison a further 700,000ha of New Zealand's unique forests and wildlife.

DoC's claim of a rat plague during the recent beech mast is not supported by observation. The masting started late summer with the high tussock, and went on into autumn with seeding in the beech forest. There were no more rats than usual, because you need favourable conditions the year before plus a mild preceding winter to have a big enough carry-over population to breed up to plague levels the following year. That was never there!

Do you see countless rodent eyes in the headlights as you drive at night? No!

The whole thing is a false threat to pry more money from

letter to editor

the public. The masting is now well over. The uneaten seeds have sunk into the ground. Any rat population that is there will decline naturally in winter which is when they are going to poison these mythical rat hordes of "biblical proportions" as Smith's rhetoric put it.

There is no plague, there is no threat to our birds other than the further widespread damage caused by poisoning. I am fed up with lies, ignorance, and deafness from government. Election Day September 20 is your chance to protest at this mass desecration of public lands and its ecosystem by "Smith's (Mad) Dream". As a swinging voter, I've looked at political party policies, and NZ First for your party vote seems the best prospect for knocking 1080.

Bill Benfield,
Martinborough.
Author of "The Third Wave"

Guns and Hunting
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