

NEED FOR SPEED

‘Tairawhiti needs faster testing and we will find a way to make that happen’

by Mark Peters

SPEED of testing for Covid-19 is a priority, says Gisborne-based DNA scientist John Mackay.

The quicker people infected with this coronavirus can be identified, the quicker they can be quarantined and treated to prevent or reduce transmission.

“We want to take the process from two to three hours to 20 minutes,” says Mr Mackay, the technical director of Gisborne diagnostics and research business dnature.

Mr Mackay is seeking funding for the development of a new method that will greatly speed up Covid-19 detection, and a process that can be used anywhere and without the equipment used in the dnature lab.

The team have already started work on some of the ideas they have for a faster testing process.

“For a number of reasons, in Tairawhiti we have to

send away our tests,” said Mr Mackay.

“It can take one to two days to get back results. Tairawhiti is a community that needs rapid testing.

“We will find a way to help that doesn’t break regulations. Dnature is not registered as a testing lab and I understand the need for the regulation, but we’re in an extreme pandemic situation.

“Tairawhiti needs faster testing and we will find a way to make that happen.”

While his diagnostics and research business dnature is not accredited to do tests, Mr Mackay’s laboratory is the epicentre of New Zealand’s Covid-19 genetic identification methodology and materials.

Dnature has worked up the current gold standard tests as part of its work to improve test sensitivity and to pass this on to the other testing labs, says Mr Mackay.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

RACE AGAINST TIME: DNA scientist John Mackay and his team at Gisborne diagnostics and research company dnature are developing a faster, more sensitive testing process to help quicker identification and quarantine of people with Covid-19.

File picture



READ IT, HEED IT: New Zealand is set to go into Covid-19 alert level 4, meaning no non-essential travel as indicated by this sign on Ormond Road near the hospital. People are instructed to stay home and education facilities are closed, as are all non-essential businesses. Essential businesses like supermarkets and pharmacies remain open. As of this morning, there have been 155 cases of Covid-19 in New Zealand, with 12 of those listed as “total recovered”. There have been nearly 418,000 cases worldwide, with just over 108,300 recovered.

Picture by Liam Clayton

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Titirangi kohanga reo move to pa on TV tonight

by Matai O'Connor

TE TIHI o Titirangi Kohanga Reo has been welcomed to Poho o Rawiri Marae and the move is documented in tonight's episode of a new renovation series on Maori Television, Toko Whare Kohanga Reo.

"Kohanga is a movement going into its 37th year," said Daniel Procter, co-chair of the Kohanga Reo National Trust Board.

"Many of the buildings built in the 1980s were makeshift for mokopuna at the time and some of those buildings are still being run as kohanga reo. It's about looking at a strategy to renovate our buildings."

Mr Procter said there was a need to renovate kohanga buildings around the country, particularly in rural areas like Tairāwhiti.

He is a product of kohanga himself, and lent a hand with the renovations of Te Tihi o Titirangi.

The kohanga reo is in its 31st year. It started in February 1989 in the home of Toko and Rawinia Te Kani in Oxford Street, Kaiti.

After over 10 years operating there, the kohanga moved to Rutene Road.

The kaupapa for the television series came about because kohanga reo (Maori immersion early childhood education centres) around the country want to retain numbers of children as they compete with mainstream providers.

The series focuses on communities coming together to build a future for tamariki.

"I think it's not only about the language anymore but about claiming identity as Maori," Mr Procter said.



KOHANGA REO: Te Tihi o Titirangi Kohanga Reo have strengthened their connection to tikanga maori with the move to Te Poho o Rawiri marae in Kaiti. Picture by Rebecca Grunwell

"In Tairāwhiti we have a strong population of Maori but we still have quite low numbers of people speaking the language."

With the language comes the tikanga.

Each kohanga is unique, rich with characters, stories and history.

Te Poho o Rawiri marae komiti had aspirations to build language competency at the pa to sustain, maintain and deliver tikanga appropriately.

The marae started renovations in 2015.

The pa komiti also had aspirations to have a kohanga reo at the pa. The whanau of Te Tihi o Titirangi had the same thoughts.

When the renovations were completed the marae officially re-opened in December 2018. They had the opportunity to welcome the kohanga to the pa.

While the kohanga was at Rutene Road it was licensed for a maximum of 15 children. They now await a licence from the Ministry of Education to increase the roll to 50.

"This will allow us to accept more tamariki mokopuna so that te reo maori me nga tikanga maori will be transmitted more widely," said marae chairperson kohanga nanny Charlotte Gibson. She is the daughter of Toko and Rawinia Te Kani.

"There were many matriarchs who were either a part of kohanga inception or continue the kaupapa who are from this region. It's quite personal for us here in Tairāwhiti. We need to continue holding on to this taonga and not let it go," Mr Procter said.

He said the most beautiful stories from kohanga were the Maori mothers

who came into kohanga reo and became kaiako (teachers) and kaiawhina (contributors).

"They pick up skills not only in regard to raising strong nurtured children but also business and governance skills.

"Look at our marae and small businesses happening around Tairāwhiti. A lot of young mothers are doing the work and many of their skills come from the experience through kohanga reo.

"Our mantra is whanau first. It's about strengthening whanau. We see ourselves as part of the solution to empowering whanau, particularly our maori women towards their own aspirations."

■ Watch Toko Whare Kohanga Reo tonight at 8.30pm on Maori Television and online at maoritelevision.com

Farmers' Market calls time, until further notice

LAST Saturday's Farmers' Market was the last until further notice.

"Due to the recent developments around Covid-19 and the increase to Alert Level 4, the Gisborne Farmers' Market committee has agreed the market be cancelled until such time as we can re-open safely," a committee statement says.

"This is the first time since its inception that the market has been cancelled. Although this will be a disappointment to many of you, we cannot in good faith continue to operate a market which creates a gathering of people, at a time when we

must isolate from others.

"The Gisborne Farmers' Market provides a wide range of healthy locally produced food, but we cannot put the community at risk with regards to the spread of this disease.

"On Saturday 21st, we operated a market under a number of difficult restrictions as set out by the Ministry of Health and under the guidance of Farmers' Market New Zealand. With Level 4 restrictions in place from Wednesday night, this would be virtually impossible to replicate.

"We are currently working with our vendors,

some of whom are busy working out if they are classed as "essential businesses" and registering as such. We believe a number of vendors will be able to continue to provide you with your favourite Farmers' Market products, just via a different means. Many vendors have their own websites or Facebook pages, so if you have some favourites, look them up. We will share their activities on the Market page whenever possible.

"We will continue to update you via Facebook, and our weekly phone calls with More FM as to what our vendors are doing and how you reach

them. Some vendors will not be able to continue during this time for a wide variety of reasons. This shutdown will be difficult for our vendors, many of whom rely on the income from this market.

"Again, please keep an eye on Facebook for market and vendor information going forward and continue to support our vendors wherever possible. When we come out the other side of this, we look forward to seeing you all at the market again. Thank you all for your support, and take care of yourselves."

The Guide Arts & Entertainment

- The new normal means a change in arts information in The Guide to help you enjoy your lockdown time.
- Gisborne poet Benita Kape presents a new poem for our times.
- Neil Young can't leave home so he has made a video presentation of hits sung by fireplaces around his property.

TOMORROW



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No visitors to hospital

GISBORNE Hospital patients will not be allowed visitors from tomorrow under Covid-19 level 4 alert lockdown conditions.

Hauora Tairawhiti chief executive Jim Green told board members yesterday the current limit of one visitor per patient would be changed to no visitors at all from midnight tonight.

Exceptions would be allowed for cases such as women going into labour or for patients near the end of life.

Hauora Tairawhiti chairwoman Kim Ngarimu said current visitor measures were a board initiative, but the additional steps being introduced from midnight were Ministry of Health directives.

“The aim was to get the best possible balance between safety and being compassionate to our community. There will be very few exceptions to the no-visitor policy.”

A Hauora Tairawhiti spokeswoman said no one could visit Gisborne Hospital because of self-isolation requirements for all but essential workers.

People applying to visit because of the above exceptions had to contact the clinical nurse manager (06 869 0500) on each ward before coming to the hospital.

All visitors must be registered upon entry.



AIRPORT CHECKS: Kat Jensen (left) arrived back in Gisborne this morning from the Cook Islands. She was met by her sister Janelle Pikari. Ms Jensen, who came home to be with her children and grandchildren, will be self-isolating. Inset, medical officer of health Dr Osman David Mansoor at the airport this morning advising people arriving about self-isolation.

Pictures by Liam Clayton



Call for calm

POLICE have appealed for calm at supermarkets and the like today ahead of the alert level 4 Covid-19 lockdown tonight after they were called to an altercation at Pak'nSave this morning.

They were called at around 7.30am by the supermarket after a verbal altercation between a staff member and a male customer.

“The man was spoken to by police but was not arrested,” a police spokesman said.

“We appeal to the public to stay calm and patient at this difficult time. There is plenty of food and other household necessities available.

“We are regularly visiting supermarkets to monitor behaviour but would point out we have a lot of other work to do.

“It's up to every one to act responsibly and show consideration for each other.”

Ship visit off

THE Royal New Zealand Navy has postponed the visit to Gisborne by HMNZS Manawanui.

It was scheduled to coincide with Anzac Day commemorations, which have been called off until later in the year.

The ship was to visit here from April 23 to 28.

“With the steadily increasing precautions and protective measures put in place in response to Covid-19, the visit has been postponed,” a Navy spokeswoman said. “It is felt the activities planned by the ship are unable to go ahead.

“Officers and crew of HMNZS Manawanui are disappointed their first visit to their home port won't be going ahead as planned,” she said.

“The Navy is working to identify a time in the not-too-distant future where they can visit Gisborne and conduct all the celebrations that had been organised.”

Keeping us safe

HEALTH protection officers are stepping up their activities in the Tairawhiti community to keep Covid-19 out.

The officers are now meeting incoming flights at Gisborne Airport and ensuring passengers know what self-isolating means.

As of noon today there were no confirmed cases of coronavirus in Tairawhiti.

“We want to keep it that way,” says Hauora Tairawhiti medical officer of health Dr Osman David Mansoor.

“It is vital that people coming into the district self-isolate effectively.

“Now that four cases in New Zealand have been classified as community transmission this is just as important for people coming in from other New Zealand cities as it is for people returning from overseas.”

From 11.59pm tonight, New Zealand will move to Covid-19 Alert Level 4.

All New Zealanders not working in essential services must self-isolate.

People must stay at home and stop all interactions with people outside the home.

“People can still go to the pharmacy to pick up medication or go for a walk — on your own — to get some exercise.”

The key was keeping a 2m distance from other people at all times, said Dr

Mansoor.

“Physical distancing will slow the spread of Covid-19 by preventing the virus from moving between people via sneeze, cough, breath or speech.”

All gatherings have been cancelled.

Food, energy, fuel, waste removal, internet and financial support will continue to be available.

Hauora Tairawhiti health promoters have been assessing the stores that will remain open and the shopping behaviours of their customers. The stores visited included dairies, medical centres, supermarkets and petrol stations.

“Most of the businesses had good signage up, understood about physical distancing and were cleaning down surfaces regularly.

“For those that didn't, advice was given.

“Bright-coloured tape can be used as markers on the floor to promote two-metres distance when lining up or queuing.

“Stores are advised to have only one person in at a time.

“Anyone who is not well must stay home and anyone who is well but is coughing or sneezing should wear a mask when around others.

“Every service worker must feel they are adequately protected against close contact.

“If you have to be close to people wear

a mask or scarf to cover your mouth and nose.

“Avoid touching surfaces other people are touching and don't touch your face.

“If you can't avoid touching, wear gloves (any kind) and wash hands after.

“This will reduce self-infection risks,” Dr Mansoor said.

One traveller tested yesterday was TV host Jo Holley, who returned home to Gisborne.

She will spend the next 14 days in self-isolation at the Whispering Sands Motel, where she will also set up a green screen to keep working on existing projects.

“I don't want to put any of our (Ngati Porou) whanau at risk because you might be a carrier, you just don't know. It's easy to do — a lot of our motelliers have lost a lot of their people, so there are lots of rooms available.

“My mum had my car ready with my stuff and she came and picked me up and from two metres away threw me the key.”

She praised Air NZ for its precautions, with travellers kept to one row of seats for each person.

“They had hand sanitiser on and off the plane.”

Normally, she would be hosting travel shows around the world but a recent hip operation had kept her in New Zealand.

“Thank goodness. There's no place I'd rather be, for sure.”

Eastland Group maintains 'lifeline'

KEEPING staff safe is the priority for port, airport and lines company operator Eastland Group.

Eastland Group operates key regional infrastructure, with Eastland Network, Eastland Port, Eastland Generation and Gisborne Airport defined as “essential businesses” under the Government's Covid-19 Level 4 lockdown plans.

“Our company has two overriding responsibilities in these unprecedented times,” Eastland Group chief executive Matt Todd said.

“Our priority is to help protect the health and safety of our staff and the communities in which we operate, but also to support the public by keeping our lifeline businesses running.”

“Even though our businesses provide essential services, they also undertake activities that are deemed non-essential. We will not be undertaking these non-essential activities and believe to do otherwise would be irresponsible. Safeguarding our staff and our community is crucial.”

All reception and other public areas had been

closed and, wherever possible, staff were self-isolating at home.

“Essential workers who must be on site will be following alternative ways of working that include staggered shifts, physical distancing and other flexible safety-focused arrangements.”

Lines company Eastland Network would continue to “keep the lights on”, Mr Todd said.

“Given the lockdown, this is more important than ever.

“With the Tairawhiti and Wairoa communities at home for at least the next month, the network has made the call to postpone all planned works wherever possible. This is so we don't have to interrupt the supply of electricity.

“Ensuring people can rely on a continuous power supply while they're self-isolating is the network's key concern.

“We will continue to provide the faults service, carrying out repairs caused by storms and other factors, and dealing with any public safety matters that arise.

“In line with protocols developed by electricity

distribution businesses across the country, we are making sure all key operational staff are protected. The control room will be manned by two staff from 8am to 5pm weekdays. The duty controller will operate after that as normal. The control room is a ‘clean room’ with no access.”

The faults number — 0800 206 207 — will be available as usual, and people can also follow the Eastland Network Facebook page for information.

Mr Todd said the port would also stay open, for now.

“We're waiting on confirmation from the government about whether loading of log ships will be allowed to continue under the lockdown. Kiwifruit and squash, meanwhile, will carry on.

“Office staff are working from home wherever possible.

“The marine pilots are using full personal protective equipment and distancing protocols when they board vessels, and we continue to follow the most stringent health and safety standards.

“All ship crews on all vessels have had their shore leave cancelled until further notice.

“The inner harbour marina is closed to all transient vessels, excluding those that come in due to an emergency.

“All construction sites have been made safe and again, non-essential works have been postponed.”

The construction of the second and final stage of the new airport terminal building is on hold for the next few weeks. The site has been made safe.

“The airport will continue to be open as normal for now, but after Friday domestic flights and other forms of public travel will be limited to essential workers only.”

Mr Todd said many of the tenants of the commercial property the group owns in and around the inner harbour and airport would have to close over the lockdown period.

“This will obviously have a significant financial impact on them. We are currently looking at putting together a support package to help them through the next few weeks.”

FAMILY NOTICES

Bereavements

GEORGE LOWE

The family of the late George Lowe, wish to extend their sincere thanks and appreciation for the tributes, cards, support, and donations to St John and the Kidney Foundation, received after the passing of our precious husband, father and grandfather. Please accept this as a personal acknowledgement.

In Memoriam

CHANTZE MORAN-LEE

You will always dwell in our lives. Live in our memories. Have the love of our hearts. Be the dream of our sleep. Be our guiding light. For you enriched our lives beyond measure.

Miss you forever and always.
Natasha, Charlotte and Alice, Hiki, Cherie, Bethany, Aimee, Rochelle, Brennan and Maisie

In Memoriam

PUHIPUHI-ARONA, Jordan
 25.3.2018



Taku tamaiti purotu, Kai roto o Poutūtara, tōu tīnana mokemoke, tēnā, ko t'aroha e tū tonu i roto wā mātau ngākau marū. Kai te auē tonu.

Rīringi noa ngā roimata, tē taetae te pupuri ai, e kore e mutu te mamae nei. Kō mahue mai māua, tō matua me tō kōkā e tangi tīkapa ana mōhou, i a māua e mahara ana i aua wā i piri ora ai tātau. Taukuri rawa...

Mummy and Dad

In Memoriam

JOAN ALICE STEWART
 25.3.2018

Those special memories of you will always make us smile. If only we could have you back for just a little while. Then we could sit and talk again, just like we used to do. So many lovely memories, and Oh how we miss you. The fact that you are no longer here will always cause us pain. But you're forever in our hearts, until we meet again.

Love always, your family

In Memoriam

PUHIPUHI-ARONA, Jordan
 (Nō te 25.3.2018, i mate ai)

Ka hāro te tai kia timu ai, pērā noa wāku roimata e rīringi turuturu iho ana, kia rite anō ki tō te tai tāui.

Ka kato mai te tai kia paripari ai, pērā hoki rā ko wāku mahara me te mamae e hoki wawe mai ana, kia rite anō ki tō te tai āniwhaniwha, e taku tama.

E Ipo, kāretahi he māharahara. Kei te kaenga tūturu a ō tātau tīpuna, kei ngā ringaringa a Te Mātāpuna o Te Ōra. Tihei mauriora. Waiho mā mātau i muri nei hei tangi, hei kōrero, hai mahara, hai whakaaro.

Nā tō Whānau nō Uawanui

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FLU JAB: Pharmacist Sean Shivnan administers a flu vaccination to 99-year-old Gisborne woman Pat Knight in the carpark of Sean Shivnan Pharmacy. Pharmacies throughout the city are appealing for people to be calm and patient, and are stressing they will have plenty of supplies over the lockdown period.

Picture by Paul Rickard

Pharmacies urge patience

PEOPLE are being asked to be patient as Gisborne pharmacies experience a surge in demand on their services as the country prepares to go into lockdown.

Lynn Kennedy, owner of David Moore Pharmacy at Three Rivers Medical Centre said it was important people didn't try to stockpile their medications.

It would impact on others and there was enough in the supply chain to keep prescribing at normal levels, she said.

"We're talking to customers at the door and making deliveries for people over 70 and other vulnerable people," she said.

Sean Shivnan Pharmacy has extended its opening hours from 8am to 8pm daily. It has implemented split shifts to minimise

contact between staff and is limiting numbers allowed inside the premises to five people.

"We are asking customers to keep a safe distance between them and not touch anything," said owner Sean Shivnan.

"If they have a prescription we are suggesting they come back later in the day to collect it, unless it is needed urgently."

Flu vaccines will be administered in the carpark between midday and 2pm, he said.

Bramwells Unichem Pharmacy owner Grant Bramwell said they had been flat out yesterday and were limiting numbers and trying to dispense prescriptions through the door when possible.

"Those needing mini-consultations or to buy things are coming in but they are not

handling any merchandise. Our staff are getting what they need and completing the sales.

"We've got a five-person limit and have someone on the door," he said.

They are also administering flu vaccines in the carpark in the fresh air.

Ballance Street Village's Pharmacy 53 owner Nigel Campbell is reassuring people the pharmacy has plenty of supply and stressed the need for people to behave normally and remain calm.

"We are open seven days and we will be remaining open," he said.

They were facing unprecedented demand for prescriptions as people were trying to prepare for the lockdown.

Working on new tests

FROM PAGE 1

Further improvements can be made. "We're hoping to get funding to bypass the RNA extraction bottleneck."

That bypass would entail a process in which a swab or patient sample can be turned into something the DNA process can use.

RNA (ribonucleic acid) is a molecule that is involved in coding, decoding, regulation and expression of genes.

DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) contains the instructions needed for an organism to develop, survive and reproduce.

In the testing procedure, a sample taken by swab from inside a person's nose is mixed with several solutions in a plastic tube little bigger than a pen lid.

From a second tube, short DNA sequences called primers are mixed with the RNA solution.

A primer is a short strand of DNA that provides a starting point for DNA synthesis. Those strands come from the 30,000 letter-long coronavirus genome identified and published by scientists in China.

If the coronavirus is present in the swab sample solution the Covid primers recognise it and bind with it.

Because dnature began this work before the virus entered New Zealand, the team designed a synthetic piece of DNA to mimic the virus — and built some

mistakes into it.

The synthetic piece of DNA is the control component, the sample that remains the same throughout the process.

"In case we need to confirm a result is from the patient, rather than the positive control, this allows us to differentiate between the synthetic virus and the true virus."

Another tube contains the "copying juice", the amplification reagents. If the target RNA is the needle in a haystack, the amplification process turns that needle into a haystack of needles.

This nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT) is based on detecting unique sequences in the virus's RNA by a method called reverse-transcription polymerase chain reaction (rRT-PCR), writes microbiologist and science communicator Siouxsie Wiles in Stuff.

"Because the Chinese released the genetic sequence of the virus so quickly, that allowed tests to be developed and the methods released to the world so any country could do the test if it needed to.

"This is where the US screwed up. They decided to develop their own test instead and that ended up not working properly, which lost them valuable time."

A PCR (polymerase chain reaction) machine enables a short segment of RNA, the primer, to be synthesised and act as a starting point for new DNA synthesis.

"If the primer binds to the RNA the

PCR will make a DNA copy and amplify that DNA."

While dnature seeks funding and continues to develop sensitivity in the testing process, the team have already started work on the new tests.

Meanwhile, demand from around the country for the reagents coming in from Germany and the US is so high one dnature staff member's sole role is to manage the flow of the materials to the testing sites.

Before he could begin development of the test method Mr Mackay needed to get hold of the primers himself.

An order to dnature's US supplier would have taken 10 days to get here.

To speed up delivery he emailed colleague Olfert Landt of Berlin biotech company TIB Molbiol and got an immediate response.

"I said this is a replay of the SARS virus and that I guessed he had assays to send straight away to me."

An assay is an investigative procedure used to measure the presence of a target entity. In this case, the assay comprised the primers and detection probes premixed into a "just add water" format.

"He said 'yes, I have them on the shelf.' Within a few days they were in New Zealand and national testing began.

Now, the race is on to get a faster Covid-19 testing regime in Gisborne.

Free NZSO concert

THE New Zealand Symphony Orchestra is to livestream a free performance tonight.

NZSO concertmaster Vesa-Matti Leppanen and several section principals have filmed themselves at home each playing one of their favourite pieces of music. Pianist Stephen De Pledge, who performed with the NZSO earlier this month, has also been filmed.

Play Our Part will premiere for free at nzso.co.nz/live at 7.30pm and can be viewed via smart TV, mobile phone, tablet or computer.

'We need to lead in a time of crisis like this': Mayor

GISBORNE District Council has stepped up an emergency committee to be able to make urgent decisions relating to the region in the wake of Covid-19.

An extraordinary council meeting held yesterday approved the establishment of the emergency committee.

That emergency committee comprises

Mayor Rehette Stoltz, deputy chairman Josh Wharehinga and one core committee chair whose portfolio aligns to the matter of urgency.

If that person is not available, then it would fall back to other core committee chairs of Andy Cranston, Amber Dunn, Larry Foster or Pat Seymour.

Mayor Stoltz said it was important the council

had the power to make decisions with urgency in such unprecedented times.

"We need to lead in a time of crisis like this."

"This can give certainty to the community that we are able to act immediately. As a council, we are well prepared and have the right processes in place to ensure the best interests of the community are undertaken at all times."

Part of the adoption yesterday included increased financial delegation for chief executive Nedine Thatcher Swann for unanticipated expenditure, including emergency capital purchases like generators.

All other council committees and decision-making bodies are suspended until further notice, as is any non-urgent council work.

Reckless driver could have faced more serious charge

THE occupants of a vehicle struck from behind by another motorist were told by a judge the driver responsible could have been charged with a more serious offence.

The reckless driving charge laid against the man did not cover the complainants' allegations the driver's actions were deliberate and the court must sentence accordingly.

Richard Gene Ngawhare, 26, forestry worker, pleaded guilty in Gisborne District Court to driving with an excess breath-alcohol level of 867 micrograms, reckless driving and failing to stop to ascertain injury.

Judge Warren Cathcart imposed 60 hours community work, a \$7000 reparation order (for damage to the complainant's vehicle), and alcohol interlock and zero-alcohol driving provisions.

The case was stood down initially after the judge questioned a reference in the summary of facts to Ngawhare's actions being "deliberate".

Police charged Ngawhare with reckless driving but there could be no "deliberate" element to recklessness, the judge said.

The judge told police if they wanted to pursue the fact that the defendant deliberately hit the other vehicle, they should have charged him with a more serious charge — assault using a vehicle as a weapon. But given the defendant had pleaded guilty to reckless driving it was too late.

The more serious charge carries a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment compared to a three-month maximum for reckless driving.

A police prosecutor and defence counsel Holly

Tunstall conferred to revise the summary, which included the removal of the "deliberate" reference.

Ms Tunstall said Ngawhare always disputed his actions were intentional anyway.

Driving conditions were good on April 11, last year. At about 10.30pm, Ngawhare was driving his ute in the central business district when the driver of another vehicle beeped his horn over an incident at an intersection on Grey Street. Ngawhare pulled over as the other vehicle went past but then continued behind it, accelerated and struck it on Palmerston Road.

The victim's vehicle was extensively damaged.

No one was injured but Ngawhare fled without stopping to check.

He was followed for a time by a witness but that person eventually lost sight of him.

Police located Ngawhare soon afterward. He was standing, keys in hand, inspecting damage to his vehicle.

A breath test showed he was too intoxicated to legally drive. He was also found to be on a restricted licence and in breach of the curfew and supervised driver conditions.

Ngawhare claimed not to have been driving the vehicle. He said it was stolen at the time.

Judge Cathcart noted aggravated features of Ngawhare's offending as the heightened degree of recklessness as reflected in the revised summary, his failure to stop, his high alcohol reading, and his lies to police.

The sentence imposed took into account the amended summary of facts and Ngawhare's previous lack of convictions.

Sex offence victim 'living in exile'

THE father of a girl indecently assaulted by a man whose sentencing was reported in Wednesday's Gisborne Herald says his daughter has been living in exile overseas because of the offender.

While coverage of the sentencing mentioned she found it too painful to return to the East Coast township where some of the offending occurred, it did not relay the offender lived right next door, making it too dangerous for his daughter to stay there, the girl's father said.

