

– the head of the Asian Crime Unit and the Auckland Drug Squad. And is Mabbett happy for other ethnicities to be singled out? If so, why not Asians?

- Statistics. I'm always careful with statistics – not to use them to conclude anything. Statistics are just a snapshot in time. However, there are no statistics to back up my assertion that “the vast majority of Asians..are hard working, focused on getting their children well educated” etc. I'm not sure, though, why Mabbett doubts this assertion.
- Keith Ng, to whom he refers, has allegedly refuted my statistics. However, Ng was not comparing like with like. He took crime statistics involving all Asians aged 0 to 99 and compared the year 2001 with 2005. I took “national apprehension statistics” aged 17 to 50 from 1996 (when major immigration took off) to 2005 (see <http://xtabs.stats.govt.nz/eng/TableViewer/Wdsview/dispviewp.asp?ReportName=Crime/Calendar/National/National%20Annual%20Apprehensions%20for%20%20Latest%2010%Calendar%20Years>).
- A “gathering crime tide” is *not* a synonym for a “crime wave”, as Mabbett and Mok seem to think, and I never used “crime wave” in the article. The metaphor was carefully chosen. A tide goes in and out, rises and falls. This phrase was used because in the past three years – as stated by an Auckland judge when sentencing kidnappers - there have been rises, and falls, in kidnappings, P smuggling – all the other crimes which the Asian Crime Unit informed me are the crimes of choice of Asians.
- I stand by the use of words like “menace” and “secretive”. Any criminal is a menace. Gang or organised crime by its nature is secretive. That is the situation. It's unpalatable, yes, but the public have a right to know about it.
- Mabbett is obsessed by my use of the word “cackling” – in an email to me he said as an Asian he found it offensive. If I was writing a restaurant review, (which I frequently do) and a group of women were having a girls' night out, (hen party), I would use the word “cackling”. Yes, non-Asian families do cackle – mine certainly does when we're all out together.
- Asians do come from everywhere. So do Europeans, and according to NZ Statistics, and other government departments (police), I'm classified as European.

Mabbett questions my journalism training. I did the Magazine Journalism course at Wellington Polytechnic (as it then was) in 1972. I have worked in journalism, on and off, since then. He also questions the ACP media release stating I am an “award winning journalist”. While winning awards is not the last word in good journalism, I