



Published 2017 by the Newtown Residents' Association  
PO Box 7316  
Newtown  
Wellington 6242  
New Zealand

Written by Tony Pritchard  
Oral histories conducted by Peter Cooke BA (Hons)

Available for download as a PDF from the NRA website: [newtown.org.nz/local-history/](http://newtown.org.nz/local-history/)

ISBN 978-0-473-41379-8

Cover: *The Berhampore bottle shop, on the corner of Adelaide Road and Herald Street.  
Opened in 1977, it was the first liquor outlet opened by the Wellington South  
Licensing Trust.*

# *The history*

## *How the Trust came to be*

New Zealand has a long history of battling ‘the demon drink’ by legislation. Six o’clock closing was introduced in 1917 and not abolished until 50 years later, in 1967. Licensing polls were held in conjunction with each general election, and in 1919 the country came very close to seeing the introduction of National Prohibition.

The tide started to turn in 1943, when Invercargill voted to restore licensing in their district after 38 years of prohibition. The Government responded by introducing legislation to set up a “body corporate” to control liquor licences there – this was the first of the local licensing trusts, and was followed by similar legislation for Masterton in 1947. From 1949 on, at each licensing poll until 1987, communities throughout the country had the opportunity to vote for the control of liquor licences by a local licensing trust. These trusts were granted a monopoly over liquor sales within their areas, and are a form of community ownership through elected representatives, with profits returned to the community.

The Wellington South area had been “dry” since 1908. However, at the general election of November 1972, the area voted to introduce licensing trust control of liquor sales. A Wellington South Licensing Trust was therefore formed; elections were held and six trustees were appointed, with Alf Churchill as chairman.

## *The Trust struggles to start*

The first difficulty that the new Trust faced was the requirement in the legislation that they must own any premises that they were to use for liquor sales. With no start-up money and no income, this meant taking out a loan. It was Lion Breweries who provided the finance, and who also undertook to manage the outlets as they opened. Finding both the money and suitable premises took some time. In the meantime, the Sale of Liquor Amendment Act 1976 removed the requirement for a pub to provide accommodation and meals, which made it possible to have small local bars or even big ‘booze barns’. With the way forward becoming clearer, to free up capital the Trust sold (at a loss) several properties it had bought in Newtown.

By 1977 there was much public interest in why nothing seemed to have happened in the five years after the district had voted for trust control. The 1977 trustee election was fought with much publicity, particularly in Island Bay. Groups were formed both to start things happening and to oppose the opening of local pubs. The Labour-leaning ‘Trust Action Group’ were in favour of pubs, and had something of a victory, with three of their four members elected to the Trust. The same year also saw the opening of the first outlet, a bottle shop in Berhampore. By the end of 1978 similar bottle shops had opened in Newtown and Island Bay. The Island Bay bottle shop had in fact first opened briefly in 1976, but had been quickly shut down when an existing wine shop lodged an appeal against the licence.

The operation of the Trust was under way, but things were not all rosy. There was now some income, but there was also a huge debt that had to be repaid to Lion Breweries. The first small community grants were distributed in 1982, but the

Trust would not be in a financial position to begin regular distribution of grants until 1987. It also worried trustees that all of the premises were off-licence outlets rather than the quiet local bars that had been originally envisaged, but this was forced upon them because bottle shops could be set up more cheaply and quickly.

In 1985, the Trust disposed of land that it owned in Medway St, Island Bay, to enable the construction of a New World supermarket. In return, the Trust received a property nearby on The Parade, which it sold under a lease-back arrangement.

### *The arrival of 'pokies' – and profits*

The next major change in legislation, in 1987, made possible the introduction of gambling in the form of poker machines — the 'pokies'. The Trust's first pub, called the 'Medway', opened in 1987 on the property acquired on The Parade. Pokies were installed there, and at last the Trust began to make money.

Shortly afterwards, there was another change of direction for the Trust. The Masterton Licensing Trust was an early and successful operation, and was also managing the trusts in the Rimutaka and Flaxmere licensing districts. After an approach from Masterton in 1988, the Wellington licensing trusts (Johnsonville, Porirua, Terewhiti, Wainuiomata and Wellington South) were asked to join the group as well. Thus a management company, called Trust House Ltd, began operations in 1989, with Joe McTaggart of the Wellington South Licensing Trust as chairman.

What followed was a period of prosperity, with enough profit to enable the Trust to make substantial grants to the community. Because of the amounts of money involved, each of the five Wellington licensing trusts set up a separate Charitable Trust to handle the distribution of profits. The pokie money was not without its downside, however, as some of the trustees were concerned about the detrimental effect of the gambling on the community.

During this period the Trust opened a pub on Constable Street, named 'Vincent's', after founding trustee Alice Vincent. It was made possible by a change of legislation in 1989 to remove the requirement for accommodation in pubs. Trust House borrowed \$1.3 million for the purchase of an old supermarket site, and leased it to the Wellington South Licensing Trust. Vincent's pub opened in the early 1990s with two bars and pokies installed.

### *Management problems*

It wasn't long before there were disagreements and personality clashes between Trust House and the Wellington licensing trusts. From the Wellington point of view, Trust House was seen as too provincial and out of touch with big-city requirements. They refused to shift their headquarters from Masterton to Wellington, deepening the rift that had started with clashes between Joe McTaggart and Trust House's Bernie Teahan. In 1994, Trust House proposed a new structure in which all assets became jointly owned and each of the trusts were issued corresponding shares in the company. The Wellington licensing trusts rejected the proposal, and broke away from Trust House. They ignored the advice of Trust House that they were lacking in governance and management capabilities, and would not be successful alone, as later proved to be the case.

In place of Trust House, a new management company was set up, "Capital Trusts Ltd". By now, each licensing trust had set up an associated charitable trust

to handle the distribution of grants separately from the running of the Trust businesses. This meant that Capital Trusts was involved in reporting to ten separate committees. They had an expensive headquarters in Porirua, and a large number of staff with directors on large salaries. The running expenses involved began to eat significantly into the profits that were available for distribution as grants.

The situation was not helped by further legislative changes that in 1990 allowed supermarkets and grocers to sell wine, followed in 1999 by allowing the sale of beer as well. First there had to be a local referendum, and two were held before the New World supermarket in Island Bay started to sell liquor. It was an example of changes brought about by pressure from a public who were keen to have freer access to liquor, and also from commercial interests who saw a way to cut into the Trust's monopoly.

There were frictions among the trustees as well. Since the early days, the Trust had a reputation of favouring sports groups as recipients of grants. As the older trustees retired, the newer members were keen to change the emphasis of grant-giving to more general community and educational projects. At the same time, some newer members were openly elected to further the interests of their own organisations.

### *The beginning of the end*

By 1995, a year after it was set up, Capital Trusts Ltd was running out of money and it was obvious that it couldn't continue to operate. The solution was to set another local company "Brand Hospitality Ltd", which would take over ownership of assets and issue shares in exchange. The new company would run the business side of the licensing trusts, and the individual licensing trusts would continue to exist solely to distribute the profits. The Wellington South Licensing Trust was to receive 175,000 shares in the company.