(The Herald chose not to publicise that aspect of the case in an additional safeguard to the girl's identity, which is automatically suppressed.)

Her father, however, wants the family's predicament publicly known. His daughter went to live overseas because it was

considered too dangerous for her at the house.

The locations of the East Coast properties were discussed during the sentencing hearing as the man wanted to serve a sentence of home detention there.

Home detention was anticipated as a likely outcome and the address was assessed and approved by the Department of Corrections.

But at the outset of the sentencing hearing, prosecutor Cameron Stuart told the court the address was no longer suitable. The Crown was recently notified the girl wanted to come back to New Zealand and wanted to live at the house beside it.

Counsel Manaaki Terekia sought an adjournment saying his client should be

allowed to have an alternative address assessed.

A probation officer confirmed the court could also consider allowing the man to start his sentence at the pre-approved address then be shifted to another address just ahead of the victim returning.

After considering the submissions, Judge Cathcart rejected both saying it was in the victims' interests for sentencing to proceed without delay and that the sentence should have no bearing on the girl's plans.

"She virtually exiled herself by going overseas and was entitled to come home whenever she wanted."

The sentencing proceeded with a prison term imposed but the man was granted leave to apply for home detention.

Wheels of justice continue to turn

NEW Zealand courts are deemed an essential service and will keep operating throughout the alert Level 4 phase, albeit in a different way.

In Gisborne District Court yesterday, a judge's list fixture proceeded as scheduled but cases involving defendants already on bail were administratively adjourned to either May 4 or 9.

Those defendants were not required to attend court in person.

Those in custody or on yesterday's arrest list were dealt with by AV-link in courtroom one in the afternoon.

The only people allowed into the courtroom were the prosecutor, duty lawyer and counsel.

Support people were not permitted to enter. Neither were media representatives.

In a media statement yesterday, Chief Justice Helen Winkelmann assured New Zealanders "the courts will continue to uphold the rule of law and to ensure that fair trial rights, the right to natural justice, and the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act, are upheld".

But the move to Level 4 will be extremely disruptive to everyday court practices, she said.

"It is my expectation that for the remainder of this week courts will operate only in the priority areas I



identified earlier this week, namely proceedings that affect liberty of the individual, personal safety and wellbeing, matters in which resolution is time critical," Justice Winkelmann said.

Proceedings have been cancelled this week in other courts — the Supreme Court, Court of Appeal, Employment Court, Environment Court, Maori Land Court, Waitangi Tribunal and Coroners Court.

"As far as possible, and to avoid the need for people to attend court in person, the courts will use remote participation to hear matters. Remote participation may involve AVL where that is possible, telephone or email.

"However, in the District Court in-person attendances may be required in some cases. Where court attendance is unavoidable, the safety of the public, court staff and members of the legal

profession is paramount. Measures have been taken to achieve physical distance and to improve courthouse hygiene," Justice Winkelmann said.

The Courts of New Zealand website will continue to provide regularly updated information on how each court expects to operate during this time of heightened alert.

■ COURT will continue to operate with the exception of tomorrow's Ruatoria District Court session, which has been adjourned until April 30 because of the Covid-19 epidemic.

Gisborne District Court is continuing to operate with the exception of jury trials.

The Chief Justice has suspended all new jury trials from this week for two months as a precautionary measure.

No trials were scheduled for Gisborne this week, but the final trial of last week was adjourned.

Court users nationwide are greeted with signs asking them to stay out if they've been overseas in the last 14 days, are feeling unwell, or are over 70.

Hand sanitiser and anti-bacterial wipes have been made available.

The country's courts were among the services or businesses not required by the Prime Minister to go into lockdown for the next four weeks.

Refusal to be tested 'not helping' Claimed cannabis for own use

A RECIDIVIST drink-driver's tactic of refusing to undergo testing for alcohol, was not helping his situation in court, Judge Warren Cathcart told him.

The law was designed to capture people who tried to do that and those who refused testing were automatically deemed to have been driving with high alcohol levels, the judge said.

Reweti Ruka Waikari, 50, pleaded guilty to two counts of refusing to give blood specimens and two counts of driving while disqualified. Each were third or subsequent offences — his 16th and 17th alcohol-impaired driving charges and his 13th and 14th disqualified driving or forbidden driving charges.

Waikari also admitted a breach of bail.

Counsel Alistair Clarke pointed to the 20-year gap in Waikari's offending ahead of this spate.

Waikari had entrenched issues with alcohol and would benefit from a rehabilitative sentence combining community detention, community work, and intensive supervision, Mr Clarke said.

But Judge Cathcart said he was concerned about the return of Waikari's offending. A pre-sentence report assessed Waikari's likelihood of reoffending, due to his recidivism, as high. It put his potential level of harm to others as medium to high. The writer stated Waikari had a sense of entitlement about his use of alcohol.

Calculating the sentence, the judge arrived at a notional prison term of 15 months. Taking into account the long gap in Waikari's offending, the judge converted it to seven-and-a-half months home detention. That would enable Waikari to benefit from counselling and other programmes, the judge said.

A MAN'S problem with illicit drugs began after a motorbike accident in which he fractured his back, Gisborne District Court was told.

Chadrick Norman Sheridan, 29, was jailed for 11 months after pleading guilty to supplying cannabis (156.5 grams), possessing methamphetamine (4.5 grams), unlicensed possession of a firearm, and two breaches of bail.

He was convicted and discharged for dangerous driving and failing to stop — fine-only offences — which he also admitted. He will be subject to a six-month driver disqualification.

Counsel Heather Vaughn said she would not be advocating for a recommended sentence of home detention. Sheridan's lengthy time on remand in custody would see him almost due for immediate release from the prison term likely to be imposed.

The lead offence involved the cannabis, which was found along with dealing paraphernalia (snaplock bags, tinfoil, digital weight scales etc) during a police search of Sheridan's home on April 11, last year. The meth and a .22 rifle were also discovered. The rifle had a suppressor and was in working order but not loaded. Sheridan has no firearms licence and claimed to be holding it for a friend.

He told police the cannabis was for his personal use but that he also at times exchanged it for meth.

He began using cannabis after a motorbike accident in 2014 and preferred it to conventional pain medication. It also assisted with his other health issues, Sheridan said.

The dangerous driving incident happened on April 29, last year. Sheridan, riding an unregistered motorbike through Gisborne's central business district at about 3.45am, refused to pull over for police and accelerated away at speed, pulling wheel stands. He tried to flee police pursuing him by driving on railway tracks.

For the lead offence the judge set a starting point of 16 months' imprisonment uplifting it with an adjustment by two months for the other applicable offending.

He received discounts for a causal link between his health issues and his offending, his guilty pleas, and remorse.

Judge Warren Cathcart noted Sheridan's claim he was motivated to change due to becoming a father. It was a promise often heard by the court but sadly not often kept, the judge said.

He ordered destruction of the gun.

BRIEFS

Supermarket heads online

AUCKLAND — An entire Auckland supermarket is being transformed into an online store for the nationwide lockdown.

From 6pm today, Countdown's Grey Lynn Central will become an online only store.

An email sent to customers said: "This change means the whole supermarket and our team can be focused on fulfilling online delivery orders to a larger group of people."

The busy supermarket — on the corner of Coleridge and Williamson avenues — will be shut down to help with online demands as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak. — NZ Herald

Finding comfort in karakia

HAMILTON — As a nationwide lockdown looms, thousands of New Zealanders are finding comfort and connection through live-streamed karakia.

University of Waikato associate professor Te Kahautu Maxwell has been live streaming karakia from his living room every day.

"It is a trying time for our people at the moment, there's a lot of panic, there's a lot of anxiety, no one really knows what's happening. I'm just trying to provide some peace of mind through a spiritual pathway, I suppose," he said.

"People are listening from Belgium, Australia, Hungary, from all over the world. They just need some spiritual care and it's just about administering to those needs via social media and it's amazing how many people are in need. "Everyone seems to need karakia at this time."

— RNZ

Non-essentials face fines

WELLINGTON — Non-essential businesses that flout the lockdown rules and remain open will be fined and shut down immediately, authorities warn.

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment is sending the message to businesses everywhere that only firms considered to provide a necessity of life, for example, are an essential service as of 11.59pm tonight.

Today's comments follow widespread confusion about what constitutes an "essential" service — after department store Farmers publicly stated it would stay open.

Cookie franchise Cookie Time has also said it would remain open for business.

"Munchtime provides an essential service in terms of food delivery to New Zealanders and NZ retailers so our online store remains open for business — fully stocked with bulk buys/pantry fillers and our most popular grocery items," a notice on its website said.

MBIE deputy chief executive Paul Stocks spoke about the issue on Newstalk ZB's Mike Hosking Breakfast show this morning:

"We're not doing a Level 4 lockdown because it's not important. We've got one chance to eradicate Covid-19," Stocks said. — NZ Herald

Northland case on the road to recovery

NORTHLAND — The first Northlander to catch Covid-19 is in full isolation and well on his way to recovery at home in the Bay of Islands.

Joshua Dent decided to go public to dispel rumours circulating on social media but mostly because he wanted people to stop giving his family grief.

Dent, 23, said he was isolated in the family house while his father was outside sleeping in his car, cooking on a gas burner, showering under a hose, and maintaining a safe distance.

His father was cooking meals and placing them at a midway point on the deck before retreating and using takeaway plates that went straight in the bin afterwards.

"I just want people to stop giving my family grief," said Joshua Dent. "There's no close contact between us. Everyone needs to know how good my dad has been and what a great dad he is."

Health authorities told Dent he most likely caught the virus in London, where he travelled as a birthday surprise for his best friend on March 7. He was about an hour from home when

symptoms started. First it was a runny nose, a cough and a headache; a sore throat, shortness of breath, fatigue and an all-over ache came later.

His father had already moved out of the house and was staying with family so Dent could self-isolate.

He called Healthline when he got home and, after waiting half an hour to get through, explained his symptoms and where he had been. He was told to get tested first thing in the morning.

The results came through the next day. "I was shocked, but I was sick to the point where it was expected so I had mentally prepared for it."

Dent gets a daily phone call from a nurse but otherwise he just has to wait it out.

He had a scary few days in isolation when he was struggling to breathe, "which kind of freaked out my family".

"I think it was probably stress, thinking too much about it, watching the news and reading the comments."

At that point, his father returned and started

living in his car, where he could "look after his boy" while maintaining a safe distance.

Dent has been passing the time with Netflix, FaceTime and phone calls.

His only non-electronic social interaction is dinner with his dad. Dent sits on the deck while his father sits on the driveway about 10m away.

After getting grief at the shops, his father had also opted for self-isolation, despite having had no close contact with his son.

Dent urged all Northlanders to heed official advice and take all precautions against the virus.

He was lucky because he was young and healthy but other people had ended up in hospital.

"Mine was bad but it wasn't next level. It was like a bad case of the flu."

The former Bay College and Kamo High student said he was 85 percent recovered.

"Now I'm just waiting for the last push from my body to get rid of this virus. I just feel like I have a light cold. I don't really have any symptoms any more. I'm getting better and better every day."

— Northern Advocate

Data suggests pattern

Early analysis shows NZ Covid-19 cases fit global model

AUCKLAND — Two-thirds of New Zealand's Covid-19 cases so far are in older people, but the patterns are still too "idiosyncratic" to draw any strong predictions from, a researcher modelling the virus has said.

New Zealand has 155 confirmed cases of the coronavirus and the Ministry of Health has released age, gender and location details for 142 of them.

Like many countries overseas, many of New Zealand's cases are in older people. There are 94 cases in people aged 40 and older, or 66 percent.

Countries around the world have warned people aged 70 and over to stay at home as much as possible, because of early indications that the disease was much more severe in older people.

However, only 12 cases in New Zealand are in age groups over 70.

University of Auckland Professor Shaun Hendy is part of a team of researchers from around the country working on predictive models of how the virus might spread in New Zealand and which groups might be most seriously affected.

Hendy said the low number of older people who had tested positive for Covid-

19 was likely to reflect where New Zealand's cases had come from so far.

"Overwhelmingly, the cases we have seen are related to overseas travel and we're only just starting to see community transmission, so that probably reflects the profile of New Zealanders who have been overseas in the last couple of months."

Although the virus seemed to be more severe in older people, the spread of the disease varied from country to country.

"For example, people might have heard about the fact it's strongly impacting older people in Italy and that probably reflects the particular demographics of Italy, which does tend to have an older population," Hendy said.

"But then in South Korea there seems to be a large number of cases among young people — but that seems to have been particularly because of the way the infection spread through a church in South Korea that did have a lot of young people, and a particular individual who spread it through that church."

Early research on the virus has also suggested it was more severe in males.

Among the New Zealand cases, slightly more males have been infected — 77

compared with 65 females.

Hendy said that gender disparity could be down to lifestyle or health factors, rather than the nature of the virus itself.

"There's a whole lot of health risk factors — things like heart disease, blood pressure, breathing and lung conditions. Those can be gendered — rates of smoking, for example, can be different between men and women."

Although the number of cases in New Zealand was growing every day, it was too early to draw any real patterns, he said.

"It may sound weird but the numbers are still quite small from a health perspective and quite idiosyncratic, so our ability to make predictions will probably come a little bit later."

"It's still quite early to talk about the distribution among those cases from a statistical point of view."

The team of researchers, through research unit Te Punaha Matatini, was focused on getting as much detail about the early cases as possible.

"Some data we will probably try to get our hands on at some point is to look at the profile of the people who have come back in," Hendy said. —RNZ

Teachers respond to online learning challenge

by John Gerritsen, RNZ

CHRISTCHURCH — Teachers are in class today for the last time before the lockdown begins and they are all preparing exactly the same lesson for the nation's 800,000 school children — that even during a global emergency there is no escape from school work.

Schools were open yesterday and today only for teachers and the children of essential workers.

Principals told RNZ their staff were using the time to get ready for teaching their students online once the lockdown begins tomorrow.

The four-week shutdown includes two weeks of holiday from Monday March 30 to Tuesday April 14, which the Government brought forward by two weeks to give teachers more time to prepare for distance learning.

At Somerfield School in Christchurch, principal Denise Torrey said there were only five children of essential workers in class yesterday and the school was trying to get its spare devices to children who did not have one at home.

She said teachers were already working with students through an online platform they had been preparing for a few weeks.

Though they were interacting online, teachers did not want their students to spend the entire lockdown glued to a device.

"We have got one of our learning support (staff) uploading science activities for them to do. We have suggested things like baking, so there are all of those sorts of things as well as the normal reading and mathematics things.

"They have listed activities that are physical activities and challenges that they can do as a family because we know it's going to be mum and dad and the kids at home in many cases," she said.

Torrey said teachers are motivated to keep their students learning.

"Teachers have gone into problem-solving mode. They want their kids to be safe, they want their kids to be well and they want their kids to learn as well."

In Havelock North, the principal of Te Mata School, Mike Bain, said there were just 12 children in class yesterday and teachers had been using their last days on-site to prepare online programmes for learning from home.

He said teachers were not worried about children falling behind during the next four-and-a-half weeks, and parents shouldn't be either.

"To be fair, we're not bothered about that, we'll pick the kids up when they arrive back at school," he said.

"The main concern for homes and families and for kids is about everyone being well and feeling supported rather than a genuine push that their job's now to become the teachers of their kids."

Bain said teachers were rising to the challenge of figuring out how to keep children learning and engaged from a distance.

In Auckland, the principal of Mangere College, Tom Webb, said students had mixed reactions to the news they would be off school until late April.

"There was a whole range of emotions and reactions from students, from sort of



CLOSING DOORS: Teachers are finishing last-minute preparations before the nationwide lockdown. Picture supplied

disappointment, anxiousness, excited from some, 'yes we're not having school' or from others really disappointed that they're not having school for up to four weeks."

Webb said the school was well prepared for teaching online, though a fair number of students were likely to have only limited access to the

internet.

The Education Ministry said it was trying to get devices to children in poor communities who did not have one.

It also launched a website giving teachers and parents advice and resources for keeping education going at home.



SHOCKING RESULTS: Four people have been confirmed to have the virus from Marist College. Picture supplied

Auckland school copes with four Covid-19 cases

AUCKLAND — A parent from Marist College says students and teachers are stressed and shocked after finding out four people from the school have tested positive for Covid-19.

One person was confirmed as positive on Sunday, with parents alerted to three more cases on Monday afternoon.

All of the roughly 750 students and staff members are now classed as close contacts.

Board member and parent Mihingarangi Forbes said parents were trying to work out the best way to isolate their children while the rest of the family was in lockdown.

She had space for her daughter to have her own room and bathroom but was conscious it would be a lot tougher for some, she said.

“They should be in self isolation within your house but some families are not going to be able to do this so just do your best,” she said.

Parents were sent a letter by the school to tell them about the latest cases and the fact they were close contacts.

“This means that families need to assume that their daughter has been in contact with a teacher or student that has Covid-19,” it said.

“This does not mean that your daughter will get the virus, yet we have a duty of care to inform you,” the letter said.

Forbes said there was a lot of stress amongst the school community and she wanted to send them aroha.

“It’s a bit of a shock for everybody. Who wants to be the school with four confirmed cases of Covid 19? Well, we are,” she said. — RNZ



UP IN THE AIR: As the nationwide lockdown looms, restaurants, bars and cafes are seeking further guidelines from the Government. File picture

Restaurants in limbo

Hospitality workers unsure about essential service restrictions

by Liu Chen, RNZ

WELLINGTON — The Government has provided more clarity about what constitutes essential services as the deadline for the unprecedented nationwide shut down fast approaches.

MBIE deputy chief executive Paul Stocks said all restaurants, cafés and bars must close all aspects of their operation, including delivery.

“Food delivery services like Uber Eats and Deliver Easy pose a risk to human health. We cannot guarantee every kitchen operates strict food preparation controls or that everyone who works in a kitchen is well.

“Evidence overseas suggests the virus has been spread via poor food hygiene practices, so it is a real risk we have to eliminate.”

However, the delivery of food that is not pre-cooked will be allowed because it is considered similar to supermarket deliveries of groceries.

Earlier, the government had asked all bars, restaurants and cafes to close, and for takeaway services to follow suit when the alert system moves to level four at midnight tonight, but the Restaurant Association’s chief executive, Marisa Bidois, had some questions.

“We are just asking clarification from the government. We have already been in touch with several officers for

clarification on the guidelines. It does include food delivery, but there hasn’t been any confirmation as to whether that includes restaurants using Uber or other delivery services to keep delivering food to people.”

Bidois said the advice was that food delivery could still operate, but she was wondering who was going to prepare the food if restaurants were shut.

‘Evidence overseas suggests the virus has been spread via poor food hygiene practices.’

—Paul Stocks

She said the association had more than 2300 members and it was seeking answers as many were waiting to find out whether they remained open or not for delivery.

“We know it’s a difficult time for everyone. But people still need to eat and we think that our industry can contribute to feeding our communities, our local communities, our essential service staff and really sort of be a part of assisting everyone through this difficult time,” she said.

McDonald’s said its restaurants, deliveries and drive-through services around the country would be closed by

midnight tonight.

Restaurant Brands said all Taco Bell and Carl’s Jr would be closed from Tuesday evening, and it was also staggering the closure of KFC and Pizza Hut stores.

Meal kit delivery company My Food Bag said it was experiencing a high demand for its services.

Chief executive Kevin Bowler said he was expecting more growth in the coming weeks.

“The last couple of weeks for My Food Bag has been the strongest in our history. And we were seeing that, I think, as a result of people really wanting to access quality food delivered to the door without having to have any interaction with other people.”

Bowler said the company had made a long list of small changes to their procedures to ensure the safety of staff and customers.

“We’re increasing the amount of cleaning. We’re providing people with more sanitization stations and equipment and more cleaning, more separation of people in the assembly areas so that we’re working in smaller groups as well.”

The government said it was working to further clarify what were essential services, and businesses can call its helpline on 0800 779 997 to confirm if they could stay open.

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28436-05

You must stay home. We are moving to Alert Level 4 at 11:59pm.

At 11:59pm tonight, New Zealand will move to Alert Level 4.
This will save lives.

Level 4 measures include:

- those not involved in essential work, must stay at home
- educational facilities are now closed
- businesses are closed except for essential services (e.g. supermarkets, pharmacies, clinics) and lifeline utilities.

Where you stay tonight is where you must stay from now on. You must only be in physical contact with those you are living with while we remain at Level 4.

It is likely Level 4 measures will stay in place for a number of weeks.

You will be supported

- Food will always be available – production will continue, distribution will continue, supermarkets will continue. You will always have access to food.
- Pharmaceuticals will always be available.

- Healthcare will be available for those that need it.
- Your usual financial support, such as benefits, will continue as usual.
- There is additional financial support from the government. Find out more at www.workandincome.govt.nz

Take care of yourself and one another

Don't let physical distance stop you staying connected. Keep in touch with people using video calls, phone calls, chat and texting. If you feel stressed or anxious, you can call or text 1737 to talk with a trained counsellor for free, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Keep up regular physical exercise and get some fresh air when possible. It's okay as long as this is solitary, or only with those that you live with.

Stopping our movement stops the virus

Remember, what you do now, will affect all of us. Sticking to the rules matters. Stay home. Save lives.

If you're not sure who to contact for help, call the free government helpline on **0800 779 997** (8am–1am, 7 days a week). If you have symptoms call your GP first, or call Healthline on **0800 358 5453**

For key information go to **[Covid19.govt.nz](https://www.covid19.govt.nz)**

New Zealand Government

What are essential businesses?

Essential businesses, and those that support them, will continue to provide the necessities of life for everyone in New Zealand.

This means food, medicine, healthcare, energy, fuel, waste-removal, internet and financial support will continue to be available.

This list is evolving. A more detailed list is available at [Covid19.govt.nz](https://www.covid19.govt.nz)

Sectors	Entities providing essential services (including their supply chains)
Accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accommodation services for essential workers and people who need to be isolated/quarantined
Border	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customs New Zealand, Immigration New Zealand and the Ministry for Primary Industries
Building and construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building and construction related to essential services, critical infrastructure, or immediately needed to maintain human health and safety at home/work
Courts, tribunals and the justice system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Courts of New Zealand and tribunals Critical Crown entities (e.g. Electoral Commission)
Education	<p>At level 3 only:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools and educational facilities (e.g. ECE centres)
Fast-moving consumer goods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Businesses involved in the supply, delivery, distribution and sale of food, beverage and other key consumer goods (but not takeaway shops)
Financial services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Banks, insurers and other financial institutions
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hospitals, primary care clinics, pharmacies, medical laboratories, care facilities Ambulance services Mortuary services
Local and national government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any entity involved in COVID-19 response or that has civil defence/emergency management functions Key public services
Primary industries, including food and beverage production and processing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Packaging, production and processing of food and beverage products Food safety and verification, inspection or associated laboratory services, food safety and biosecurity functions Veterinary and animal health/welfare services
Public safety and national security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency services Security and intelligence services Justice system Public safety and national security roles
Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any entity (including research organisations) involved in COVID-19 response, hazard monitoring, resilience, diagnostics for essential services
Social services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welfare and social services, including NGOs, which meet immediate needs (further guidance will be provided)
Transport and logistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport services New Zealand Post and courier services Any small passenger service vehicle driver – including taxis and ride-share services
Utilities and communications, including supply chains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electricity, gas, water, waste, fuel, telecommunication services, internet providers and media

These businesses will continue working, but will put in place alternative ways of working to keep employees safe, including shift-based working, staggered meal breaks, flexible leave arrangements and physical distancing.

We are setting up a call centre and free 0800 number to help answer questions about this. Our website will be updated as soon as this is set up.

More specific information for each sector will be published shortly.



'Help for very large companies'

Government unveils \$6.25 billion loan guarantees

by Hamish Rutherford, NZ Herald

WELLINGTON — Finance Minister Grant Robertson has hinted that the Government may offer help to a group of "very large" New Zealand companies, as he unveiled a \$6.25 billion scheme to guarantee loans to small and medium sized businesses.

Yesterday Robertson revealed that the Government would underwrite loans of up to \$500,000 for businesses with turnover of between \$250,000 and \$80 million a year.

"The scheme leverages the Crown's financial strength, allowing banks to lend to ease the financial stress on solvent firms affected by the Covid-19 pandemic," Robertson said, adding that the scheme could change.

"We have committed to monitoring this scheme and we are prepared to evolve this scheme over time if necessary."

The loans, on a term of no more than three years, would be at usual commercial rates, Robertson said, with the banks determining whether to extend the credit.

"These are significant moves that will help a range of businesses," he said, adding that the revenue cap would

preclude very large companies from taking part.

But Robertson hinted that rescue deals for companies which were too large to fit into his loan guarantee scheme could be coming.

"We are continuing to work one on one with very large businesses to see what might be possible there as well," Robertson told reporters in Parliament, without giving details.

‘We have committed to monitoring this scheme and we are prepared to evolve this scheme over time if necessary.’



— Grant Robertson

On Monday Robertson had said Ministers "certainly are aware that some large companies are concerned" about their financial position.

Treasury, the Reserve Bank and the Government "continue to work on further

tailor-made support for larger, more complex businesses", Robertson said.

Last Friday the Government announced it had promised a loan of up to \$900m to Air New Zealand, in which it owns a 52 percent stake, with Robertson acknowledging there was a risk the company may become insolvent without help.

The sudden plunge in visitor numbers as a result of the Government closing the borders to international travellers has also had an immediate impact on New Zealand's major airports.

Both Auckland and Wellington Airports have warned Covid-19 would have major impacts on their finances, with both deferring capital spending, while Auckland has suspended dividend payments.

Tuesday was the second day in a row when the Government escalated its response to the economic impact of Covid-19, following Monday's announcement that it was extending a wage subsidy scheme to almost all workers affected by the lockdown, adding billions to the cost of the scheme.

"We are in extraordinary times here, and we need to make sure that this lending is getting to the people who need

it," Robertson said.

While New Zealand's scheme is broadly similar to that announced in Australia on Sunday, in which Australian taxpayers share equally with banks in an A\$20b (NZ \$20.4b) scheme, New Zealand taxpayers will shoulder 80 percent of the risk.

Robertson said he was comfortable with the higher level of risk.

"We felt on the balance of the discussions that a higher level of Crown guarantee would encourage the banks to lend to businesses that are solvent but ones that have encountered significant difficulty."

