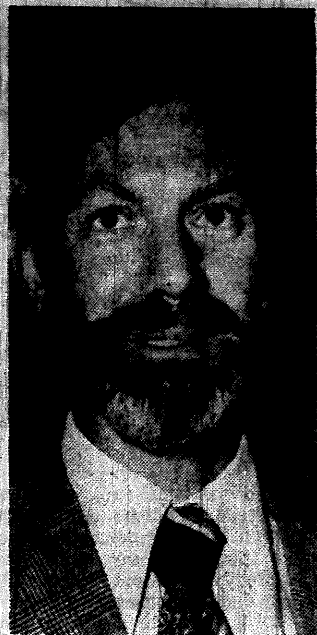


indepth

in weekender



**NEIL WELLS:** Onetime general manager of the advertising agency MacHarman Associates. Later owner of his own agency, Vision Advertising. Studying law at Auckland University. In the SPCA since 1971; Animal Action, which he helped form, since 1973. President Auckland SPCA 1973-1977. President Royal Federation SPCA's 1976 —



**CHRISTINE HAMILTON:** Secretary. Latterly director, public services, SPCA, Auckland. Former secretary, Animal Action.

Long before it was due to start, it was obvious last week's annual meeting of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Auckland, would be unusual.

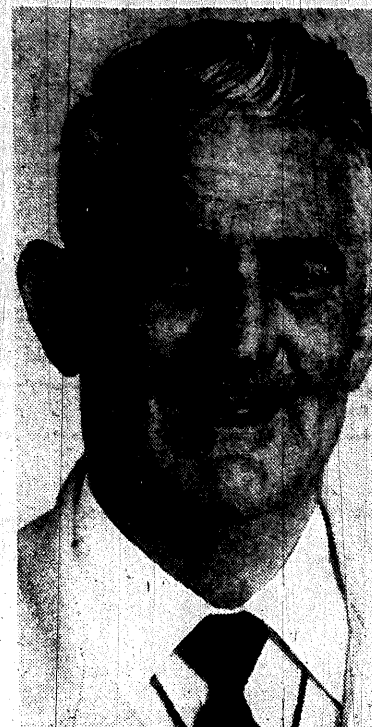
People crowded the stairs at the Ellen Melville Hall to be admitted only after membership cards had been checked. By the time the meeting started half an hour late, close to 400 had crammed in.

Within two minutes they were figuratively at one another's throat. Several times the meeting threatened to lapse into total uproar.

When it ended three hours later, the SPCA had a controversial new vice-president and was in the hands of a new council.

What had happened was the result of almost two years of turmoil inside the society, some of which became public.

WARWICK ROGER investigates.



**INGRAHAM HAMMOND:** Executive director, SPCA, Auckland. Ex-army, where he rose to warrant officer and was recruiting officer for Auckland when he retired. Mr Hammond is a lay monk.



**MARY WALKER:** Wages clerk at a Glen Eden clothing factory. 15 years a member of the All-Breeds Dog Training Club. Life member of the SPCA. President since 1977.

# Twin storms rock SPCA ark

Neil Wells walked out of the Ellen Melville Hall a couple of Wednesday nights ago feeling confused and rejected.

After seven years of deep involvement with the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Auckland, he'd just been told in no uncertain way that he was no longer wanted.

As she walked beside him to their car for the drive back to Huia, Christine Hamilton felt just as bitter. She had the added worry of whether she would have a job much longer.

The SPCA had just taken its final vengeance on the couple who a year earlier had been responsible for its being regularly featured in the weekly newspaper Truth.

But the rifts that the Wells-Hamilton affair exposed in the SPCA are deeper and go back much further than the Truth articles.

society's Papakura kennels.

There is a feeling among Animal Action people that they do the bulk of the dirty work when no one else will. As a result of this attitude there is a certain amount of friction between volunteers and Monday-to-Friday SPCA staff.

It was through Animal Action that Neil Wells first met Christine Hamilton. She was to become its secretary.

Gradually Animal Action became a force within the SPCA and, as a consequence, so too did Mr Wells. In 1973 he was elected chairman. Later he became president.

Mr Wells, probably more than anyone else, has been responsible for the society's Mangere Animal Village project, which will replace the present kennels at Papakura and dilapidated premises in New North Road. Earthworks for the Mangere project are expected to begin before next winter.