At the last meeting before the 1995 election, the Trust voted to accept the new management arrangement. After the election the incoming committee was shocked to be told that there had been a miscalculation and, instead of the promised shares, they were asked to pay \$150,000. Since the only funds they had available were tagged for charitable purposes, they refused to pay.

The next bombshell was the discovery that Brand Hospitality had not been paying the lease on the Island Bay premises, and had been running up debts in the Trust's name. Clearly, it was also going out of business, and taking the Trust down with it. To pay all the debts, the Trust sold the leases of the Newtown and Island Bay properties to Trust House, and also sold the only premises they owned, the Berhampore bottle shop. This left about \$100,000. At the last meeting of the Trust, the remaining funds were divided up and each trustee was asked to nominate a recipient.

That left the Trust with no income, no funds and nothing to do. The next election was to have been in October 1998, but it was not proceeded with. The final official process to wind up the Wellington South Licensing Trust took place in 2001.

### *The legacy of the Trust*

The Wellington South Licensing Trust has gone for good, but it has left some legacies. In 1999, \$40,000 of the residual funds were used to set up the William F

Anderson Charitable Trust, which gives scholarships to local schools. The beautification of Riddiford Street in Newtown received funds from the Trust, as did the Newtown Festival and Street Fair. Not only did the Trust give large amounts to local schools, community and sporting groups, but it also did charitable works such as funding food for the Salvation Army, holding Christmas parties for the elderly, and allowing returned servicemen to drink free on Anzac Day. When it folded, it was sorely missed by groups that had come to rely on the Trust for finance.

Today, the premises on Constable Street and Island Bay Parade are still trading, but they are owned by Trust House in Masterton. The WF Anderson Educational Foundation, set up by the Wellington South Licensing Trust, still gives grants to local schools.

### *Why did it fail?*

Why have the Southland and the Masterton Licensing Trusts thrived where the Wellington South Licensing Trust failed? In hindsight it is clear that in part this is due to the background and skills of the trustees involved. Throughout its life, the Wellington South Licensing Trust had trustees who had come in largely from residents' associations, and who were community-minded people with a desire to see the effects of liquor controlled and the proceeds returned to the community. However, most were not business people, and they had no experience in the liquor industry. They were not able to control the multimillion dollar business that they found themselves responsible for, and when they involved professionals to run the businesses, they were not able to control them either.

But that's not the only reason. As a social experiment, the concept of licensing trusts was hampered by government tinkering and changing legislation, by a population with changing demographics who objected to a monopoly, and by a changing attitude of society towards alcohol sales. It seems that areas with a more rural population are rather more receptive to licensing trusts. The drinking habits are different, and people have been used to the idea of co-operative businesses in agriculture. Trusts in more urban areas have either disappeared like Wellington South, or remain purely as property-owning businesses, such as Porirua.

Times and attitudes have changed, and so has Wellington South. Compared with 1972, when much of the area was populated by working-class Pākehā, there is now a large proportion of recent immigrants, as well as significant areas of gentrification. The driving influences of the 1970s have gone, and a licensing trust – despite the good it could do – is unlikely to return.

# *The trustees' stories*

The Wellington South Licensing Trust came into existence after the General Election in 1972, and lasted until 2001.

Over the time that the Wellington South Licensing Trust existed there were 30 trustees. Some trustees were elected and some were appointed directly; a few of them served for very brief periods, while others were members for many years.

In 2013, Peter Cooke interviewed 12 of the former trustees. Others had died, declined to participate, or were not able to be contacted. Those who were interviewed had various degrees of recall of the events that took place.

The accounts that follow have been heavily edited from transcripts of the interviews, and are not verbatim. Much material of a personal nature has been omitted, the text has been arranged in chronological order, some corrections have been made to compensate for fading memories, and irrelevant material has been trimmed.

It is hoped that the stories the participants tell will shed a personal light on the history of the Trust.

*The 12 trustees interviewed and the periods they served on the Trust*

	72-74	74-77	77-80	80-83	83-86	86-89	89-92	92-95	95-98	98-01
Des Hoskins										
Joe McTaggart										
Dave Kiddey										
John Gilberthorpe										
Bob Petelin										
Bill Nairn										
Grant David										
Peter Healy										
Alan Chambers										
Peter Frater										
Mary Louise Brown										
Tom Law										

# Des Hoskins

---

*Desmond SP Hoskins was a trustee of the Wellington South Licensing Trust from 1972 to 1977. Married with a growing family, he lived throughout this time on Ribble St, Island Bay. He was a Quantity Surveyor, involved with the Island Bay Residents' Association.*

---

My community background was as President of the Island Bay Residents' Association, and President of the Wellington Federation of Progressive Associations. I was picked to stand for this new licensing trust because they wanted a balance of representation on the Trust. I was fairly prominent in the area at that time, and involved with national politics. I was also pretty friendly with Bill Anderson. He was keen to have me with him.

The Trust was set up in 1972 because they were looking to expand the liquor industry into suburban areas, and in the politicians' minds they thought this would be the most satisfactory way of doing it.

After the election in 1974, Bill Anderson was elected Chair. He was retired, with a background in teaching, and could put all his energies and time into it. To some people, he was probably pretty difficult, but I got on with him.

We were guided by a firm of accountants, and there was an agreement with the firm to do the books, provide a Secretary and give the Trust some money when it made any. They gave us a location in which we could meet once a month. They did the reports, although there was nothing much to report on at that stage. We didn't vote on things; everyone would listen and come to the same conclusion.

The first project was to get finance from a bank. Then we had to find a suitable property, which we did on the corner of the Berhampore shopping centre, at 471 Adelaide Rd. It was empty, but used to be a joinery factory belonging to McKenzie Thompson Hoskins, my father's firm of construction contractors, and it had been sold to a local lawyer. It took a long time after that to get it developed.

We planned to set up a bottle store in Berhampore, but there had to be long negotiations with suppliers before anything could take place. Nothing got off the ground while I was on the Trust.

What we were doing was all so vague. The people who got involved in running the Trust had no previous experience or knowledge of the liquor industry, and I think that was a major fault in the system. It was ideology rather than practicality – typical of politicians, and almost doomed to failure.

I enjoyed my time on the Licensing Trust. It was an interesting venture, but it was not successful.





## Dave Kiddey

---

*David W Kiddey was a trustee of the Wellington South Licensing Trust from 1977 to 1980. Married, he lived throughout this time on Jackson St, Island Bay, and was a technician working for the Ministry of Works & Development.*

---

My wife Helen was Secretary of the Island Bay Branch of the NZ Labour Party. They and others were of the opinion that the Licensing Trust was not making any progress, and decided to form a Labour-backed ticket to stand in the 1977 election. The 'Trust Action Group' consisted of myself, John Gilberthorpe, Bob Petelin and Alice Vincent. Joe McTaggart helped put the Trust Action Group together in 1977, although he had left the area by then. Aice and I were elected, but not Bob Petelin. Bill Nathan got his seat, and was a good guy to work with.

For electioneering, we produced a pamphlet with details of the Trust Action Group; it was printed and hand-delivered within the Wellington South Licensing Trust area.

Bill Anderson, the principal of Houghton Bay School, was the current Chair, so for continuity we decided to keep him as Chair. John Gilberthorpe was made Deputy Chair. Alf Churchill, the original Chair, was also elected, but he died shortly afterwards.

