



MAX 16°C
MIN 11°C

Afternoon sunny spells.
Gale northerlies.

THE OCCUPIED DOMINION POST

Issue 1: Monday 24th October.

"[Nicky] Hager sees himself as an author and a journalist. In the common definition of the journalistic craft, he is not. He is a meticulous compiler and ferretter out of information that some people would wish to keep secret, and he is very good at it." Dominion Post Editorial 13.09.2011

OCCUPY WELLINGTON - ONE WEEK ON

The Wellington occupiers have now been camped in Civic Square for over a week, with more than 50 tents at last count, but participants are quick to emphasise that there is room for many more. The occupation, which started on Saturday afternoon, has attracted over 1000 Facebook supporters and has seen visits from Wellington Mayor Celia Wade-Brown, MP Peter Dunne, and MP Catherine Delahunty. Visitors are welcomed to the space on the understanding that they will speak only for themselves, behave respectfully towards others and refrain from oppressive or hateful language.

The occupants come from diverse backgrounds. As well as the people who have decided to stay permanently, many others visit the camp in between work and family responsibilities. The camp itself has been designated as an inclusive, whaanau friendly, drug and alcohol free space.

The camp is highly organised, with a kitchen, library, information and communications centre, and first aid station. There are a number of committees and working groups dealing with practical aspects of the occupation ranging from food to event planning to communications and everything in between. Supporters have donated and loaned tents, bedding, tables and chairs, medical supplies, kitchenware, whiteboards/blackboards, a camp phone and other electronics, as well as a steady stream of food.



A sunny general assembly generally makes democracy a bit easier...

Camp life is structured around a morning assembly at 9am, and an evening assembly at around 7.30pm, with the bulk of the work taking place in between these times. Important decisions in the camp are made by consensus, and there are a number of gestures and hand signals that occupants use during their meetings, including 'sparkle fingers' pointing up, down or to the middle to signal agreement, disagreement or ambivalence, a raised hand to go on the speaking order, pointing at a speaker to indicate that one wishes to deliver a direct response, arms crossed above the head to indicate that one feels so strongly against a decision that they wish to block consensus. While a number of long and robust group discussions around contentious issues have taken place, all major issues have been successfully resolved within this system.

Ben Knight, who has been in the camp since the first day commented that "one of the most exciting things about this movement is see-

OCCUPY AOTEAROA - NATIONWIDE

Thanks to our fortunate placing in relation to the International Date Line, New Zealand began the worldwide wave of protests in solidarity with Occupy Wall Street. 3,000 people marched in Auckland, and about 150 are occupying Aotea Square. In Christchurch 300 marched, in Wellington 200, and in both cities small occupations have begun. Around 200 people rallied in Dunedin and the centre of the city remains occupied. There were also small protests in Invercargill and New Plymouth, and the occupations are growing. Donations are flooding in, everything from food to camping equipment, medical supplies to clothing.

As the days have passed the camps have become more organised. Kitchens have been established where anyone, occupier or otherwise, can come and receive free food and something to drink. Workshops are being held up and down the country on topics ranging from women's rights and tino rangatiratanga to meditation and composting. Pamphlets, posters, banners, flags, effigies, clothing and newspapers are being produced. Music is being played, conversations are happening, and a generation of sleeping people are opening their eyes. The occupations have been entirely peaceful, and will remain that way.



This poem was delivered at a General Assembly

Hello beautiful human beings
I'm Sam on a mission
I am reading a poem
Questioning the human condition

My enemy is not people
It's the slavery game
I'm not here to point fingers
To name or shame

147 corporations
Have 40% percent of the world's wealth
Do you think that their priority
Is this planets health?

With a 30 year mortgage
At 5.5 percent
We pay twice what were supposed to
No wonder we rent

The interest is killing people
People struggling and dying
You keep saying everything's ok
So blatantly lying

It's the debt were born into
The greed and no sharing
Our mother earth is being raped
Why is no one caring?

But there are many waking up
We are compassionately concerned
This savage greed monster
Needs to be burned

We're teaching ourselves
We're teaching each other
We have different parents,
But were sisters and brothers

We are all one
This earth one breathing force
No division or conquer
Split and divorced

Our DNA is the same
I am 30 percent flower
Rounded 100 percent everyone of you
And who has the power?

We are occupation
No drink or drugs
A fistful of compassion
And many free hugs

We will build occupy gardens
Workshops and schools
Encouraging knowledge diversity
Sharing our tools

The tools for compassion
The tools for generosity
The tools for learning
Fulfilling our curiosity

I love everyone of you
Even those at the top
But one things for sure
This shits gotta stop

I will plant in my heels
And dig my roots deep
I do not need leaders
I am not a sheep

So come sit with us
And give back what was never theirs
With us all united
There is nothing to fear

No more corporate funding
Twisting our leaders tongues
No more defence overseas
Pointing our guns

More free food
And free education
So we can follow our dreams
Without income discrimination

Blogging wont stop this
Nor walks down the street
Nor blindly ignoring it
Lets gather and meet!

-

Sam I Am

What's going on NZ?