National has continued to support the Government's economic stimulus package. "During this period of massive disruption it is critical that businesses have access to working capital so they have the liquidity to stay in business and can, in turn, keep New Zealanders in jobs," Opposition finance spokesman Paul Goldsmith said.

The Government cautioned again that while it was attempting to "cushion the blow" it could not support everyone.

"We're not promising to save every job and we're not promising to save every business."

Six-month mortgage holiday to see loans rise

WELLINGTON — People who take up the option of a six month mortgage holiday will have their principle and interest payments added to their mortgage, which could see their loan jump up significantly.

Finance minister Grant Robertson told Newstalk ZB's Mike Hosking this mortgage that at this stage the government did not know how many people would take up the offer which is open to people whose incomes have been affected by Covid-19.

"We certainly know the criteria we have put in place, or the banks have put in place is around being affected by Covid-19, and clearly many mortgage holders will have been and will be."

Robertson said what the option gave people was time and the security of knowing they would not lose their home.

"What this does it really just defers the payments. It's about making sure at this time people don't have to make them but they will end up being added on to the mortgage at the end."

"It is principle and interest so that also will mean a significant

bill, but I'm very pleased the banks have stepped up for this and taken that pressure off home owners who are worried about losing their homes for the next few months."

Claire Matthews, a banking expert at Massey University, told Newstalk ZB people should be cautious about taking up the loan holidays and only take them if they really needed to.

"If you are in a situation where you expect to be paid as normal, then you should continue to pay your loan as normal, because nothing has really changed for you."

MOST BANK BRANCHES TO CLOSE

Meanwhile, most bank branches will shut from tomorrow as the country moves to alert level four.

New Zealand Bankers Association chief executive Roger Beaumont said during the lockdown banks would keep some branches open for limited hours one day a week to meet the needs of customers who cannot use ATMs, phone or

online banking.

"This is necessary in the circumstances and subject to review. At this time we ask that customers do not visit a bank branch unless absolutely necessary."

Those who come into a branch will only be able to do basic banking, they won't be able to talk about getting a mortgage or have lengthy conversations with staff.

Beaumont said all key banking services would remain available to customers. "Cash will be available at ATMs, payments systems will function as usual, and financial advice and credit applications will be available. You will still be able to conduct banking online or on the phone."

Anyone who was unable to use an ATM or internet banking was urged to call their bank to talk through their needs. But Beaumont said those calling also needed to have patience.

"There will be limited operations at contact centres, so please be patient when phoning your bank's 0800 number if you cannot bank any other way."

A spokesman for Westpac New

Zealand said it planned to open 32 branches located regionally around New Zealand from 10am to 1pm on Wednesdays during the Level 4 lockdown to provide essential transactional banking services to customers unable to use alternative options. Its branches will be open as normal today.

Gina Dellabarca, Westpac New Zealand general manager of consumer banking and wealth, said customers should avoid coming into branches unless really necessary.

"We have a range of ways people can bank seven days a week, including ATMs, online banking and through our customer service team in our contact centre."

"A limited number of branches will be open to assist with essential transactional services for customers who are unable to use banking services through another channel."

A spokeswoman for Kiwibank said all of its branches would close from today, including all of its franchises and agency partners as well.

"For most customers who

already use online banking this will mean no change to how they regularly access banking products and services.

But she said the bank knew there could be an impact on some customers and it was "working through what support we can provide."

She said over the next two months the bank would be waiving fees when customers use its automated phone banking or phone the contact centre.

"We are still working through logistics but during the lockdown some branches may be opened one day a week, for limited hours, to meet the needs of customers who cannot use ATMs, phone or online banking. For updated information customers are best to visit our website for the most up-to-date information."

"For customers needing support there is a call back form on our website, for those ringing our 0800 number there maybe longer than usual wait times, like many businesses we're operating under the unique constraints of the situation and the availability of our people is currently limited." — NZ Herald

SHAREMARKET YESTERDAY

WELLINGTON — The New Zealand share market rallied on news government is expanding its business support package and as the US Federal Reserve announced, it will take extreme measures to offset the global downturn.

The S&P/NZX50 rose 7.2 percent to 9109.15. Within the index, 39 stocks rose, seven fell and four were unchanged. Turnover was \$250 million.

Stocks climbed back from the previous session's slide as investors tried to find an equilibrium between opportunity and risk in unprecedented economic conditions, said Peter McIntyre, an investment adviser at Craigs Investment Partners.

Yesterday, New Zealand banks were offered government guarantees on up to \$6.25 billion in new lending to "solvent businesses" to help tide them over the economic hit caused by the Covid-19 crisis. Meanwhile, the US Federal Reserve announced it will do whatever it takes

to support markets, which McIntyre said helped calm markets.

"If all else fails they've got one big printing press in the basement waiting to get going as well," he said.

McIntyre said the domestic package put in place this afternoon was never seen before in New Zealand economic history, and will make sure small businesses are still around after the crisis.

"It's a pretty sustained programme for small to medium business, which has given the market a bit of kicker," he said.

"Right now, there are only five stocks in the red. The rest are green and some of those are having intra-day gains never seen in their trading life."

Tourism Holdings led the market higher, jumping 32.7 percent to 73 cents. McIntyre said investors are reminded the company's net asset

value is "well beyond a dollar" after the chief executive reiterated they have more than \$100 million left in their banking covenant.

Ryman Healthcare climbed 23.8 percent to \$8.22. The retirement village operator today said it is withdrawing profit guidance and halting construction to comply with the lockdown order while continuing to operate its retirement villages as an essential service.

"On what would seem to be indifferent news, the share price has just gone bang," McIntyre said.

"Typically, that kind of bad news to the market would've sent Ryman to the downside, but I think some investors have taken that as good news: They are still operational and are open for new residents."

Summerset Group rose 21.6 percent to \$4.51, Oceania Healthcare increased 17.5 percent to 47 cents and Arvida Group rose 8.7 percent to \$1. Metlifecare fell 2.4 percent to \$4.15.

McIntyre said property stocks, which have

been under pressure as investors worried tenants would default on rents, saw some relief today as the government package gave small businesses more breathing room.

Kiwi Property Group rose 12 percent to 84 cents, Argosy Property increased 10.5 percent to 84, Stride Property climbed 10.2 percent to \$1.30 and Precinct Properties was unchanged at \$1.47.

The Warehouse Group was placed on a trading halt after it surged 34.8 percent to \$2.02 on the announcement it will be keeping 92 stores opening during the four-week self-isolation period, only to be shot down by the government saying it has not approved the retailer as an essential service.

Comvita announced that it will continue operating as food producers are considered essential businesses. The share price rose 5.4 percent to \$1.75.

Gentrack posted the day's biggest loss falling 10.6 percent to 76 cents. — BusinessDesk

EDITORIAL

Look after yourself and your whanau

We're going into lockdown . . .

As the midnight deadline approaches for a four-week nationwide lockdown to prevent the Covid-19 virus spreading through our communities, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern this morning urged people to stay at home now and act as if they are already in a lockdown.

Anyone who remains at all unsure about how serious the national lockdown messages are should take a look at the world news — it is grim and getting worse.

Many nations are in lockdown and some are also in a serious pandemic situation, with all indications that many more will soon join them in this crippling Covid-19 battle — where even the world's best health services can quickly become overwhelmed. The worst-hit nations are dealing with multiplying coronavirus spread and hospitals are struggling to care for fast-rising numbers of seriously ill people.

The number of Covid-19 cases reported globally has passed 400,000 and many more are not being counted; there have now been 18,600 deaths around the world, with the daily toll having climbed steeply throughout March — there were 73 deaths globally on March 1; 271 on March 10; 686 on March 15; 1356 on March 20 and 1873 on March 23.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has warned that the United States could overtake Europe as the next epicentre of this pandemic. It has now reported 46,400 confirmed cases and 591 have died; a WHO spokeswoman said they expected those numbers to surge.

A meme doing the rounds of social media covers daily comments from US President Donald Trump as the coronavirus situation emerged. In light of his multiple failures and the nonsense he has spouted, he will surely be a one-term president — no matter how well he might rise to the challenges before him now.

The Olympics were officially postponed for 12 months overnight, finally.

Yesterday New Zealand reported another 40 Covid-19 cases, taking our tally of confirmed and probable cases to 155. Two of the cases announced yesterday were suspected community transmission, taking that key tally to four; three in Auckland, one in the Wairarapa. All the rest are linked to people arriving in New Zealand from countries with coronavirus outbreaks.

We're entering a very new normal now and here at The Herald we'll be keeping you up to date with the local situation, as well as national and international developments.

Kia kaha te Tairawhiti, and let's all do our bit to stay safe.

by Mayor Rehette Stoltz



THESE are unprecedented times and it is understandable that we all feel a bit anxious.

Tonight, as a country, we will start with our four weeks of self-isolation. That means that we must all stay home and avoid any physical contact with anyone who is not part of our household.

No need to worry about food, though — our supermarkets and our essential services will operate as normal.

There is no need to panic-buy. You can

pick up your weekly groceries as normal. There is more than enough for everyone.

Just make sure that when you pop out to the supermarket or the pharmacy, you keep two metres away from anyone around you.

This way we will slow down and hopefully stop the spread of the Covid-19 virus.

Whilst at home, remember to get a lot of fresh air and let your kids have fun outside. Enjoy the lovely autumn weather.

Touch base with your friends and use social media to share tips, information and to keep spirits high.

Pick up the phone and check in on your older friends.

If you know of anyone who needs welfare support, please ring us on 0800 653 800 and we will reach out to them.

Thank you to our medical workers who will be looking after the sick. Thank you to all our other workers who are keeping our supermarkets, pharmacies, petrol stations and other essential services open. We salute you.

As we go on this unknown journey together, please stay strong.

Be kind.

Look after yourself and your whanau. Together we can do this.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Still feeling connected

Thoughts on Gisborne . . .

As an ex-resident who lived at Wainui Beach for 17 years, it was always the local newspaper that kept us up to date.

Now living in a huge city where news and journalists have different agendas and who come and go from occupations, it is still a pleasure to read the Herald.

Your consistent approach to the importance of local news and people means that those

of us who read from afar still feel connected to the place.

Having taught in Gisborne for 14 years, I have many friends who still live in Tairawhiti. It will always be a part of me and my family.

Keep doing what you do so well. I will look forward to reading your news over this changing and challenging time.

Kia kaha.

ADRIANNE WILSON

To the Okitu 'dune fairies'

Last week I was walking my dogs through the dunes at Okitu beach and noticed that someone had been replacing the bridges across the creeks running through the sand dunes, that had been in a state of disrepair for some time.

Five minutes later I stumbled across two gentlemen who would only identify themselves as the "Dune-Fairies" replacing yet another bridge at their own cost.

I'd like to congratulate them both on their efforts and their community spirit. More of this will be required to get through the tough times ahead.

Take care of each other.

KIWIWINO

Count down

Re: Unfortunate heading on front page of newspaper last night.

I was shocked to read "Countdown to Lockdown" as for a few minutes I thought it was Countdown supermarket! All the best as you keep us informed.

NORMA

Well done

Re: Checkpoints on Coast, March 24 story.

Excellent article. This is the sensible, caring thing to do. Our Coast community is vulnerable and health facilities inadequate without our current situation. Great to see police and GDC supporting this safety protocol. Kudos to Tina Ngata and all providing this service.

CLARE ROBINSON

Great role models, parents

Kobe Williams you really are a joy to your family, to your friends and to the world.

This one I loved most, Kobe's dad said: "I discovered I didn't truly know love until having our boy — the kind of love where I would not hesitate to give my life for. A burden on society he is not; a burden on us he will never be. He is a great son, grandchild, nephew and big brother to our other two kids.

"I am not telling people

what to do but just providing real-life advice.

"I give thanks every day that we continued and know when I lie on my death bed he will be my biggest achievement in life."

Daniel and Rachael Williams, you are great role models and great parents to precious Kobe. Such a very touching and moving story. Thank you for sharing.

ISABEL NESHAUSEN

Hope it doesn't go to waste

Re: Shop normally please, March 23.

Teena nailed it with her "We have a pandemic, not a famine".

Takes me back to WW2, early 1942 just after America and Japan entered the war and the Pacific became a battleground, disrupting shipping.

Food rationing resulted. The wife of one of dad's cobblers got wind that butter was to be on

the list and purchased a whole case of it. Few households had home fridges and freezers in those days — I know most of it went rancid.

Can't help but wonder how much of this lot of the Covid-19 panic hoardings will end up as unused waste.

The old saying "waste not want not" was part of our lives in those old days.

BOB HUGHES

Let's bring back flow for the Taruheru

In April 2017 I met with council staff over the September, 2015 flooding. Living on the Taruheru I realised that as charmed as our city may be, we had dodged a bullet. Accordingly I was fully-armed with information about the impediment to flow presented by the three quick-fix earth berms. That was my "push" strategy; herein my "pull".

The river at Hall Street Bridge measures 91 metres across. The channel is 52m and the berm 39m. It is 2.2m high at the bridge and 1.4 at the bank. In 2015 two metres of water completely covered two-thirds of the berm. As an impediment it measures (an averaged) 1.7 x 39 = 66.3 square metres. The total cross-sectional area measures (91 x 1.7) 155 square

metres; ie only 57 percent of the waterway is available. At a flow rate of 2.7m per second (standard number for floodwater) that means 180 cumecs short of its 418 potential. With water meaningfully eyeing the floor joists of one upstream property, removing that barrier would, significantly, release 76 percent more water (ie 418-180=238 =>180/238 as a percentage).

Derby Street: 108m total, channel 47m, berm 61m and three metres high throughout. At two metres depth, flow is 254 cumecs of a potential 535.

Roebuck Road: 86m total, channel 41m, berm 45m (+/- five metres as edge undefined). At two metres depth, flow is 220 cumecs of a

potential 464. How much water adds to the system post Roebuck Road is unclear but here would be the obvious bottleneck.

In terms of Ian Ruru and friends' "mauri compass", the Taruheru is not the "jewel in our crown" it could be and far from the "happy Huckleberry hunting ground" it was. Clearly the key to physical and energetic rejuvenation is bringing back the "flow". A skybridge has already been mooted and I am advocating three, as "pileless" replacements. In 2017 I obtained an estimate of \$200,000 to build a suspension footbridge. Hall Street is the smallest and easiest; the logical place to begin.

MARK BIRD

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- The maximum length for letters is 350 words.
- Anyone can write a column, 600 words maximum, but a photo is required.
- Always include full name and contact details.
- If you use a nom de plume, there is a higher bar for acceptability.
- Letters may be edited for clarity, length or legal reasons.



'We can't let the cure be worse than the problem itself': Trump

Dismay as US president says he wants to ease restrictions

WASHINGTON, DC — With lives and the economy hanging in the balance, US President Donald Trump said on Tuesday (local time) he was hoping the US would be reopened by Easter as he weighed how to relax nationwide social-distancing guidelines to put some workers back on the job during the coronavirus outbreak.

As many public health officials called for stricter — not looser — restrictions on public interactions, Trump said he was already looking towards easing the advisories that had sidelined workers, shut schools and led to a widespread economic slowdown.

"I would love to have the country opened up and just raring to go by Easter," he said during a Fox News virtual town hall.

Health experts have made it clear that unless Americans continue to dramatically limit social interaction — staying home from work and isolating themselves — the number of infections will overwhelm the health care system, as it has in parts of Italy, leading to many more deaths. While the worst outbreaks are concentrated in certain parts of the country, such as New York, experts warned that the highly infectious disease was certain to spread.

The US is now more than a week into an unprecedented 15-day effort to encourage all Americans to drastically scale back their public activities. The guidelines, issued by the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), were voluntary, but many state and local leaders had issued mandatory restrictions in line with, or even tighter than, those issued by the CDC.

On Monday, the US saw its biggest jump yet in the death toll from the virus, with more than 600 American deaths now attributed to Covid-19. Trump's comments came after dire warnings by officials in hard-hit areas.

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo said his state's hospital



PUSHING FOR US TO BE OPEN FOR BUSINESS SOONER THAN EXPECTED: US President Donald Trump talks with host Bill Hemmer during a Fox News virtual town hall with members of the coronavirus task force, in the Rose Garden at the White House, on Tuesday (local time). AP picture

system would soon hit a breaking point — resulting in avoidable deaths — even with the restrictions already in place.

"I gave it two weeks," Trump said during the town hall from the Rose Garden.

He argued that tens of thousands of Americans die each year from the seasonal flu and in automobile accidents and "we don't turn the country off."

When the 15-day period ended next Monday, he said, "We'll assess things at that time and we'll give it some more time if we need a little more time, but we need to open this country up."

He added, "We have to go back to work, much sooner than people thought."

Trump's Easter target was not immediately embraced by Dr. Deborah Birx, the co-ordinator for the White House task force, who indicated any move would have to be guided by data still

being collected. She suggested that public health professionals could recommend a general easing, while pushing for local restrictions to remain in the hardest-hit areas.

Trump acknowledged that some want the guidance to continue, but claimed without providing evidence that keeping the guidance in place would lead to deaths from suicide and depression.

"I'm sure that we have doctors that would say, 'Let's keep it closed for two years'," Trump said. "No, we've got to get it open."

He added, "This cure is worse than the problem."

Trump's reassessment came as the White House was encouraging lawmakers on Capitol Hill to pass a roughly US\$2 trillion stimulus package to ease the financial pain for Americans and hard-hit

industries.

Trump's enthusiasm for getting people back to work came as he took stock of the political toll the outbreak was taking. It was setting up a potential conflict with medical professionals, including many within his government, who had called for more social restrictions to slow the spread of the virus, not fewer.

Dr Anthony Fauci, the nation's leading expert on infectious diseases and a member of the White House's coronavirus task force, did not appear at the virtual town hall, but Trump denied there were any tensions between the two men.

Lawmakers had suggested they would look to Fauci for guidance on when the restrictions should be lifted.

"I'm going to take my lead from Anthony Fauci," Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W. Va., said on CNN.

"That's the person I trust, that's the person Americans trust."

Fauci told WMAL radio in Washington on Tuesday that Trump had always heeded his recommendations.

"The president has listened to what I have said and to what the other people on the task force have said," Fauci said.

"When I have made recommendations he has taken them. He's never countered or overridden me, the idea of just pitting one against the other is just not helpful."

Larry Kudlow, Trump's top economic adviser, told reporters on Tuesday that "public health includes economic health".

"That's the key point. And it's not either-or. It's not either-or, and that's why we're taking a fresh look at it," he said.

During a private conference call with roughly 30 conservative leaders on Tuesday, Vice President Mike Pence reinforced Trump's eagerness to lift coronavirus-related work and travel restrictions "in a matter of weeks, not months".

When pressed on a specific timeline for lifting restrictions, Pence said there would be no formal decisions made until the current 15-day period of social distancing was complete, according to a conference call participant who spoke on the condition of anonymity to share details of the private discussion.

Pence told the group that accommodations would need to be made for the highest-risk populations if and when restrictions begin to be lifted.

Despite Trump's rosy talk, other elements of the government were digging in for the long haul. Top defence and military leaders on Tuesday warned department personnel that the virus problems could extend for eight to 10 weeks, or even into the summer.

Army Gen. Mark Milley, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said during a Defence Department town hall meeting that restrictions could go into late May or June, possibly even July. — AP

US man dies after taking fish-tank cleaning product for coronavirus

PHOENIX — An Arizona man has died and his wife is in critical condition after they ingested chloroquine phosphate — an aquarium cleaning product similar to drugs that have been named by US President Donald Trump as a potential treatment for coronavirus infection.

The couple, in their 60s, experienced immediate distress after swallowing the drug, an additive used at aquariums to clean fish tanks, according to Banner Health Hospital in Phoenix.

Chloroquine phosphate shares the same active ingredient as malaria drugs that Trump has touted as possibly effective against Covid-19, the potentially life-threatening disease caused by the coronavirus.

On Saturday, Trump tweeted about the combination of hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin, saying it had "a real chance to be one of the biggest game changers in the history of medicine".

The nation's top infectious disease expert, Anthony Fauci, played down that claim, saying the therapy must be tested to assure its safety and efficacy.

"Chloroquine, a malaria medication, should not be ingested to treat or prevent this virus," Banner Health said in a statement today.

The new coronavirus, which causes the highly contagious Covid-19 respiratory illness, emerged in December in Wuhan, China, and has since spread throughout the world

There are currently no vaccines or treatments approved for the disease, but researchers are studying existing treatments and working on experimental ones.

At the moment, most patients can only receive supportive care.

"Given the uncertainty around Covid-19, we understand that people are trying to find new ways to prevent or treat this virus, but self-medicating is not the way to do so," said Dr Daniel Brooks, Banner Poison and Drug Information Centre medical director.

Brooks urged the medical community not to prescribe chloroquine medication to any non-hospitalised patients.

— RNZ

'Cacophony of coughing'

NEW YORK CITY — A "cacophony of coughing" can be heard in packed emergency rooms.

Beds are squeezed in wherever there is space. Overworked, sleep-deprived doctors and nurses are rationed to one face mask a day and wracked by worry about a dwindling number of available ventilators.

Such is the reality inside New York City's hospitals, which have become the war-zone-like epicentre of the nation's new coronavirus crisis.

Faced with an infection rate that is five times that of the rest of the country, health workers are putting themselves at risk to fight a tide of sickness that was getting worse by the day amid a shortage of much-needed supplies and promises of

help from the federal government that have yet to fully materialise.

"You're on 100 percent of the time — no matter what," said Dr Jolion McGreevy, medical director of The Mount Sinai Hospital emergency department.

"It's been a month of full force, and that's certainly very stressful."

Patients initially showed up with fairly mild symptoms, ranging from a runny nose to a mild fever, concerned they had contracted Covid-19. That shifted over the past week, McGreevy said, and now hospitals were receiving far sicker patients in need of life-saving intervention.

"These are people in severe respiratory distress, needing to be intubated and needing the intensive care unit," he said. — AP

'Total lockdown' for India

Modi announces 21-day curfew for 1.3 billion people

NEW DELHI — India is to impose a nationwide lockdown in an attempt to slow the spread of Covid-19, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced.

The restrictions would apply from midnight (local time) and would be enforced for 21 days.

"There will be a total ban on venturing out of your homes," Modi said in a televised address.

India — which has a population of 1.3 billion — joins a growing list of countries that have imposed similar measures.

Over 417,200 people have tested positive for the virus worldwide, although over 108,300 of those have been listed as recovered. But over 18,600 people have died (for a complete breakdown of cases country by country and more, visit www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/ for up-to-date information).

The new restrictions in India follow a sharp increase in cases in recent days.

At the time of going to press this morning, there had been 536 confirmed cases in India and 10 reported deaths.

"The entire country will be in lockdown — total lockdown," Modi said on Tuesday (local time).

He added: "To save India, to save its every citizen, you, your family . . . every street, every neighbourhood is being put under lockdown."

Modi warned that if India does not "handle these 21 days well, then our country . . . will go backwards by 21 years".

"This is a curfew," he said. "We will have to pay the economic cost of this but it is the responsibility of everyone."

The prime minister also stressed that the 21-day lockdown was "very necessary to break the chain of the coronavirus".

He emphasised the seriousness of the situation and said that even developed countries had



SHOPPING BEFORE GOING INTO LOCKDOWN: People shop at a market in Mumbai yesterday.

AFP picture

faced problems in combating it.

Modi said "social distancing was the only way to stop" the virus spreading, and called on people to follow instructions and not to spread rumours.

Modi warned that if India does not 'handle these 21 days well, then our country . . . will go backwards by 21 years'.

He announced that nearly US\$2 billion would be made available to boost the country's health infrastructure.

The prime minister's address came after several Indian states introduced measures of their own, such as travel restrictions and the closure of non-essential services.

India has already issued a ban on international arrivals and grounded domestic flights. The country's rail network has also suspended most passenger services.

Many parts of India, including cities such as Delhi and Mumbai, are already under tight restrictions. But this move extended those provisions to every corner of the country.

An earlier one-day curfew, which was seen as a trial, was flouted by many.

Modi called on Indians to clap and cheer the emergency services from their balconies on Sunday. However, sadly, many misunderstood his call and congregated in the streets, dancing and chanting.

"It's impossible to fathom the price that India may have to pay if such irresponsible behaviour continues," Modi warned.

"Social distancing is the only option to combat the new coronavirus."

The implications of a total lockdown in India were huge, not just economically, but socially.

This is a nation where community is everything. Going to worship at a temple, mosque or church is an essential part of

daily life for so many.

This is a seismic cultural shift but — like the rest of the world facing similar restrictions — a necessary one.

What's the latest from around Asia?

Neighbouring Pakistan had almost twice as many confirmed cases — 878 as of Monday evening. Sweeping restrictions were in place, although the government had stopped short of imposing a nationwide lockdown. However, several provinces have announced them independently. The army is being brought in to help enforce the restrictions.

Bangladesh, which reported 33 cases and three deaths, was also deploying its armed forces to help maintain social distancing and boost Covid-19 preventive measures. The soldiers would also monitor thousands of quarantined, expatriate returnees. Across South Asia, there were concerns that the actual number of cases could be much higher than was being reported.

Indonesia, which had 55 confirmed Covid-19 deaths at the time of going to press — the highest in South-East Asia — had converted an athlete's village, built for the 2018 Asian Games, into a makeshift hospital for coronavirus patients.

A state of emergency was declared in Jakarta on Monday.

In Thailand, a month-long state of emergency, which would include curfews and checkpoints, would begin on Thursday.

The government there has been criticised for failing to take strong action so far.

Four people have died in Thailand from the virus, and nearly 900 have tested positive.

The most populous country that was without a single case until now — Myanmar — has announced three cases. — BBC

WHO warns Covid-19 pandemic accelerating

GENEVA — The pandemic of the disease caused by the coronavirus — Covid-19 — is accelerating, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said yesterday, with more than 417,000 cases now recorded and infections reported from nearly every country worldwide.

While it took 67 days from the first reported case to reach the first 100,000 cases of Covid-19, it took only 11 days for the second 100,000 cases, and just four days for the third 100,000 cases, WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said.

"But we are not prisoners to statistics. We're not helpless bystanders. We can change the trajectory of this pandemic," Tedros told an online briefing for more than 300 journalists.

He called for global political commitment to change the trajectory of the pandemic, urging countries to take both defensive and attacking measures.

