

Bad booze attitudes must go

Wednesday, July 21, was the day interested parties had an opportunity to express their opinions regarding the proposed Whangarei District Council Liquor Licensing Policy Review.

We joined those who had an opinion, sincerely expressing how alcohol abuse affected our family by two brothers-in-law destroying their lives with their drug of choice, alcohol.

I also shared a story of a friend, who at 16 years of age was killed, along with one other, in an alcohol-related accident in March 1998.

This young woman was an innocent passenger in a vehicle that was hit head-on by a man who was under the influence of alcohol.

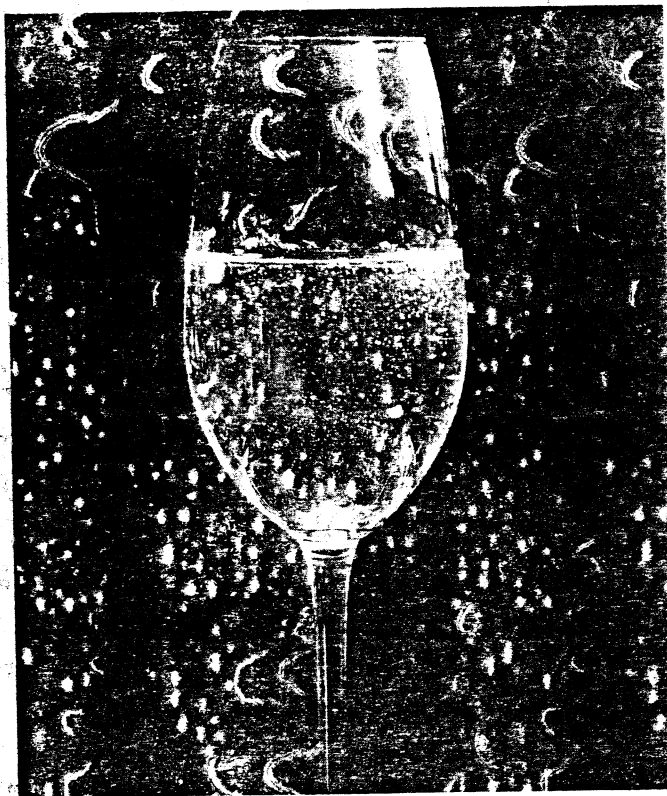
By accounts he was regularly "poured in to his car by associates at a sports club". What a waste of a human life, her future coming to a grinding halt in seconds.

Our statement also covered the ways in which complaints in relation to alcohol issues have previously been handled by some in council. This area needs a big shake-up.

Closing alcohol selling outlets early, in our opinion, will not make changes to this issue. Because the problem of alcohol and its associated issues have been accepted in general by society for a long time, the only positive changes we believe to be effective, is a change in attitude of those participating, the non-acceptance of drunkenness by society and then the overall situation may improve.

In moderation, alcohol can be acceptable and we shouldn't penalise the majority for a minority.

(abridged)
WARREN SLATER
Maunu



GLASS OF DESPAIR: Drunkenness should not be tolerated.

PICTURE / APN

NORTHERN ADVOCATE
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TO THE EDITOR