You may ask, what is going on in New Zealand? We live a pretty good life don't we? It may come as a surprise to some that NZ was listed as the 2nd ranked country for economic inequality in the OECD, America was 1st. The poverty in New Zealand is hidden, but the gap between the rich and the poor continues to grow. This year the top 150 NZer's income increased by seven billion dollars, while the real income fell for almost everyone else. We may not be showing the hardship and lack of empowerment through rioting, but it is grossly evident in our shocking suicide statistics. We have the highest rate of suicide for

young females (ages 15-24) in the OECD, and the 3rd highest rate for young males. How can we fix our economic, government and social systems to allow people a fair return for their effort, and to make sure no New Zealander is left suffering? We need a social shift, a change in values, towards co-operation rather than competition. We must stand together and push for the changes we want to see. We must face the world with compassion, intelligence and creativity. If we help those on the bottom rise, we will have a society where everyone has the opportunity to succeed. We can move forward together, as a country.

By Kathryn Thessman

OCCUPY THE WORLD!

In New York, where this movement began, protesters braved the early morning chill on October 15th and defeated an attempt by the city authorities to destroy their occupation. As armed police massed and prepared to storm the encampment, they were met by a mobilisation of Occupy supporters that caught them off guard. 5,000 people rallied to

the cause, and the police backed down. Despite ongoing brutality they are still there.

In Santiago, Chile, 60,000 marched. In Brussels, 5,000 marched to the headquarters of the stock exchange. 1,000 people took part in the Occupy protests in Seoul, and 200 people took a dangerous stand in Hong Kong. 40,000 people marched



Let's get something straight: this movement has issued no demands. It is not a protest. It's an occupation. Rebellions don't have demands.

The above statement is from issue two of the Occupy Wall St Journal and in that spirit we are currently occupying the heart of our city. We've set up our tents and kitchens, we've put up our banners, and we are refusing to leave. As we reclaim the city we are reclaiming our own minds.

We are not just a handful of dreamers - we are realists. We are not stupid - we know something is very, very wrong with the world. We are not cowards - we are stepping up and putting ourselves forward to take part in this movement. We are not naïve - we know the problem is not a few greedy people ruining the system, the problem is a system based on greed that ruins people.

We are not alone. We are all over the world. In hundreds of cities on every continent, we are sharing tents, sharing food, sharing ideas and imagining a world where we share everything. We are trying to change it all from the bottom up. We are the 99%.

It has not been easy and it shows no signs of getting easier. Torrential rain and freezing cold temperatures have plagued occupiers from Auckland to Invercargill. There are other threats too - in New York, police brutality has become an everyday reality for the peaceful occupiers in Zucotti Park. In Melbourne and Sydney, our brothers and sisters have been dragged from their beds at 5am to be punched, kicked, elbowed, choked and dragged across the concrete by hordes of police. Across the world, peaceful protesters have been met with the full force of a violent system that will stop at nothing to keep itself alive. The longer we stay, the more people hear our message... and the more desperate the 1% become to shut us up.

Social change is never easy. The transformation of an unjust society into something better was never going to happen overnight, and it was never going to happen without the ruling financial elites lashing out and trying to scare us into backing down. Now more than ever we must stand our ground. We must remain together, we must remain warm, friendly and welcoming to all the people who can be engaged with our message of fairness, freedom and love. We must talk to each other, share our ideas and experiences, and find a way to take this movement forward. This is only the beginning of a struggle to change the world. We are taking on the entire might of the corporate power structure and its servants in the government and the state apparatus. While they have money and guns, we have koha and aroha.

It is up to us, the 99%, to show the world which is more powerful.

-

Alastair and Joel

Cont. p2 in Lisbon, Portugal, and hundreds broke through police lines and stormed into the parliament building. 2,000 showed up in Sydney, 4,000 in Athens, 1,000 in Paris, and 2,000 in London. 4,000 marched in Berlin and 5,000 in Frankfurt, with 1,000 rallying further north in Stockholm. Over 50,000 rallied in Madrid.

Estimates vary about how many took part across the world in the October 15th day of action, and it has proven even more difficult to establish exactly how many are participating in the hundreds of ongoing occupations. A consensus seems

to be emerging in the mainstream media that at least a million people have mobilised, and a significant chunk of that continue to protest. While numbers may fluctuate as people come and go, stopping by to take part in a General Assembly after work or camping out over the weekend before returning home to study for exams, it is an undeniable fact that the Occupy phenomenon is the largest movement of its kind for many years. In many ways it is the first movement of its kind. We are witnessing the birth of something new - together we are making history.

Occupation Profile: *Kathryn Thessman*

Kathryn is one of the unsung heroes around the Occupy Campsite. She has worked day and night to ensure the people are informed; not only about the movement itself but also the issues that are facing our world and the resolutions which others are forming. She has contacted

many speakers to come join in the Day of Action and has been responsible for a lot of the information

in the camp library.

Kathryn is 20 years old and a full-time student. She studies a BSC double major in Cell and Molecular Bio-science and Psychology. She also has a part-time job, and up until last week had two. The second job was disbanded due to economic struggles.

She is here to "increase awareness and education of the issues that everyone faces so we can work together to solve those problems." She also wants a government which is fairer to their citizens, letting their voices be heard instead of ignored. "The people need to know what is going on so we can all move forward together."