The Trust was not making any progress with its financial problems. At this time, legislation required licensing trusts to provide hotel-type accommodation. For this reason, before my time on as trustee, our Trust had purchased land in Island Bay and Berhampore. But they had no funds and no income, so they had borrowed all the money to buy the properties through Lion Breweries. No Trust outlets had opened by 1977, so we were getting deeper into debt because of the servicing costs that were piling up. The only income was a small amount from rents.

Before we could open a bottle store in Berhampore, approval was needed from the Licensing Control Commission. Our application was successful despite lots of objections, and I attended the opening ceremony as a candidate in 1977.

By early 1978, with money now coming in, we were keen to open bottle stores in Island Bay and Newtown as well. We already had premises in Mersey St in Island Bay, so John Gilberthorpe and I went around looking for premises in Newtown. We found a suitable place in the old MED substation, opposite Constable St on Riddiford St.

There was already an existing bottle store in Island Bay – Layton's – which sold only New Zealand wine, so when we opened our shop in Island Bay we were allowed to sell everything *except* New Zealand wine.

All three bottle stores had opened by late 1978. They were managed by Lion Breweries for us, and they all did well.

The Berhampore bottle store was on the corner of Adelaide Road and Herald St. It was in what had been an old joinery factory, and there was a house behind it,

down the hill. The Satan's Slaves bikie gang rented it from us, and they knocked out walls and put in a bar and pool table. They were a worry, and had been annoying the neighbours. This was in 1980, and it was resolved after I left.

We also had two houses on Medway St which were very dilapidated, so we had them demolished and the land made into a grassed park. This was where we had intended to build the accommodation required previously under the Liquor Act.

In 1979, we decided to replace Bill Anderson, so I was elected Chair with John Giberthorpe as deputy in February 1979.

Trust meetings were held in the premises of Hogg Young Cathay & Co, accountants, on The Terrace. They provided Rhys Barlow to be our secretary and accountant. The Trust's lawyer 'Sam' Perry also usually attended, as did a representative from Lion Breweries.

We felt that the Trust wasn't in control of its own affairs and that we were being told what to do by the secretary, the lawyer and Lion Breweries. We owed Lion Breweries a lot of money, and they were probably quite happy with the status quo.

We wanted to get more information to the public, so the Trust set up a position of Publicity Officer, which Bill Nathan undertook. We thought that if we could keep the public informed it would raise our profile and increase our income to help repay our debt. There was not enough money for grants, but we gave small prizes to groups such as sports clubs. We got it all reported in the local community newspaper, which was the *Southern Sentinel*. Some trusts elsewhere were becoming a charitable source of community funding, but we had no idea that we would ever make enough profit for it to be a realistic aim.

Alf Churchill's death was very sudden. We wanted Bob Petelin to replace him, but Bill Nathan said that because it was so soon after the election the next highest polling candidate would be better. So Charles Addley was invited on.

For the 1980 election we balloted among the trustees to see who would stand and who would not. I was re-elected but shortly afterwards left Wellington for Nelson and resigned from the Trust.



## Joe McTaggart

---

*Joseph Findlay McTaggart was a trustee of the Wellington South Licensing Trust from 1974 to 1977, from 1983 to 1984 and from 1987 to 1992. A former merchant seaman turned self-employed caterer, he lived in Island Bay, Kingston and Newtown.*

---

I was an immigrant from Scotland, and worked for the New Zealand Shipping Company.

My involvement with the Licensing Trust started with the Island Bay Branch of the Labour Party in 1972. I became chair of the branch in 1973, and Alice Vincent who was on the Trust, was secretary. She suggested that I stand for the Trust.

Bill Anderson was chair of the Trust and we became good mates. In 1977 I moved to Kingston, which was outside area of the Trust, so I had to stand down. However, the Board resolved to keep me on as an advisor, although without a vote, so I still went to meetings.

John Gilberthorpe took over as chairman in 1980. Everyone thereafter had some involvement or sympathy with Labour Party. By 1983 I was back on the Trust, by appointment.

The law at the time said a licensing trust had to own the premises before it could open a liquor outlet. This was changed by the 1972-75 Labour Government. Bill Anderson, local MP Gerald O'Brien and I met the Minister of Justice Martin Finlay before the 1975 election to lobby for change of law. I remember Martin Finlay thumping the desk with his fist saying "I couldn't give a damn about licensing trusts," but still he supported us. It was embodied in 1976 amendment.

In 1989 another amendment removed the obligation for liquor outlets to also provide food and accommodation.

We already owned land on Medway St where the New World is now, and the block on the corner of Adelaide Rd and Herald St in Berhampore. We had about \$40,000 worth of debt from purchasing these properties in the early 1970s but we had no income except a small amount from rental properties. We were getting further into debt. Our debt was with Lion Breweries, who had lent us the money to buy the three properties; one near the zoo (in the dog-leg on corner of Horner and Princess Streets), and the others in Berhampore and Island Bay.

I bought a house in Mein St, Newtown, and got elected back on the Trust. However, it was discovered that the house was on the wrong side of the road, and therefore outside the boundary of the Trust area, so I was forced to resign. I then sold Mein St and moved to Valley St, Island Bay. The first thing I made sure of was that it was inside the Licensing Trust boundary. A vacancy came up in 1989, and I had enough support to get back on.

In the late 1980s/early 1990s, we demolished the Berhampore building (tenanted by an old joinery factory underneath and an architect upstairs), and erected a new structure for the bottle store.

At this stage Lion Breweries had a 2% stake, taking 2% of the turnover from us. This was the time that a management company was set up to service licensing trusts in the region. It started with a meeting in Masterton where it was decided to form a steering committee looking into forming a regional management company. This was late 1987, early 1988. A year later I came up with the name Trust House Hospitality, stolen from the Carlisle example in England, Trust House Forte. It suited us perfectly, and was adopted without the word 'Hospitality' – Trust House Ltd.

Gaming machines began to be important at this time also. We opened the Island Bay pub in 1987, with pokies in it, and that was the beginning of Trust House as a trading entity.

A Trust House representative came to our meetings and those of other trusts. Bernie Teahan of Trust House came along at first, and then operations manager, Craig Morris. They hired the staff, and they ran things. I became Chairman of Trust House in 1988, once it was registered as a limited liability company.

The pokies made a frightening amount of money – hundreds of thousands of dollars – and Trust House took a percentage of that for promotion. We gave them \$15,000 a year, and that allowed them to give grants to local clubs and schools.

Vincents pub in Constable St opened a couple of years later, in the early 1990s, also with pokies in place. It was named after the early trustee, Alice Vincent. The Trust borrowed \$1.2 million to buy the property and build Vincents, and I had got the debt down to \$400,000 when I left.

The Trust created a little administrative office, for wages, accounts, and so on. It was first in the Berhampore bottle shop, then we moved it to Vincents.

The next big change was a falling out with Bernie Teahan, which led to the setting up of a local management company, called Capital Trust.