Mr Wells also became president of the 41-constituent-member Royal Federation of New Zealand

Parrott, on the Animal Action committee, for three years and a volunteer for six, Mrs Willering, then the society's chief clerk, and Christine Hamilton, secretary of Animal Action.

Mr Wells' opponents say Mrs Hamilton's name was the only one put forward for serious consideration. Thus there are two versions of how she came to get the job.

But there is a common thread. That is that the job was never advertised.

His opponents say Neil Wells' relationship with Mrs Hamilton was a personal one at this stage.

Mr Wells, who may be a better judge of his own business, says it wasn't.

## Got job

Whatever, the matter of the appointment of a "director of public services" was considered by the executive committee of the society and Mrs Hamilton, who had no professional experience of public relations, got

respective spouses to live together — and to the series of articles in Truth in which the suggestion was strongly put that Mrs Hamilton had got the job because of her relationship with Mr Wells.

About that time two councillors, Joe and Peggy Dougal, resigned, saying there appeared to have been much more to Mrs Hamilton's appointment than Mr Wells had let on.

Mr Wells then called a special council meeting which must have been particularly stormy. He says he gave it a full explanation.

Mrs Hamilton offered to resign. That apparently wasn't considered necessary, and the Dougals eventually withdrew their resignations.

One council member, however, did resign. That was Mrs Mary Walker.

"I resigned at the first opportunity," says Mrs Walker, "because it appeared that information had been withheld from the executive committee which made the appointment... information

tor answered questions from the society's minute book," say the minutes. The matter was apparently ended.

But so, too, that night, was the presidency of Neil Wells.

In her time off the council following her resignation, Mrs Walker had not been idle. She was lobbying hard to oust Mr Wells.

"I was pressed into doing that by the general membership... people who wanted to have a choice," she says today. "I was known to be a person of strong opinions who would fight for what I believed in."

"I stood in the end because I hoped that by doing so I could raise the public image of the society among its members."

"Lobbying? Everyone does a bit of lobbying before the annual general meeting."

At the 1977 annual meeting 270 members turned up (compared with the usual 30). They voted in Mrs Walker with 146 votes to Neil Wells' 121.

Mr Wilson made the analogy of another person coming to use one's office desk overnight and leaving a mess.

"It's like mixing territorialists with regulars," said Mr Hammond.

The way Mrs Walker and Messrs Wilson and Hammond tell it, officially there was what they term "a management problem" at the society's Papakura kennels, where "people were not achieving satisfactory and harmonious relationships in running them."

"To make sure there was no witch-hunt, I asked a sub-committee of the council to examine the situation," says Mrs Walker. "The sub-committee produced a report and the executive director took appropriate managerial action to tidy up the kennels."

"There was never any doubt of Mr Kirkby's ability as an inspector or a prosecutor."

I have obtained, however, a copy of the report which the investigating sub-committee presented to the council — and it gives a much

management of the Papakura kennels.

And although the sub-committee found that there had been no irregularities, it found that the allegations of staff attempts to influence voting were "fully substantiated."

On the third allegation, the sub-committee expanded its brief and looked at the total management of the SPCA. It concluded: "The general level of personal management skills demonstrated by senior staff is deplorable."

## Singled out

The report shows that the problem had not been, as Messrs Wilson and Hammond and Mrs Walker tried to tell me, one between staff and volunteers but one between staff and staff.

The sub-committee's report singled out for particular mention Mr Hammond and Mr Kirkby. Of the former it said: "He has not been sympathetically available to staff."

Of Mr Kirkby's apparently long history of problems with Papakura kennel managers the report said: "Over the past seven years the number of people in this position (seven people held the job over six years) who have received the adverse attention of the council as a result of Mr Kirkby's unfavourable reports appears suspect to say the least."

In Mr Kirkby's defence it must be said that notes of an interview with him attached to the report show there was considerable tension between him and kennel supervisor Mrs Bonnington.

He spoke of "deceitful things," of cats with feline enteritis, a pack of 13 dogs suffering from mange, and accused the kennel staff of hiding dogs to save them from destruction.

Mr Kirkby said he didn't know whether the alleged state of the kennels "was incompetence or trying to defeat the establishment."

## 'Biased'

arose following her suggestion that Mr Kirkby's daughter not be placed on the kennels' permanent staff.

