

Dunne not impressed with GCSB protests

By Dave Crampton

Protesters have been targeting Ohariu MP Peter Dunne's private residence in attempts to change his mind over his support for the Government Communications Security Bureau (GCSB) legislation as it approached the committee stage in Parliament.

The GCSB Bill will allow information gathered by the GCSB to be passed on to private companies who have contracted them for information.

There were several protests last week, ranging from chalking outside Mr Dunne's

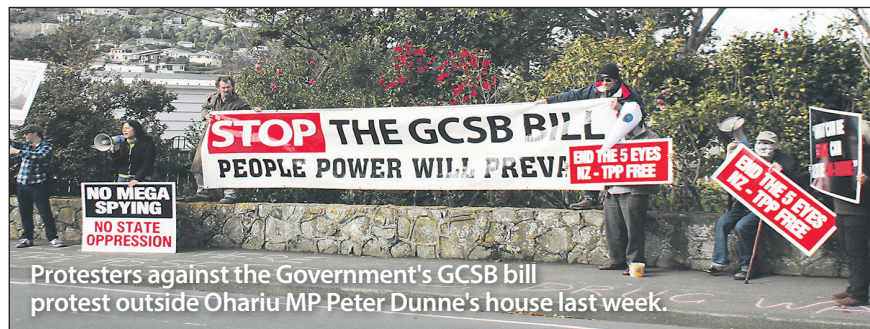
house and loudhailers at night, to a fully-fledged protest on August 6 after his address was publicised on Facebook.

Protests were co-ordinated through social media by a group called Revolution En Zed.

Group spokesperson Ariana Paretutan-ganui-Tamati says Mr Dunne's stance on the GCSB bill as part of a 'fascist government' was a 'disgrace'.

She hopes Mr. Dunne will change his vote and 'respect human rights'. "He has the one vote majority and is able to cross the floor."

Mr Dunne considers the protests are gross



invasion of his privacy, and the footpath chalking stating 'Peter Dunne lives here - stop GCSB... traitor' is a nuisance.

"We had to hose it down at 11:30 last night," he says.

But the chalking was soon back up and an admission that breaching Mr Dunne's privacy was

intentional.

"That's exactly why we are doing it. It's a test of what it is like to have personal privacy breached," Ms Paretutan-ganui-Tamati said.

Mr Dunne is not impressed. "It's the silliest thing I know of to convince someone to change their mind."

"I have spoken to the police and they are keeping an eye on the situation."

Mr Dunne says his amendments to the GCSB legislation, moved on 7 August, will lead to a much better bill, with more accountability and transparency.

inbrief news

Plunketline calls decreasing

Plunket say the number of calls to their advice line is beginning to slow after a busy week following the potential contamination of infant formula last week.

Brenda Hynes, Plunket General Manager of Service Delivery says the number has dropped off after peaking last Monday.

"On Monday we had a 400% increase in calls and on Tuesday it had reduced to a 220% increase. The situation seems to be settling a little."

Great Karori toy and book sale

The sale is a fundraising event for the Karori Toy Library and will run on Saturday August 31.

Doors open at 10am with the sale running until midday at Old St John's Church on Karori Road.

Hiring a table cost \$25 and stall owners keep the profits.

To organise a booking or for further information, email karoritoysale@gmail.com

Kaiwharawhara Station future unknown

Kaiwharawhara Station will remain closed for the time being while a report is collated and presented to the council on September 12.

Engineers have been carrying out a thorough investigation of the station and their findings will be presented to the Council's Economic Wellbeing Committee where a final decision on the station will be made.

'Auti' put to the test

By Robert Johnson

An invention designed by a local University student to help develop autistic children's behavior is now being tested two years after it was developed.

24-year-old Victoria University masters student Helen Andreae developed 'Auti', a fluffy interactive toy with four white legs which encourages positive play skills and behaviours in children.

The toy contains sound and motion sensors, allowing it to know when someone is talking to it or patting it, and triggers various movements to engage with the user.

Negative behaviours such as screaming or hitting are picked up by the sensors and cause Auti to stop responding, re-

enforcing positive behaviour.

Miss Andreae, who began studying industrial design but changed to psychology, says it was a combination of her parents professions and a love of making things that move that culminated in her unique invention.

"Dad is a teacher at University and specialises in artificial intelligence and mum is a school teacher," she says.

"I started thinking about designs that help children rather than just clutter the home and began looking into autism and tools that could help."

Auti was created as part of Miss Andreae's industrial design honours year and after exhibiting it at the User Experience Conference in 2011, she started receiving feedback

from interested parties within New Zealand and abroad.

The last 18 months have entailed a lot of tweaking, market research and different designs, Miss Andreae says.

She is now beginning one-on-one trials with families who have autistic children where she will discuss their behaviour, do a few tests in regards to pattern recognition and finish with a few sessions with Auti where she will analyse the change in behaviour.

The main goal is not about money but getting a quality product into the market that really makes a difference, Miss Andreae says.

■ Pictured 'Auti' creator Helen Andreae shows off her invention which is now being tested with autistic children.



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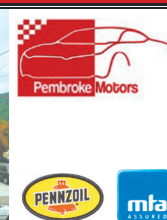
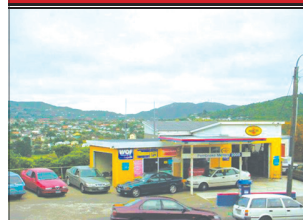
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