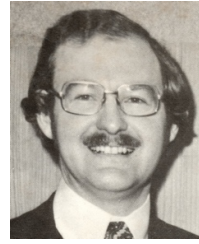
The Teahan brothers Bernard and Patrick controlled Trust House. It was based in Masterton, and we wanted the head office moved to Wellington. We were getting wider apart, after being united in the first 2-3 years. I suggested an independent audit of Trust House operations, and we got in McCullum Petersen, forensic accountants. Their report on Trust House's first years highlighted many defects, and the accountants were critical of the Teahan family involvement.

The Johnsonville, Wainuiomata and Porirua Licensing Trusts were also having problems with Trust House. The five Wellington trusts all voted against Bernie Teahan's idea for a management structure, and Denis Griffin (an independent director) voted for it. With Denis Griffin's casting vote, the vote swung towards Bernie, so we walked out and formed Capital Trusts, a limited liability company.

We used AA Consultants to source a Chief Executive for Capital Trusts in 1993/94. Kevin Watson flipped a coin with me for Chair of Capital Trusts; he won. I was concentrating on expanding my own business, and bought Wilton House, a functions venue, in 1995, and resigned from the Wellington South Licensing Trust and Capital Trusts Ltd, as having a liquor licence would be a conflict of interest.

When the Trust was wound up, \$40,000 of the leftover money from pokies was siphoned off to the WF Anderson Educational Foundation, which had been formed previously. This was enough to give three secondary school students scholarships of \$3000 for three years; these were called Alice Vincent Scholarships. Every secondary school is given a grant every second year. Thank god they did.

It was a wonderful experience being on the Trust, but after all the hard work I was sad to see it end and all the assets end up with Trust House.



## John Gilberthorpe

---

*John C Gilberthorpe was a trustee of the Wellington South Licensing Trust from 1977 until 1989. A Travel Manager for the PSIS, he lived on Wye Street and later Priscilla Cres, Mornington.*

---

When I got involved with the Trust, it had been in existence for a while and they were struggling. I was chair of the Island Bay Branch of the Labour Party and Joe McTaggart, a caterer, was chairman of the Island Bay Electorate Committee. Joe put together a Labour team to stand for the Licensing Trust. The team, called the Trust Action Group, consisted of Alice Vincent, David Kiddey, Bob Petelin and me, and three of us got elected (all except Bob Petelin). I got to know David Kiddey through his wife Helen who was on Island Bay Branch of Labour Party. Despite the background of the team, we didn't become politicised.

Also elected was Bill Nathan, who was a National Party candidate for Island Bay, and two existing trustees, Bill Anderson and Alf Churchill. Bill Anderson was a school teacher and an amazing activist in the Surf Lifesaving movement. He was not involved with Labour.

This was a divisive time for the Labour Party in the Island Bay electorate. Good friends became enemies, when Gerald O'Brien (MP for Island Bay since 1969) was 'deselected' a year or so before the 1978 election and Frank O'Flynn was elected.

The Trust Action Group had an active and high-profile campaign, with leaflets and advertisements, which I think we paid for ourselves (Bob Petelin was a printer). We also sent a personalised letter out to everyone.

Another group called the Concerned Residents Association also stood at the election. Charles Addley, who came onto the Trust when Alf Churchill died, stood with them, as well as Peter Isaac, Sylvia Kaiaruna, and Bill Nathan. They were more conservative than us, but not necessarily a National Party ticket.

The Trust owned sections in Island Bay on Medway St, and we had borrowed heavily from the breweries. We acquired land in Island Bay, Berhampore and Newtown, with the intent of building taverns. We had a fairly large debt, and there was no trading until we opened a bottle shop.

There were big issues around licensing laws, when bottle shops became permissible. I recall going to hearings with the licensing committee about having an outlet in the local community. One hearing, about an Island Bay or Berhampore bottle shop, was held in the Mornington Bowling Club.

The community probably voted for us because they thought we would never be able to do anything. Vince Paino, a well-known figure in sporting circles, had the TAB at the time and would have been opposed to us.

We commenced trading as soon as possible, and opened three bottle shops, in Newtown, Berhampore and Island Bay, and had a management agreement with Lion Breweries to run them for us.

The house at the back our shop in Berhampore was rented to the Satan's Slaves bikie gang. They were probably our best customers, but they drove the community spare. They eventually bought a place in Luxford St, so we knocked the house down and built a car park there.

We upset a few other people too. We had two houses in Medway St in Island Bay and had no prospect of being able to build a tavern there. These houses were old and decrepit, so we bowled them. With the Council, we made the land into a park. It was meant to be temporary but people got attached to it and, much later, when a deal was done to swap the land for a property on The Parade, and the New World supermarket was built on Medway St, people complained.

We had a 'palace coup' in 1979 and got David Kiddey to replace Bill Anderson as Chair. In turn, I replaced David as Chair when he resigned not long after.

The Trust was able to start giving community grants in my time; I recall an early one, of \$1500. Our Secretary was opposed to it, but we thought it was important to show that the Trust was trying to meet the expectation that profits would be returned to the community.

We had colourful people running our bottle shops, including father and son Jimmie and Peter Durkin. Norm Christianson, the manager of Berhampore, left under a cloud. The contract manager, who worked for Lion Breweries, had a problem with these guys.

It was a struggle for us in the early days. We were against big booze barns. The Medway that we set up in Island Bay was a nice little bar.

We got involved with Trust House in Masterton, and had meetings with them about what they might be able to do in terms of managing our three bottle shops.

In hindsight I think that perhaps the skill sets of the Trust members, who had all been involved in residents' associations, might not have been good enough to manage these enterprises, which were commercial trading activities.

In 1989, after leaving the Trust, I became a City Councillor, on a Labour ticket.



## Bob Petelin

---

**Robert Petelin** was a trustee of the Wellington South Licensing Trust from 1980 until 1982. A printer by trade with Gyles Print, he lived on Bidwill Street.

---

I was born in Malchina (Mavhinje) in Italy, near Trieste, though I am Slovenian by ethnicity. My elder brother Adolf (born in 1923) fought with Tito's partisans and was executed by the Germans in 1944. I migrated from Italy first to Australia and then New Zealand.

I stood twice for election to the Wellington South Licensing Trust, and was successful the second time. I stood on the Labour Party ticket with David Kiddey; Joe McTaggart very encouraging as Chair of the Island Bay Labour Electorate Committee.

Bill Anderson, a school teacher, was Chair of the Trust. We had big debates on things like using plastic instead of glass beer bottles, as glass bottles made a mess.

Most members were a bit conservative. A licensing trust should be thinking of community and social problems. For instance, we were against gaming machines when they first arrived.

At the meetings we got reports on trading by our outlets, such as the bottle shop in Berhampore. We were burgled at Berhampore, and had an alarm installed. Sometimes it went off and sounded all weekend, because the manager lived too far away, and we got complaints. Later the manager lived closer.

When David Kiddey left in 1908, John Holden was appointed to the Trust.

I resigned from the Trust in 1982 when I married Joe McTaggart's sister Alice and moved to Brooklyn, which was out of the Trust's zone.

# Bill Nairn

---

*William C Nairn was a trustee of the Wellington South Licensing Trust from 1983 until 1995. A printer by trade with Wellington Typesetters Ltd, and trade unionist, he lived on Rintoul Street. Born 1939.*

---

I was approached by Kevin O'Connor to stand for the Licensing Trust. I stood, along with Brian Landers, on Joe McTaggart's Labour Party ticket; I was elected, but Brian was not.