"Asking people to stay at home and other social distancing measures are an important way of slowing down the spread of the virus and buying time, but

they are defensive measures," he said.

"To win, we need to attack the virus with aggressive and targeted tactics — testing every suspect case, isolating and caring for every confirmed case and tracing and quarantining every close contact."

New Zealand is preparing to go into an unprecedented lockdown at 11.59pm tonight for at least four weeks to stem the spread of the Covid-19 coronavirus.

Essential service workers are still allowed to go to work, but organisations have been urged to find ways to minimise inter-personal contact.

Professor Shaun Hendy from Auckland University, a physicist who specialises in modelling complex systems and networks, said it would be several weeks before the effect would be known.

"Because of the community transmission there'll be a lag before we see the benefits of going into lockdown or reducing our person-to-person contact," Prof Hendy said.

— Reuters/RNZ

Grim find: bodies of virus victims found in Spanish nursing homes

MADRID — Spanish army troops disinfecting nursing homes have found, to their horror, some residents living in squalor among the infectious bodies of people suspected of dying from the new coronavirus, authorities said on Tuesday (local time).

Defence Minister Margarita Robles said the elderly residents had been "completely left to fend for themselves, or even dead, in their beds".

She said the discovery over the weekend included several nursing homes, but did not name them or say how many bodies had been found.

A judicial probe into the horrific discovery was opened on Tuesday (local time) as Spain announced a record one-day jump of nearly 6600 new coronavirus infections, bringing the overall total to more than 39,600.

The number of deaths also jumped by a record 514 to almost 2700 — second only to Italy and China.

As bodies piled up, Madrid took over a public skating rink as a makeshift

morgue after the city facility overflowed. To date, 1535 people have died in the hard-hit Spanish capital, more than half of the national total. The capital region has over 12,350 infections.

"This is a tough week," Dr. Fernando Simón, head of Spain's health emergency center, told a daily news briefing.

Relatives of elderly people and retirement home workers expressed growing concern about the situation at the centres.

Defence Minister Margarita Robles said the elderly residents had been 'completely left to fend for themselves' . . .

"With everything that is happening with the coronavirus, this was a ticking bomb," said Esther Navarro, whose 97-year-old Alzheimer's-stricken mother lived at the Usera Seniors' Centre in Madrid, where soldiers had

found some of the bodies.

"Now we are bracing ourselves for the worst possible outcome," she told the Associated Press in a telephone interview.

A worker at the nursing home said at least two bodies had to remain in the home for a day before funeral workers, who were working around the clock, arrived to take them away. — AP

MARCH IS BRAIN AWARENESS MONTH

March is Brain Awareness Month — a global campaign to raise awareness of neurological conditions.

The campaign promotes brain health, raising awareness of the ways in which people can keep their brains healthy.

There are several organisations in Gisborne which help people with neurological conditions, including Alzheimers Gisborne/Tairawhiti, Parkinson's New Zealand and Gisborne Stroke Support.

By engaging with the campaign, Alzheimers Gisborne/Tairawhiti wants people to gain a better understanding of dementia and feel more confident about ways they can reduce their chances of developing dementia; improve their overall brain health to ensure a better future and to help people live well with dementia.

It is never too late to start improving your brain health and reduce the chances of developing dementia by making a few simple lifestyle changes.

What is good for the heart, is good for the brain. So look after it! Be active and eat a healthy, balanced diet.

Alzheimers Gisborne/Tairawhiti has had to cancel its annual street appeal this year due to Covid-19, but people can still donate.

Deposit donations to bank number

03-0638-0375936-00.

Alzheimers Gisborne/Tairawhiti manager Tracy Robinson said as a charity the organisation was heavily dependent on donations to ensure the continuation of services.

"We are a registered charity so donations over \$5 are eligible for a tax receipt, but the details of the donation need to be emailed to me at gisborne.alzheimers@xtra.co.nz in order for me to issue a receipt," she said.

The brain with Parkinson's

Of all the conditions that affect the neurons in our brain, Parkinson's affects the most people, after Alzheimer's. The tragedy with Parkinson's is two-faced; there is no cure, and how it occurs has been a mystery for decades.

Roughly 11,700 people in New Zealand live with Parkinson's and that number is expected to increase significantly in the next 20 years.

Parkinson's affects the part of the brain that produces the chemical dopamine.

Dopamine is an essential neurotransmitter, as it gives us control over our movements — hence the involuntary shaking of limbs from people who have Parkinson's.

In particular, a protein called alpha-synuclein regulates the release of dopamine.

For reasons researchers do not quite understand, however, this protein folds together to form harmful clumps in the brain. The resulting brain cell damage is life-changing for people living with Parkinson's. The average age at diagnosis is 59.

Parkinson's New Zealand offers professional support to people living with Parkinson's, and their families. The Parkinson's nurses can provide home visits for personalised sessions.

They liaise with health professionals who treat Parkinson's in the community.

With the Covid-19 outbreak expected to accelerate in New Zealand, the organisation has had to make the difficult decision to temporarily suspend some of its services after Monday, March 23, 2020.

Home visits from the Parkinson's nurses, however, will not stop, ensuring that members receive the support they need through this testing period.

While Parkinson's cannot be cured, it can be treated. As the origin of Parkinson's remains a mystery, proven ways to prevent it continue to evade medical researchers.

Treatment usually revolves around reducing the severity of the four main symptoms — tremors, stiffness, unstable posture and slow movement.

While tremors are often considered to

be the most telling sign, nearly a third do not initially experience them. Other motor symptoms include reduced swinging of arms, shuffling your feet and mask-like facial expressions. Disturbances with speech, blinking or swallowing can occur.

Non-motor symptoms are not easily noticeable and include body pain, sleep problems, depression and anxiety.

They also include changes in sensory perception, gastrointestinal and memory complications. Interestingly, the handwriting of people with Parkinson's becomes smaller as they lose control over movement — another tell-tale sign of the condition.

If you would like a home visit, please visit www.parkinsons.org.nz to download the referral form and email to referral@parkinsons.org.nz.

Phone 04 801 8850 or 0800 4 PD INFO

Stroke support

Stroke, also known as a "brain attack" is a brain injury and affects about 9000 New Zealanders each year.

Gisborne Stroke Support has been providing a stroke service for 27 years and stroke rehabilitation support for the last six years.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

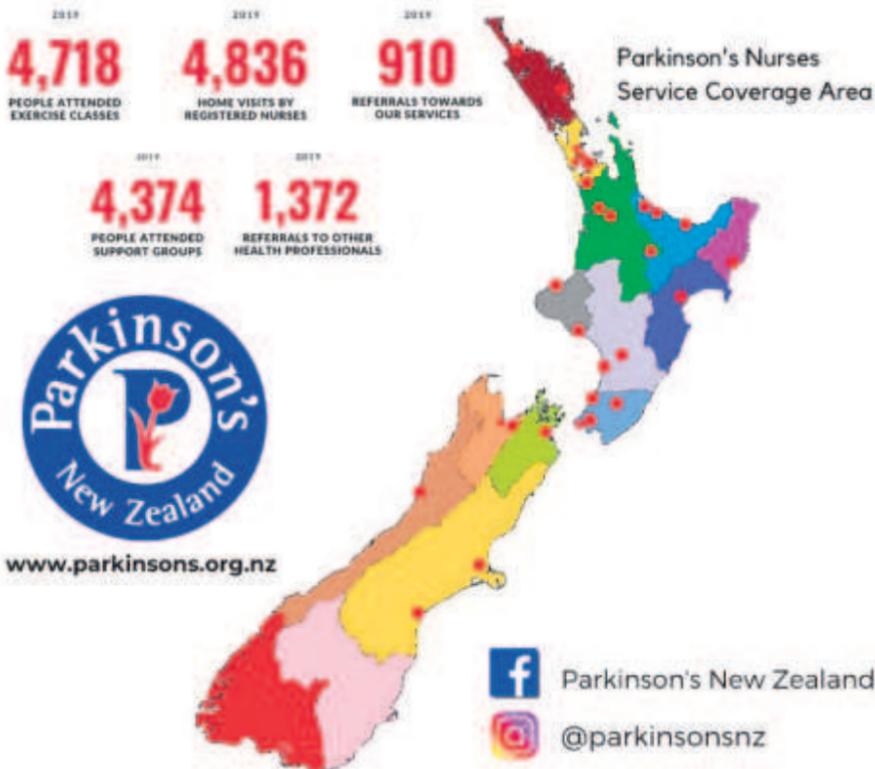
PARKINSON'S NZ: THE NEED

Parkinson's is a condition that affects the nervous system in a manner that impacts movement. Parkinson's has both motor and non-motor symptoms, and while it cannot be cured it can be treated. Today, more than 11,500 New Zealanders have Parkinson's and this figure is expected to rise significantly over the coming years.

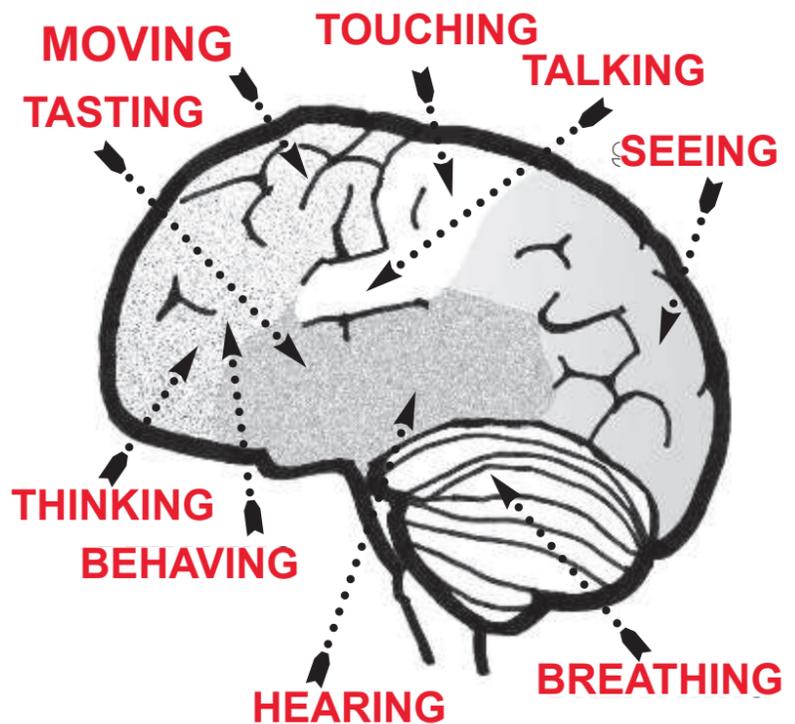
First established over 35 years ago, Parkinson's New Zealand is the only national organisation providing education, information and community nursing services to people living with and affected by Parkinson's in NZ. Follow our Facebook page for the latest research on Parkinson's, as Parkinson's Awareness Week kicks off from April 4-11, 2020.

If you would like to have a home visit, please get in touch with the Gisborne Parkinson's Nurse, Margaret Olsen. Margaret does home visits from Potaka in the North to Nuhaka/Mahia in the South.

Email: margaret.olsen@parkinsons.org.nz
Phone: 06 359 2772 or 027 511 2773



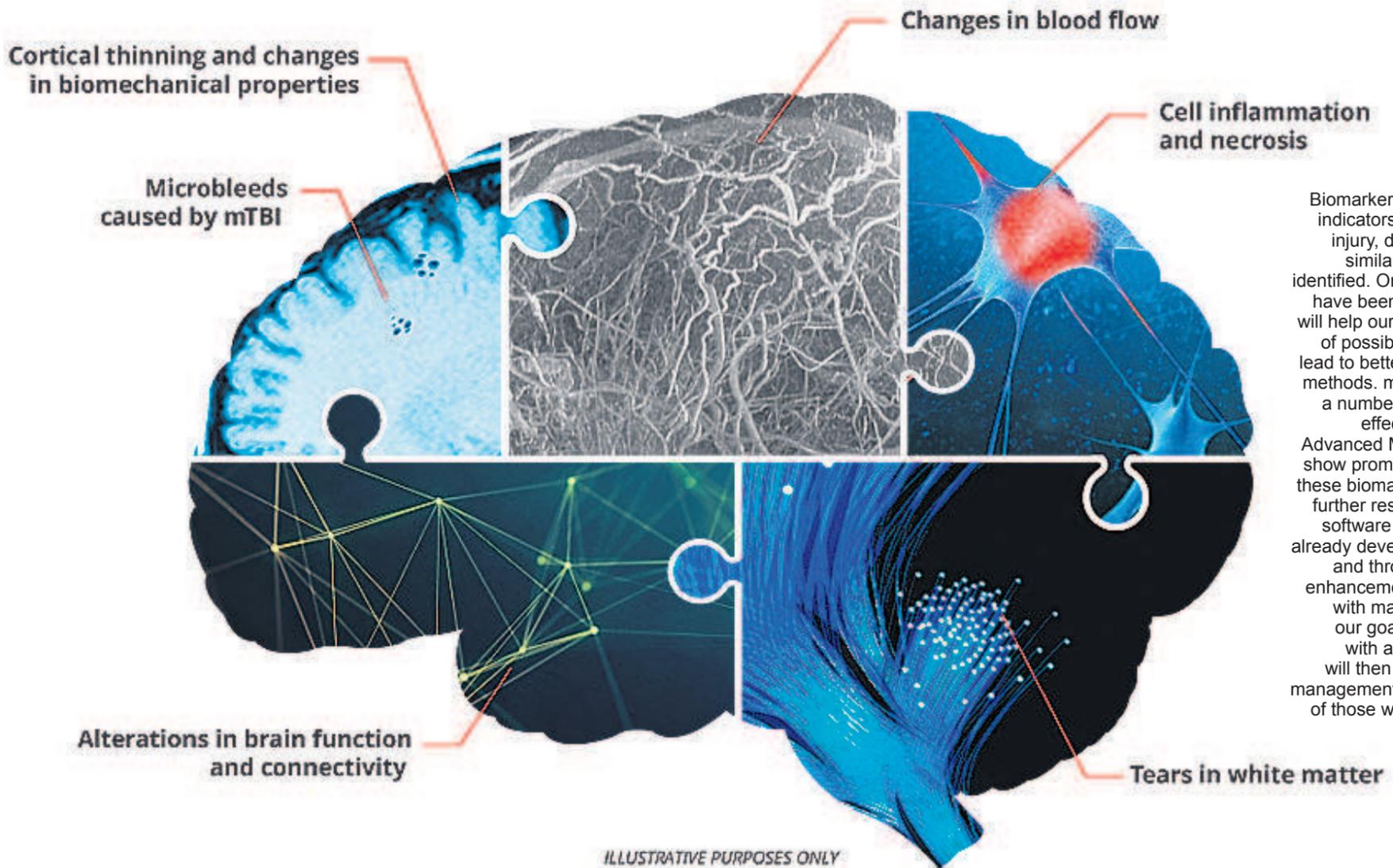
STROKE BRAIN MAP



Are you a Stroke Survivor or Family Member and need support?

Contact 06 863 2716 to access

- Information • Advice • Advocacy
- Rehabilitation programmes



Biomarkers are biological indicators from which an injury, disease or other similar issues can be identified. Once biomarkers have been identified, this will help our understanding of possible damage and lead to better rehabilitation methods. mTBI can cause a number of detrimental effects in the brain. Advanced MRI techniques show promise in detecting these biomarkers. Through further research into MRI software advancements already developed by Mātai and through continued enhancements, combined with machine learning, our goal is to come up with a biomarker that will then catalyse better management and treatment of those with concussion.

Take the Brain Health challenge March is Brain Awareness Month!

Learn more at alzheimers.org.nz

Week 1
Look after your heart

Week 2
Get active

Week 3
Eat well

Week 4
Challenge your brain & stay connected

- It's never too late to start improving your brain health and reducing the chances of developing dementia by making a few simple lifestyle changes.
- What's good for the heart is good for the brain. So look after it! Be active and eat a healthy, balanced diet.
- Challenge your brain and stay socially connected.
- Doing this will help reduce your chances of developing dementia.
- It will also help you to live well with a diagnosis of dementia.

Learn a bit more about ways you can help to keep your brain healthy by taking the Brain Health Challenge!
It's an easy, four week step-by-step guide that you can take at your own pace. www.alzheimers.org.nz/get-involved/take-the-brain-health-challenge
Or get started here! Go online and become a Dementia Friend.
It's easy www.alzheimers.org.nz

Alzheimers Gisborne: 06 867 0752
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Biomarker research

A core research focus for Mātai, a Gisborne-based medical imaging and innovation research centre, is mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI), or concussion. TBI is a multi-billion dollar issue globally, and has a heavy impact on the lower socio-economic segment of our community. The injuries are believed to strongly correlate to underlying causes of mental health disorders such as depression, crime, and unemployment. Mātai will soon install state-of-the-

art equipment to investigate TBI as well as a variety of aspects of brain health. The main piece of equipment is an MRI scanner which can look at the brain with very high levels of detail. The advances in technology that Mātai develops and new discoveries that are applied to TBI could further be used to help identify a range of diseases and disorders, from early tumour diagnosis, mental health disorders to neurodegenerative disease.

FROM PAGE 14

It is an autonomous entity not associated with the NZ Stroke Foundation and totally reliant on the community to support fundraising to enable it to continue its service in the region.

Three part-time staff facilitate the fitness, communication and social programmes, provide one-to-one rehabilitation support, assist with fundraising activities, community networking, public education and awareness and undertake the administrative function for the organisation.

They work closely with the Rehabilitation Ward at Tairāwhiti District Health in determining the needs of the people they support.

Today, 561 people are registered with the service with 42 percent identified as Maori and 26 under the age of 50.

To aid their self-rehab journey, Gisborne Stroke Support provides the following programmes:

- Weekly Exercise Group accommodating an average of 40 – 50 people, delivered by qualified fitness instructors, to aid physical and muscle development.
- Weekly Communication Group averaging 17-21 attendees with a focus on speech/language skills and increased mental wellbeing outcomes.
- Young Stroke Support provides a monthly lunch meeting at a range of cafés and enables peer support.
- In partnership with the YMCA Gisborne, they deliver a Fit 2 Function programme. Delivered weekly, this is tailored to stroke survivors experiencing balance and mobility challenges.

Referrals are made to a physiotherapist, Bowen and alternative therapists and others as required by individuals.

People or family members can self-refer to the service, based in Room 4, St Andrew's Community Hall or by phoning 863 2716.

AgriHQ MARKET REPORT

Week beginning March 23

LAMB

A new round of travel restrictions and isolation protocols have shaken market confidence in the US, UK and EU. Traders in these markets are only too aware of the chaos coronavirus caused in the Chinese ports and distribution networks. Nobody is looking forward to "round two" occurring on their doorstep. New orders all but ceased last week making export prices elusive. With fewer planes in operation, airfreight for chilled lamb is difficult to secure. Traders in the UK and EU have cancelled the balance of their last-minute Easter chilled deliveries despite good demand for chilled lamb in the UK supermarkets. Existing lamb orders are still heading into the UK on sea freight. Meanwhile, importers in the US and EU are keen to defer sea freight delivery by 4-6 weeks. Securing labour for further processing of lamb products is one of the chief concerns behind deferral, closely followed by concerns that ports

will close, or consumer demand will fall.

BEEF

NZ exporters are reporting strong demand from US grinding customers on the back of extreme retail demand driven by panic buying. The price indicator for US domestic 90CL beef lifted US7c/lb last week to US\$2.29/lb. Australian exporters are beginning to ask for higher prices for their manufacturing beef as Australian beef supplies slow during their post-drought recovery period. However, NZ exporters are still having to shift more manufacturing beef into the US market than they would like, and this has prevented a lift in pricing. NZ export prices are holding steady at US\$2.07/lb and US\$2.00/lb for 95CL and 90CL beef, respectively. The stabilisation of these prices is promising. However, we must remember that the coronavirus infection is spreading throughout the US and this may disrupt distribution networks or general demand in the coming weeks. While NZ remains heavily reliant on the US market to sell manufacturing beef, there is still potential for market upsets.

FORESTRY

The wharfgate log market lifted early this month, although only on small change in prices. Log inventories in China at the ports has reached about six million tonnes, likely to take three to four months to work through the backlogs to get back to normal levels. Fortunately, with improving conditions in China around coronavirus there is more confidence that the situation will return to normal, but this may still take a few months. Less than 20% of forestry contractors are still working at normal production levels with almost 30% having stopped work and the remainder working at a reduced capacity. The supply of pruned logs for the local timber mills is starting to become a concern as very few new farmplots are beginning harvesting, with these supplying a large portion of the pruned market.

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Whangara trial may be the last

by Donna Halley

THE results were shared around at the Whangara dog trial last Friday and Saturday in what may turn out to be the last dog trial of the season.

Event wins went to Noddy Halley, Bex Scragg, Jo Waugh and John MacPherson. A thank you to all the judges and helpers.

The sheep proved to be a hard day at the office.

The Waingake trials have been cancelled and the Tolaga Bay trial have been postponed until further notice.

Whangara may have been the last trial of the season, with "the dry" and Covid-19 making this season very trying for clubs.

The North Island and the New Zealand final have also been cancelled.

The top huntaway in the Centre, John MacPherson and Jag on 20 points, and the top heading dog Merv Utting and Fern on 14 points.



EVENT WINNER: Noddy Halley and his dog Spike won the long head at the Whangara dog trial last weekend. He was pictured here in action with another of his dogs, Punga in the zig zag hunt.

Picture supplied

Detailed Whangara results — Event one, long head, judge Rob Jeffery, runs 43: Noddy Halley Spike 89.5 1; Dave Wallace Slug 89 2; Jo Waugh Soda 88.5 3; Henare Walker Storm 88 4; Ruie Bridge Max 87.5 5. 1st intermediate Jo Waugh Soda 88.5. 1st maiden Graeme Cook Glen 85.

Event two, short head and yard, judge Andrew Savage, runs 54: Bex Scragg Floss 92 1; Henare Walker Steel 88 2; Larry Hoole Queen 87 3; Samantha Shaw Zoe 85 4; Maurice Flood Nap 84.5 5. 1st intermediate Bex Scragg Floss 92. 1st maiden Maurice Flood Nap 84.5.

Event three, zig zag hunt, judge Laurence Rau, runs 68: Jo Waugh Sam 98 1; Noddy Halley Punga 97.7 2; Roger Strachan Rex 97.5 3; David Scragg Reef

97 4; Noddy Halley Jade 96.5 5. 1st intermediate Noddy Halley Punga 97.7. 1st maiden Cale Henstock Rick 95.

Event four, straight hunt, judge Brett Loffler, runs 72: John MacPherson Jag 92 1; Samantha Shaw Shade 91 2; C. Ruwhia Code 89.75 3; Colin Bayliss Pearl 89.5 4; Ruie Bridge Cash 89 5. 1st intermediate C. Ruwhia Code 89.75. 1st maiden C. Ruwhia Code 89.75.

Good prices at small sale

by Trevor Brown

A SMALL yarding of just 336 head were presented for sale at yesterday's Matawhero Cattle Fair where buyers from Taumarunui and Whakatane were active, as well as local farmers.

The first pen up of 2.5 year steers from Avondale Farming Gisborne (Strathblane) at Hangaroa fetched the best price of \$1322.

The pen of 44 weighed 510kg. Raroa Station (Tolaga Bay) topped the 1.5 year steers with a pen of seven (395kg) selling for \$1050.

LMJ P/S at Ruatoria sold a pen of 18 weaner steers, weighing 265kg for \$650.

The best price for 18 month heifers went to Mangahanea Farms Ltd at Ruatoria, with \$650 being paid for a pen of 24 weighing 310kg. Raroa Station received \$600 for 13 weaner bulls,

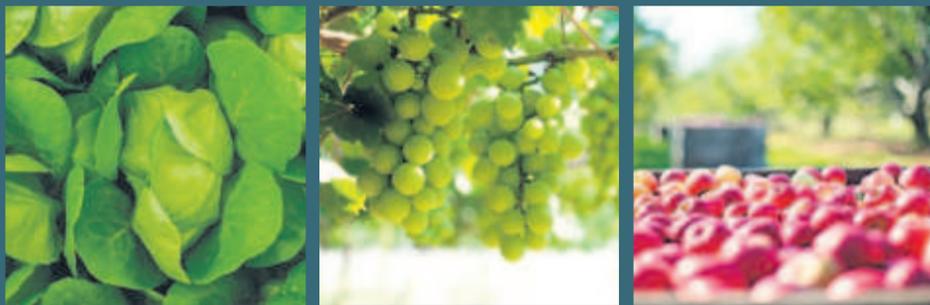
weighing 260kg.

Prices perkg: 2.5 yr steers, \$2.59; 1.5 yr steers, \$2.50 – \$2.74; weaner steers, \$2.18 – \$2.45; 1.5 yr heifers, \$2.09 – \$2.15; weaner bulls, \$2.31.

Best prices —

2.5 year steers: Avondale Farming Gisborne, 44 (510kg), \$1322, 12 (465kg), \$1205. 1.5 year steers: Arakihi Station (Tolaga Bay), 13 (390kg), \$1065; Raroa Station, 7 (395kg), \$1050, 8 (345kg), \$945; Mangahanea Farms Ltd, 12 (320kg), \$860, 23 (280kg), \$700, 8 (255kg), \$645.

Weaner steers: LMJ P/S, 18 (265kg), \$650, 13 (225kg), \$490. 1.5 year heifers: Mangahanea Farms Ltd, 24 (310kg), \$650, 30 (270kg), \$580; Fernside Station (Tolaga Bay), 18 (290kg), \$605. Weaner bulls: Raroa Station, 13 (260kg), \$600.



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Travel deadline extended Playgrounds shut down across NZ

DUNEDIN — There has been a mixed reaction among students to the relaxation of the domestic travel deadline ahead of the Covid-19 lockdown.

A new deadline of midnight Friday has been set after flights and ferry bookings became overwhelmed ahead of the midnight Wednesday deadline.

Dunedin student Georgia Mansell said she spent a sleepless night refreshing the Air New Zealand website in an attempt to get flights so she could get home to Taupo.

She eventually got onto a flight to Auckland via Christchurch and will drive the rest of the way.

Mansell reckoned the domestic travel deadline was always too tight.

“The announcement (of the relaxed deadline) definitely should have been done as the announcement (of the shutdown) was being made or in the next hours because that would have changed my whole experience because I wouldn’t have had as much panic.”