Mr Kirkby: Absolute tommy rot. She had been working in a voluntary capacity for a year, had left school, and although I don't want special privileges I don't see why my being on the SPCA staff should debar her from a job. She is still working as a volunteer.

● A staff member was living rent-free in an SPCA house while renting his own home in Papakura.

The committee recommended that use of marked SPCA vehicles be controlled saying in particular that inspectors going on vacation should exchange their marked cars for unmarked ones.

## Probation?

The sub-committee recommended that Mr Hammond concern himself more with personnel management.

For Mr Kirkby it recommended dismissal



Animals, Auckland, he'd just been told in no uncertain way that he was no longer wanted.

As she walked beside him to their car for the drive back to Huia, Christine Hamilton felt just as bitter. She had the added worry of whether she would have a job much longer.

The SPCA had just taken its final vengeance on the couple who a year earlier had been responsible for its being regularly featured in the weekly newspaper Truth.

But the rifts that the Wells-Hamilton affair exposed in the SPCA are deeper and go back much further than the Truth articles.

## Conservative

They go right back to 1973, when Neil Wells, an SPCA member since 1971, chaired the initial meeting of an organization that was to become the Animal Action auxiliary of the SPCA.

Up till then the SPCA had for almost 90 years got its funds from garden parties and legacies and was renowned for its conservatism.

Mr Wells, aware that there were mainly younger SPCA members who wanted to get more involved in the day-to-day activities of the society, set out to change that. Founding Animal Action was his way of doing it.

It was not a move that was greeted with universal joy by all the old guard.

Today Animal Action volunteers run the weekend services at the SPCA clinic in New North Road and at the

first met Christine Hamilton; She was to become its secretary.

Gradually Animal Action became a force within the SPCA and, as a consequence, so too did Mr Wells. In 1973 he was elected chairman. Later he became president.

Mr Wells, probably more than anyone else, has been responsible for the society's Mangere Animal Village project, which will replace the present kennels at Papakura and dilapidated premises in New North Road. Earthworks for the Mangere project are expected to begin before next winter.

Mr Wells also became president of the 41-constituent-member Royal Federation of New Zealand Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in 1976. He remains in that position — at least until that body's annual meeting next June.

He is acknowledged by both friends and enemies to be an effective lobbyist of the Government, and has been instrumental in getting animal-protection legislation through Parliament during his term as federation president.

Now even that position seems in jeopardy.

Two major controversies have rocked the SPCA, Auckland, over the past two years. It is conceivable they are connected.

In mid-1977, the society decided to appoint a public relations person, mainly to handle increasing requests for information from schools and youth groups.

Then-president Mr Wells says three people were considered for the job. They were Miss Lau-

how she came to get the job.

But there is a common thread. That is that the job was never advertised.

His opponents say Neil Wells' relationship with Mrs Hamilton was a personal one at this stage. Mr Wells, who may be a better judge of his own business, says it wasn't.

## Got job

Whatever the matter of the appointment of a "director of public services" was considered by the executive committee of the society and Mrs Hamilton, who had no professional experience of public relations, got the job.

Her appointment was later confirmed by the full council of the society. One of the members of that council was Mrs Mary Walker, who was later to become prominent in the in-fighting and who would eventually topple Mr Wells.

Mrs Walker now explains her feelings in this manner: "There was definitely only one person (for the job) produced to the meeting. I objected at the time because I thought it would have been better to advertise the job."

The minutes of that meeting show, however, that Mrs Walker did not register a vote against the Hamilton appointment.

It was during the time that Mrs Hamilton was being introduced to her new job under the tutelage of Mr Wells that, he asserts, their personal relationship began.

It was eventually to lead to their leaving their

ment than Mr Wells had let on.

Mr Wells then called a special council meeting which must have been particularly stormy. He says he gave it a full explanation.

Mrs Hamilton offered to resign. That apparently wasn't considered necessary, and the Dougals eventually withdrew their resignations.

One council member, however, did resign. That was Mrs Mary Walker.

"I resigned at the first opportunity," says Mrs Walker, "because it appeared that information had been withheld from the executive committee which made the appointment. Information which, had it been tabled, would have made the appointment not in the best interests of the society."

A week later the first Truth article appeared. Mrs Walker says she was absolutely surprised when a reporter "who already had all the information" rang her.