I remember later, in 1989, when Alison Handley got on the Trust. She was from Berhampore, very active in the community and the green movement. Terence O'Brien (MP Gerald's brother) came later as well. Sam Polak, also affiliated with the Labour Party, was appointed when Joe McTaggart left.

Labour was involved because they were all for trust control of liquor sales as opposed to private licence control. In (I think) the 1969 general election poll, it was a huge battle to get the vote for restoration of liquor outlets in the Wellington South area, which had been dry since 1908. The demographics of the area were changing, with more young people coming in, and I think that helped to swing the vote.

The Trust struggled early on, as it had a mandate but no money to do anything with. It had a very close working relationship with the brewery, who managed the outlets, and later with the Masterton Licensing Trust. The deal with the management company Trust House was done about 1986-89, and they did our annual reports.

Profits went to sports club that supported the Trust's outlets. The Medway in Island Bay was the jewel in our crown. Brian Landers, Wellington Secretary of the Engineers Union, had a regular spot at that bar. I also recall a grand opening for the Berhampore bottle shop, with media and MPs.

Joe McTaggart, who was associated with the Trust for many years, was a very astute businessman. We had meetings at the Medway and at Vincents, as well as at the accountants' office on The Terrace.

In 1995 I failed to be re-elected. It was Kevin O'Connor who knocked on my door after election night to tell me the bad news.

Bill Anderson was a rugby fanatic, big in surf lifesaving, and a jogger. He was a very dominating character, especially on the allocation of grants. Island Bay sports clubs benefitted from his influence. I never suggested any clubs for grants, because I was not involved with any community groups. The Trust was formed for the benefit of the community, but its funds were a bit skewed in going back to the community.

The licensing trusts were a good idea and in some areas, like Masterton and Invercargill, they have been very successful. It's a pity they didn't work out everywhere.





## Grant David

---

*Grant David was a trustee of the Wellington South Licensing Trust from 1984 until 1986. A lawyer with the Dept of Justice, he lived on Waikato Street, Island Bay.*

---

I qualified as a lawyer at Auckland University, and spent a number of years overseas.

I got involved with New Zealand's liquor laws as a Parliamentary Legal Advisor to a Select Committee enquiry on licensing, advising various ministers. I was a youngish public servant at the time and had spent late 1976 to late 1983 as a lawyer with the Law Reform Division of the Justice Department.

I left Justice in late 1983 to work for the Department of Trade and Industry, but was living in Island Bay and still had an interest in liquor law reform. The Wellington South Licensing Trust had a vacancy after John Holden left, and John Giberthorpe asked me to join them. I had become aware of John Giberthorpe and Sam Perry, and I knew Sam from another context. I was appointed to the Trust on 17 May 1984.

When I was with the Justice Department, along with the drugs and indecent publications legislation, I got allocated the liquor laws to work on. There had been a period of substantial social change since the late 1960s, and various vested interests were resisting change to the law. Conrad Bollinger's book *Grog's Own Country* describes the situation quite accurately.

Then along came Jim McLay as a young, very able and reforming Minister of Justice. Consequently, I got to work closely with him on the 1976 and 1981 major amendments to the Sale of Liquor Act as well as associated legislation including the Licensing Trusts Act.

I found the licensing trust movement an unusual social phenomenon to have taken such strong root in diverse parts of New Zealand – I think the concept had its origins in Carlisle in northern England. But it has parallels, for example the co-operative companies that operate in the dairying and meat processing sectors. They attract similar support for the same reason – namely, the deep suspicion that 'big business' can't be trusted.

Liquor legislation was by conscience vote, and although there had been some profound social changes, the liquor laws had not kept up with them. The Special Select Committee on Licensing made radical suggestions, leading to the general ancillary licence and general liberalisation.

Traditionally there had been a very close link between the sale of liquor and provision of accommodation, dating back to when rooms had to be provided for travellers. Licensees got monopoly rights; for instance, the 1881 Act said that accommodation had to be provided for six guests and stabling for three horses. The 1961 Act defined the meal that had to be provided as a meal of two courses

and described what they had to consist of. That raises the question of whether the bloke in the public bar should be expected to subsidise travellers. The travelling public came to be seen as the tourist trade, needing up-market accommodation.

In my work I had to deal with various trade associations: the highly effective Liquor Industry Council, the wine industry under Terry Dunleavy, and the far less effective Licensing Trust Association in Wellington.

The Licensing Trust Association lobbied on behalf of all the trusts, of which the Invercargill one was the most effective and the oldest. I went down to the opening of the lavish accommodation facility there. I have also spoken on legislative change at a couple of conferences.

The Wellington South Licensing Trust meetings were generally held in their premises in Berhampore, in a large old building which doubled as its warehouse and bottle store. Getting access to finance was a perennial problem for trusts getting established in urban areas. They had no property against which to borrow and no track record of trading. There was a provision where the government could make seed funding available, but it was not used very often, and our Trust did not use it.

Our operations were at first confined to the bottle store at Berhampore, and then while I was on the Trust, an on-premises facility opened in the Island Bay shops. There was a bottle store in Newtown too – the Trust was incremental in its growth, and started slowly. There was a high expectation in the local community that the Trust would provide on-premises facilities, but cash flow came through off-licence sales.

The expectation was enhanced because the area had previously been dry, like all other licensing trust areas. The 1918 poll had led to change in legislation that allowed wet areas to vote for prohibition, and areas that were already dry would stay dry unless there was a positive vote for restoration of the trade, either by issuing licences or by establishing a licensing trust. Restoration by trust was difficult in urban areas, especially those with transient or working-class population.

The Trust concept works well when there is a settled and more affluent population, such as in rural areas, where there is also more familiarity with the co-operative concept. This is because licensing trusts and co-operative companies are similar, and were seen as an antidote to the threat of big business, including big breweries.

Licensing trusts in urban areas also faced fierce competition from the breweries for same customers. When I got on the Trust, there was a supplier relationship in place with Lion Breweries.

There were no political divides on our Trust, and we didn't become enmeshed in political discussions, although the Trust was in general fairly left-leaning. The trustees were there because of an affinity with the community; John Gilberthorpe and Joe McTaggart in particular were very well known in the area.

I came here from living in England to find that my local drinking hole was the Tramway Hotel in Adelaide Rd. It was not particularly attractive, and I believed there could be a better world. I was interested in changing the law to make a better environment for liquor, terms of club licences, theatre licences, extended hours, and so on.

The bowling club had a general ancillary licence, a change allowed in the 1981 Amendment Act. Before that they had to run a 'locker system', which was a highly suspect way of doing things.

No charitable grants were made while I was on the Trust, except for one nominal grant. That was because there was no income to make grants from – pokies were not even on the horizon.

The licensing trusts were set up with a high degree of expectation and excitement, but unless there were experienced people in the community who were able to assist with the foundation, they faced a strong struggle.

I left the Trust when I was posted to Canberra with the Department of Trade and Industry. I only served only one term, but found the experience personally rewarding. Funding was always a struggle, as was the local resistance to the establishment of on-premises outlets.