Mansell said when news of the relaxed deadline came through there were scenes of jubilation among her friends.

Meanwhile, fellow Dunedin student Nick Oliver said he was initially gutted when he missed the midnight Wednesday deadline, but now he had cancelled his flight home to Auckland on Thursday.

He said he and his mates had decided travelling home among hundreds of people would put his family at more risk of getting the virus.

“I don’t want to put my mum and dad, my sister, at risk. I don’t want to do anything like that. My mum will still have to go and feed my grandmother

SIGH OF RELIEF: Air New Zealand at this stage has no plans to put on extra flights on Thursday and Friday but the airline plans to run its normal schedule. File picture



and I would hate to compromise my grandmother’s health.”

Air New Zealand said at this stage it had no plans to put on extra flights on Thursday and Friday.

The airline said it was planning to run its normal schedule although it expected to see an increase in the number of people flying.

It said it would look at adding extra capacity if demand warranted it.

KiwiRail will provide extra ferry sailings

KiwiRail has decided to provide an extra two days’ sailings of its interislander ferries — moving an extra 3000 people in each direction, group chief

executive Greg Miller says.

Passengers are being treated as a priority over freight on sailings of the Kaiarahi and the Kaitaki, he said.

Details of the new sailings will be available on the Interislander website in the morning.

In addition, the Capital Connection passenger service between Palmerston North and Wellington will run tomorrow, but will then be suspended.

Miller said KiwiRail crews were working around the clock to try and help people get to where they needed to be.

After the new deadline of midnight on Friday, only essential service workers and freight would be carried on the ferries.

— RNZ

WELLINGTON — Councils around the country are closing off playgrounds as they prepare for a full lockdown to stop the spread of the coronavirus.

With schools, kindies, pools, shops and libraries closed and sports events cancelled, parents may have been hoping to take their youngsters to the local playground as a last resort. But they’re being asked not to because the disease could be spread on shared hard surfaces like swings and slides.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern confirmed today to Newshub that playground equipment was off limits as the virus could stay on them for up to 72 hours.

Julie Pickering, Auckland Council’s head of operations for community facilities, said parks remained open so people could get exercise and fresh air, as long as they practised isolation and safe social distancing.

“However, buildings, playgrounds and all other facilities in our parks are closed and people should stay away from these. “We are working at pace to have signage up at all Auckland Council-owned playgrounds by Wednesday evening. While we do this, it’s very important that people stay away from playgrounds from now onwards.”

Speaking to 95bFM today, Auckland’s mayor Phil Goff acknowledged it would be difficult to take a 3-year-old to a park and forbid them from going on a swing — so suggested taking a route through trees rather than toward a playground.

“We know that Covid-19 can survive on hard surfaces for up to 72 hours. So if we want to minimise the risk of catching and transmitting that disease, (it’s) probably best to leave that playground equipment alone,” he told bFM.

“Touching surfaces that other people have touched, that does create a risk and we’re trying to minimise the risk.”

Although kids were unlikely to die if they caught Covid-19, they could transmit the virus to other, vulnerable people, he said. “Staying at home doesn’t mean home detention . . . go for a walk, go to the local park, go to the beach but please not like they were doing on Bondi Beach.”

In Hamilton skate parks, basketball courts and playgrounds will be closed to the public until further notice. Council chief executive Richard Briggs says keeping people home is the best way to put the brakes on Covid-19’s spread.

“We cannot make any facilities available that encourage people to break those rules. It’s the best way to prevent a widespread outbreak of the virus,” Briggs said.

Westland, Wellington, Horowhenua, Selwyn and Dunedin are also closing playgrounds until further notice. — NZ Herald

Over 800 animals adopted as SPCA pleads for help

AUCKLAND — Over 800 animals have a new home after Kiwis responded to SPCA’S plea for help.

The charity put out a call for help ahead of the Covid-19 alert level 4 lockdown at midnight Wednesday.

“In light of the recent Government announcements during this uncertain time Covid-19 presents us with, our centre will be closing to the public for adoptions from Wednesday afternoon at 4pm,” a statement said.

Anyone wanting to adopt

was urged to visit their local SPCA branch before it closed.

“We will be practising social distancing so please be prepared to wait if we have too many people in the centre at any one time.”

SPCA CEO Andrea Midgen said it was the perfect time for animal lovers to adopt a furry friend.

“Now is an ideal time to adopt, as many families will be spending time at home.

“That means lots of quality time to spend with your new furry family member. Kiwis

who adopt an animal give them a second chance and a loving home for life.”

And New Zealanders responded to the call in droves, with 828 animals adopted in the only a few days.

An SPCA update said the charity was “incredibly touched” by the overwhelming support.

“Thank you so much to everyone who visited an SPCA Centre and gave one of our animals the loving family they deserve, and of course to

everyone who helped spread the word.”

Any animals not adopted by midnight Wednesday will remain in the care of SPCA staff.

“While we don’t have all the answers about how we will be operating over the next four weeks right now, we will continue to keep you updated as soon as we can share more information,” a statement said.

“Once again, thank you so much for all your support for the animals during this time.”

— NZ Herald

Justice system’s response to combat Covid-19

WELLINGTON — Court cases are being heard remotely and prisons have shut their gates to visitors as measures to combat Covid-19 ramp up.

The Chief Justice and heads of court benches have met to identify what court proceedings will be given priority and how they will be heard.

They found it is essential courts continue to uphold the rule of law and ensure fair trial rights, the right to natural justice and rights under the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act.

Courts

Courts are deemed an essential service and will continue to operate even when the alert level is raised to four on Wednesday afternoon.

Proceedings that affect liberty of the individual, personal safety and wellbeing and matters in which resolution is time-critical will be prioritised this week. The Supreme Court, Court of Appeal, Employment Court, Environment Court, Maori Land Court, Waitangi Tribunal and Coroners Court are shut.

Chief Justice Helen Winkelmann said courts will use remote participation, including audio-visual links, telephone and email, as much as possible.

Physical distancing and hygiene measures will be followed in cases where court attendance is unavoidable, like some in-person attendances in the District Court.

The Chief Justice said she appreciated the levels of concern amongst the public, court staff and legal profession during these “unprecedented times”.

“Our frontline court staff and members of the legal profession have continued to serve the interests of justice, and their constructive approach to the necessary changes we have implemented, and will continue to implement, has kept the courts operating and will continue to see justice administered.”

Prisons

Prisons are in an effective lock down after suspending all visits and non-essential movements from midnight Monday.

The temporary suspension includes private and volunteer visits, release to work activities, reintegration activities, visits by researchers and community work activities.

In a statement, National Commissioner Rachel Leota said it was not a decision taken lightly but safety was of paramount concern.

“We know the decision to suspend prison visits and other activities will be incredibly disappointing for prisoners, their families and friends.”

Instead of public visits, prisoners are having increased contact with friends and family through phone calls, letters and emails.

Corrections has supplied all inmates with a

\$5 phonecard each week and is installing more phones in residential units and increasing the amount of inbound emails that can be printed.

There are no confirmed or suspected cases of Covid-19 in any of the country’s 19 prisons.

Follow our live blog for all the latest coronavirus updates

A Covid-19 death will be reportable to the coroner if the death is of someone in official custody or care.

The Coroners Court

Coroners investigate the cause of sudden, unexplained or suspicious deaths and make recommendations that might prevent similar deaths in the future.

A death that is known to be, or suspected to be, from Covid-19 won’t be reported to the coroner because it’s from a natural cause.

However, a Covid-19 death will be reportable to the coroner if the death is of someone in official custody or care.

Chief Coroner Judge Deborah Marshall said while she hoped New Zealand doesn’t record a single death from Covid-19, the Coroners Court was prepared if should the worst happen.

Opportunity for change

Criminal barrister and President of the Auckland District Law Society, Marie Dyhrberg QC, said Covid-19 would give courts the impetus to become more efficient.

“I think what’s going to come out of this crisis, and there’s always something that does is that not just the justice system, but everyone else, is going to say we can work differently, we can save time, we can work remotely.”

She said the new court protocols would create a large but inevitable backlog of cases.

“It is very frustrating but I’ve looked at the steps that have been taken by the Chief Justice in consultation and to be quite frank, as someone who is always jumping up and down about fair trial rights and no undue delay, I see there is nothing that can be done.”

Dyhrberg said Covid-19 was a serious threat to prisons housing inmates who naturally lived in confined quarters.

“The prisons have every reason to really fear a case coming to light in prisons and then having to manage that.

“I know they have got protocols in place but it would be devastating.

“You have huge numbers of people. It’s set up for them to be in close quarters. If they have any sort of recreation, it’s in a small yard where keeping the social distancing is going to be impossible.” — RNZ

Short-staffed and undersupplied Covid-19 strains hospital capacity to deliver care

WELLINGTON — The Ministry of Health has surveyed intensive care units and says it can more than triple their capacity immediately.

However, the units themselves report widespread understaffing and workers have spoken of being burnt out.

Several different figures for ventilator numbers have been reported in recent days, ranging from 176 to 221.

Director-General of Health Dr Ashley Bloomfield ordered the survey which the ministry has had since last Friday, and was checking on it with ministers.

"I was encouraged by it because we have around 180 ICU beds as it is, fully staffed, and the ability to, at least with our current ventilator capacity, treble that immediately."

A bottleneck of staffing was being dealt with.

"One of the reasons we want to reduce elective surgery and outpatients is so we can train staff to be able to look after people who are ventilated, and looking at how we can increase our number of ventilators," Dr Bloomfield said.

However, newly collated figures show about 90 percent of the country's intensive care units are short of staff.

Nineteen out of 21 ICUs and anaesthetic services told the Association of Salaried Medical Specialists (ASMS) that they

needed more staff, though only 55 percent of them had essential vacancies at the time of the 2019 survey of clinical directors.

"What we found the most concerning is that even in the light of those vacancies, all but two of the services that responded said that they needed significantly more bodies on the ground basically to do the work," said the lead researcher, Dr Charlotte Chambers.

"It's not a great situation to be faced with when we know that things are likely to be getting even more pressured as Covid-19 develops further."

ASMS collated the figures due to the intense interest in intensive care capacity in light of Covid-19.

The comments from ICU doctors to ASMS in 2019 included: "The main concern for me is that we still have a 24-hour 'shift' where we work 8am to 6pm, then cover the unit until the following morning."

"With the increased ICU activity, this often means you spend 24 hours straight at work, or frequent phone calls and/or attendances in the unit after hours."

"This means that some very tired people are looking after critically ill patients."

Overall, the ICUs reported being 17.5 percent short of staff — they had 258 staff across the 13 DHBs* the survey got

responses from, and needed another 45 staff all up.

Other comments were:

■ "Frequently present and awake for 20 hours of 24-hour period."

■ "There is no-one to cover you, sometimes you just don't get to eat, but usually find some time at least for a cup of tea."

Dr Chambers said medical specialists provided great care, and people "had faith in them" but doctors were already very tired before Covid-19 hit, and the busy winter season was also approaching.

"I think that's certainly a reality that they're facing . . . I guess the issue that we have is that they themselves know that it's not always safe to be working crazy hours. Fatigue is a real issue."

More than half described themselves to ASMS as burnt out, and 80 percent said they turned up to work even when sick. This would not be able to carry on under Covid-19, Dr Chambers said.

"I guess we have to be creative. We have to think about different ways in which we could staff core services like the ICU, and make sure that we don't compromise continuity of care. Again, the clinicians know the best in this regard," she said.

"I guess the only hope we have is that the district health boards and the service managers



TIGHT SITUATION: he ICUs reported being 17.5 percent short of staff — they had 258 staff across the 13 DHBs* the survey got responses from, and needed another 45 staff all up. File picture

around the country will take their advice and put actions into place."

It was a wait-and-see space on that regards the pandemic and how the ministry and Minister of Health were responding, Dr Chambers said.

"It's just about giving them the best working conditions, protecting their health and wellbeing, whilst we put them out to fight this frontline."

Even where a specialist noted to the survey that their ICU was relatively well-staffed, they said it was about to open a new part so "then we shall become understaffed relative to bed

numbers".

An approach that relied on recruiting overseas — the hospital doctor workforce is made up of 42 percent of international medical graduates — was not a long-term solution, compared with making working conditions more attractive for local graduates, Dr Chambers said.

* *The 13 DHBs response came from included Waikato, Auckland, Hawke's Bay, Bay of Plenty and Lakes; but not other DHBs that do not have their own ICU units, such as Wairarapa, West Coast, and Whanganui.* — RNZ

Govt unveils air freight support for 'critical imports'

by Jason Walls, NZ Herald

WELLINGTON — The Government will spend \$330 million on ensuring high priority goods, such as milk, meat and medicine, are still able to be exported by air freight as the country goes into level four lockdown.

The money is part of the Government's \$600m aviation rescue package; \$270m of that was allocated to airports and airlines last week.

The \$600m package was one element of the Government's wider \$16.3 billion overall economic support package.

Transport Minister Phil Twyford said the second component of this package, announced yesterday, was critical for high-value exporters.

At this stage, up to \$330m of the aviation support package will be allocated to:

- Ensuring air freight capacity is available on key routes for at least the

next six months.

- Dealing with immediate risks and opportunities as they arise in the aviation sector.

Twyford said the Government was working with airlines and air freight operators to ensure New Zealand's key air freight channels remain open for high priority goods.

"We recognise how important it is to continue the flow of critical imports like medicine, and also support our exporters to ensure New Zealand is well-placed to respond to the recovery when it comes," Twyford said.

He said the rest of the world still wants New Zealand's food products such as milk and meat.

"So it is critical that part of the economy is able to continue exporting and keep employing New Zealanders during the lockdown — maintaining freight services is essential to that."

The scheme is proposed to run for at

least six months.

The Government expects, at least initially, the money would be made by way of grants.

But it would likely move to other forms of support over the period of the scheme.

Airlines and air freight businesses have been invited to submit proposals to the Government to apply for the support funding.

Twyford said proposals would need to cover how critical imports of medicines, medical supplies and high-value exports will be prioritised, and prices to be charged. He said he was already seeing great examples of the sector working collaboratively.

"And I expect this to continue. We also expect some of these proposals to include repatriation of passengers."

Twyford also revealed that Cabinet had agreed to fast-track immediate funding to ensure urgent freight services are not disrupted.

Human remains found buried off Desert Road

by Jared Savage, NZ Herald

NORTH ISLAND — Human remains have been found buried in a remote part of the central North Island, which police found after a tip-off. Police will not confirm the possible identity of the deceased until the remains — found buried near Rangipo off the Desert Rd — are confirmed.

Human remains were found buried in a remote part of the central North Island yesterday morning.

In response to New Zealand Herald inquiries, a spokesperson confirmed police have been carrying out a land search in the southern Bay of Plenty area since the beginning of this week.

A team of officers have been searching an area around Rangipo Intake Road after police received information which led them to have "grave fears" for a person.

A scene guard is present and the process for getting the remains ready to remove off-site is not expected to be completed

until tomorrow.

A post mortem will then take place and it is expected to be some time before the formal identification process is completed.

Until the remains have been formally identified, the spokesperson said police will not be speculating on the possible identity of the deceased.

GRAVE FEARS: A team of officers have been searching an area around Rangipo Intake Road, off Desert Road. File picture



'It's insane': Queues outside gun shop ahead of lockdown

AUCKLAND — Food and liquor aren't the only items that Kiwis are rushing to buy, with a long queue of people outside an Auckland gun shop before it opened yesterday.

The queue outside Gun City in Penrose started before the store opened at 9am, with a local business owner estimating between 20-30 people were waiting.

He told the NZ Herald he had never seen queues outside the business.

That number grew after the doors opened and the local business owner said he called police, concerned by the group and he was feeling unsafe.

He told the NZ Herald that police advised him to ask customers to move on if he was concerned, although they had a legal right to be there. He said that on asking them to move he received an unfriendly response and said it was "like poking a bear".

"Seriously, this is not the time to buy guns," he said.

He told the Herald he was "all for freedom" but said the group shouldn't be buying guns "at a time like this".

He said guns were the last thing Kiwis needed to buy, "less than toilet paper, really". He said he had never had issues with Gun City or its customers in the past.

The local business owner said that customers appeared to be making large purchases, with one man walking out with as much ammunition as he could carry, labelling the purchase "insane".

A police spokesperson told the Herald that they are currently monitoring the situation. "Police attended this morning between 7am and 8am, and provided reassurance advice to both members of public and staff at the store," they said.

"Our priority as police is to keep all New Zealanders safe, and we want to remind people not to panic in this unprecedented time, maintain a safe distance from others, look after one another and stay safe."

The New Zealand Herald has contacted Gun City for comment. — NZ Herald



We're all in this together.

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different right now.**

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a break from your mortgage payments or extra money to keep your
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WEDNESDAY—THURSDAY'S TELEVISION GUIDE

TVNZ 1 © TVNZ 2020

5pm The Chase *TV*
A quiz show where contestants must stay one step ahead of The Chaser.

6pm 1 News At 6pm *TV*
The latest news, sport, and weather.

7pm Seven Sharp *TV*
Stories of the day from around New Zealand.

7.30 Surveillance Oz *TV*
An unfriendly neighbour is caught red handed with a chainsaw.

8pm FINAL Location, Location, Location *TV*
Kirstie and Phil catch up with two couples who, in 2017, were in a race against time to find homes.

8.20 LIVE Lotto
The Lotto draw.

8.25 Location, Location, Location *TV* Continued.

9.05 Heathrow: Britain's Busiest Airport *TV*
Series exploring life behind the scenes at Europe's biggest airport, focusing on the almost 77,000 people working on the airfield and in the terminals.

9.30 Coronation Street *TV*
Geoff twists Yasmeen's words; Ken moves out of No 1; Ali says his farewells.

10pm 1 News Tonight *TV*

10.30 Criminal Minds AO *TV*
When a criminal in Miami sensationalises his crimes by giving the local media exclusive footage, the BAU is called in to investigate.

11.25 Queen Sugar AO *TV*
Violet confronts Sam Landry about the attack; Deesha helps Ralph Angel with his upcoming hearing; Nova asks Calvin some difficult questions; Romero and Charley's relationship reaches breaking point.

THURSDAY

12.20 Emmerdale
Nate questions Moira; Amy confronts Kerry; is change afoot for Cain?

12.50 Te Karere *TV*

1.15 Infomercials

5.35 Te Karere *TV*

6am Breakfast

9am The Ellen DeGeneres Show *TV*

10am Tipping Point *TV*
Can Kerry talk Amy into running away? Nate makes a disturbing discovery; Robert prepares for his plea hearing.

1pm Coronation Street PGR *TV*
Ike reaches out to Gary; Sarah warns Bethany to tread carefully with Daniel; a disgruntled Geoff steps it up a level.

2pm The Ellen DeGeneres Show *TV*

3pm Tipping Point *TV*

4pm Te Karere *TV*

4.30 Highway Cops *TV*
Cars are caught racing at over 150km in Canterbury; a notorious crash site strikes again in central Otago; an overdue impound catches up with a young driver in Timaru.

5pm The Chase *TV*

TVNZ 2 © TVNZ 2020

5pm The Simpsons *TV*
Lisa's documentary about life with the Simpsons is accepted into Sundance.

5.30 Home And Away *TV*
Maggie fears for her marriage when Marco blackmails her; Leah and Justin must reconcile after her outburst; Jasmine reacts to receiving major news.

6pm Neighbours *TV*
Mark and Paige finally marry; Paul's matchmaking does not quite go to plan; Sky receives some surprising news.

7pm Shortland Street PGR *TV*
Nicole sticks her oar in; Tess faces her past; Cece plays with fire.

7.30 Have You Been Paying Attention? *TV*

8.30 MOVIE This Means War AO *TV*
2012 Action Comedy. Two top CIA operatives compete against one another after discovering they are dating the same woman. Reese Witherspoon, Chris Pine, Tom Hardy.

10.25 Two And A Half Men PGR *TV*
Alan asks his brother to help Jake with his book report, but Charlie decides he wants to go to the race track, and takes Jake with him.

10.55 Mom PGR *TV*

11.25 Wentworth AO *TV*

THURSDAY

1.10 Shortland Street PGR *TV*

1.35 Infomercials

2.45 Quantico AO *TV*

3.30 Desperate Housewives AO *TV*

4.15 The Fresh Prince Of Bel Air *TV*

4.40 Neighbours PGR *TV*

5.30 Infomercials

6.30 Rescue Bots Academy *TV*

6.40 Moon And Me *TV*

7am The Tom And Jerry Show *TV*

7.25 Thunderbirds Are Go! *TV*

7.50 Bunnica *TV*

8.15 Muppet Babies *TV*

8.35 Mickey And The Roadster Racers *TV*

9am Infomercials

10am Neighbours PGR *TV*

11am Army Wives PGR *TV*

Noon Selling Houses Australia *TV*

1.05 Judge Rinder PGR

2.10 Cougar Town PGR *TV*

2.40 Home And Away *TV*

3.10 Shortland Street PGR *TV*

3.40 Pokemon: Sun And Moon: Ultra Legends *TV*

4.05 The Deep *TV*

4.30 Friends *TV*

5pm The Simpsons *TV*

5.30 Home And Away *TV*

BRAVO

5pm Judge Jerry

5.30 Hoarders *TV*

6.30 Love It Or List It

7.30 Hoarders

8.30 999: What's Your Emergency? AO

9.30 Young, Dumb, And Banged Up In The Sun AO

10.30 Snapped PGR *TV*

11.30 Snapped: Killer Couples AO *TV*

THURSDAY

12.20 Infomercials *TV*

10am Four Weddings USA *TV*

11am Snapped PGR *TV*

Noon The Kelly Clarkson Show

1pm The Real Housewives Of Beverly Hills AO *TV*

2pm Below Deck PGR *TV*

3pm Keeping Up With The Kardashians PGR *TV*

4pm Undercover Boss *TV*

5pm Judge Jerry

5.30 Hoarders *TV*

THREE

5pm Millionaire Hot Seat *TV*

6pm NewsHub Live At 6pm

7pm The Project

7.30 Married At First Sight Australia PGR *TV*

9.05 Talking Married AO *TV*

9.15 Lost And Found PGR (Starting Today) *TV*

10.15 NewsHub Late

10.45 Designated Survivor AO *TV*
President Kirkman steps into his role as commander in chief, and must hold the country together.

11.45 Face The Truth PGR *TV*

THURSDAY

12.10 Infomercials

6am The AM Show

9am The Café

10am Infomercials

11.25 Millionaire Hot Seat *TV*

12.25 Face The Truth PGR

12.55 Dr Phil PGR
Alisha says her 10-year-old son is pushing his family to their limits of tolerance as they live in fear of his next violent outburst.

1.55 Married At First Sight Australia PGR *TV*

3.25 FINAL Peter Kuruvita's Coastal Kitchen
Peter looks to the future of farming, and explores how the food community in Noosa is leading the way with regenerative practices.

4pm United Plates Of America *TV*

4.30 NewsHub Live At 4:30pm

5pm Millionaire Hot Seat *TV*

CHOICE

5pm Nigellissima

5.30 Mysteries At The Museum

6.30 Gem Hunt

7.30 MOVIE The Curse Of Oak Island PGR
2014 Documentary.

9.30 Alone: The Arctic PGR

10.30 Gem Hunt

11.30 Mysteries At The Museum

THURSDAY

12.30 Gino's Italian Escape

1am Nigellissima

1.30 Travel Man: 48 Hours In

2am Bear Grylls Mission Survive PGR

3am The Kitten Rescuers

4am Alone: The Arctic PGR

5am Mysteries At The Museum

6am Paul Hollywood's Pies And Puds

7am Gino's Italian Escape

7.30 Nigellissima

8am The Kitten Rescuers

9am Caribbean Pirate Treasure

9.30 Storage Hoarders

10.30 Mysteries At The Museum

11.30 Gem Hunt

12.30 MOVIE The Curse Of Oak Island PGR
2014 Documentary.

2.30 Alone: The Arctic PGR

3.30 Wildlife Icons

4.30 The Hairy Bikers' Comfort Food

5.30 Mysteries At The Museum

PRIME

5pm 3rd Rock From The Sun *TV* (Part 1)

5.30 Prime News

6pm SkySpeed

6.30 Sky Sport News

7pm The Crowd Goes Wild

7.30 Traffic Cops PGR *TV*
Series following the work of the UK's traffic police.

8.30 Ambulance AO *TV*

9.40 Extreme Love Stories AO
A woman who dates men just for the travel; a gay man who accidentally became pregnant; polyamorous love coaches help other polyamorous couples to work through their complex relationships.