After subsequent articles appeared, Mr Wells also offered to resign. At one meeting he left the room for an hour while the council debated his future as president.

It was unanimously decided to keep him on. At that point Mrs Walker was still off the council.

There the matter of Mrs Hamilton's appointment seemed to rest until the 1977 annual general meeting of the society last November, where, as the minutes note, "there were a number of questions asked as to the method used of filling the appointment of director of public services."

"The executive direc-

doing that by the general membership... people who wanted to have a choice," she says today. "I was known to be a person of strong opinions who would fight for what I believed in."

"I stood in the end because I hoped that by doing so I could raise the public image of the society among its members."

"Lobbying? Everyone does a bit of lobbying before the annual general meeting."

At the 1977 annual meeting 270 members turned up (compared with the usual 30). They voted in Mrs Walker with 146 votes to Neil Wells' 121.

## 2 versions

The second controversy to rock the SPCA had its beginnings early this year and revolved around the society's director of animal services, Mr Kenneth Kirkby.

As with the appointment of Mrs Hamilton, there are two versions of the story.

When I went to interview president Mrs Walker on the Kirkby affair the society's long-time treasurer and ex-officio council member Peter Wilson and executive director Ingraham Hammond also turned up. All three were anxious to play the matter down.

Mrs Walker attributed the problem that led to the Kirkby affair's becoming a matter of interest to the society's council to "tension between the permanent staff and the (Animal Action) volunteers."

nels, where "people were not achieving satisfactory and harmonious relationships in running them."

"To make sure there was no witch-hunt, I asked a sub-committee of the council to examine the situation," says Mrs Walker. "The sub-committee produced a report and the executive director took appropriate managerial action to tidy up the kennels."

"There was never any doubt of Mr Kirkby's ability as an inspector or a prosecutor."

I have obtained, however, a copy of the report which the investigating sub-committee presented to the council — and it gives a much different picture to the bland one given by treasurer Mr Wilson, who told me:

"The situation wasn't out of control and wasn't really a problem at all. It was, if anything, an emotional problem."

"Decisions involving the welfare of animals and their lives or deaths from time to time lead to problems between the staff and the volunteers."

"It's then basically a matter of stepping in, taking a look at things and getting them back into perspective."

It was much more than that.

The sub-committee of Messrs Joe Dougal and Tim Heather and Ms Jillian Inglis was asked to investigate:

- Alleged irregularities in voting at the society's 1977 annual meeting.
- Allegations of direct attempts by society staff to influence voting for the society's council at the 1977 meeting.
- Complaints about the

concluded: "The general level of personal management skills demonstrated by senior staff is deplorable."

## Singled out

The report shows that the problem had not been, as Messrs Wilson and Hammond and Mrs Walker tried to tell me, one between staff and volunteers but one between staff and staff.

The sub-committee's report singled out for particular mention Mr Hammond and Mr Kirkby. Of the former it said: "He has not been sympathetically available to staff."

"It is considered he has relied far too heavily on the unsubstantiated comments of the director of animal services (Mr Kirkby)."

"Had Mr Hammond been familiar with the problems with staff it is felt the situation would not have deteriorated to this stage."

"The sub-committee suggests that Mr Hammond should concern himself more with the animal welfare aspects of the SPCA, from which he appears to have become somewhat remote."

Of Mr Kirkby the report said: "The sub-committee has uncovered a number of areas in which Mr Kirkby's management capabilities are indicated to be extremely suspect, or in fact non-existent."

"As an inspector, there is nothing to suggest that Mr Kirkby is not perfectly adequate. It is in the areas of staff management that he is found to be inadequate."

In Mr Kirkby's defence it must be said that notes of an interview with him attached to the report show there was considerable tension between him and kennel supervisor Mrs Bonnington.

He spoke of "deceitful things," of cats with feline enteritis, a pack of 13 dogs suffering from mange, and accused the kennel staff of hiding dogs to save them from destruction.

Mr Kirkby said he didn't know whether the alleged state of the kennels "was incompetence or trying to defeat the establishment."

## 'Biased'

Mr Kirkby told the Star that he had not been given an opportunity to see the report. He said: "The sub-committee which compiled it filed all copies of the report with the society's solicitors."

"I was never given a chance to see it. The fact a copy has been released confirms my earlier belief that certain members of the committee that compiled it were biased against me."

