

Lapdogs: Norm, Mick, Tim and Dick

Hutchinson Furnishings Art Exhibition
Hastings Community Art Centre
2004

The ***Lapdog*** works are a response to the 4 Hastings District councillors who voted for Julian Robertson's huge development at Cape Kidnapper's Black Reef, and the partisan support for the project from Council bureaucrats and the local newspaper.

Hawke's Bay Today article - 13 September 2004

Council quartet sent to the dog house

Chris Garner

Every dog has his day, but a quartet of Hastings District councillors are getting a month under the exhibition spotlight.

The quartet who voted in favour of American billionaire Julian Robertson's plans to build luxury accommodation near the end of Cape Kidnappers have been immortalized in clay by Hastings sculptor Linda Bruce, who has depicted them as lapdogs.

Hearings Committee chairman Norm Speers, who was the last to vote at the council hearing last December, has been pilloried alongside Cr Mick Lester, Cr Tim Tinker and Cr Richard Jones in the month-long Hutchinson's Furnishings Art Exhibition being held at the Hastings Community Art Centre in Russell Street, Hastings.

The artist said the work, entitled ***Lapdogs: Norm, Mick, Tim, Dick*** showed that the councillors were lap dogs to Mr Robertson.

"It's as much about poking fun at them as it is about being serious about it" said the sculptor, who made the four busts from the same mould, which she made using a dog-shaped money box.

"They should be watchdogs but they have turned out to be lapdogs."

Cr Speers, who is a trustee of the building where the work is on display, first saw the exhibit on the day the exhibition opened.

"I thought it was quite funny," he said. "She's made a statement." The exhibition is due to run until 2 October and the work is for sale for \$400.

The Council's decision to allow Mr Robertson's plan is being appealed at the Environment Court by Gannet Beach Adventures operator Rod Heaps, who is also treasurer of the Cape Kidnappers Protection Society. The matter will come before the Environment Court in Hastings on 4 October 2010.

Environment Court decision

The Environment Court overturned the Council consent.