10.40 Courtside

11.10 NZ Football Show

11.45 The Late Show With Stephen Colbert PGR

THURSDAY

12.45 Closedown

6am Ben 10: Alien Force *TV*

6.25 Danger Mouse *TV*

6.50 The Loud House *TV*

7.15 Trulli Tales *TV*

7.30 Atomic Puppet *TV*

7.40 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles *TV*

8.05 The Thundermans *TV*

8.30 The Moe Show *TV*

9am Celebrity Antiques Road Trip *TV*

10am The Doctors PGR

11am The Chase Australia *TV*

Noon Everybody Loves Raymond *TV*

12.30 Bull PGR *TV*

1.30 Frasier *TV*

2pm The Late Show With Stephen Colbert PGR *TV*

3pm Wheel Of Fortune

3.30 Jeopardy

4pm A Place In The Sun

5pm 3rd Rock From The Sun *TV* (Part 2)

5.30 Prime News

MAORI TV

5pm Waiata Mai

5.10 Te Mana Kuratahi *TV*

5.40 Tamariki Haka

5.50 E Kori *TV*

5.55 Pipi Ma

6pm ZooMoo

6.10 FINAL Te Nūtube

6.20 Darwin + Newts *TV*

6.30 Te Ao: Maori News

7pm R&R With Eru And K'Lee

7.30 Kai Safari

8pm Ahikarao AO *TV*

8.30 Toku Whare Kohanga Reo

9pm Toku Whare Kohanga Reo

9.30 Haka At Home

10.30 FINAL #whiuatepatai AO *TV*

11pm Te Ao: Maori News *TV*

11.30 Closedown

THURSDAY

6.30 Paia

6.40 My Mokai

7.10 He Rourou *TV*

7.20 E Kori *TV*

7.25 E Ki E Ki

7.30 Mahi Pai

7.40 Tamariki Haka

7.50 Huritua

8am Polyfest Kapa Haka *TV*

8.30 Sidewalk Karaoke PGR *TV*

9am Best Of Kai Time On The Road *TV*

9.30 Opaki *TV*

10am Waiata *TV*

10.30 Morena *TV*

11am Nga Tamariki O Te Kohu *TV*

Noon Funny Where: Gamesnight PGR *TV*

12.30 It's In The Bag

1pm Nga Pari Karangaranga O Te Motu *TV*

1.30 Ako *TV*

2pm Toku Reo *TV*

3pm Polyfest Kapa Haka *TV*

3.30 Playlist

4pm Polyfest Kapa Haka *TV*

4.30 Patapatai

5pm Paia

5.10 My Mokai

5.40 He Rourou *TV*

5.50 E Kori *TV*

5.55 E Ki E Ki



Location, Location, Location
8pm on TVNZ 1



This Means War
8.30pm on TVNZ 2



The Curse of Oak Island
7.30pm on Choice

RNZ NATIONAL

5pm Checkpoint

6.30 Trending Now

7.06 Nights With Bryan Crump.

7.35 At The Movies With Simon Morris.

8.15 Dateline Pacific
Current-affairs programme covering the major Pacific stories of the week.

8.30 Windows On The World
International public-radio features and documentaries.

10pm News At Ten

10.15 Lately With Karyn Hay.

11.06 Inside Out With Nick Tipping.

THURSDAY 12.04 The All Night Programme **5am** First Up **6am** Morning Report **9.06** Nine To Noon **10.45** The Reading **Noon** Midday Report **1.06** Afternoons **4.06** The Panel **5pm** Checkpoint

PAY TV

SKY 5

5pm Wheel Of Fortune PG

5.30 Hardcore Pawn PG

6pm Highway Thru Hell PG

7pm Border Security: Australia's Frontline M

7.30 Hawaii Five-0 MV

8.30 FBI MV

9.30 Shades Of Blue MVLSC

10.30 SVU MV

11.15 Highway Thru Hell PG

THURSDAY

12.05 Modern Family PG

12.55 Wheel Of Fortune PG

1.20 Jeopardy! PG

1.40 Border Security: Australia's Frontline M

2.05 Shades Of Blue MVLSC

2.50 FBI MV

3.40 SVU MV

4.25 Hardcore Pawn PG

4.50 Hawaii Five-0 MV

5.35 The Simpsons PG

6am Jeopardy! PG

6.25 Wheel Of Fortune PG

6.45 The Simpsons PG

7.10 Modern Family PG

8am Border Security: Australia's Frontline M

8.25 Highway Thru Hell PG

9.15 Hardcore Pawn PG

9.40 Hawaii Five-0 MV

10.25 SVU MV

11.10 Modern Family PG

Noon Jeopardy

12.25 Wheel Of Fortune PG

12.50 Shades Of Blue MVLSC

1.40 FBI MV

2.25 Hawaii Five-0 MV

3.10 Modern Family PG

4pm The Simpsons PG

4.30 Jeopardy! PG

5pm Wheel Of Fortune PG

5.30 Hardcore Pawn PG

MOVIES PREMIERE

5.15 Wild Rose MLS 2019 Drama.
Jessie Buckley, Julie Walters.

6.55 Permanent MSC 2017
Comedy. Patricia Arquette, Rainn Wilson.

8.30 The Mule MLC 2018 Drama.
An elderly man is offered a job that simply requires him to drive but, unknown to him, he has just signed on as a drug runner for a Mexican cartel. Clint Eastwood, Laurence Fishburne.

10.30 Ladies In Black PGL 2018
Drama. Julia Ormond, Angourie Rice.

THURSDAY

12.15 Secret Summer PG 2015
Drama. Lindsey Shaw, Derek Theler.

1.40 Pooka! 18VLS 2018
Horror. Nyasha Hatendi, Latarsha Rose.

3.05 Wild Rose MLS 2019 Drama.
Jessie Buckley, Julie Walters.

4.45 Permanent MSC 2017
Comedy. Patricia Arquette, Rainn Wilson.

6.20 The Mule MLC 2018 Drama.

8.15 Ladies In Black PGL 2018
Drama.

10am Secret Summer PG 2015
Drama.

11.25 Wild Rose MLS 2019 Drama.

1.05 The Mule MLC 2018 Drama.

3pm Ladies In Black PGL 2018
Drama.

4.45 Widows 16VLS 2018 Drama.

DISCOVERY

5.40 Aussie Gold Hunters PG

7.30 Alaska: The Last Frontier PG

8.30 Alaskan Bush People PG

9.25 Guardians Of The Glades PG

10.15 Moonshiners MC

11.05 Naked And Afraid M

11.55 How It's Made PG

THURSDAY

12.20 How Do They Do It? PG

12.45 World's Deadliest Drivers PG

1.35 Deadliest Catch PG

3.15 Gold Rush: White Water PG

4.05 What On Earth? PG

4.55 Deadliest Catch PG

6.35 Fast N' Loud PG

7.30 World's Deadliest Drivers PG

7.55 World's Deadliest Drivers PG

8.20 Alaska: The Last Frontier PG

9.10 Alaskan Bush People PG

10am How It's Made PG

10.25 How Do They Do It? PG

10.50 Aussie Gold Hunters PG

11.40 Evil Lives Here MVC

12.30 Killer Instinct With Chris Hansen M

1.20 The Coroner: I Speak For The Dead M

2.10 Top Gear

3pm Outback Opal Hunters PG

3.50 Outback Opal Hunters PG

4.45 Outback Opal Hunters PG

5.40 Outback Opal Hunters PG

NOTICE BOARD

Meetings

Sec 7 & 13 BLK VIII MANGAPORO SURVEY DISTRICT TRUST

Trading as Te Uapata Station

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

For Year ended June 30, 2019

10am, Saturday 28 March 2020

28 Douglas Street Okitu, Gisborne

AGENDA

Previous AGM Minutes Chair Report Financial Report Trust Order Election of Officers General Business

A. F. Haenga Chair

WHAREKAHIKA B1 & WHAREKAHIKA B2

Application to constitute the Whakai Station Ahu Whenua Trust

Notice is hereby given that there will be a Maori Land Court Hearing.

Venue: Ruatoria Court Hearing Centre Hekiera Road Ruatoria

Date: 3 April 2020

Time: 11.20am

PUNARUKU AHUWHENUA TRUST TOKATA A1

APPLICATION TO ADD TRUSTEE SECTION 239/93

Venue: Ruatoria Maori Land Court

Date: Friday 3 April 2020

Time: 12.40pm

Nau mai, Haere mai

POVERTY BAY A&P ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 31st March

HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Public Notices



REGRETTABLY the Marina Restaurant will be closed until further notice.

Ready-made meals will be available.

Please phone 868 5919 to enquire.

Thank you for your support.

Caroline and Stephane

Classifieds Phone 869 0601

The Gisborne Herald

Work Wanted

BUILDER. No job to small. Ph Dave 027 4407 127.

ELECTRICIAN. All works certified. 10% off hourly rate. Paul, 0226 783 024.

MESSY GARDEN??

"Let us do it for you." Ph 027 659 2915.

TREE removals, tree trimming. Greenwaste removal, 0274 668 201.

LOST & FOUND

Found

BUNCH of 4 keys on a keyring found on Okitu Beach. To claim them please phone (06) 867 8925.

Public Notices



GISBORNE RDA AGM

POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Public Notices

GISBORNE PRESBYTERIAN PARISH

ST ANDREW'S CAR BOOT SALES HAVE BEEN CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

OPEN DOOR CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

and all other activities held in the community hall

Public Notices

DISPOSAL OF CLINICAL INFORMATION

Hauora Tairawhiti's policy is that clinical information of any individual aged 19 years or over will be disposed of 10 years after their death.

Records of people who died in 2009 are now due for disposal.

Under legislation, Hauora Tairawhiti can transfer health information to a personal representative of that person i.e. the executor or administrator of the estate, or next-of-kin.

Strict criteria are in place to ensure clinical information is released only to those authorised to receive it and proof of authority such as probate, letters of administration, or a certified copy of a birth certificate or driver's licence must be provided.

Records requests should be sent in writing, along with certified documents and contact details to:

Team Leader, Clinical Records
Gisborne Hospital
Private Bag 7001
Gisborne 4040

Requests should be made by April 25th 2020.

Situations Vacant



RECEPTIONIST/ ADMINISTRATOR
TE KAHU WHITIKI KURA - HEALTH CLINIC

We are seeking a permanent part-time Receptionist/Administrator to coordinate health and wellbeing services for our students in our Health Clinic. Hours of work will be 30 hours per week, term time only. The position will suit someone interested in the wellbeing of high school aged students. Current first aid certificate or willingness to undergo training is essential.

Please request the required application form and send your covering letter, a copy of your CV and contact details of 2 referees by email to sue@lyttonhigh.net.

Applications close at 3pm, Tuesday 31st March.

Wiremu Elliott Principal

Keep Your Privacy

Let us collect responses to your advertisements.

Only \$7.00 (incl GST) for 30 days

Ask about Herald box numbers
ph 869 0601

Situations Vacant

ELGIN SCHOOL
SCALE A TEACHER

We are looking for an experienced teacher for our Y5/6 class. Strong classroom management and a willingness to learn is essential. Strengths in Te Reo and Digital Learning is desirable. We are a Positive Behaviour for Learning, Assessment for Learning and Manaiaakalani School. This position is Fixed Term for Terms 2, 3, 4 2020. Applications close Friday 3 April. Please send letter of application to Janet Collier-Poi (Principal), 2 Knox Street, Gisborne.

principal@elgin.school.nz
Ph 867 5454

Situations Vacant



ADMINISTRATION VACANCY

The Findlay Group is a dynamic business with operations in New Zealand, Australia and the USA.

Our local Family Business requires a fulltime, energetic person to join our Administration team to provide customer, administration and accounting services for the Findlay Group based from our Grey Street location.

We have a strong commitment to our Health & Safety culture, and our staff all embrace our Company Vision, Mission and Values.

Key Accountabilities include:

- Accounts Payable and Receivable processing
- Bakery and Distribution operations
- Management reporting
- General office functions including reception, telephone and customer support
- Ability to work to required timelines, prioritise workflow, and at times work unsupervised to deliver support to our sites.

We will train you, we will reward you well, and provide a very safe working environment.

To join our fun-loving, friendly team, you will require:

- Effective planning, communication and organisational skills
- Good computer skills including Word and Excel, use of Industry specific software will be required
- Experience in an office or general accounting environment
- A "can-do" attitude who looks to provide solutions in a dynamic, changing business environment
- A Police check

If this sounds like you, complete an application form by calling into our Office at 190 Grey Street, or download from www.wfl.co.nz

Handwritten applications, your CV including 2 referees who will be contacted, close on 10 April 2020.

Applications will be treated in confidence.

Please address to:

Ian Parker, General Manager
PO Box 268, Gisborne 4040

HOME & LEISURE

Firewood

BUY now. 2m3 Pine \$120, 4m3 \$220, 6m3 \$320, 8m3 \$430, 12m3 \$640, short logs unsplit 20m3 \$250. Mac's Wood. Ph 862 8876.

MANUKA, Old Man Pine, Macrocarpa. www.thefirewoodguy.nz or ph Len, 021 053 5157.

Readers Bargains

2 seater sofas x2. (length 1.5m), very good cond, \$300ea ono. Delux office chair. Ph 027 652 0388.

Fruit and Produce

WE ARE STILL OPEN

APPLES. Royal Gala, Red & Golden Delicious & Ballarat Cookers. Packham pears, grapes, sweet-corn, squash pumpkins, pea hay, and much more at Teesdale Orchard, Back Ormond Rd. Open 7 days. Eftpos available.

Readers Bargains

BBQ, Rinnai s/s on wheels, 5 burners, thermostat cabinet, full gas bottle, clean, good cond, \$350. Ph 868 4504, 021 237 4077.

FARMING

Livestock



COVID-19 MATAWHERO & WAIROA SALEYARD CANCELLATION NOTICE

All sales at the Matawhero and Wairoa saleyards are cancelled until further notice. This includes all weaner fairs, cattle sales and sheep sales scheduled from tomorrow, Friday 25th March 2020 onwards and all regular calendared weekly sales.

Situations Vacant

OPERATIONS MANAGER POSITION

FOUR SEASONS harvests and packs squash and citrus for domestic and export markets. We also have teams to maintain horticultural crops and provide labour to other companies.

We're looking for an energetic person to effectively oversee, manage our horticulture operations of Four Seasons Services (FSS). This comprises of:

- Maintaining a culture of health and safety practices
- Working with supervisors that have teams for orchard and field maintenance
- Working within our squash and citrus packing and harvest operations
- Following budget and operating plans
- Assessing strengths and identify areas for improvement, including the implementation of IT resources to enhance efficiency – including software, mobile app's and hardware for data entry
- Managing and leading a team with a diverse array of talents, responsibilities, and challenges
- Ensuring goals are met in areas including customer satisfaction, safety, quality, productivity and programme delivery and are successfully meeting key stakeholder expectations and deadlines
- Meeting with existing and potential customers, understanding customer requirements and scheduling work for employees
- Developing and implementing recruitment and training programmes

Requirements:

- Proven stakeholder management and relationship building skills
- Proven experience managing and leading a team and fostering a positive and engaged workplace culture around health, safety and wellbeing
- Experience using computers for a variety of tasks
- Knowledge of and previous work experience in the horticulture sector is preferred
- Excellent customer service and interpersonal skills
- Excellent time and project management skills
- Commercially minded
- Able to work in NZ

Please send CV and cover letter to:

Pastoralcare@fourseasons.net.nz

Situations Vacant



SOCIAL WORKER

We are seeking a passionate and motivated Social worker to join our school community. This will be a fixed term, part-time position, 30 hours per week, term time only, for 2020. The position will suit someone interested in the wellbeing of high school aged students and their whanau.

Please request the schools required application form and send your covering letter, a copy of your CV and contact details of 2 referees by email to sue@lyttonhigh.net.

Applications close at 3pm, Tuesday 31st March.

Wiremu Elliott Principal

Situations Vacant



ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

TE WHARE WHAI HUA – TEEN PARENT UNIT

Lytton High School seeks an enthusiastic person to assist and support the teacher in charge with general administration duties for the day-to-day running of the Teen Parent Unit at Lytton High School. Start Term 2, 2020.

This is a permanent, term time only position for 30 hours per week.

Please request the required application form and send your covering letter, a copy of your CV and the contact details of 2 referees by email to sue@lyttonhigh.net

Applications close 3pm, Tuesday 31st March.

Wiremu Elliott Principal



Focus On The Land

Farming news and local profiles.

Wednesdays and Saturdays in your Gisborne Herald.

The Gisborne Herald

Situations Vacant

Te Kura Tuarua o Turanga Wahine
Gisborne Girls' High School

GUIDANCE COUNSELLOR
(10 – 12 hours per week)

We are seeking a counsellor to work as part of our Gisborne Girls' High School Student Service Team. Suitable applicants will have the training and skills to provide a confidential counselling service, within an educational environment, for adolescent students.

A tertiary qualification in counselling, or an associated field, is essential and a registered teacher qualification would be an advantage.

This is a Fixed Term position commencing Term 2 2020.

Applications close 12pm, Tuesday 31st of March 2020. Applications with CV should be addressed to The Principal, Gisborne Girls' High School, PO Box 249, Gisborne, 4040 or emailed on info@gisbornegirlshigh.school.nz

Jan Kumar
Principal

Situations Vacant



LYTTON HIGH SCHOOL
TECHNOLOGY
TEACHER –
FIXED FOR 2020

Lytton High School seeks a teacher to join our Technology faculty to work mainly in the junior curriculum areas of design and materials technology; however, skills in other areas such as digital and food technology would also be considered. Experience in a secondary school setting is not essential as you may come from a primary or intermediate background, but have a passion for technology education. Our facilities are modern, purpose built and there is a range of exciting new resources that the successful teacher would have available to them.

We are willing to consider both part-time and fulltime hours for this position. Suitable for both experienced and beginning teachers, the teaching allocation may be negotiable depending on applicant's skills. Please state your speciality areas.

Please request the required application form and send your covering letter, a copy of your CV and the contact details of 2 referees by email to sue@lyttonhigh.net.

Applications close 3pm Thursday 2nd April 2020.

Wiremu Elliott
Principal

Situations Vacant

SHEPHERD

Top property in a dream location is seeking an experienced Shepherd.

Rimunui Station, located 7kms from Gisborne CBD, is a 1000ha effective breeding and finishing property consisting of easy, medium and steep hill country, wintering 400 Angus stud breeding cows and 3200 breeding ewes.

The well-known Kaharau Angus Stud has been operating at Rimunui Station for over 30 years.

The successful applicant must have a strong team of dogs and be able to work alone, a good sense of humour, with a can-do attitude.

They will be part of a well organised, cohesive team and will answer to the Manager.

Living on the farm is required, a comfortable three bedroom Lockwood home is provided and school bus pick-up is at the gate. Close to town, enables employment opportunities for a partner.

Competitive remuneration package.

Please e-mail applications with CV to:

tracy@gisborne.net.nz
Phone Nick Carr on 021 656 023
or 06 281 0059

Applications close – 17th April, 2020

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The Gisborne Herald

Every Thursday in your
Gisborne Herald

**gisborne
property**

A comprehensive guide to residential, rural and commercial properties listed for sale with local real estate agents.



Classified Deadlines

2pm publishing day prior to publication

10am Saturday for Monday's issue

9am publication day for Births and Deaths

The Gisborne Herald



Protect yourself and others against COVID-19

Mahia te hopi. Horoi ō ringa.

Wash your hands with soap and water often (for at least 20 seconds).



Whakamātihetihe te ihu ki te tuke.

Cough or sneeze into your elbow or by covering your mouth and nose with tissues.



Mēnā ka paru ō ringa, kua e pā te kānohi.

Don't touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean.



Rauatu te aihika ki te ipupara.

Put used tissues in the bin or a bag immediately.



Mēnā ka māuiui koe, herea ki te kainga.

Stay home if you feel unwell.



Whakapūputu ai te patuero i ngā mea katoa. Hei tauira: Ngā kakau, ngā papa, ngā taputapu.

Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects, such as doorknobs.



**COVID-19
HEALTH ADVICE**
0800 358 5453

For international SIMs call +64 9 358 5453

NSW races at Hawkesbury Thursday Jetbet 11 TAB doubles 3-4, 6-7 Trebles 2-3-4, 5-6-7 Quaddie 1-2-3-4, 4-5-6-7

Selections
Race 1: KINANE, PERFECT IMPRESSION, STILLER
Race 2: ELABORATE, DISGRACEFUL, MISS JENNY
Race 3: DIS DAH WUN, HAVEN, ZANZIDANCE
Race 4: FOX ROCKET, BUCKIN' RIPPA, EXCELLENCY
Race 5: UPRISE, DIVA BELLA, YOUR EYES ONLY
Race 6: BADIA, MISS TWILIGHT, MAGNIFICENTLY
Race 7: LEAMI ASTRAY, REIBY'S REGENT, SEBRING EXPRESS

2 AFPA Building Services 3.50
\$35,000, Benchmark 70, 1600m
1 19117 Baracus dw (7) 59.5 94 C Reith
2 13320 Disgraceful dw (2) 58 89 Ms S Clenton (a)
3 69421 Miss Jenny dw (4) 58 100 S Clipperton
4 16s75 Elaborate dw (5) 57 95 T Marquand
5 52121 Discombe dw (1) 56.5 91 T Clark
6 s6744 Adonis Victorious w (6) 55.5 95 J Collett
7 955s1 Itasca tdw (3) 55 89 Ms L Day (a2)

4 Ascend Sales Trophies 5.05
\$35,000, C,H&G's Maiden, 1100m
1 24s6 Excellery (9) 59 85 T Marquand
2 24s6 Missile Magic (4) 59 90 S Clipperton
3 46s82 Sheer Impulse h (7) 59 84 B Spriggs
4 0s2s Mikhail (6) 58.5 90 Ms S Clenton (a)
5 62s3 Foxy Rocket h (5) 58 100 T Clark
6 8s06s Clever Man (10) 57.5 82 J Collett
7 97442 At The Helm (11) 56 94 K S Latham
8 2s832 Buckin' Rippa (3) 56 88 D Mc Lellan
9 s870s Camp David h (1) 55.5 90 Ms C Graham (a2)
11 0s09 Lamelo (8) 55.5 81 Ms W Costin

6 Killahy Equine Handicap 6.20
\$35,000, Benchmark 64, 1300m
1 4112s Writing Unexpected wb (3) 60 91 J Collett
2 47154 American Salute dw (12) 58.5 93 J Berry
3 75251 Badia w (2) 58 100 T Marquand
4 4157s Shaibanat (15) 58 96 J Parr
5 17468 Sleepy Heart w (6) 58 95 Ms S Clenton (a)
6 s4712 Against The Tide d (7) 56.5 93 B Ryan (a1.5)
7 2326s Magnificently b (9) 56.5 94 J Van Overmeire (a)
8 1s496 Spartan w (8) 56.5 97 G Schofield
9 03311 Miss Twilight dw (11) 56 97 K S Latham
10 25856 One Of The Kind t (1) 56 95 Ms L Day (a2)

7 Blacktown Workers Club Grp6.55
\$35,000, Benchmark 64, 1000m
1 s9s02 Shadow Bridge dw (6) 61.5 95 J Parr
2 256s4 Absolute Ripper cdw (4) 61 85 Chris C Williams (a2)
3 s0s2s Aussie cb (7) 61 91 T Marquand
4 3s31s Gundy dw (3) 60.5 84 J Van Overmeire (a)
5 7184s Leami Astray db (5) 60.5 87 B Ryan (a1.5)
6 650s1 Chicadilly dw (1) 59.5 94 S Clipperton
7 1236s Golwen w (9) 59.5 86 T Berry
8 s5263 Reiby's Regent bh (2) 59 100 K S Latham
9 244s5 Sebring Express dw (10) 58.5 86 J Collett
10 3s264 Charlie Chap tdw (11) 57 85 A Hyeronimus
11 52797 The Patrician w (8) 55 83 R Dolan (a)

1 Richmond Irrigation 3.15
\$35,000, Maiden SW, 1500m
1 9s0 You Excite Me h (3) 59 85 M Bell
2 90s7 Chariots Of Fire (7) 58.5 94 T Marquand
3 2s2 Kinane (6) 58.5 100 T Berry
4 77 Sisseck (2) 58.5 97 T Clark
5 5s2 Stiller h (1) 58.5 90 C Reith
6 88s43 Any Wish (5) 57 93 J Ford
7 82s3 Perfect Impression (4) 56.5 100 J Van Overmeire (a)

3 New Haven Farm Home 4.25
\$35,000, F&M Maiden, 1100m
1 2 Red Hot Moon (6) 59 93 J Collett
2 6364s Threood b (5) 59 97 C Reith
3 Dis Dah Wun (3) 58.5 90 T Berry
4 7 Haven (4) 58.5 92 T Marquand
5 4 Miss Sleuth (1) 58.5 82 Chris C Williams (a2)
6 78 Seraglio (10) 57.5 94 J Parr
7 0s Shuwaamekh (7) 57.5 100 T Clark
8 2 Princess Betty (2) 56.5 91 S Clipperton
9 Autumn Falls SCRATCHED
10 Zanzidance (8) 56 90 R Dolan (a)

5 Mouties Group Handicap 5.45
\$35,000, Maiden, 1300m
1 34 Butch'n'bugs h (6) 59 85 Ms C Graham (a2)
2 6 Daksha h (13) 58.5 83 J Berry
3 7820 McGraw h (3) 58.5 83 R Brewer
4 82 Charlton Park (12) 57 85 Q Krogh
5 67 My Rock Singa h (9) 57 87 K S Latham
6 26232 Uprise h (8) 57 95 C Reith

7 7 Hidemi (14) 56.5 77 Ms A Denby
8 s644s Your Eyes Only (2) 56.5 90 B Ryan (a1.5)
9 4s235 Diva Bella bh (7) 56 100 A Hyeronimus
10 20s03 Just Like Jessie h (4) 56 87 Ms K O'Hara
11 644s0 Miss Fortuitous h (11) 56 76 G Schofield
12 77s60 Reiby Redex h (10) 56 81 J Penza
13 4s85 Spanish Pearl h (5) 56 84 G Schofield
14 0746s Whisky Magic h (1) 56 82 J Van Overmeire (a)

8 8s027 Ladies' Gem tw (5) 55.5 98 B Griffiths (a2)
9 71428 Candy Bar w (13) 55 98 S Clipperton
10 Extreme Jewel SCRATCHED
11 3s230 Katre D'amour tdwh (10) 55 97 J Penza
EMERGENCY:
15 75326 Kethaire (4) 55 97 J Ford

Victorian races at Kilmore Thursday Jetbet 13 TAB doubles 1-2, 4-5, 8-9 Trebles 3-4-5, 7-8-9 Quaddie 2-3-4-5, 6-7-8-9

Selections
Race 1: BOOM BOOM BECKER, DANCE READY, ONE NATION
Race 2: HENLEY MISS, POLLARD, DUE DELEGANCE
Race 3: ALPHAVILLE, MATAMATA, MEDLAR
Race 4: FLENSBURG, WARRIOR WOMAN, FIORENA
Race 5: JUSTJULES, NIRVANA, RIVER MIST
Race 6: SHOCKINGLY, BIG DARRYL, GEODESIC
Race 7: MAGNESIUM ROSE, ALEDA, MISS CARBONI
Race 8: CARWELKIN, WIND FORCE, SLY SONG
Race 9: HIGH EMOCEAN, COURT DEEP, ISLAND DANCER

5 Scrambler (7) 58 83 B Thompson
6 s6294 Due Delegation (3) 56.5 83 W Price (a2)
7 October Blonde (1) 56.5 91 Ms M Lloyd (a3)
8 Super Quick Love (16) 56.5 86 J Allen
9 Bricabrac Julie (9) 56 87 L McNeil (a2)
10 Evolving Evie (10) 56 81 J Keating
11 925s Henley Miss (2) 56 96 J Bowditch
12 5s00 Renegade Kid (15) 56 79 D Thornton
EMERGENCIES:
13 7 Laslett (14) 56 81 J Baldoock
14 90s0 Just For Giggles h (8) 58.5 70 J Baldoock
15 8s864 It's Tiger Time h (13) 58.5 74 A Lynch
16 s9449 Beau Victory (5) 58.5 71 Jaden Lloyd (a3)