The sub-committee uncovered some interesting things. It found:

- Mr Kirkby had free grazing rights for his horse when previously staff were charged for grazing at the Papakura kennels.
- Mr Kirkby: Grazing charges were temporarily suspended for every one during last summer's drought because of a lack of feed.
- Most of the kennel supervisor's problems

working as a volunteer. ● A staff member was living rent-free in an SPCA house while renting his own home in Papakura.

The committee recommended that use of marked SPCA vehicles be controlled saying in particular that inspectors going on vacation should exchange their marked cars for unmarked ones.

## Probation?

The sub-committee recommended that Mr Hammond concern himself more with personnel management.

For Mr Kirkby it recommended dismissal with three months' notice, but hedged by also putting forward the alternative that he be put on probation.

All this was handled in committee by the society's full council at a special meeting and has been kept secret till now.

The minutes of that meeting show that Neil Wells (who was still a council member representing Animal Action) moved "that this council no longer has confidence and trust in Mr K. Kirkby as director of animal services."

Thirteen voted for the motion. One, the president, Mrs Walker, abstained.

The minutes of that meeting give a hint that the council hoped Mr Kirkby would then resign. They read in part: "If the director of animal

Continued on Page 13

# Fur flying in this poll

Two leading candidates in this month's Auckland SPCA elections say a smear campaign against them is turning the elections into a "dirty fight."

The candidates, sitting president Mrs Mary Walker and former chief SPCA inspector Mr Ken Kirkby, say unfounded rumours are being circulated in a bid to ruin their election chances.

And both say internal politicking is threatening the society's work for animals.

Latest evidence of a smear campaign, they say, is two posters pasted on the walls of SPCA headquarters in New North Rd.

One reads: "A vote for Walker is a vote against animals." The other: "Kirkby was dismissed."

Mrs Walker, who is standing again for the presidency, said: "Whoever is behind this campaign is certainly out to stir up trouble, and we had enough of that at last year's elections."

Mrs Walker became president last year after toppling Mr Neil Wells and after a controversy over the SPCA's public relations officer, Mrs Christine Hamilton.

"There was a lot of gossip spread against me last year, and it looks as though we're getting a repeat this time," she said today.

"I'm appalled at the posters and particularly at the suggestion that Mr Kirkby was sacked."

Mrs Walker said Mr Kirkby had resigned from his staff job with the SPCA and the society had accepted

his resignation with regret.

Mr Kirkby, standing for the vice-presidency, said he was more saddened than angry at the attack against him.

Mr Kirkby said he resigned from the SPCA in August because he was concerned that internal politics and petty squabbling were threatening his work with animals.

Mr Kirkby, who worked seven years with the SPCA and a previous 11 years with the RSPCA in Britain, said the Auckland society had a good staff, but its work was hampered by politicking.

Mr Wells, who is president of the New Zealand Federation of SPCAs, is standing against Mrs Walker. The Auckland SPCA's annual meeting is on November 22.

# A matter of public money

Why should anyone care about a squabble inside the SPCA? The answer is that public money is involved.

The SPCA relies entirely on money from the public to keep going.

Last year it received \$83,973 in cash legacies (total 34; average amount \$2469). Legacies received in shares and debentures totalled a further \$25,388.

Ordinary donations of cash in the same period came to \$25,993. Subscriptions from the 2660 members added a further \$9886.

The year before Neil Wells became president, the SPCA's deficit was roughly the same as it was getting each year in legacies. But as its activities increased under the Wells impetus — it now has five fulltime inspectors and five ambulances — so did the deficit.

The SPCA is running at a net deficit

on its year's operations of \$150,973, a fact that caused treasurer Peter Wilson at last week's annual meeting to say that the report he was about to present was "slightly different from the one that should be reported on an occasion like this."

The worrying feature of the accounts, Mr Wilson noted, was that the deficit, "in spite of a reasonably good job" having been done to keep it down, was much bigger than the steady income from legacies.

The previous year's accounts show income from legacies of \$135,325 over a 10-month period.

Those figures are a clear warning to any organization relying on public generosity and in particular to one which is just about to embark on a major expansion programme.

The society owns property at New North Road, Papakura, Mangere and

Torbay. Total Government valuation is \$261,750.

It plans to sell these properties one by one to finance its Mangere Animal Village project.

