

Feedback on last column – Jan 2021

EMAILS

David Hill:

Hi Jim

You'll be getting lots of good wishes just now, but here's another set to add to your pile. I've relished your columns greatly over the past few years – your balance, clarity, skills of structure and tone. You've been such an admirably mature voice on local issues, and you've also been that elusive thing, A Good Read, with narrative and register so neatly controlled.

I tried a column myself for a while, though I never had to have the fidelity to facts that you've shown, and I have some idea of how hard it is to maintain the standard, week after week. The good ones are a blessing when they come, but it's the ones you have to work and plug away at without giving any hint of such that mark a pro, and you've done that splendidly.

All the very best for what sounds like an exciting set of projects. I'll look forward to seeing your name in still more contexts. Good Wishes to both you and Lin. David Hill

Jonathan Young:

Hi Jim.

Just read your last 'last' column. You'll be sadly missed. I enjoyed reading most :) and certainly this last one as you described yourself. Very interesting indeed. A great career. Thanks for all your effort and thought you've put in to write such interesting commentaries on issues and particularly Taranaki life. Your columns could be bound together as a reflection on those. Way past your time and mine, they will be a treasure. We're away for another week but look forward to catching over a beer to reminisce. All the best for the rest of what you've got to write. Jonathan.

Sir Bob Harvey:

Dear Jim being a bogan that I am ..I stole a paper from a Cafe to read on the beach.. still catching waves..I read and was deeply moved by your farewell column Saturday Jan 9 .A nice thoughtful Piece .. I remember you so well from The Sunday News days with Hitchens and that old gang of weekend greats ..and it was fun... Just thought a message of congratulations and best wishes. Sir Bob

David Gauld:

I just finished reading your last column. As a Taranaki exile (I was born in Inglewood and grew up in the untidy hills 30km or so to the east) I have tried to keep up with various Taranaki goings on and your columns have been an interesting way to do so. I can only enjoy Taranaki from time to time as it had

no immediate use for a Mathematics professor and now, though retired, I'm married to a professor of Statistics, so am no better off in that respect. So, unlike you, I shall escape Auckland to visit Taranaki but only for short dips. All the best for your and Lin's next phase of life.

Heather Dodunski:

Hi Jim

I know this is a voice from the past but I have always read your articles and enjoyed them immensely whether I agreed with your point of view or not. I just wanted to wish you an extremely happy retirement and every best wish for whatever you get up to over the next few years. Kindest regards

Ruth Vesty:

Hi Jim,

Just to say I have always enjoyed your columns and sad to read that you are "retiring ". Enjoy your new direction!

Russell "Shagger" Gilmer:

Dia dhuit Jim

Enjoy the freedom from your weekly columns – can't say I read them all – mainly the ones that interested me.

In my opinion Stuff is no longer part of the so-called Fourth Estate – their editors, including Ritkoff, and journalists no longer question the Government on behalf of the people. They merely make their own opinions known supporting the ideology of the day and stuff anyone who has an opposing view – climate change and Maori wards are the prime examples of this.

I tried to place the advert below with Stuff the other day and the advert lady said no, without any consultation (bit like the NPDC) with her editors. She rang me with the decision and when I questioned their reluctance, her response was "we're privately owned and can refuse to print whatever we like". Well that told me....haha.

Anyway all the best for the future. I have been considering writing about the

era's (error's ) of my life for sometime. I'm 65 now so I had better get started soon before the memories fade into oblivion.

Liz Valintine:

Jim

I don't know you but I went to school with your wife Lin and wonder if you'd pass her on a message that I come to New Plymouth a few times a year and wonder if she'd like to catch up over a coffee. I see you've written your last column for the Daily News so I also wanted to say thanks for writing these as they have kept those "relocated" Taranakians a bit in the loop of what's been happening on the ground. Cheers **Rob Green:**

Jim

I am truly saddened to see your announcement that your column has come to an end. I have enjoyed reading your ruminations and illuminations. They have been a staple part of our diet. Thank you for your work over the years. Have a great 2021

Dave Burbidge:

Just to say I enjoyed your column from Gold Coast. I was at school with Rob. You may also remember Max Hayton who also lives on the Gold Coast with his wife. Have a great retirement. We sold up and live on our yacht cruising with wife 2 dogs and 3 cats. Trying a blog but can't get motivated. Enigma off the Grid.