4 524 Flensburg (12) 58 97 B Rawiller
5 73523 Star Ines (2) 58 97 C Symons
6 3s563 Dependability b (13) 56.5 94 W Price (a2)
7 46s82 Fiorena (3) 56.5 99 D Stackhouse
8 4s432 Prolix b (9) 56.5 94 J Bowditch
9 3s735 Preipo (4) 56 95 B Thompson
10 53 Warrior Woman (1) 56 97 L Nolen
EMERGENCIES:
11 3s575 Honour Me (5) 58 96 D Thornton
12 76449 Schmetto (11) 56 88 Ms C Hall
13 5 Nelson's Lover (10) 56 91 Dean Holland
14 7 Eshowe (6) 58 90 J Allen

6 92714 Brighton Toff w (10) 59.5 100 Ms M Lloyd (a3)
7 s1563 Rivarola (11) 59.5 98 J Noonan
8 20s89 Sebeat d (7) 59.5 95 C Douglas
9 1s877 Boo Dup d (6) 59 95 J Bowditch
10 02109 Old Mate Ned d (4) 59 90 Dean Holland
11 90495 Onehundred Percent dw (2) 59 95 J Allen
12 s0686 Eyes Are Bay wh (8) 58 93 J Fry
EMERGENCIES:
13 07866 Written Attraction w (16) 57 95 J Fry
14 94142 Derek The Viking d (14) 58 93 Ms C Macfarlane

8 MC Labour Handicap 6.30
\$22,000, 3yo & up Benchmark 58, 1200m
1 6748s Blue Valour wb (11) 63 87 H Grace (a1.5)
2 s6552 Wind Force dwn (2) 63 96 W Price (a2)
3 s5888 Military Striker bh (2) 61.5 89 J Fry
4 s950 Petrov d (15) 61 82 C Rawiller (a2)
5 58s46 Carwelkin dw (7) 60.5 92 Ms C Macfarlane
6 51089 Mr Jammo n (12) 60.5 92 Ms J Eaton (a)
7 s0031 Imperial King tdh (5) 60 89 J Noonan
8 59458 Dream On Monty (8) 59.5 88 C Douglas
9 14397 Oggulation dw (3) 59.5 100 Dean Holland
10 7s036 Pure Exceleation d (4) 59.5 94 D Bates
11 469s5 Sly Song d (16) 59 91 M Allen
12 5107s Danubian (9) 57.5 85 J Keating
EMERGENCIES:
13 3s805 Just Stellar dw (1) 56 89 T Nugent (a)
14 66113 Dishy's (10) 56.5 88 Ms J Horner
15 66737 Hawkstone dwn (6) 56.5 90 J Fry
16 0368s Buddy For Nothing d (13) 56 88 J Keating

1 Happy 40th Fast John Dean 3.00
\$23,000, 3yo Maiden SW, 1200m
1 356s0 Bachelor Baron (6) 58 91 Jaden Lloyd (a3)
2 Bautista (15) 58 80 D Stackhouse
3 7 Boom Boom Becker (1) 58 96 J Allen
4 423s5 Dance Ready b (8) 58 87 C Douglas
5 0396s Dry County (7) 58 81 Ms M Lloyd (a3)
6 8s3 Lovano (3) 58 83 Z Spain
7 2 Midships (4) 58 100 D Stackhouse
8 3s24 Tom The Star (13) 58 100 D Thornton
9 s2260 Ocean Drive (2) 56 93 J Fry
10 One Nation (12) 56 81 W Price (a2)
11 Port Berry (9) 56 81 Dean Holland
12 8 Svaneke (5) 56 77 R Tan
EMERGENCIES:
13 6 Miss Hardrock (11) 56 83 J Bowditch
14 9 Street Vision (14) 58 87 J Noonan
15 90s Perfect War (10) 56 84 D Bates

3 bet365 Plate 4.00
\$23,000, 3yo & up Maiden SW, 1450m
1 6s34s Matamata (11) 58.5 87 C Douglas
2 9086 No Deposit (1) 58.5 82 Dean Holland
3 Quantrell h (6) 58.5 86 D Stackhouse
4 2s25 Alphaville (13) 58 100 B Allen
5 0 Out And Dreaming (5) 58 85 W Price (a2)
6 7 Under His Eye (9) 58 81 C Rawiller (a2)
7 3s425 Fontein Diamond (3) 56 95 J Martin
8 64 Island Express (12) 56 92 J Allen
9 52 Medlar (14) 56 94 J Bowditch
10 8 The White Sky (4) 56 90 B Thompson
EMERGENCIES:
11 66706 Lady Cellarbration h (7) 56.5 84 Z Spain
12 86585 Clingstone Peach (10) 58.5 84 Dylan Dunn
13 07708 Chalk Talk (8) 56.5 85 Ms K Walters
14 s9497 The Last Warrior (2) 58 87 J Noonan

5 bet365 Odds Drift Protector 5.00
\$22,000, 3yo & up Benchmark 58, 2000m
1 32775 Nirvana w (6) 63 100 C Rawiller (a2)
2 s7059 Captain Rhett dw (7) 62 97
3 75021 Chestnut Thunder h (1) 62 95 Ms M Lloyd (a3)
4 16s77 Rylstone w (14) 61.5 95 Ms G Cartwright (a)
5 22142 Nonmouth w (13) 61 99 T Nugent (a)
6 13s55 Unique Journey w (3) 61 99 J Martin
7 1s536 Zed Em w (4) 61 100 C Douglas
8 s1462 Justjules (9) 60.5 96 M Allen
9 s9045 Snake Cavern dh (12) 60 94 D Stackhouse
10 0s674 River Mist w (8) 58 95 J Allen
EMERGENCIES:
11 21526 Darken Up w (5) 56.5 97 D Bates
12 s96s0 I Am Baymax (2) 58 97 W Price (a2)
13 54309 The Armani w (11) 57 91 Z Spain
14 82111 Randolph dw (10) 56.5 94 Z Spain

7 Jet Roofing Handicap 6.00
\$22,000, 3yo & up Benchmark 58, 1200m
1 89s92 Elmore Lad dw (12) 63.5 98 Ms A Kelly (a2)
2 7s736 Magnesium Rose d (15) 63 97 Jaden Lloyd (a3)
3 5s910 Polly's Deficit dh (10) 62.5 88 L McNeil (a2)
4 3154s Bedouin King (3) 61 89 C Douglas
5 21s9 Aleda d (4) 60.5 100 J Allen
6 410s3 Latest Bentley d (7) 60.5 89 C Rawiller (a2)
7 265s4 Carambola dw (6) 60 91 Ms G Cartwright (a)
8 52197 Kissee Mee tw (13) 60 88 L German (a)
9 62235 Miss Carboni (9) 59.5 97 W Price (a2)
10 418s7 Reggae Roc w (14) 59.5 82 J Noonan
11 8s660 Entangled Toff dw (8) 59 88 C Rawiller (a2)
12 7160s Vilanelle (16) 59 89 J Allen
EMERGENCIES:
13 s9s00 Ellie Quarterdolla (5) 56.5 87 Ms J Philpot (a3)
14 08s68 Unlimited Ability w (11) 57.5 94 Ms K Walters
15 s4659 Humdrum d (1) 56 85 J Fry

9 Beraldo Coffee Handicap 7.00
\$22,000, 3yo & up Benchmark 58, 1450m
1 38028 I Feel Good tw (8) 63.5 91 J Keating
2 07s54 Roar hn (5) 63 100 W Price (a2)
3 431 Court Deep (12) 62.5 92 T Nugent (a)
4 s5455 Island Dancer n (3) 62 97 C Douglas
5 7s186 Hard Faith w (11) 61 100 D Stackhouse
6 012s High Emocan (7) 60.5 88 J Allen
7 s3166 Give Val A Ring w (9) 60 99 Jaden Lloyd (a3)
8 22854 Never Back Down w (14) 59 88 J Fry
9 03739 Ferrocero dw (6) 58 90 Dylan Dunn
10 40506 Joe's Pride w (4) 58 88 M Allen
EMERGENCIES:
11 0060s Filbert Way w (13) 58.5 88 Z Spain
12 090s9 Perpetuity (10) 58 85 L King (a)
13 69s72 Fullforward (1) 57 88 J Martin
14 71773 Dynamic Moss (2) 56 88 Dean Holland

2 Bendigo Service Centre 3.30
\$23,000, 3yo & up Maiden SW, 1100m
1 Beeston Lad (11) 58.5 81 L German (a)
2 Igbo (6) 58.5 81 Dean Holland
3 s99s4 Resetting Edge (4) 58.5 82 J Fry
4 20s28 Pollard b (12) 58 100 J Noonan

4 The Bendigo Club Plate 4.30
\$23,000, 3yo & up Maiden SW, 2000m
1 s0324 Cool Artie (8) 58.5 95 J Noonan
2 45335 Johnny Reb (14) 58.5 91 J Fry
3 s5352 Chairman's List b (7) 58 100 B Mertens

6 Kilmore Trackside 5.30
\$22,000, 3yo & up Benchmark 58, 1600m
1 67s69 Di's Grey dw (12) 63 96 C Rawiller (a2)
2 22621 Big Darryl d (9) 62 96 W Price (a2)
3 s5517 Shockingly dn (15) 62 97 H Grace (a1.5)
4 7407s Geodesic w (3) 61 95 D Bates
5 215Ls Ours wb (5) 61 92 Ms A Kelly (a2)

11 8s027 Ladies' Gem tw (5) 55.5 98 B Griffiths (a2)
12 71428 Candy Bar w (13) 55 98 S Clipperton
13 Extreme Jewel SCRATCHED
14 3s230 Katre D'amour tdwh (10) 55 97 J Penza
EMERGENCY:
15 75326 Kethaire (4) 55 97 J Ford

NSW races at Narromine Thursday Jetbet 17 TAB doubles 3-4, 7-8 Trebles 2-3-4, 6-7-8 Quaddie 1-2-3-4, 5-6-7-8

Selections
Race 1: POP'S GLORY, GUINNESS, MUDGEONGA
Race 2: ALL STAR ROCKET, POETIC HARMONY, ASTROBABY
Race 3: LES AMOUREUX, THE POET, ATTUNED
Race 4: NORTHERN LIGHTS, PETAIN, SIPHARDERSON
Race 5: JETGIRL, MOLASSES, SIR DONALD
Race 6: HIBERN, QUICK SPIN, KACPER BOY
Race 7: PLECTRUM, RHYTHMO, WITNESS COLLECTOR
Race 8: VALARIAN, JAILBREAK, AND THERE IS MORE

3 Nobby (3) 58.5 87 A Banks
4 0s0 Revoljet (7) 58.5 75 Ms E Webster-Hawes
5 9 Toulon Factor (11) 58.5 86 A Cavallo
6 s7232 Astrobaby (16) 57 91 G Ryan
7 s804s Poetic Harmony (5) 57 87 J Hull
8 953s All Star Rocket (9) 56.5 100 G Buckley
9 76363 Dissioul (2) 56.5 90 B Cray
10 9s Grac Bay (12) 56.5 95 C Lever
11 Laiali (13) 56.5 88
12 5s9 Nicka Narcells h (4) 56.5 85 D Northey
EMERGENCIES:
13 4s75 Scalded (1) 56.5 88 Ms K Bell-Pitomac (a1.5)
14 33686 Cutie Patoutie (15) 57 86 K Dunbar
15 6s7 Sing Ken Ken h (6) 54 76 K Dunbar
16 55s46 Kohinoor Road (10) 57 87

4 Kool Ice Handicap 5.25
\$22,000, Benchmark 66, 1300m
1 11864 I Stole Your Love d (4) 62 99 Ms A Stanley (a2)
2 340s0 Ocean Walzer n (3) 62 78 Ms Y Lewis (a2)
3 92175 Sipharderson d (10) 60.5 96 G Buckley
4 20212 Cooee March (9) 60 100 M Heagney
5 1s454 Supreme Attraction d (1) 59.5 97 C Gallagher (a)
6 s0876 Toulon Brook dw (6) 59 93 A Cavallo
7 30s21 Northern Lights dw (8) 58.5 99 G Ryan
8 10097 Circus Dancer (5) 57.5 94 A Banks
9 23213 Petain d (2) 57 100 M A Cahill
10 76400 Smooth Factor d (7) 55 95 V Bolozhinskiy

6 Macquarie Clothing 6.40
\$22,000, Benchmark 58, 1600m
1 24021 Hokkaido dw (15) 61 89 Ms T Jeffries
2 29025 Lulu's Destiny t (5) 59.5 91 C Gallagher (a)
3 83722 Quick Spin dw (9) 59.5 93 D Northey
4 89871 Slacey Bay dw (7) 58.5 94 S Lisyny
5 65228 Zamali tw (3) 58.5 100 A Cavallo
6 82480 Dusky Damsel (12) 57.5 96 G Ryan
7 361s6 Saint Ay (1) 57.5 96 C Lever
8 41534 Hibern (14) 56.5 94 M A Cahill
9 57745 Ocean Hero w (13) 56.5 93 L Cumberland
10 s9233 The Scotsman cw (8) 56 95 A Banks
11 s9081 Kacper Boy d (11) 55.5 93 Ms M Weir (a)
12 1s207 So Good To Me dw (6) 55 95 G Buckley
13 97s93 Some Nights tdwh (18) 55 93 Ms K Bell-Pitomac (a1.5)
14 27694 Time Stalker w (4) 55 94
EMERGENCIES:
15 85799 Ultimate Quest d (10) 55 95 Ms Y Lewis (a2)
16 35540 Just On Spec d (17) 55 86
17 83548 Snipselva t (16) 55 93
18 7s600 Dream In Colour dw (2) 55 80

8 Macquarie Valley Fuels 7.50
\$22,000, Class 2, 1200m
1 15s31 Jailbreak w (2) 61 100 K J Cowan (a1.5)
2 6s417 Red Axe (3) 57.5 94 A Banks
3 42132 Valarian d (15) 55.5 86 M A Cahill
4 161s7 Lygia t (4) 55 84 K Dunbar
5 s4s8s Creidine dh (7) 55 73 D Northey
6 2s523 And There Is More d (14) 55 86 C Gallagher (a)
7 3s25s Supreme Times d (12) 55 90 Ms W Peel (a)
8 s0000 Bonitas h (13) 55 83 A Cavallo
9 41700 Lucky's Gotcha (11) 55 76 Ms K Bell-Pitomac (a1.5)
10 6s250 Dizzy Success (9) 55 79 R Yetimova
11 47870 Red Rock Stella (6) 55 79 B Cray
12 6553s Bel Attrait dw (10) 55 74 Ms M Weir (a)
13 84054 El Rey Dorado tw (8) 55 79 V Bolozhinskiy
14 000s8 Mister Burgess (1) 55 76 Ms A Cooper (a3)
EMERGENCY:
15 39354 Getting Ready d (5) 55 79

1 Narromine Shire Council 3.35
\$22,000, Maiden, 1600m
1 42562 Mudgegonga (12) 59 85 M Heagney
2 0s80 Stiver (11) 58.5 88 C Lever
3 0s94 Surf Sonic (6) 58.5 100 G Ryan
4 22520 Arkam Asylum (4) 57.5 98 C Gallagher (a)
5 87570 Atomic Lass (9) 57.5 88 Ms M Weir (a)
6 08035 Carnegie's Monaco h (1) 57.5 90 K Dunbar
7 79779 Claude's Choice h (3) 57.5 85 Ms C Ings
8 76668 Direct Vision (10) 57.5 84
9 60407 Dusktilldawn (7) 57.5 91 B Cray
10 63630 Guinness (5) 57.5 85 D Northey
11 s7877 Jungle Rose (8) 57.5 84
12 78782 Pop's Glory (2) 57.5 94 G Buckley

3 Dubbo Equine Hospital 4.45
\$22,000, Maiden SW, 1300m
1 4s534 Attuned (1) 59 93 M A Cahill
2 242s5 Shwanky Doo (16) 59 93 C Gallagher (a)
3 54890 Wamiad Aldaw (11) 59 85 Ms T Jeffries
4 Whipm (14) 59 87 Ms K Bell-Pitomac (a1.5)
5 6 Dalashaan Heights (12) 58.5 90 Ms A Cooper (a3)
6 s8920 Mumbo (2) 58.5 89 Ms Y Lewis (a2)
7 8 The Poet (5) 58.5 95 G Ryan
8 9s870 Go Charlie G (9) 57 89 A Banks
9 88785 Les Amoureux (15) 57 100 G Buckley
10 0s650 Maggies Time (8) 57 88 J Pracey-Holmes
11 6709 Ashmore Berto (13) 56.5 85 J Hull
12 5s Choozyd Nights (10) 56.5 100 C Lever
13 Ellia (3) 56.5 89 D Northey

5 2DU/Zoo FM Handicap 6.05
\$22,000, Open, 1100m
1 s6205 Zarhron tdw (3) 61 83 K Dunbar
2 21672 Molasses dw (4) 60.5 93 G Ryan
3 256s4 Absolute Ripper tw (9) 59.5 90
4 31049 Desert Marshal dw (11) 59.5 92 Ms M Weir (a)
5 s8633 Jetgirl dw (5) 56.5 96 M A Cahill
6 135s1 Knock Toff d (6) 56.5 100 Ms B Stower
7 5960s Any Blinkin' Day cdw (1) 55 90 J Rogers
8 00256 Sir Donald dw (7) 55 95 G Buckley
9 1698s Attalea tdw (8) 55 90 J Pracey-Holmes
10 30538 Tattaler dw (2) 55 75 V Bolozhinskiy
11 s5724 Demonize d (10) 55 84

7 Narromine Newsagency 7.15
\$22,000, Class 2, 1200m
1 s4761 Class Aplenty d (13) 58 96 G Ryan
2 06s79 Hoges w (9) 57 90 A Cavallo
3 1s702 Witness Collector (8) 56 100 Ms M Weir (a)
4 69559 Humboldt w (11) 55 87 G Buckley
5 7931s Rhythmo (14) 55 83 J Rogers

8 Macquarie Valley Fuels 7.50
\$22,000, Class 2, 1200m
1 15s31 Jailbreak w (2) 61 100 K J Cowan (a1.5)
2 6s417 Red Axe (3) 57.5 94 A Banks
3 42132 Valarian d (15) 55.5 86 M A Cahill
4 161s7 Lygia t (4) 55 84 K Dunbar
5 s4s8s Creidine dh (7) 55 73 D Northey
6 2s523 And There Is More d (14) 55 86 C Gallagher (a)
7 3s25s Supreme Times d (12) 55 90 Ms W Peel (a)
8 s0000 Bonitas h (13) 55 83 A Cavallo
9 41700 Lucky's Gotcha (11) 55 76 Ms K Bell-Pitomac (a1.5)
10 6s250 Dizzy Success (9) 55 79 R Yetimova
11 47870 Red Rock Stella (6) 55 79 B Cray
12 6553s Bel Attrait dw (10) 55 74 Ms M Weir (a)
13 84054 El Rey Dorado tw (8) 55 79 V Bolozhinskiy
14 000s8 Mister Burgess (1) 55 76 Ms A Cooper (a3)
EMERGENCY:
15 39354 Getting Ready d (5) 55 79

Queensland races at Toowoomba Thursday Jetbet 14 TAB doubles 3-4, 6-7 Trebles 2-3-4, 5-6-7 Quaddie 1-2-3-4, 4-5-6-7

Selections
Race 1: SPIRIT ONE, BETTER THAN BEST, VINCIT
Race 2: MISS CHARLEE LYN, BRASH, DROP THE PILOT
Race 3: SHIMMER LAKE, OUR RED JET, LEICABLE
Race 4: ALADINA, HEEBEE RIGHT MATE, SKYQUAKE
Race 5: THE HAND, MASTER OF NORWAY, MISS CAVALLO
Race 6: WEARETFORTYEIGHT, ALL SHIRAZ, KINGS IRIS
Race 7: FLYING EDDIE, HEART ATTACK, MADLUCE MISSILE

2 489s8 Victory Is Mine (1) 58.5 74 N Fazackerley (a2)
3 6 Ambitious Rival (7) 57.5 78 Matthew Palmer
4 453 Brash (3) 57.5 100 Ms E Ljung
5 7250s Haleigozace (2) 57.5 88 J King
6 Man Of Sinn (6) 57.5 83 M Mc Gillivray
7 73222 Miss Charlee Lyn bh (4) 56.5 96 M Murphy
8 6s473 Real Smiles h (9) 56.5 91 Ms C Eaton
9 6 Star Minx h (5) 54 78 M Hellyer

9 s2848 Gamma h (5) 55.5 94 M Mc Gillivray
10 83 Shimmer Lake (3) 55.5 100 A Mallyon
EMERGENCIES:
11 98866 Madame Tess h (9) 55.5 88 Ms R Goldsbury
12 s0986 Nicosmile (6) 58.5 88 M Gray
4 K&R Plumbing Supplies 7.04
\$19,000, Class 3, 1850m
1 38182 Aladina tchn (1) 60 100 S Tomlinson (a3)
2 1s534 Minor Luck w (6) 59 100 Ms M Kennedy (a3)
3 7816 Grey Top h (7) 58 93 M Mc Gillivray
4 7s265 Richey w (4) 57 91 C Taylor
5 67551 Skyquake thn (9) 56.5 91 L Tillet
6 27245 Westbrook Warrior tdwh (8) 55.5 90
7 6425s Missy Musketeer (2) 55 90 A Thompson (a)
8 65181 Heebie Right Mate w (3) 55 95 Ms L Mc Coy
9 30554 Lucky Siren w (5) 55 93 Ms E Ljung

5 Audi Centre Toowoomba 7.40
\$19,000, Class 2, 1300m
1 0811 The Hand tchn (5) 60 94 Ms C Eaton
2 99s11 Master Of Norway wh (6) 58.5 82 Ms R Goldsbury
3 42s68 Miss Cavallo wh (2) 58 100 Ms M Wishart (a2)
4 4s554 Maddiara tw (1) 57.5 91 M Mc Gillivray
5 61487 Repulse cn (8) 57 81 T Marshall
6 8s495 Sizzling Sun thn (4) 56 79 M Murphy
7 12537 By The Law cwn (7) 55 85 A Thompson (a)
8 51068 Miss Makepeace w (3) 55 85 Ms S Bogenhuber

7 82718 Beach Club dwh (4) 56.5 99 Ms C Eaton
8 3485s Wearetenfortyeight cwh (7) 56.5 97 Ms M Wishart (a2)
9 78260 Boltin' Desire h (3) 55 88 Ms R Goldsbury
10 21s99 Pulla Swifty (2) 55 81 Ms Z White (a)
7 Moco Food Services 8.52
\$19,000, C,H&G's Benchmark 60, 1100m
1 6279s Madlucce Missile whn (9) 62 93 Ms M Wishart (a2)
2 31830 Mac's Boy td (5) 61 93 K Yoshida
3 7s670 Cliveden tw (10) 60.5 94 Ms M Kennedy (a3)
4 38534 Heart Attack chn (1) 60 96 N Keal (a)
5 93251 Flying Eddie thn (6) 59.5 100 S

On edge of major virus outbreak

SYDNEY — A woman in her 70s has become the seventh person in NSW to die from COVID-19 as the number of cases in the state soars past 800. The national figure was 2136 yesterday.

The woman, who was a passenger on the Ruby Princess cruise ship which docked in Sydney, died in hospital on Tuesday morning, taking the national death toll to eight.

"There have been 107 cases diagnosed in NSW from the Ruby Princess and 26 cases interstate," a NSW Health spokesperson said.

The Ruby Princess berthed at Circular Quay a week ago.

The woman who died was one of three initial passengers whose specimen was taken on board, but tested positive after the ship docked.

NSW is at a critical stage as

the number of Covid-19 cases exceeds 800 with the premier warning that people who ignore social distancing rules will face harsh penalties.

Gladys Berejiklian said the state was sitting on the precipice of a more serious outbreak and had to avoid the mistakes of other countries.

The number of Covid-19 cases reached 818 on Tuesday, an increase of 149 overnight.

Twelve people are in intensive care with eight of them requiring ventilators.

The premier implored people to follow social distancing rules and warned authorities are "ramping up" compliance.

It comes as a NSW government bill which passed parliament on Tuesday night aims to tackle the spread of the coronavirus in the state.

Under the legislation, police



DEATH TOLL REACHES 8: A passenger on the Ruby Princess cruise ship which docked in Sydney, died in hospital on Tuesday morning, taking the national toll to eight.

will be able to arrest people reasonably suspected of breaching Covid-19 public health

orders and return them home or to their place of detention. The Corrective Services

commissioner could grant conditional parole to certain offenders before their non-parole period if the pandemic makes it necessary.

Ms Berejiklian hit back at critics who say she confused people with her decision to keep schools open while encouraging parents to keep children at home if possible.

"I don't want to be another example of a jurisdiction that didn't do what it needed to do at the right time," she said.

NSW Education Minister Sarah Mitchell said the absentee rate across public schools was 41 percent on Monday, which she had expected to increase significantly on Tuesday.

Pubs, cinemas, gyms and churches are now closed across the nation in a bid to slow the spread of coronavirus while public transport in NSW will

Free training to get nurses back

SYDNEY — Hundreds of nurses will be offered free online training to allow them to return to the front line in the fight against the coronavirus outbreak.

The Australian federal government will spend up to \$1 million to enable as many as 1000 eligible registered nurses to undertake an online refresher course on acute nursing care, including guidelines on Covid-19 infection control.

Health Minister Greg Hunt and chief nursing officer Alison McMillan warned that coronavirus infections would only increase.

"Despite swift action by Australian governments, the number of Covid-19 cases will continue to grow," they said in a joint statement today.

"It is likely that unprecedented demand for healthcare will put pressure on our health system and health professionals, especially doctors and nurses whose work is vital to protecting and saving lives."

The funding is part of a \$2.4 billion government health package announced in response to the coronavirus.

The number of Covid-19 infections in Australia has been doubling every four days and reached 2136 on Tuesday, alarming health authorities and sparking further shutdowns. — AAP

Coronavirus halts auctions, weddings and even tattoos

SYDNEY — Australians will face even tighter restrictions on daily life, including strict rules around weddings and funerals, as the country grapples with the "very concerning" growth in coronavirus cases.

