

The new voice of Truth Weekender

■ WELCOME to a hard-hitting new column that becomes the weekly voice of *Truth Weekender*.
 ■ Kiwi Kev is a proud New Zealander and good, honest, down-to-earth bloke.

■ He gets rarked up by the same day-to-day problems and issues that bother all of us and has had a gutsful of the politically-correct nonsense that has dragged this country down for too long.

■ He likes his footie, a yarn and a few "quiets" with his mates but won't hold back when something's on his mind.
 ■ He's our voice ... and yours, too. Bloody oath!



KIWI KEV

Key's a right joker with tax on smokers

THE price of fags is going up to stop us smoking. Yeah right! Pull the other one. For any Kiwi who didn't come down in the last shower it is pretty obvious that the Government wants more of our money.

It's also a "nanny state" move. National is supposed to be the party of free choice and individual responsibility.

I picked John Key as a good bastard but this makes him just as bad as the old hag Helen Clark. Behind the scenes, those bloody crazies in the Maori Party are pushing for a blanket ban on all cigarette sales. They see fags as another evil forced upon them by the white man.

But the problem of upping the price or passing a law getting rid of tobacco in the shops is that you breed a country full of stupid people.

The state makes the decision: "You will not smoke!"

It stops people making their own minds up. Stops them developing the ability to make the right choices and think freely.

But what government wants the population doing that?

The price rise is going to hit poor families hard. The same families who are going to be hit hard by GST rises in the budget will get a double whammy.

But, mate to mate, here's the real oil ... the whole thing wouldn't be so bad if the Government actually wanted us all to stop smoking.

In fact, they just want the money. It's the same with speed cameras. They say it's about getting us to slow down. But how does that work when you don't get the ticket and a photo of your car in the post until a couple of weeks later?

For smokers, having a cigarette break is a small pleasure during a day of work.

Life is hard enough. Now, we can't smoke in our workplaces, bars or many parks without facing a fine.

The real question is, what next? The miserable buggers on the Law Commission are already suggesting another alcohol tax. Luckily, the Prime Minister poured cold water on that one.

But for how long? The country's books don't look good and a bit more revenue from boozers wouldn't go amiss either.

But the weird thing was that in talking down a tax John Key said: "A substantial increase in excise would affect all consumers of alcohol and we think that would be unfair."

So what's the difference between booze and fags? Both are addictive. Both cause social harm.

But no one bashed up their wife after smoking a packet of cigarettes.

The tax on smokes hit everyone too, from those who go through two packs a day to those who have just a couple.

This joker's sounding a bit confused and looks like he's making things up as he goes along.

Email your opinion on Kiwi Kev's comments to: editor@truthweekender.co.nz

MEOWWW!

EXCLUSIVE

by Joseph Lose

THE MOTHER of all catfights has erupted between the reigning queen of Kiwi gossip and some of the celebrities upset at being repeatedly featured in the pages of a Sunday tabloid.

Leading the assault against Rachel Glucina - who's earned the nickname "Pork Chop" and "The Princess of Pork" - is Kiwi socialite and television presenter Charlotte Dawson, who's a regular contributor to a new Facebook page which gets stuck into the *Herald on Sunday* columnist.

In recent days, the clawing and scratching has got downright nasty with dozens of sarcastic comments from Dawson - who's been hosting hit TV shows across the Tasman like *Australia's Next Top Model* - and other celebs such as musician Shelton Woolwright and Casey Green, long-time partner of All Black Ali Williams.

Comments on the page lambast Glucina not just for her weekly column *Spy* but also over her weight.

Several unflattering photographs have been posted on the site mocking Glucina with numerous spiteful references to pork chops, apple sauce and gravy stains.

One of the nastier posts is accompanied by a photograph of an extremely obese woman in a swimming pool.

Green (LEFT) then attacks Glucina for suggesting in last week's *Spy* column that her boyfriend Williams contacted teen heart throb Justin Bieber's manager to



Claws sharpen over gossip's Sunday roasts



REVENGE: Charlotte Dawson.

meet the young star and gift him an All Black jersey, alleging that was not the case.

In another post Green makes reference to a supposed email she received from Glucina asking if she could join her pole fitness classes.

Then there's this from Dawson - "Oh and Casey - that is so kind of you to offer Rachel pole dancing lessons, let me know when she starts. I'd fly over to encourage her" - followed by another apparent cruel dig at the columnist's weight.

Dawson goes on to accuse Glucina of being infatuated with TV One news anchor Simon Dallow, saying that "given she's newly in love" that possibly explained Green's concerns about the Justin Bieber story.

"Look, it was a very busy week with

Paul Holmes' birthday, so maybe this once she just got it a bit wrong, and we need to give her a break as she's newly in love and probably just focusing on Simon," writes Dawson.

Former TVNZ head of news Bill Ralston also weighs in: "These appalling attacks on one of the country's finest investigative journalists must stop ... Shame, shame, shame on you all."

When contacted by *Truth Weekender* this week, Glucina claimed to have no knowledge of the website but later declined to comment.

Dawson, meanwhile, wasn't contactable in Sydney.

Renowned *Truth Weekender* gossip columnist David Hartnell said celebrities like Dawson "knew the game" and when they "put themselves out there" had to expect the consequences. But to retaliate at Glucina with remarks about her weight was uncalled for, he said.

"That's taking things too far," Hartnell added.

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Police strike jackpot in raids on gangs

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The Criminal Proceeds Act came into force in December 2009. Last month's swoop on a string of gardening centres saw \$200,000 cash and four Wellington homes added to the coffers.

Instead of waiting for a criminal conviction to secure forfeiture, cash, homes and vehicles can be chased on the lesser civil court's onus of proof.

Police could only seize property and proceeds of crime previously after a criminal conviction.

But the new legislation has changed the landscape. "If we look at what we were able to restrain under the old legislation compared to the new, it makes for a staggering comparison," Pope said.

Police seized \$7m worth of assets in

the eight months of the last financial year. In the first three months alone under the new laws, officers had identified \$11m worth of cash and assets.

And Police Minister Judith Collins has promised gangsters more pain ahead. "We're taking away the ill-gotten gains of organised crime, which is responsible for much of the methamphetamine in our communities," Collins told *Truth Weekender*.

"The Assets Recovery unit has been busy finding and confiscating the proceeds of organised crime. So far \$36 million worth of assets is under investigation, and there's more to come."

Figures released by police show of the \$36m under investigation, \$11m has been successfully restrained under the

new law and in the hands of the official assignee and \$9m held by police.

Police say of the \$36m seized, \$25m is from drug dealing - of which P manufacturing and distribution is accountable for \$14m.

And the successes don't end there.

As part of the police crackdown on the meth trade and the gangs behind the billion dollar industry, police have made over 900 arrests for drug related offences since November 2009.

The Assets Recovery unit works closely with the Police National Intelligence centre, the Inland Revenue Department and the Serious Fraud Office.

"Financial information is set to become as valuable to investigations as fingerprints or DNA," Pope said.