Currently \$15,249 is in the Mangere Animal Village fund.

The SPCA's money is also invested in a variety of mortgages and debentures (\$140,832) and public company shares \$219,078. A major mortgage of \$100,000 with Broadlands matures this month and is the basis on which the Mangere village purchase will be made.

But even the badly needed village causes dissension and strife within the SPCA. There is apparently a faction, based in Papakura, where some members live and work, that wants the society to continue at its kennels near the town and to abandon the Mangere project.

LEFT: The November 10 Auckland Star story which hinted at dark doings within the SPCA.



...eel pond.  
...pare my life," said  
...god, "and I will  
...low on you and your  
...ple the gift of immu-  
...from fire."  
...he big men, and even  
...nen, of Beqa, now  
...k happily across huge  
...res white with heat  
...n a fire which has  
...nt under the stones  
...many hours. No one  
...ly knows how they do  
...and even sceptics  
...k twice when they  
...a handkerchief, tos-  
...ver the stones, curl  
...in a little flame.  
...ecause of this, the  
...lan firewakers of  
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dalbeths  
20%  
DISCOUNT  
on all stock furniture  
Including  
Lounge and Dining Suites,  
Bedroom Furniture and Patio  
Furniture.  
Phone 775-089 K Rd  
or 429-099 Tak.

ONE UNDERSELLS US  
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MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

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MBER OF TAANZ AS

...there, he quipped.  
...It was the start of what  
...was going to be a 30-  
...minute interview. I en-  
...ded up staying nearly  
...five hours, enjoying the  
...hospitality of Molly and  
...John O'Grady.

I listened to his yarns  
and views on everything  
from politics — "I always  
vote for the Opposition"  
— to his belief in indi-  
vidualism, and the three  
ambitions of his life — to  
ride a camel from Tas-

...Cairns, the book has  
...been reprinted 45 times  
and has sold more than  
930,000 copies, which  
makes it the most suc-  
cessful Australian book  
ever published in Aus-  
tralia, according to the  
Paul Hamlyn Group.

Its acceptance was im-  
mediate, outselling the  
Bible by four to one in its  
early editions.

Its success probably  
makes the publishers An-  
gus and Robertson

## SPCA rows

Continued  
from Page 5

services resigns the soci-  
ety require his warrant."

It was then proposed  
that Mr Kirby be cen-  
sured. He was brought  
into the meeting (still  
apparently unaware of  
the charges against him  
as, he says, he had not  
seen the report) and was  
censured by treasurer  
Mr Wilson.

The minutes record  
that "the director of animal  
services thanked the  
council and said he would  
carry on his duties to the  
best of his ability."

Mr Kirkby: "I was  
censured purely for  
politicising ... it had no  
thing to do with my work.  
It depends who you  
politicise for or against in  
the SPCA as to whether it  
is right or wrong.

### Petition

"There were no signed  
statements against me.  
How the committee came  
to the decision it did is  
anyone's guess.

"During the investiga-  
tion three inspectors and  
seven staff signed a peti-  
tion they had full confi-  
dence in me. It was never  
taken into account."

Still not having got  
what it apparently  
wanted, the council then  
followed its sub-commi-  
tee's second recommen-  
dation and put Mr Kirkby  
on probation for an inde-  
finite period so that he  
could be "given the op-  
portunity to regain the  
council's confidence and  
trust with the close  
supervision of the coun-  
cil and the executive  
director."

On August 1 Mr Kirkby  
resigned. He gave no  
reason at the time but  
told an Auckland Star  
reporter in early  
November he left be-  
cause he was concerned  
that internal politics and  
petty squabbling were  
threatening his work  
with animals.

However, like Mrs  
Walker the previous  
year, Ken Kirkby may  
have been down — but he  
was definitely not out.  
When SPCA members  
filed into the stuffy hall  
to vote at their 1978  
annual meeting a week  
ago, Ken Kirkby's name  
was on the ballot paper  
as a candidate for vice-  
president.

So too was the name of  
Neil Wells. He was again  
standing against Mrs  
Walker. It was clearly to  
be a contest between the  
Wells faction and the  
Walker-Kirby faction in  
spite of the fact that Mrs  
Walker says Mr Kirkby  
had not discussed his  
candidacy with her.

He says he was ap-  
proached to stand by a  
"surprising" number of  
ordinary members.