Noel Harris - harkeats@gmail.com

Hi Noel - What a wonderful message. I reply below to your questions. JT

Pull up a chair. This is to acknowledge your fine column over the years which to me in Wellington has been personal, interesting and a means of keeping in touch with what's happening back 'home', beyond the usual detached news.

Just the other week I was tempted to add a comment on your Neil Wolfe book. Some many years back Wolfie, while at Uni in Wellington, was selected for the ABs, and he was asked what his ambitions were. Now I wont go further, just now. But did this topic/discussion ever come up for your book? **I recorded eight hours of interviews with Neil and Raewyn, and something relevant would have been discussed, I'm guessing.**

My brother and I did a social history, self-published 2007, called 'Moturoa'. In putting this together I recalled (as best one can) Wolfie's immortal (in my opinion) reply during 1961.

Bro who remained local and loyal, and I, never had any formal training in this sort of thing but we were Tigertown-bred, and we'd seen a thing or two, as you would. My input was through technical drawing at BHS, morphing into architectural design in Wellington.

The treaty settlement push in the 90s brought home issues into sharp focus. These were dark days now invisible to view (save some newsletters done). But scars remain. History seems forever papering and repapering over old cracks.

Our goal was to capture the hardcase days, in word and deed: Pre technology, pre PC, threw stones, shanghais, raiding orchards, being called 'niggers' didn't upset us, we feared Mr Policeman, respected adults, played footy barefoot, climbed Paratoot, went on the boats....

With the 'them v us' settlement process, we saw our known, shared 'way of life' disappearing ever so surely. I think we captured a good chunk of it.

Whether you knew George Koea or not, he was a cuzz, he was much older. **George was my second editor at the Taranaki Herald (Rash Avery the first) and he was a fine mentor and boss. I learned much from him about how to be a well-organised chief reporter. His early death was a helluva shock. In later years when I was head of journalism at WITT, I took my students to stay on various marae, one being Ngāti**

Mutunga marae at Urenui (Raewyn Wolfe's). As I laid my head down that night I happened to look up and see George's photograph hanging above me. He'd never discussed his tikanga with me. He watched over me that night. It was a comfort.

A couple of years back picked up a copy of Rob Tucker's Taranaki book, a great array of photos which I need to muse over every now and then to recharge. Presume he's family? **My brother.**

We also did a 'Moturoa, a beginners guide,' 40 pages A5. This was for Moturoa school leavers in 2019. With history to get a kickstart in schools we offered some insights for pupils to know just where and what they have come from. It was a softish history with a few lumps. I think it was the only time bro and I were in front of the school and not in trouble.

Please excuse my writing ability, you would have done the profession (or general) courses I suspect. **Please don't apologise - your writing is to be admired for its clarity and strength of purpose.** My ambition was to be an architect, but the 'look' of the professional environment (French, Latin, Fish?) gave me the willy's. So Engineering Building won out, it was culture comfort, or something.

Are you still there Jim? I recall you at BHS but probably had no chance or reason to ever chat. **I recall you, as well. But I was something of a shy recluse because of what you write next - You played hockey, I got into soccer (now football). I was bullied mercilessly over not playing rugby at NPBHS. In my last year, I went with my parents to see JJ Stewart for advice on what to do with my life. I said I wanted to be a journalist. His response: "You're not strong enough, boy." I later became the rugby reporter for the *Taranaki Herald* when JJ was coaching Taranaki. One day he said: "Well, you don't do a bad job, Tucker...considering your unfortunate background." In the Wolfie book I have the temerity to suggest Neil was wasted by JJ, who preferred at first five the expert kicking of Pascoe Brown. When I later became editor of the *Auckland Star* I got some pleasure hiring JJ as a columnist. He was a fine writer of bucolic accounts of his days as principal of Flock House. I still go over the Taranakian magazines and its amazing recalling the people. Like our book, it's the bond of simpler times. Not FaceBook but FaceLook (just made that up).**

I cannot really see a retirement with your track record. But all the best Jim.

No, the "r" word is banned in our household. I'm concentrating on getting my memoirs finished this year (far too grand a label). I'll let you know if they ever get to the printer.

Very warmest regards, Noel.

