

Decision No. 1/2000

IN THE MATTER

of The Films, Videos, and Publications
Classification Act 1993

AND

IN THE MATTER

of an Application for Review by Rep
Film Distributors (NZ) Limited of a film
entitled **SAVAGE HONEYMOON**

BEFORE THE FILM AND LITERATURE BOARD OF REVIEW

Sandra Moran (President)
Stephen Danby
Stephanie de Montalk
Bernadine Pool
Miles Rogers

MEETING at **WELLINGTON** on the 21st day of February 2000

SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR DECISION

The story revolves around the Savage family who reside in West Auckland (Westies) the members of which feud and drink hard but are united.

There are scenes in the film which contain coarse language and violence which, by themselves, would not have warranted a restriction but more likely a warning only.

A constant factor of the film was the heavy and continuous consumption of alcohol without adverse or realistic consequences.

A particular aspect was the recurrent juxtaposition of drinking and driving.

The Board was concerned that young persons could take the message from the film that any generation can drink to excess and then drive, and if they do not, they are not having fun.

The Board was of the view the likely injury to the public good was that young persons could take the message from the film that heavy consumption of alcohol

does not bring with it any adverse consequences for themselves or for others.

While the film might be described as a comedy, comic depiction does not necessarily mean that it cannot give rise to a message that is likely to injure the public good.

Further, the intention of the film-maker does not automatically dictate the response of, or effect on, the individual viewer.

Taking all matters into account, the Board was of the view that the film should be classified as objectionable unless its availability was restricted to persons 15 years of age and over with the descriptive note that it “contains irresponsible behaviour associated with alcohol”.