



**This print edition is earlier than usual due to family commitments, sorry for any possible inconvenience.**

### **New Zealand Labour party sells pledge card October 16, 2006**

The New Zealand Labour Party attempted to sell one of their pledge card at online auction site, TradeMe. It only fetched NZ\$30. But a similar auction run by Libertarianz leader, Bernard Darnton is fetching in the upwards of \$400, however the current bid (at time of writing this was) at \$440,000 is probably a fake bid.

The pledge card Darnton is selling has described it as being: "Mint condition original 2005 Labour Party pledge card, nicely framed - just like the New Zealand taxpayer." He is selling it so he can raise money to take Labour to court alleging that Labour misappropriated public funds so they could pay for the pledge cards.

Labour's attempt at trying to sell their version of the pledge card is because of \$768,000 they have been forced to pay back by the Auditor-General. Auditor-General, Kevin Brady ruled that \$1.17 million of taxpayers' money had been spent unlawfully on electioneering.

There have been a numerous amount of questions on the Libertarianz auction, mostly humourous, including: "Do I earn FlyBuys when I use the

card?" with the response: "No. Labour doesn't need to earn your loyalty. Your loyalty is demanded."

There is also a 1936 autographed book which includes the signatures from the MP's of Labour's first government, a deck of Labour party cards said to be from the 1980's or a sport jacked branded Labour, described as "old-skool style meets new-skool textile technology."

### **United Future announces tax cuts in 2008 for New Zealand October 17, 2006**

The leader of the government's political partner, United Future and Revenue minister, Peter Dunne has announced that there will be personal tax cuts to go along with the confirmed business tax cuts in 2008.

Peter Dunne's newsletter, sent yesterday, said: "The business tax reduction proposals I announced with Michael Cullen in the Business Tax Review in July will go ahead from April 2008, and they will be accompanied by personal tax adjustments as well, just as we foreshadowed." They would be "the first major cuts by either government since 1996." Peter Dunne was the Revenue minister in 1996 as well.

Finance minister and deputy Prime Minister, Doctor Michael Cullen, said: "Mr Dunne is clearly involved in an important branding exercise for United Future and nothing has changed."

The Prime Minister, Helen Clark, did not comment.

Before Peter Dunne announced the tax cuts, the Government had denied any tax cut proposals until November/December when they could see a clearer picture.

Dunne said that the tax cuts would come in the form of rate cuts and threshold movements.

Cullen said that if tax cuts were offered then they will be for everyone, including those in the low to middle income ranges.

New Zealand First, another political partner of the government, claimed credit in its annual convention on Sunday that they were the ones who convinced Labour the value of tax cuts and changing the personal thresholds.

Cullen last week said, when he announced the surplus; "We are engaged in a business taxation review that will almost certainly produce proposals for tax cuts in the business area to come into force on 1 April 2008 . . . and that may have implications for personal tax rates and thresholds, but I can't give you more information because [it is] not available."

The business tax is dropping three cents to NZ\$0.33.

### **Clint Brown, TV3 presenter, resigns amid attack allegations October 18, 2006**

Clint Brown, sports presenter for 3

News on TV3 in New Zealand has resigned amid the allegations that he had verbally attacked a taxi driver which resulted in him being admitted to hospital with a concussion and a broken eye socket.

TV3 has confirmed that they have accepted the resignation of Brown.

Rick Friesen, Chief Operating Officer of the TV Works division of CanWest MediaWorks NZ, that runs TV3, said: "We wish to acknowledge Clint's significant skills as a sports broadcaster, and thank him for his 17 years of very loyal service to TV3. Clint Brown is a passionate New Zealand sports fan, and he has been at the forefront of some of New Zealand's biggest sporting moments."

Brown said: "The last month or so has been enormously stressful for me and my family. I am pleased that the investigation into my violent assault has clarified what was and was not said. As a family we have decided that it is now time for a change. All that is left to say is thanks to TV3 for 17 great years and to the loyal viewers over that time."

Friesen said the TV3 does not believe that Brown uttered the remarks attributed to him.

"We will celebrate Clint's 17 years of service to TV3 with an appropriate send off," Friesen said.

TV3 has said that they wish Brown well in his future endeavours.

### **NZ Government passes bill to legalise controversial electioneering overspending October 18, 2006**

A new law to govern how New Zealand political parties spend money in the run up to an election has just been passed in Parliament.

The Appropriation Bill was passed by 61 votes to 50 after hours of debate.

Parliament's been under urgency to allow Member of Parliaments (MPs) to discuss the new legislation, which now validates the \$1.2 million of unlawful spending before last year's election.

National, ACT and the Maori Party opposition failed to stop the passage of the Appropriation (Parliamentary Expenditure Validation) Bill and it passed by 61 votes to 50. The Green Party abstained.

The Government rushed the bill through under urgency in two days, despite National putting up 130 amendments to try to slow it down.

A key National amendment to make the validation conditional on all parties paying back the money was among those that failed.

The bill prompted fiery scenes in parliament with many MPs ejected from the Chamber for disorderly and inappropriate behaviour.

All parties but New Zealand First have agreed to pay back the money they were pinged for. Labour's \$824,000 bill is by far the biggest.

The bill validates all types of spending under the Parliamentary Service budget for MPs' support going back to 1989, and extends beyond the advertising and publicity Auditor-General, Kevin Brady scrutinised to regular MPs expenses such as travel and accommodation.