# Peter Healy

---

***Peter H Healy** was a trustee of the Wellington South Licensing Trust from 1994 until 1995. A planner with the City Council, he lived on Corunna Ave, Island Bay.*

---

I moved to Newtown in 1977. I worked in the Council as an inner-city town planner, and I was a trustee of Newtown School in the late 1980s. I had started seeking grants for the school, and I was aware of the Licensing Trust because they had given grants for some Council community projects. The Trust was quite a feature of Newtown, with an outlet – Vincents – in Constable St. The area was changing at this time, with an influx of yuppy parents to the school.

Joe McTaggart was the face of the Licensing Trust; he shoulder-tapped me, and I was appointed to the Trust in 1994. My motivation was mainly to seek funds for the school, but I also thought the Trust could manage its facilities a bit better, with more attention paid to car parking, for instance.

The first meeting I attended was in the back of Vincents. I remember Alison Handley and also Kevin O'Connor, who was a clear thinker with a high profile. Joe and Kevin in particular were strong drivers, with a good knowledge of who was who in the community. Joe had been on the Trust for many years, and knew everything that went on. We could give money with a high confidence in knowing that it would be well used. There was a strong emphasis on giving grants for sports activities.

The Trust pub in Island Bay was quite well thought of, quite family oriented, while the Constable St facility was a bit in-between; it was quite pleasant inside but a bit rough on the street frontage.

There were tensions around making money in liquor, because the breweries were so dominant. We were basically amateurs and very collegial. The profits from selling booze were surprisingly small, while profits from the pokies were high.

I didn't stand at the next election, and so left the Trust in 1995. A couple of years later I became Trade Commissioner to India and Consul General to Vietnam, and lost touch with what subsequently happened to the Trust.

# Alan Chambers

---

*Alan J Chambers was a trustee from 1995 and was chairman at the time the Wellington South Licensing Trust and Charitable Trust ceased operating. He was a builder, lived in Berhampore and does not drink alcohol. Born 1953.*

---

I was a self-employed builder at the time, and I was with the Berhampore Residents' Association. We had applied to the Wellington South Licensing Trust for money a number of times, but we were turned down every time, and so were other groups we knew about. So, three of us – Peter Frater, Wally Lake and myself – decided to stand for the Trust at the next elections. This was at same time as the Local Body election, in October 1992.

The vote for the Trust was on the back of the Council election voting form, and not everyone turned the page over, so the number of those who voted was pathetic. The Council charged us for holding the Licensing Trust election, but we managed to get a rebate because of the way it was organised.

Peter Frater and I got on, and Lindy McIntyre had already been there one term. Bill Anderson chaired the Charitable Trust; the way it was set up was that the Licensing Trust ran the business, and the Charitable Trust gave away the money in grants. Everyone on the Licensing Trust was in theory also on the Charitable Trust, but in fact the Charitable Trust set up a subcommittee to issue the grants.

I thought that the issuing of grants was not being done well, and the Trust was acting like an old boys' network. People were turned down for grants if their form was not filled in correctly. You only got money if Bill Anderson liked you and if you got money off us before (and if you drank in our pubs). To change this, I went back to the groups who were rejected and helped them fill in the forms correctly so that there was no excuse to turn them down. In this way we changed the emphasis of the grants from sports to the community and education.

A management company, Capital Trusts Ltd, did the day-to-day running of the place. Previously the five Wellington trusts had been managed by Trust House in Masterton, but they had split from Trust House to form Capital Trusts in 1994. Capital Trusts ran the five Wellington licensing trusts (Johnsonville, Porirua, Terewhiti, Wainuiomata and Wellington South) and their five charitable trusts. The Secretary and CEO of Capital Trusts came to all of the meetings, and we got a monthly run-down of sales and profits.

We earned income from Vincents in Constable St, which was leased from Trust House, from the bottle store in Berhampore, and from the leased pub in Island Bay. Capital Trusts employed the staff who worked in those premises.

With all of this, our Trust had lost some of its community focus. For instance, when RTD ready-mixed drinks came in we were totally against stocking them because of the harm they could do, but Capital Trusts told us we couldn't not stock them because everyone else was.

Another example of how we had really no input into how the Trust was run was when we were told by Capital Trusts that the Berhampore bottle shop was not performing, and it was probably because the manager of the shop was fiddling the books. When I checked with the manager, we discovered that in fact the shop was doing very well. It turned out that \$50,000 of the takings had accidentally been

credited to the Porirua Trust. Although Capital Trusts had so many staff and charged the Trusts so much money in management fees, they really weren't very competent.

The name 'Nicholsons' was dreamed up by Capital Trusts to rebrand all their liquor outlets. It was a good idea, but they totally overspent in implementing it. The NZ Rugby Union wanted to upgrade Athletic Park to keep the tests in Wellington, and in the end they borrowed \$300,000 off our Licensing Trust. As a result of this it was rebranded 'Nicholsons Athletic Park'.

When the pokie gambling machines arrived we were against them because of the harm they do to the community, but we were given no choice. They made a phenomenal amount of money – millions. The profit was split into one-third to give away in grants, one-third to the government, and the rest for running the machines. We made sure that the grant applicants knew that the money came from the pokies, in case they weren't happy with that. It was basically an entertainment tax on the poor to give away to the middle class who knew how to fill in forms.

We tried to counter this by giving money to things that would include the poor. We set up scholarships for education and we bulk-funded schools. We also supported the Newtown Festival, and we gave the Salvation Army enough money for food for a year. We got the proportion of money given away to 60% of takings, but only by taking money from the running of the Licensing Trust. Our biggest rival for pokie money was the Island Bay Bowling Club. They bought their beer from us, but they could undercut us because they didn't have to pay bar staff.

It was at this point, with about a year to go, Capital Trusts decided they couldn't service 10 organisations, so they created Brand Hospitality Ltd to manage the five licensing and five charitable trusts. Brand Hospitality were to take over all the assets and liabilities, and the running of all the outlets, and issue us shares in Brand Hospitality Ltd. We were to retain the grants activities of our Charitable Trust.

At the last meeting before the 1995 election, the trustees took a vote to accept the Brand Hospitality deal. The four trustees not standing for re-election voted for it, and me and Peter Frater who were re-standing voted against. At that point everything was signed over to Brand Hospitality, and we got 175,000 shares in exchange. The Licensing Trust essentially ceased to exist except as a property company, and what was left was the Charitable Trust, which I became the Chair of.

At the first of our meetings after this, Brand Hospitality turned up and claimed that we owed them \$150,000, and wanted it paid out of the Charitable Trust funds. That was all we had, so I raised the issue with the Wellington Mayor Mark Blumsky, who got legal advice (from Philips Fox) which said not to pay the claim. It was money raised from pokie machines and could not be used for this purpose.

Mary Louise Brown was under so much pressure that she resigned as Chair of the Licensing Trust and I became Chair of that as well as the Charitable Trust. By now the income to the Charitable Trust had dwindled to 20% of the takings. To save money, we took to doing everything ourselves. For the old folk's Christmas party, we took them to Valentines restaurant rather than our own premises, because it was cheaper than what Brand Hospitality were going to charge us. They stopped paying rent on our premises, and never told us, and they ran up debts in the name of the Licensing Trust. They ran us out of money, and had none themselves.