FACEBOOK

Don Churchill:

Well done Jim - you've done the readers of Taranaki proud. I hope you still have that "occasional" column inside you and the brilliant young minds running the papers and Stuff these days still allow the senior generation to have a say. So many commentators these days unknowingly display an ageist bent or simply ignorance of historical issues. Or am I just another grumpy old man!

Hilary Bennett:

I'll miss your columns Jim Tucker x

Ana Tapiata:

Too much e hoa. I'm sure you'll find stuff to keep you busy. Aroha nui ki a Lin.

Sanjoy Mukherjee-Richardson:

Well done Jim

Julie Salt:

Warmest congratulations Jim Tucker. 👍 I don't think Journos ever retire. It's hard wired in us. And I'm happy about that, for one.

Robert Stockdill:

Can't wait for the memoir!!

Hannah Brown:

Well done Jim!

James McOnie:

Sounds like I might have to start reading them Jim! I know the standard will be high. I'm already deep inside your archive and loving it!

Deborah Telford:

What's next boss?

Jim Tucker: More words, Deb. More books, non-fiction. I'm at 22 now, but thanks to the Synonyms key I should be able to hold on a while yet. You?

Susan Belt:

Jim, you have written so much, but never too much. I have greatly admired your journalism in all its aspects and believe you are a national treasure. Looking at that photo, I see your other fabulous legacy, your family.

David McLoughlin:

I love the bit about the 78,000 word article for Metro. I know Metro didn't have an eight-par rule, but.... 😊 Congrats Jim, and I will look forward to the memoir.

Trevor Coppock:

And I bet you won't be able to stay away from the "tripewriter" 🤖

John Drinnan:

Congrats Jim . Love your work. We need more journalists like you in training orgs that have lost their way.

Tony Nielsen:

A good innings for a young feller out of NP

Geoffrey Darling:

Well done Jim looking good

Alison Harley:

Congratulations!

ToRy Regan:

Very funny that after years of "there might be a story in that", Lin then had to hear "there might be a column in that" for the last few years. Such a patient wife to be married to a man who has also been married to journalism his whole life.

Diana Quay:

You are looking very well, Jim. Can't believe it's more than 50 years since we first were colleagues at the Taranaki Herald.

Jane Sumpter:

Congratulations 🍷

Pam Graham:

Thought it was a great column

Selwyn Manning:

Congratulations Jim on turning to the next chapter. Have always been grateful for your shepherding at AUT back in 1992. All the best.

Virginia Winder:

Good on ya Jim. I'll miss your column Jim. Thanks for the fun, facts and highlighting the often unknown things happening in our community. Xxx

Maurice Costello:

Congrats there Jim Tucker

Paul Corrigan:

78,000 words is about as long as what is regarded as 'standard novel length'. I would have read it, Jim, if only for the challenge ...

Lisa Gregory McMullan

We will miss you Jim

Christine Fenton

Oh sad news!

Beverley McLean

Very sad for many of us Jim. All the very best for continuing your autobiography. Many thanks for many hours of entertainment, and education too of course !

Rosie Gargan

We have enjoyed your columns very much thanks Jim

Lynne Laracy

A good stint Jim. Best wishes to you.

Nikki Carmichael

Great work Jim. You are a star mate

Katherine Merrick

All the very best!

Fraser Ross

Always worth a read Jim and thanks for the kind words re the festival this year 😊

Brian Lockstone

The best know the right time to quit!

Adrian Sole

Outstanding service Jim 👍👏😊

Lin Tucker

I wonder if I will still have those leg crossing times on Tuesday mornings while he does final edits on our one loo?

Gordon Hudson

Thanks Jim. As too often - winners and losers with TNL being the losers - sad.

Carol Campbell

On to the next challenge Jim. There will be another one around the corner. Thank you

Karen Barkla

All the best Jim. I'm sure you will replace the column with something. More reading maybe 😊

Beth Findlay-Heath

What an innings Jim, huge congrats! I hope we see your writing talent on another platform, I'm sure you've got plenty more to say 😊👏

Richard Handley

We will seriously miss these columns. They added real kiwi statements on contemporary issues. Keep thinking Jim Tucker

Lindsay Thomson

Jim, your column will be missed. They were always thought provoking and you provided us with a voice on so many topics. Good luck for the next project!

Lisa Wall

Thanks for all the 'words' over the years, have enjoyed reading many of them!

René Mouton

I say watch this space. He sucks at retiring.