It also provides a temporary definition for parliamentary purposes and electioneering to preserve what the Government says MPs had generally understood these to mean before Mr Brady's inquiry.

Dr Donald Brash, leader of the National Party, has said that the bill

effectively over-rode Mr Brady's report and Labour had been trying to defend the indefensible.

He again argued that Mr Brady's view that Labour's \$446,000 pledge card was outside the rules for parliamentary funding meant the card should have been counted as campaign expenses, putting Labour in breach of the election spending cap under the Electoral Act.

This meant Labour had stolen the election by breaking two laws, he said "It's a fraudulent illegitimate government and I believe that Helen Clark should go the Governor-General, offer her resignation and invite the Governor-General to call a general election."

The bill contained no legal obligation for anybody to pay anything back, Dr Brash said, and he questioned if Labour would get around to paying.

"What has come through this debate is a fierce and ugly sense of entitlement on the part of the Labour Party . . . that they are able to do with taxpayers money whatever they like to serve Labour Party interests," English, said.

### **Winners of 2006 New Zealand Music Awards announced October 19, 2006**

The 2006 New Zealand Music Awards, or Tuis, were announced yesterday night at Auckland.

Campbell Smith, organiser, said it has been encouraging to "see the Tuis spread among a wide group of artists, rather than being dominated by one or two. It shows the New Zealand music scene is vibrant, diverse and growing."

The album of year was won by Bic Runga for her album, Birds. She beat other musicians including Dave Dobbyn and Don McGlashan.

Pluto with their single Long White

Cross, won the single of the year. This beat other singles by Bic Runga, Goldenhorse, Mt Raskil Preservations Society featuring Hollie Smith, and The Feelers.

Elemeno P won the best group. They beat other bands, Bleeders and Fly My Pretties.

Dave Dobbyn was the best male solo artist, taking it out over Che Fu and Don McGlashan.

Bic Runga was the best female solo artist beating Aaradhna and Anika Moa.

Bleeders were announced as the breakthrough artist of the year beating Aaradhna and Frontline.

The best music video was awarded to Mark Williams for the music video of Fat Freddy's Drop; Wandering Eye.

Bleeders won best rock album for their album, As Sweet As Sin, beating Blindspott and Elemeno P.

The best urban/hip hop album was awarded to Borrowed Time by Frontline. This album beat Fresh Men by Nesian Mystik and Kaleidoscope by Opensouls.

The best dance/electronica album was Chaos By Design by Concord Dawn. Concord Dawn beat other groups Recloose and Sola Rose to win the prize.

The Return of Fly My Pretties by Fly My Pretties won the best Aotearoa roots album.

Te Reotakiwas Dunn by Te Reotakiwa Dunn won the best Maori album by beating Mahara Tocker with their album Hurricane's Eye and Rodger Cunningham with Toto.

Juliagrace won the best gospel/christian album.

Spirit of the Land by Tower Voices of

New Zealand won the best classical album.

Fat Freddy's Drop was awarded with the people's choice award, beating Pluto, Frontline, Elemeno P, Bic Runga and Goodnight Nurse.

The Warehouse highest selling New Zealand album was awarded to Fat Freddy's Drop, Based on a True Story.

All I Ask by Rosita Vai won the highest selling NZ single.

The NZ on Air radio airplay record of the year was won the The Feelers for their record, Stand Up.

### **New Zealand Post introduces redirection and hold fees October 19, 2006**

New Zealand Post has introduced fees for redirecting mail to a new home and also holding mail from being delivered, the fees will be introduced from November 1, 2006, unless the redirector is officially old.

The new fees will mean for the first two months you have mail redirection in place will cost NZ\$20, instead of the usual free two months. It is double price for international going mail. It will cost \$5 for residential users placing a hold on their mail, \$10 for businesses per week.

Graham Smith, marketing general manager for New Zealand Post, said: "The Redirection service provides peace of mind for busy people moving house and protects against other people receiving private mailed information."

New Zealand Post says the reason behind the fee introduction is because it is expensive and includes a lot of labour as it is an entirely manual process. "It involves lots of manual intervention and the reprocessing and delivery of mail and we need to

recover some of the costs of providing these services," Smith said.

Elderly have been exempted from all hold charges and given the first two months of redirection for free.

"We thought long and hard about this decision. We believe that the Redirection and Hold services still offer excellent value for money and provide our customers with a convenient way of making sure all their mail gets to them when they move, or keeping it secure when they are away from home," said Smith.

It will cost \$20 for two months redirection, \$30 for four months, \$45 for six months and \$85 for a year, it is double for international. It will cost \$125 for two months redirection for businesses, \$190 for four months, \$250 for six months and \$475 for a year, it is, again, double for international mail.

### **Sir Edmund Hillary receives honorary doctorate October 20, 2006**

Yesterday the first person to climb Mount Everest, Sir Edmund Hillary, received an honorary doctorate from the University of Waikato for his work in the fields of environment, education and humanitarian.

Sir Edmund said: "Receiving this so close to home is something special," as all his other doctorates he had received had all come from other countries. Sir Edmund was born in Auckland and had travelled around Waikato, and in regards to that he said: "It's a great honour to be here, and I feel that it's almost home to me."

Roy Crawford, vice-chancellor of the University of Waikato, said: "The award of honorary doctorate acknowledges Sir Edmund's outstanding achievements and qualities."

The university already has a scholarship programme named after Sir Edmund.

Sir Edmund was the first person, along with his Sherpa Tenzing Norgay, to reach the summit of Mount Everest in 1953.

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