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BRIEFS

Protesters count cost

THE PROTECT Piha Heritage Society, which lost a three-year battle in the Environment Court to stop a cafe being built at the West Auckland beach, has paid the Waitakere City Council \$5000 in legal costs. Spokesman Peter Hosking said he hoped other community groups weren't deterred from fighting cases because costs could be awarded against them. Council legal services manager Denis Sheard said the case cost Waitakere council more than \$85,000 and it had a right to compensation.

Dolls go under hammer

A COLLECTION of more than 1000 dolls, including antiques and rare creations by prominent Dunedin dollmaker Jan McLean, estimated to be worth thousands of dollars is being auctioned off. Owner and great-grandmother Marie Buckingham began collecting at age 17. "I like the faces of the dolls and how they're all so different. I guess I just really appreciate the work that's gone into them."

Town of ski queens

QUEENSTOWN IS preparing to turn pink to welcome around 900 gay men for a week of skiing and partying. The men are taking part in the eighth Gay Ski Week NZ and are coming from as far afield as the United States and Ireland. Bookings for this year's ski festival have broken all previous records, says organiser Craig Lawson.

Green home wins award

A \$2 MILLION Remuera home built of sustainable materials has won the supreme award in Auckland's Registered Masterbuilders House of the Year competition. The award for the best renovation went to a Mission Bay property made-over at a cost of more than \$500,000. The national finalists in the Registered Masterbuilders House of the Year competition will be announced next month, with the winners chosen in November.

Public forum for museum

WAITAKERE MAYOR Bob Harvey hopes a public forum this week on the future development of Auckland Museum will bring an end to controversy under former director Dr Vanda Vitali, who quit in mid-March. The museum's 10-year budget includes a \$22 million renewal of three floors containing Maori, Pacific, war history and other galleries, but exactly how that money will be spent has yet to be decided. "I think they want to heal the rift between the board and the community," Harvey said. Aucklanders will finally get a say in how they want to see the museum developed.

NZ Society dinner

LEGISLATION

Govt moves

Minors, hours, licences affected

By **ANTHONY HUBBARD**
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THE GOVERNMENT will tomorrow announce a wide-ranging liquor reform package that will limit trading hours and toughen the rules against providing alcohol to minors.

The changes, to be announced by Justice Minister Simon Power, also include raising the buying age in off-licences from 18 to 20, but will leave it at 18 in pubs and bars.

The main features of the package, which will be billed as implementing most of the Law Commission's recommendations for alcohol reform, have been leaked to the *Sunday Star-Times*.

The new rules will place fresh restrictions on the alcohol content of RTDs - ready-to-drink spirit mixtures. They will have to contain no more than 1.5 standard drinks.

Rules on alcohol promotion at off-

licences will also be tightened, and there will be greater powers for police to deal with drunk and disorderly behaviour.

The package will also give communities greater powers over liquor licences - a move that the government has already tipped.

The government has also acted on the Law Commission's recommendation to raise tax on alcohol when the commission reported on alcohol was put that tax increases were 'a

Nor has it taken up a recommendation in the commission's report on medium term to heavy alcohol advertising and sporting and cultural events.

Under the changes, trading hours for off-licences will be restricted to 11pm, and on-licences 8

What's all the fuss about the 90-day trial period

From changes to meal breaks, sick leave and holidays, the government is introducing a raft of changes this week, pitting it against the unions. Most contentious so far are changes to the 90-day trial period for new staff. Auckland University professor Bill Hodge reviews the changes.



impose obligations on all employers to provide details in writing in every employment agreement.

An employer who does not provide a copy of the intended agreement to the employee, and