

has fallen in real terms by \$336m over eight years of National Government. Maggie Barry, Minister of Conservation

Government has made it as clear as possible that environmental principles are values only to the extent that they can

Abandoning any pretence of dignity, one enthusiast even described the development as a potential "tourism and

# The path of democratic protest is a long and r

## LETTERS

Other than protesting on the steps of Parliament, Save Our Reserves has done everything suggested (Buzzing the Beehive, May 14). We have had public meetings and a community rally. We have emailed, phoned texted MPs. We have presented two petitions and are on our third. We have made submissions to the select committee. Two petition organisers flew to Wellington at the request of the committee – only to have its report published within 24 hours with no amendments. We protested outside the National Party's Conference. We have delivered thousands of flyers, put up street signs and done press releases. The Point England Development Enabling Bill is about to have its second reading and this precedent of confiscating local parks and sports fields for housing needs to be stopped for all New Zealanders. Our local National MP, Sam Lotu-iga, is resigning. Labour and NZ First are opposing the Bill, as is our Local Board. Mayor Phil Goff stated at select committee his preference that Point England remains a reserve and his willingness to explore using other land. The Government has yet to explore this option. Selling parks is an election issue. So does the Government listen? Do the media? For such a far-reaching issue, the silence is deafening.

**Beth Evans,  
Save Our Reserves, Auckland**

### Meth mum's lament

\$100,000 a year for 15 years – \$1.5 million to keep a Hong Kong teenager in prison for 15 years. That's \$1.5m that could go into border control. Because that's where the meth problem in this country starts. Surely it is an offence in most countries to export contraband (meth)? So send them back to their country of origin where their offending started, revoke their residency, let them be dealt with by their laws. Eighteen containers get through jammed with ready-to-sell meth and border control only has the resources to find one. Drugs found on a Northland beach (by locals). A gazillion dollars gets

## Pic of the week



You should've seen the state of our editors Shayne Currie, Miriyana Alexander and Murray Kirkness, after collecting a swag of awards for the team at the Canon Media Awards. #journalism

Photo / Nick Reed

### Talk to us

Letters should be written exclusively for the *Herald on Sunday* and not exceed 200 words. Letters may be edited or abridged. We require full name, address and phone number. [letters@hos.co.nz](mailto:letters@hos.co.nz)

through our borders. We could scream for more funding for rehabs until we are blue in the face. It's border control that we have to fix and all aspects of it are severely out of control whether it's "P" or people. I am the mother of two meth addicts, it has been 10 years of hell.

**Name withheld**

### Pricey homes no new thing

A new "Home Affordability Measure" reveals that at its 2003 start point, 74 per cent of potential first home buyers couldn't afford an Auckland home. Heather du Plessis-Allan provocatively suggests the grizzling about affordability is from the added 12 percent shut out since (First-home whingers are just being brats, May 14). But this is classic data cherry-picking. There was already a problem in 2003. There was not yet significant protest in 2003, as most would have anticipated an improvement in their chances. The last really volatile house price inflation, in the

early 1970s, only lasted three years then "reverted to mean" in real, inflation-adjusted terms. Most inflation-deflation cycles were much milder. Most only buy their first home after due diligence and research. Waiting was always a matter of prudence, all the more so after the National Party, in Opposition, started promising reforms, and then world property markets started crashing in 2007. The 86 per cent jolly well should be protesting.

**Phil Hayward, Naenae**

### Middle-aged decry youth

I am sick of the well-established middle-aged people who decry the concerns voiced by these young folk. In the articles on the issue reporters seem obliged to get the view of these people who own their own home, bought years ago and often own many rental properties – mortgage paid off on own home and interest only loans to purchase the rentals.

**Richard Wynne, Henderson**