

He rerenga korero/Social comment

"Lookin out from the inside to the outside, cell 83, 12 stars east wing holiday parade resort. Before going into details I better introduce myself, a lot of visitors to Paparua inn, some known to me and some unknown, call me colourful names, the imprisoned saint, uncle Ressay Arikiniui, King Aloha Kamehameha, Tohunga, the magic power of the divine father aroha aloha village Christchurch.

My aim and objective is to gather news within the prison and to communicate with people out in the so-called world of freedom, hassles, and hang ups etc, instead of inviting the public into Paparua institution for a peep. I have decided to scribble down notes and give the public a dose of what goes on behind the stonewalls and iron bars grills of Paparua within, better known Paparua prison on the Main South Road 15 miles from Christchurch, 2 miles from Templeton junction, out in the country.

Paparua prison was built in 1925 by the criminals to accommodate 200 prisoners, and with the stones taken out of the prison quarry and with hammers and chisels the prisoners shaped the stones into square blocks the size of a box. Men, under the watchful eyes of the wardens, now called officers, supervising the job, stone mason trade men with years of experience.

1981 — a new administration block was built joining onto the old stone building taking two years to complete. Quite nice inside the visiting hall, floor carpets, table, chairs. The hall can be used for concert, entertaining shows etc — the visiting hours Saturday 9 to 11am and 2 to 4pm and the P.A.S. Prison Aid Society supply free cups of tea or coffee for the visitors and prisoners — for distant visitors relatives, friends and sweethearts during the week days a special visit can be arranged and approved by the superintendent.

The old stone building's beautiful character stands out like a light-house from the new building that looks plain, no character, just a new modern building.

The old stone house, a show place eye-catcher for the visitors — there are three wings, west wing 3rd class for the newish prisoners, 2 pisspots, 1 prisoner allowed 5 blankets 2 sheets, pillow. The sheets and pillow case sent to the laundry once a week to be washed and returned spotless, mirrors in each cell.

Breakfast, dinner and tea, stand at your door for parade call, move along to the servery, pick up a tray with your food returning to your cell for lock up, you are given half an hour to eat your meal then unlock, put your tray outside your door.

Lock up, while the cleaners collect all dirty dishes, wash up, then unlock for work parade falling in on the parade yard at 8am, each man falling into their respective place of work. Some work out on the farm, painting gang, woodchopping gang, repairing gang, tractor drivers, rubbish truck collector, drain gang, garden gang, upholstery workshop gang, furniture workshop gang, metal workshop gang, kitchen workers, dish washers, administration workers, cleaners, etc.... All the gangs working outside the prison are brought in by the officer in charge of the gang and all gangs are checked in at 11am, lunch at 11.30, west wing are locked in their cells, unlocked at 1pm for work parade check out gangs at 1.15pm and check gang in at 3.30pm, prisoners return to their respective wings for showers change into clean recreation gears ready for tea at 4pm in the west wing parade.

Personnel one have to do 3 months before allowed out into the wing to watch TV, play billiards or table tennis. Evening recreation unlock 5pm, until 8.30pm lock up for the night until unlock 7am next morning then go through the same routine every day. The meals are edible, the west wing can accommodate up to 130 guests — after 3 months with good behaviour you move into the centre wing the 2nd class 8 stars resort, the routine the same as the west wing and the only change in the system, you have your meals in the dining room like a restaurant, 4 to a table pick up a plate the servery staff dish up what you want to eat, free tucker for the taking.

1st class east wing, if you want a transfer into the special wing you have to apply to the east wing divisional officer in charge, the inmates are screened, attitude, approach, behaviour are taken into consideration, 1 to a cell, toilet, desk, seat, cupboard, table, centrally heated. The newys call it a home away from home, everything bar the wife and the kids — Paparua prison is for VIP guests only, a very special place for very special people as guests to the taxpayer and the government, some of the newys call it a paradise holiday resort and relaxation. The old lagers disagree and call it colourful names.

The newys learn the trade about doing hot jobs, safe blowing, busting etc, when regaining freedom, the new lagers start practising what they learnt from the old lagers, because the prisoners think that society is responsible for ripping them off, society rejecting them. It is hard for ex-prisoners to get jobs.

Naturally prisoners have to live the same as any citizen because what they did was wrong.

Society should give the prisoners a chance to start afresh in life — giving prisoners another chance, you do very little for society if you isolate and lock away offenders. Prison fellowship members Peter Blaxall and Barry Botherway who arrange visits for prisoners while in prison, arrange a place and a job to go to when release comes.

They believe in giving these men the opportunity to develop themselves and find some direction in life.

If you lock people away and treat them harshly, they're going to be released as pretty harsh sort of people — nearly half the prison inmates in New Zealand are Maoris.

What are the Maori four members of parliament doing, can they do something to help these young offenders before its too late. An old saying you can change anyones lifestyle and provide them with the opportunity, putting offenders in jail you do very little for society and cost society \$18,000 a year to keep a prisoner in prison."