In the end, we had to go to Trust House in Masterton and sell them the lease on its premises to pay the debts that Brand Hospitality had run up with our creditors. We got enough to pay our bills, and Brand Hospitality went broke.

The Wellington South Licensing Trust folded about a month before the October 1998 election. This left the Charitable Trust with about \$100,000, which was split up among the trustees to give to their favourite local causes. It included some money given to the Newtown Residents' Association for a history of the Licensing Trust. We gave our papers to the National Archives, but all of Capital Trusts' papers went into store in a Wainuiomata warehouse and were eventually dumped.

I think that if we had stayed with Trust House, we would have done all right, but personalities and a rural/city clash got in the way.

I was on the Trust for six years, and I think we did really good things – I wish we could have done more. The pokies caused grief because a few people were gambling addicts, but we weren't allowed to do anything about it. Being a trustee was very stressful, with personal conflicts and threats, but I enjoyed rising to the challenge. Lyndy McIntyre had a social conscience and was a good ally.

# Peter Frater

---

***Peter J Frater** was a trustee of the Wellington South Licensing Trust and Charitable Trust from 1995 until they ceased operating. He lived throughout this time on Britomart St, Berhampore, works in the theatre, and does not drink alcohol.*

---

I thought the concept of licensing trusts – the community ownership of liquor outlets – was a very good idea, but in Wellington South it wasn't functioning well. Business wasn't keeping up with changing times, and the pokie money was distributed in a strange way. They had promised to open a bar in Berhampore, and a property was bought there but wasn't developed. So Alan Chambers, Lyndy McIntyre and I decided to take them on at the Oct 1995 election. Lyndy wanted to get better conditions for the workers employed by the Trust.

Two common links that the earlier trustees had were the Labour Party and the Catholic church. These were older people and we thought they were now out of their depth. Because of the people involved, the focus was Island Bay rather than more logically on Newtown.

The Government interfered by fiddling with the rules under which licensing trusts operated. The public wanted greater access, but the introduction and pokies and of supermarkets selling alcohol changed the nature of licensing trust outlets dramatically, away from the bottle stores and family pubs that the community preferred. Maurice Bennett, a brewer and owner of Island Bay New World, pushed for the change, because he wanted to sell his beer.

The introduction of pokie machines made us investors in the community but also had the effect of turning the bodies that received our grants into "funding addicts". We gave away \$4 million over 9 years.

When I came on the Trust, they were being run by a management company, Capital Trusts, in Porirua, set up by the five Wellington trusts. In my opinion, the better way of doing it would have been to combine the trusts, but there was too much friction among the trustees. Capital Trusts had been formed by splitting away from Trust House – the Masterton and Rimutaka Licensing Trusts – which were very successful in the provinces, but the local trusts thought that they didn't understand how the city worked. The problem with Capital Trusts was that it had an excessive number of directors (we called them the "suits"), and they were very focused on paying themselves and on sport. There were problems, such as trusts not being allowed to borrow funds, and of trustees falling out with each other and with the directors.

The Wellington South Licensing Trust gave a large loan to NZ Rugby Union to upgrade facilities at Athletic Park, and it was paid back ahead of schedule, which was good. However, giving a loan was later said to be illegal and Capital Trusts was taken to the High Court over it. Procedures for every licensing trust were tightened up as a result.

Allan and I arrived on the Trust just as the pokie money took off. We were able to give away tens of thousands of dollars. An example of the projects we helped with charitable donations was the Newtown Festival; we gave money to the Island Bay one as well.



The demographics in Newtown were changing, with the arrival of immigrants, social housing, and later gentrification. Drinking habits in general were changing from booze barns for manual workers to café-style settings for younger people.

In 1996 Mary Louise Brown was appointed on to the Trust, but she struggled. She thought she could make things happen, but it was far too late. By the time of the next election, in 1998, it was obvious it was all over, and the inmates took over the asylum.

As a working model, the trusts were in terminal decline and their pubs were going broke. Incomes declined from our Trust's three outlets when the supermarkets were able to sell liquor, and when the eastern suburbs went wet. Having a bottle shop instead of a pub in Berhampore didn't help.

The Newtown pub was owned by Trust House, our Licensing Trust owned the bottle shop in Berhampore, and the Island Bay premises were leased from the Muollo family. When the Trust folded, the Berhampore premises were sold to pay off the debt.

At the same time Capital Trusts had been replaced by Brand Hospitality Ltd, and they were going broke. They had an office in the tallest building in Porirua and had 36 directors for six organisations. Most of the pokie money was going to pay for their running costs. It couldn't last, and it didn't. They stopped paying the rent on the Island Bay property, which was the last straw that led to the Wellington South Licensing Trust winding up.

After selling the Berhampore property, we were able to close up debt-free with some money in the bank. When the time came for the next election, we didn't proceed with it. The formal process to wind us up happened in 2001.

I think we did the best we could in the circumstances, and I'm proud that we were able to change the directions of the grants away from sports.

# Mary Louise Brown

---

*Mary Louise Brown was a trustee of the Wellington South Licensing Trust from 1996 to 2001, being its last Chair. The Operations Manager for Capital Discovery Place, she lived in Newtown.*

---

I was involved in the Riddiford Street 'Mainstreet' improvement project in 1994, and that led to me being invited to apply to be on the Trust in October 1996.

We met above Vincents bar, and Kevin O'Connor was Chair when I started. He was very community focused, and turned down a few applications so that funds could be directed to the right places.

The Trust activities involved receiving funds from Trust House and then distributing them to recipients such as schools, Plunket, and ethnic groups – the Newtown Toy Library was an example of one of our beneficiaries. Giving grants was huge because of all the pokies money. We were all quite active in the community, involved in different issues and getting feedback. People knew about the Licensing Trust.

We got proactive about the availability of grants, and applications had to fit the criteria, so we assessed applications case by case. A separate Charitable Trust was set up to do this. We had so many applications, and the funds were directed at community – refugees, schools, in fact the whole lot, from babies to sports groups.

We used to put on a Christmas party for the elderly once a year. Then there were two parties, because Vaoliko Pesamino was adamant we were being racist, so we had a second party for the Pacific Island community. He was very difficult at times.

Trust House was running all of our outlets: Island Bay Medway, the Berhampore bottle shop and Vincents on Constable Street. There was some unhappiness with Trust House, over money. Vincents was not performing well, despite the pokies income. Our Trust was finally wound up because it got too big to manage from Masterton.

The last meeting to arrange an orderly end to the Trust's activities was at someone's home. There was a lot of nonsense going on at the end, over what to do with the money. I was the only woman member there, and didn't have many supporters.

We had formed another trust in 1999, the WF Anderson Educational Foundation, which is still operating. The left-over funds were transferred to that immediately. John Holden was Chair of it, with Doreen O'Sullivan, Prue Kelly, John Holden and myself. All 14 schools in the Trust area get grants; seven per year.