Outside the hall, people  
were handing out pam-  
phlets giving the back-  
ground of the Wells  
"ticket" candidates.  
There was no visible  
electioneering by the  
other side, but clearly it  
had already been done  
elsewhere.

When the voting  
figures were announced  
and Mrs Walker had won  
200-137 and Mr Kirkby  
had beaten his opponent,  
Joe Deugal, 196-142,  
there was a great cheer,  
a flow of congratulants  
past the victors and then  
a half-emptying of the  
hall as people left early.

The meeting was re-  
markable for several  
things. One was the  
amount of prompting  
Mrs Walker received as  
she ran it. This came  
from both treasurer Mr  
Wilson and executive  
director Mr Hammond.

Another was the  
vehemence of some of  
the speakers from the  
floor. A good deal of it  
appeared to be justified  
as speakers tried to have  
the Kirkby affair aired in  
the way the Hamilton  
affair had been at the  
previous year's meeting.

The only references to  
the man were com-  
plimentary ones in Mrs  
Walker's report.

The result could well  
have been that many at  
the meeting, like some I  
spoke to, had no idea  
what all the mysterious  
shouting and uncon-  
cealed ill-feeling was  
about.

By the end of the  
meeting the last of the  
old order had been com-  
pletely swept away in the  
election of councillors.  
Of the Wells "ticket" of  
eight, only one made it on  
to the council. All three  
of the people who wrote  
the controversial report  
were voted off the  
council.

In the aftermath of two  
torrid years there appear  
to be four tests for Mrs  
Walker, whose avowed  
aim now is to get the  
society back on an even  
keel.

These are:  
● Christine Hamilton's  
future with the society.  
At the annual meeting  
pointed questions were  
asked about the cost —  
\$12,304 — of printing,  
stationery and postage,  
most of which, it was  
explained, stemmed  
from her job.

● The future of Animal  
Action.

● Neil Wells' position on  
the sub-committee  
supervising the building  
of the society's new  
Mangere Animal Village.

● His position as presi-  
dent of the Royal Federa-  
tion of SPCAs after its  
annual meeting next  
June, a position he can  
maintain only as long as  
he is Auckland's dele-  
gate.

### Job secure

Mrs Walker gives as-  
surances that Mrs  
Hamilton's job is secure  
"provided she is per-  
forming satisfactorily,  
and she is," and that she  
regards Animal Action as  
"an asset to the society."

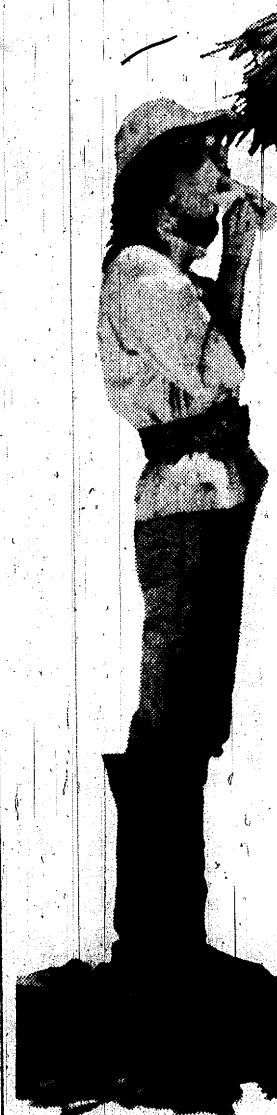
Mr Wells' position on  
the animal village sub-  
committee now depends  
on the new council, as  
does his position as dele-  
gate to the federation,  
she says.

Adds vice-president  
Mr Kirkby: "I think  
people — and the media  
— should give us and the  
new council a fair go  
now. If, at the end of the  
12 months we have to  
straighten things out, we  
haven't been able to de-  
liver the goodies, then it  
will be time to get rid of  
us through the ballot box,  
no other way."

The final words in the  
two-year saga of the  
SPCA, Auckland, should  
perhaps come from a  
Royal Commission which  
in 1974 in Britain looked  
into what sounds like a  
remarkably similar situ-  
ation there.

Observed the commis-  
sion: "People who love  
animals find it very dif-  
ficult to get on with one  
another."

...ful film, is something still  
...which O'Grady finds has



Coca-Cola and Coke  
identify the same prod