

We say

“Hopefully council can come up with a win-win solution for responsible dog owners and the environment.”

You say

“While dogs can and do kill kiwi, dogs that are well managed do not.”

Tony Dunlop

MUCKY MESS

Well done DoC for clearing most of the rubbish trees and overgrown rubbish shrubs from the Kororipo Pa reserve. But when is DoC going to clean up after the contractors?

These guys disappeared and left behind a chewed up, muddy mess which has been made even worse with all the rain we've had. They wastefully tipped a great mass of wood chips down the bank at either end of the reserve area, which could have been used to lay down a temporary path where the original walking track had been.

It shouldn't be up to track walkers to search for bits of wood to lay across the mud in an endeavour not to sink ankle deep in the slippery, gooey muck.

Heather Mackay
Kerikeri

CRAZY BYLAW

I am writing to make a complaint about these crazy proposed dog control bylaws. I, along with up to 10 other dog owners, walk along Long Beach every morning.

There are no other people on

the beach before about 9.30am so the dogs are off leash and have a wonderful time. I am 72 and would not walk if I had no dog, so both my and my dog's health are improved with this exercise.

Should other people come to the beach early we put our dogs on leashes until we can assess the situation. We are responsible and regulate our own behaviour along with that of our dogs.

To walk on Opuia beach (as proposed in the new regulations) I would need to drive 8km and then take a ferry. This is not a bylaw to control dogs but to control people.

The birds are not a problem. There are no kiwi or weka on Long Beach and in any case they are nocturnal. I am not.

We can all exist together. Kiwi numbers are increasing even though dog numbers are also rising so the arguments of the wildlife protection people do not stack up. There has to be a solution to this situation but it is not by coming down heavily against dogs.

Louise Irvine
Russell



Russell watchdogs oppose a council draft dog bylaw.

RESPONSIBLE OWNER

We are retired dog owners who spend a lot of time on the Russell peninsular at our holiday home.

In Auckland we are classed as responsible dog owners. Our dog needs lots of exercise off lead. In Russell we take him for a run at the end of Long Beach. This happens in the daytime and the dog is never out of our sight. He

comes when called.

I am also an environmentalist. I am on the Board of Forest and Bird and a trustee of the Northern NZ Seabird Trust. Protecting our fauna and flora are important to me. Black and white thinking around dog rules is unhelpful. Just as we do not ban all cars because of some bad drivers, we should not ban dogs because of some irresponsible dog owners.

While dogs can and do kill kiwi, dogs that are well managed do not. Cats, rats, stoats and possums do far more damage to our wildlife than dogs do, but because of dog licensing dogs are an easy target to legislate against.

We need education on responsible dog ownership, along with policing and enforcement of the rules. The people in Russell need to coexist with dogs and work together to ensure that our special wildlife is protected. This involves eliminating wild predators, containing cats, and ensuring responsible dog ownership.

Tony Dunlop
Auckland & Russell

ONLINE CHATTER

On the Stuff.co.nz story 'Supermarket distribution workers strike for better conditions':

Companies should be made by law to give a permanent job after six months working for a company, not keep 'em casuals forever.

Damien Thorn
Facebook



HAVE YOUR SAY

Letters must not exceed 250 words and must have your full name, residential

address and phone number. Only your name and town/suburb are published. The editor reserves the right to edit, abridge or withhold any correspondence without explanation. Letters may be referred to others for right of reply. Email jenny.ling@fairfaxmedia.co.nz