I enjoyed being on the Trust. Bill Anderson, Kevin O'Connor and Alison Handley were wonderful, while others had personal agendas, which made things very unbalanced. In the end I resigned, in 1999, because of others being there to get money for their own interests rather for the community as a whole. For instance, sports such as rugby were supported out of proportion.

The Trust filled a void of funding not covered by other types of grants. Groups missed it when we wound up. The pokies money peaked and then tailed off.

I think one reason it failed in Wellington South was because immigrants spend less and there was a huge influx of them. There was also another change in the type of people living here, with some very wealthy people moving in to Newtown.

# Tom Law

---

***Tom E Law** was a trustee of the Wellington South Licensing Trust and Charitable Trust, from 1998 until they ceased operating a year or two later. He lived throughout this time on Hanson St, Newtown, where he raised a young family while working for the Maritime Safety Authority.*

---

I stood for the Licensing Trust, and was elected in October 1998. I had been asked by Peter Frater and Alan Chambers to join a group that was trying to turn the Trust around. We put quite a bit of work into electioneering – we had a pamphlet with our photos printed and we delivered it to every household in Trust's area. I was quite surprised to get elected.

Michael Scott from Berhampore, Vaoliko Pesamino (a very strong supporter of the Samoan community), and Mary Louise Brown were also returned. Alan Chambers was then voted by the trustees to be Chair. Later, when Vaoliko Pesamino resigned in mid 1999, Chris Renwick was appointed as the next highest-polling candidate. He was on for only 8 or 9 months before the Trust wound up.

We realised very quickly that although the Trust wasn't going broke, it was unsavable, especially after the business side of it had been transferred to Brand Hospitality Ltd. There was about 18 months during which income was coming in from the pokie machines, and we disbursed I think \$20-30,000 in that time. The landlord, Trust House, had wanted increased income from us. As I understood it, the pokie money was split one-third to the government, one-third to the landlord and one-third to the Trust to distribute to the community. Actually, a lot of the money put in the machines was winnings being put back in, so we didn't get as much as it seems. Licensing trusts were an out-of-date model. People got on to the Trust specifically to try and get funds for projects they were concerned with.

A Samoan church applied for a large grant for musical instruments, but we never saw any evidence that they were purchased. Grants were usually given to health, youth and environmental projects. We supported the Newtown Mainstreet Project that Mary Louise Brown was behind, and the Newtown Festival, but less sport than in earlier years.

When the money stopped coming in, we had nothing to do, because we weren't involved in management. So we started to wind it up. The idea of funding a history of the Wellington South Licensing Trust had been talked about for the last 2-3 years, and was one of the closing grants made from Trust.

The times had changed, the sale of liquor had been liberalised, and we had to face competition from commercial outlets. Along with this, we lost control of the pokie-machine income to Brand Hospitality in Porirua and Trust House in Masterton.

The licensing trust concept was good, because it involved people from the community and it funded community projects, but in the Wellington South area it didn't work out in the end.

## *The trustees*

Over the life of the Wellington South Licensing Trust, there were 30 trustees, either elected or appointed:

Charles E Addley	Peter H Healy	William C Nairn
William F Anderson	John J Holden	William C Nathan
Mary Louise Brown	Desmond SP Hoskins	Terrence P O'Brien
Alan J Chambers	David W Kiddey	Kevin M O'Connor
Alfred J Churchill	Konnad Kuiper	Vaoliko Pesamino
Grant David	Tom E Law	Robert Petelin
Peter J Frater	Brian J Landers	Walter SJ Polak
John C Gilberthorpe	Donal J McGuire	Christopher Renwick
Wilfred B Gimblett	Lyndy McIntyre	Michael Scott
Alison A Handley	Joseph F McTaggart	F Alice Vincent

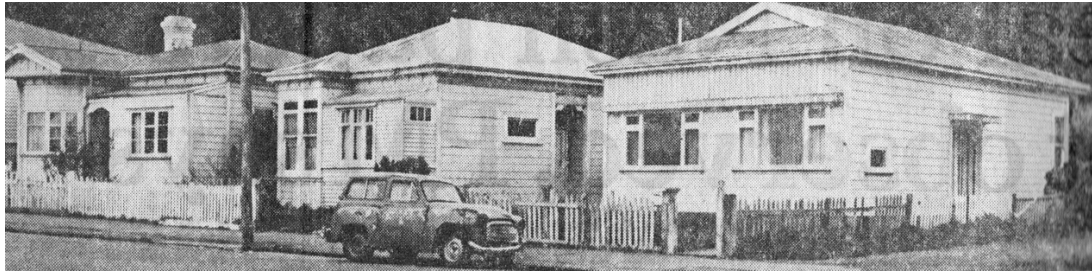


Two long-serving foundation members of the Wellington South Licensing Trust.

*Left:* Alice Vincent, who served from 1972 to 1983, and after whom the Vincent's pub was named.

*Right:* Bill Anderson, who was a trustee for 20 years, from 1972 to 1992, and after whom the WF Anderson Educational Foundation is named.

## *Some of the premises*



Run-down buildings on Medway Street, Island Bay. Rent from these houses produced a small amount of income for the Trust in the early days.



The park created when the Medway Street houses were demolished. The New World supermarket was built here after a land deal was made for a more suitable location around the corner on The Parade.



The Berhampore bottle shop, on the corner of Adelaide Road and Herald Street.



Liquor outlets in Newtown in the late 1970s. This is before the Vincents pub was opened in Constable Street in the early 1990s.

## Material consulted

Wellington South Annual Reports 1976–1989. Reports presented to the House of Representatives Pursuant to Section 43 (3) of the Licensing Trusts Act 1949.

Speech by Mr W Anderson at the opening of the Behampore Bottle Shop. 1977(?).

The Demon Drink: Alcohol and Prohibition in New Zealand. Hocken Collection Bulletin 33: July 2000.

A Turbulent Decade: Recollections and a History of the Masterton Licensing Trust and Trust House 1997–2007. Trust House 2008.

Alcohol in Our Lives: An issues paper on the reform of New Zealand's liquor laws. Law Commission Issues Paper 15. July 2009.

Challenges Facing Licensing Trusts. Office of the Auditor-General, 2014

Publicity material from the Trust Action Group, 1977. Obtained from J Gilberthorpe.

Newspaper cuttings from *The Dominion* and *Southern Sentinel* around the time of the 1977 trustee election. Obtained from J Gilberthorpe.

A Potted History of the Last Few Years of the Wellington South Licensing Trust. Alan Chambers, 1997(?).

A Potted (Recent) History of the Last Few Years of the Wellington South Licensing Trust and Wellington South Licensing (Charitable) Trust. Alan Chambers, 1998(?).

Wellington South Licensing Trust Trustees 1972–2001. Compiled by Peter Cooke BA(Hons) from trust Minute Books held by Archives NZ, Wellington, in agency ACGP accession w5332, series 8593, boxes 1–7, and other sources.

Grog's Own Country, by Conrad Bollinger. 2 ed. Minerva, Auckland, 1967.

## **Acknowledgements**

This history of the early years of the Wellington South Licensing Trust has used the remaining grant held under trust by the Newtown Residents' Association. The assistance of Peter Cooke in recording personal interviews of former trustees and research of Government archives is acknowledged. The production of a completed document by Tony Pritchard is much appreciated.