An expanded list of businesses will be forced to close their doors at midnight tonight with an emphasis on stopping large gatherings as Covid-19 infections in Australia double every four days, reaching 2136 earlier in the day.

Chief Medical Officer Brendan Murphy says Australians need to avoid unnecessary interactions.

"We are very worried about the rate of rise of the number of coronavirus cases in Australia, particularly over the last few days," Prof Murphy said on Tuesday night. "It is a very, very steep growth and it is very concerning."

He was particularly concerned about travellers returning from overseas with the virus and stressed the importance of social distancing to prevent community transmission.

"We have to change the way we interact, as human beings, in our society, for quite a long time. This virus will be with us for some time," he said.

Among the new restrictions in place from midnight on Wednesday, weddings will be restricted to the couple, celebrant and two

witnesses only, while funerals can only have a maximum of 10 mourners.

Open house inspections and auctions are banned as are personal services such as beauty therapy, waxing, tattoo parlours and massage to go with the closure of pubs, clubs, cafes and restaurants announced on Sunday.

Takeaway services from cafes and restaurants are still available although food courts in shopping centres will have to close seating areas.

Most community facilities will also close, including libraries, swimming pools, RSLs, galleries and community centres.

Health-related personal services, such as physiotherapy, will be allowed to keep running.

Outdoor boot camps and personal training will be limited to a maximum of 10 people per session.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said Australians will be banned from travelling overseas after it became clear that some are defying the advice not to travel anywhere in the world. It was still safe to send children to school and will meet education unions today.

Police and the military have started patrolling the South Australian, West Australian and Northern Territory borders, while Queensland will be closed to all but essential travellers from midnight on Wednesday. — AAP

Welfare users should be 'triaged': Labor

CANBERRA — Centrelink's online portal crashed for a second day in a row as tens of thousands of Australians sought welfare after losing their jobs in to the fallout from the coronavirus.

Labor's government services spokesman Bill Shorten says people in the long queues forming outside offices should be triaged.

They should be given preliminary forms and directed to phone or online services if they could to ease the strain, Mr Shorten said on Tuesday.

At the same time Government Services Minister Stuart Robert admitted the government hadn't planned for so many people logging on to get unemployment benefits.

The site crashed on Monday after it was overwhelmed by almost 100,000 Australians now out of work as a result of the coronavirus shutdown, many of whom were making their first approach to Centrelink.

Mr Robert apologised for claiming MyGov had been hacked when it had actually crashed due to the number of people logging on.

Centrelink will boost its workforce by 5000 people to deal with the influx of applicants and extend call centre hours.

The Australian Cyber Security Centre was being called in to help investigate the stability of the site, with 123,000 accessing MyGov on Tuesday morning. — AAP

Help for renters still under discussion

CANBERRA — Decisions on how best to cushion the impact of the coronavirus on home and commercial renters have been put off until today.

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison was due to discuss model rules for landlords and tenants with state and territory leaders as part of a national cabinet teleconference on Tuesday evening.

But the detailed discussion was pushed back to tonight's meeting.

Mr Morrison said a lot of work had been done on what was a "complicated issue".

"You have a tenant, a landlord, you have creditors and all of those issues and you need to solve for the entire chain," Mr Morrison said.

"It does involve both the commonwealth and the states working together.

"The states have the legislative authority when it comes to tenancies, both commercial and residential, and the Commonwealth has other incentives and levers it can pull."

There were also the issues of the level of rent assistance paid to welfare recipients and the role of banks.

Western Australia and NSW have led the work on legislation to ensure relief and protection is available to families and businesses who fall into hardship over the next six months.

Officials have examined the trigger for relief and how tenants would be able to keep a roof over their heads.

Labor leader Anthony Albanese said landlords needed to show some common sense during the pandemic.

"They're going to lose their tenants if they insist on people paying money that they simply don't have," he said.

His frontbench colleagues have a wishlist of measures for the leaders to consider.

They want to see a moratorium on evictions like the three-month stay now in place in the UK, extended and penalty-free periods to pay utility bills, and flexibility to allow rents to be paid over time.

"This could be a smart way to transfer the mortgage flexibility given to landlords by banks, to the tenants who live in these dwellings," frontbenchers Jason Clare, Bill Shorten and Linda Burney said in a statement.

The banking sector has agreed to a six-month pause on repayments for home loans and small business customers struggling with money amid the coronavirus crisis.

One retail landlord is leading the way in providing shopkeepers with a rent holiday.

Queensland's South Bank Corporation will provide financial relief to its retailers to help support jobs and precinct businesses during the pandemic.

The measures include foregoing rent and outgoings from April 1 to September 30 and refunding rents that had already been paid to the corporation in March. — AAP

ATO issues updated tax, super law advice

CANBERRA — New rules are now in place allowing early access to superannuation as thousands of Australians lose their jobs and livelihoods due to the economic impact of the coronavirus.

The Australian Taxation Office has updated its website with a 'one-stop shop' for advice on Covid-19 stimulus measures, after the passage of the federal government's economic support package through parliament this week.

Individuals affected by Covid-19 will be allowed to access up to \$10,000 of their superannuation in 2019/20 and a further \$10,000 in 2020/21.

"Individuals will not need to pay tax on amounts released and the money they withdraw will not affect Centrelink or Veterans' Affairs payments," the ATO confirmed in a statement today.

From mid-April, eligible persons will be able to apply online through the myGov website to access their superannuation

before July 1, 2020.

They will also be able to access up to a further \$10,000 between July 1, 2020, and September 24, 2020.

ATO Commissioner Chris Jordan acknowledged many people are being financially impacted by the challenging economic conditions created by the spread of Covid-19.

"Each of the measures have different timings, eligibility, and processes. Some will be applied automatically and others will require an application, so I recommend heading to ato.gov.au/coronavirus to understand what is possible," he said.

The new ATO measures include:

- giving individuals early access to their superannuation.
- providing cash flow assistance for employers.

- increasing the instant asset write-off for businesses.
- accelerating depreciation deductions for businesses. — AAP

Souths boss calls for rethink on funding

RUGBY LEAGUE
by Laine Clark and Matt Encarnacion, AAP

BRISBANE —South Sydney football boss Shane Richardson hopes the NRL's postponement due to the coronavirus pandemic forces the league to recalibrate funding, saying it is currently "not a workable business model".

Richardson said that clubs and players were paid too much and that the NRL would need to cut funding by "at least 25 percent" across the board to ensure the sport's future in the next 18 months.

Richardson spoke out after an emergency meeting with all 16 club bosses and Australian Rugby League Commission chairman Peter V'landys to discuss the fallout over the decision to postpone the 2020 season due to the health crisis.

Richardson hoped the season would resume after clubs were told of possible start dates at the beginning of June, July and August and as late as September 1, with a possible grand final just before Christmas.

But he also hoped the powers-that-be would use the postponement to reassess club funding.

"What we have to do now is make some sensible decisions to recalibrate the game, how do we disperse the money and cut back the overheads and ridiculous money that has been spent over the last period of time," he told Fox League.

"We have a wonderful opportunity because of this to recalibrate players' wages, to recalibrate the way clubs are running which is not successful because like it or not four clubs only are making a profit now."

Richardson said he tried to call for change in 2017

before the NRL and players union (RLPA) announced a historic collective bargaining agreement that delivered a \$980 million deal for players.

"Over the next 18 months this game needs at least a minimum of 25 percent cut across the board," he said.

"Tough decisions have to be made because the game can't sustain the wages of the football departments and the players' payments as they are now — it is not a workable business model.

"In 2017 we capitulated, we showed plastic balls and made decisions based on pressure from clubs and players. This is a chance to start again. We want to stop the bleed."

The likes of Manly, Gold Coast Titans and the Warriors are expected to be hardest hit by the postponement.

V'landys informed clubs that they would receive

their scheduled \$1.2 million monthly payment next week with more expected in May and June.

However, it is unclear whether the league can continue the cashflow from July.

It is understood the game has around \$150 million in reserves but it could lose roughly \$500 million should the entire season be cancelled.

Richardson did not believe a 16-team competition was the ideal NRL model but stopped short of clubs being culled.

"I am not advocating to get rid of clubs," he said.

"What I am saying is what is the business model? At the end of the day the player payments and football departments are a major part of the business.

"Unless they are brought down there is no chance of us going forward in the next 18 months."

How NRL clubs measure up for surviving coronavirus

BRISBANE: The game's off-field benchmark, with \$A14 million believed to be in the bank after reportedly amassing revenue of \$52 million last year.

CANBERRA: Believed to be owned by the Queanbeyan Leagues Club, who have six clubs and posted a \$1 million profit last year.

CANTERBURY: Backed by the powerful Canterbury League Club, which has been forced to drastically cut their costs after restrictions were placed on licensed venues.

CRONULLA: The Sharkies leagues club, which props up the football team, has \$16 million in cash reserves and \$25 million in development assets.

GOLD COAST: Privately owned by the Frizelle family who have reportedly experienced tough times in the car industry, it is believed the Titans have made moves to cut staff.

MANLY: Rumours have been rife in recent years that majority owner Scott Penn, who is dealing with a \$2 million tax bill last year, could sell.

MELBOURNE: Should be well-equipped to survive after being independently valued at more than \$30 million this year.

NEWCASTLE: Owners The Wests Group have stood down up to 1200 staff and placed them on leave entitlements after closing down their six

licensed clubs across New South Wales.

NORTH QUEENSLAND: The Cowboys have been profitable in the past two years but the postponement may hit the club hard.

PARRAMATTA: Parramatta Leagues Club are the major financial backers, and have been forced to close their doors.

PENRITH: The Panthers' five leagues clubs have all closed their doors.

SOUTH SYDNEY: One of the league's safest with a league-high 28,413 members, as well as Russell Crowe and James Packer as 75 percent owners.

ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA: Partially privatised by

WIN Corporation and appear to be financially viable.

SYDNEY ROOSTERS: The back-to-back reigning premiers are well-backed by the Easts Group.

WARRIORS: They've returned from their temporary Gold Coast home, and chief executive Cameron George says they will at least be self-sufficient in the short term. They have nearly 13,000 members and are bankrolled by long-standing New Zealand manufacturing company Autex Industries.

WESTS TIGERS: The Tigers are debt-free but not helped by the closure of pubs and clubs given they're backed by Wests Ashfield Leagues Club. The club boasts a net asset balance of \$60 million. — AAP

8	9	5					6	
			7	8				2
	1	2	5	9				3
6	8	1	9	5				
		4				9		
				6	3	4	1	8
1				4	9	6	7	
4			6	7				
	6					3	2	4

2306 EASY

SUDOKU

SUDOKU is a logic puzzle made up of 81 squares on a 9x9 grid. To solve the puzzle, each row, column and 3x3 grid within the larger grid must end up containing each number from 1 to 9, and each number can only appear once in a row, column or box. A sudoku grid has a single unique solution, which can be reached without using guesswork.

SOLUTION IN NEXT PUBLICATION.

8	9	5	4	3	2	7	6	1
3	4	6	7	1	8	5	9	2
7	1	2	5	9	6	8	4	3
6	8	1	9	5	4	2	3	7
2	3	4	8	7	1	9	5	6
5	7	9	2	6	3	4	1	8
1	2	8	3	4	9	6	7	5
4	5	3	6	2	7	1	8	9
9	6	7	1	8	5	3	2	4

2305

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

Thursday, March 26, 2020 by Eugenia Last

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:
Keira Knightley, 35; Kenny Chesney, 52; Martin Short, 70; Steven Tyler, 72.

Happy Birthday:
Refuse to let your emotions take over. Rational behavior will count when it comes to getting ahead and avoiding trouble. Too much of anything will be your downfall, and discipline and preparation will be your path to success. Make a conscious effort to do what's right and best for you. Your future depends on how hard you work, your stamina and your originality. Your numbers are 6, 19, 23, 27, 32, 41, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19):
A quick reaction will lead to disappointment and regret. Don't speak in haste or send the wrong message. Nurture relationships instead of destroying them, and you will navigate your way to a better position. Simplicity and moderation are in your best interest. 3 stars

TAURUS (April 20-May 20):
Be firm, and you will get your way. Be willing to adjust if it will help to move your plans forward faster. Don't argue over something that doesn't matter. Stubbornness won't help you get ahead. 3 stars

GEMINI (May 21-June 20):
Use your Gemini charm as your go-to tool, and you'll get your way, but don't promise something you will not want to honor. Consider a partnership that shows potential. Offer your services with a well-defined plan in mind. 4 stars

CANCER (June 21-July 22):
A secretive approach to something you are pursuing is in your best interest until you have everything in place. Your reputation may be at risk if you meddle or spread rumors based on hearsay. Personal growth is favored. 2 stars

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):
Consider what type of attention you want before you step into the spotlight. Making waves instead of keeping the peace will lead to a negative response. If you're going to accomplish something, be sensitive to others and true to your word. 5 stars

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):
Don't decide while under pressure. A financial loss or additional responsibilities due to a mistake will interfere with being able to take advantage of something better. Say no to a joint venture, and yes to doing your own thing. 3 stars

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):
Strive to make the biggest gain in the shortest period. Holding back how you feel will stifle your ability to take advantage of an opportunity. Take a practical, budget-friendly step forward, and don't look back. 3 stars

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):
Make a change at home. You will get the boost you need to expand your interests if you invest. Say what's on your mind, clear the air and make your move. Don't repress your creativity or your ability to be productive. 3 stars

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):
Strive for a friendly and comfortable environment. Don't let peers, relatives or neighbors bring you down or make you anxious. Associate with people who are sensitive to your needs and share common beliefs and interests. Choose peace over discord. 5 stars

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):
You'll appear weak if you back down. Review the facts, and take care of matters before they have time to escalate. Say no if someone asks for too much or takes you for granted. Use your skills to get what you want. 2 stars

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):
Question what you are doing, and make adjustments based on common sense. Don't give up, especially when a positive lifestyle will help you achieve your objective. Take the first step; you'll have the discipline to reach your destination. 4 stars

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):
Refuse to be a chameleon. Turn your attention to something productive and mentally stimulating, and you'll avoid taking a turn that benefits someone other than you. Change begins within, and doing your own thing is your ticket to freedom. 3 stars

Birthday Baby:
You are prepared, responsible and prompt. You are sensitive and caring.

STAR RATINGS
FIVE STARS: Nothing can stop you now. Go for the gold.
FOUR STARS: You can pretty much do as you please. It's a good time to start new projects.
THREE STARS: If you focus your efforts, you will reach your goals.
TWO STARS: You can accomplish a lot, but don't rely on others for help.
ONE STAR: It's best to avoid conflicts. Work behind the scenes or read a good book.

DOUBLE CROSSWORD

No 10,948

1	2	3	4	5	6
7					
8				9	
10			11	12	13
14		15		16	17
18	19		20	21	
22					

SOLUTIONS TO PUZZLE 10,947

QUICK
Across: 1 Rich; 8 Exorbitant; 9 Overcast; 10 Lift; 12 Stable; 14 Stary; 15 Abuser; 17 Setter; 18 Hero; 19 Stealthy; 21 Make amends; 22 Tide.
Down: 2 Inevitable; 3 Hear; 4 Homage; 5 Abates; 6 Stalwart; 7 Stet; 11 Forge ahead; 13 Bestowed; 16 Resume; 17 Seeing; 18 Hymn; 20 Last.

CRYPTIC
Across: 1 Call; 8 At a stretch; 9 Standing; 10 Rare; 12 Wended; 14 Sleigh; 15 Fencer; 17 Update; 18 Etna; 19 Sustains; 21 School year; 22 Shed.
Down: 2 All the best; 3 Lawn; 4 Varied; 5 Stages; 6 Befriend; 7 Shoe; 11 Right-angle; 13 Dictator; 16 Result; 17 Ulster; 18 East; 20 Airs.

CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS

- View of one who should know better (6,7)
- Such a mad rush will make a message unintelligible! (8)
- Press club (4)
- Master's current form (6)
- On the team, but not as a winger (6)
- It takes a good deal to satisfy him (6)
- She and men get involved and become engaged (6)
- Drink that's left (4)
- Won't you find footnotes in it? (4,4)
- He has nothing new for sale (7,6)

DOWN

- He has the will to settle things (8)
- Threaten males with one (6)
- Saint joins sailor in an attempt (4)
- A quiet little craving to eat (8)
- Releases the Mounties finally (6)
- A singular performance (4)
- Possibly hopes rum will be responsible for sleep! (8)
- Minded being arranged (8)
- Delay by putting the date in wrongly (6)
- Revolutionary type of public legislation (3,3)
- Has scattered snow (4)
- Out of gear! (4)

QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- Fail to understand (4,7,2)
- Save (8)
- Deserve (4)
- Redemption (6)
- Under cover (6)
- Infertile (6)
- Concealed (6)
- Trim (4)
- Insecure (8)
- Strengthening (13)

DOWN

- Wide view (8)
- Against (6)
- Morose (4)
- Bashful (8)
- Really (6)
- Indigent (4)
- Bravely (8)
- Miss (8)
- Sleep (6)
- Scarcity (6)
- Large carnivore (4)
- Team (4)

Around the Greens

Club bowls news

Poverty Bay

A TALLY of ends won was needed to find the winners of Poverty Bay Bowling Club's open mixed triples championship.

Three of the 10 teams won three of their four games.

Steve Berezowski (skip, Jan Powell and Erin Sutherland received the winners' trophy donated by Kimbra and Peter Walters in 2009.

Runners-up were Dawne Abraham (s), Robyn Arthur and Dusty Miller.

For the first time, the club held championship games over two evenings, starting at 5.30pm and finishing under lights.

On the scheduled second night, play was called off due to cold, wet and windy weather. The championship was completed in great conditions two nights later, with the games shortened to one hour each so they could be completed before 9pm.

Players commented favourably about the possibility of more evening play, especially as it gave school children and working people more opportunity to take part.

WINNING TRIPLE: Winners of the Poverty Bay Bowling Club's open mixed triples championship were (from left) skip Steve Berezowski, director Jan Powell and lead Erin Sutherland. Powell is holding the trophy that was donated by Kimbra and Peter Walters.

Picture supplied



Championship sailors cope with protocol

YACHTING

SELF-DISTANCING, staying outdoors and using alternatives to handshakes were all part of the protocol at the Poverty Bay yachting championships last weekend.

Competitors, supporters and volunteers coped with the new health guidelines associated with Covid-19.

Strong winds on Sunday meant the day's programme was shortened from six races to four in the Gisborne Financial Services-sponsored event.

In contrast to last year's championships, where countbacks were needed to decide who won in the Laser and open skiff fleets, winners were clear-cut this year.

In the open skiffs, Lucy Millar turned the tables on her brother Jake, who won the open skiff championships at Wellington the previous weekend.

Lucy sailed to four consecutive first placings at the weekend to gain first place overall. Jake was second.

Rotorua juniors Ryder Brackfield and Marcus Macpherson were third and fourth respectively.

Learn-to-sail junior Ollie Pheasant sailed Day 1 in a Viking/Optimist hybrid and took out the prize for that group.

Rick Lugtig and father/daughter combination Noah and Georgia Lee sailed in the catamaran division.

They won prizes in single-handed and crewed divisions

respectively. Rick experienced capsize in the windy Sunday race.

The Laser fleet was divided into two divisions with four in Division 1 and two in Division 2.

The Division 1 contest was won by defending champion Peter Millar, who had four wins and had the only monohull boat that remained upright for the whole contest.

It was remarked that he took "social distancing" a bit too far with some of the commanding wins he had on Day 1.

Rotorua youngster Ben Davy sailed to a well-deserved second placing, with local sailors Richard Stannard and Colin Shanks third and fourth respectively.

Ricky Brackfield and Hayley Bennett finished first and second respectively in the Division 2 Laser contest.

The work done by regatta organisers Glenn Watt, Gwenda Harvey, John Wells and Moira Johnston — with the help of shore-based volunteers — made the championships a success.

Results —

Juniors: Ollie Pheasant.

Open skiffs: Lucy Millar 1, Jake Millar 2, Ryder Brackfield 3, Marcus Macpherson 4.

Lasers, Division 1: Peter Millar 1, Ben Davy 2, Richard Stannard 3, Colin Shanks 4.

Lasers, Division 2: Ricky Brackfield 1, Hayley Bennett 2.

Catamarans, single-handed: Rick Lugtig.

Catamarans, crewed: Noah and Georgia Lee.

World round-up of virus effects on sport

Origin start to relaunch mooted

BRISBANE — In a bid to boost a financially hit NRL, New South Wales stalwart Wade Graham says the league should take the unprecedented step of relaunching the 2020 season after the coronavirus pandemic passes with the State of Origin series.

The NRL detailed various scenarios at an emergency meeting with all 16 clubs yesterday, saying the suspended competition could resume as late as September 1 with a possible grand final just before Christmas.

Plans for a return as early as June, July and August were also unveiled by ARL Commission chairman Peter V'landys.

It was initially believed the highly lucrative State of Origin series, reportedly worth \$20 million alone in gate receipts, could also be played before Christmas.

However, Graham reckons the season should resume by hitting the ground running with the Origin series before clubs lock horns again following reports the NRL could suffer a total loss of \$A104 million should the game be postponed until June. — AAP

No resumption in near future

LONDON — The Rugby Football League has confirmed there will be no resumption of fixtures in the foreseeable future.

The RFL imposed a three-week shutdown for the entire game from March 16 as a result of the coronavirus pandemic and, following a conference call on Tuesday to update Super League clubs on the latest situation, the governing body acknowledged the suspension would continue indefinitely.

After announcing an initial postponement to April 3, the game's rulers are keen not to tie themselves to another deadline, particularly after the national lockdown ordered by the Government. — PA

Bookies feeling the pinch

SYDNEY — Bookmakers are holding their breath as the billion-dollar sports betting industry also feels the pinch of the coronavirus pandemic.

As global sporting events grind to a halt so, too, do opportunities for punters to splash their cash, leaving bookies reeling from the fallout and scrambling to come up with novel alternatives to try to mitigate their crippling losses.

British betting agencies are said to have laid off staff and industry insiders fear the same will happen in Australia if horse racing is shut down in the same way as the major sporting codes have been.

According to reports quoting official government figures, Australians dropped \$A4.37 billion in racing and sports punting in 2016/17 — well before the saturation of mobile phone apps offering endless betting options.

There were some 200 individual bet types on both AFL and NRL matches, ranging from simple head-to-heads to automated algorithmic in-game multi options and last point-scorer options that allowed punters to invest from kick-off right up until fulltime.

With competitions suspended en masse, that has left bookmakers with voids impossible to fill.

Little wonder officials are doing everything in their power to keep racing going during the unprecedented health and financial crisis. — AAP

Two more rallies postponed

LONDON — The fifth and sixth rounds of the world rally championship in Portugal and Italy have been postponed due to the coronavirus, organisers say.

Portugal would have been held from May 21 to 24, while the Italian round in Sardinia was scheduled for June 4 to 7.

Three rounds of the championship have taken place so far, with Argentina postponed.

Portugal last week declared a state of emergency to stem the spread of the virus, while Italy, which has seen more fatalities than any other country, is in lockdown.

The next race on the calendar after Italy is Kenya's Safari Rally from July 16 to 19 but the East African country has cancelled flights and barred entry to people from countries affected by the outbreak. — AAP

Graham hopes to be back

BRISBANE — After more than 400 games, St George Illawarra enforcer James Graham hopes NRL fans haven't finally seen the last of him due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Off contract in 2020, the England forward admitted he feared he might have played his last game after the league made the unprecedented call to postpone the season amid the health crisis following two rounds.

"I hope not," he told Fox Sports' NRL 360.

"Obviously no one really knows what time frame (the NRL has shut down) at the moment and what the future holds.

"I certainly hope that wouldn't be the case and I guess my first instinct in answering that question I'd prefer it not to be." — AAP

Football stars contribute

BARCELONA forward Lionel Messi and Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola have each donated one million euros towards the fight against coronavirus.

Argentina international Messi's donation will be split between Hospital Clinic in Barcelona and another medical centre in his home country.

Former Barcelona player and manager Guardiola made his contribution to a campaign launched by the Angel Soler Daniel Foundation and Medical College of Barcelona.

"Pep Guardiola has made a donation of one million euros to the Angel Soler Daniel Foundation for the acquisition and supply of health equipment to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic," a statement from the College said.

"The donation campaign aims to collect medical materials and financial contributions from collegiate doctors and the general population, for the purchase of medical equipment and equipment that is currently lacking in health centres in Catalonia. "It will also help finance the alternative production, through 3D printing and other methods, of respirators and personal protection equipment for healthcare staff."

Juventus star Cristiano Ronaldo and his agent Jorge Mendes are funding three intensive care units for coronavirus patients at hospitals in Portugal.

A hospital in Porto said the contribution would pay for 15 intensive care beds equipped with ventilators and other equipment. Another two units with 10 beds each would be set up in Lisbon.

Media reports said Ronaldo and Mendes were contributing more than 1 million euros for the three units. — AAP

Other big events will be affected

OLYMPICS by Paul Newberry, AP

THE expected yet stunning decision to postpone the 2020 Summer Olympics because of the coronavirus could have a ripple effect on other major events, most notably the world championships for track and swimming.

While the International Olympic Committee has yet to set a new date for the Tokyo Games other than "not later than summer 2021", the revised calendar undoubtedly will heavily impact two of the event's biggest sports.

The 2021 world athletics championships are scheduled for next summer in Eugene, Oregon, which is constructing a new stadium that will seat 30,000 on the site of historic Hayward Field. The next world aquatics championships are set for roughly the same time in Fukuoka, Japan.

Paul Doyle, one of track and field's most influential agents, believes the track worlds should be postponed until the summer of 2022, in the midst of what is essentially an off year for the sport.

"That makes the most sense," he said. "No global championships in 2022, so if we move it to 2022 that solves a lot of problems. If you put them in the same year, it's not just having Olympics and worlds the same year. How do you select the teams?"

This will be the first time the every-two-years event has been held in the United States.

Now, it's all about the timing.

The track worlds are scheduled for August 6-15, which obviously won't work if the Tokyo Olympics are pushed back a full year to roughly the same spot on the calendar as this year's games — July 24-August 9.

If the Olympics are held in April or May, an idea that seems to be under serious consideration, the track worlds could press forward with their plans.

Even so, Doyle said it would be better to delay the world championships to 2022.



RIPPLE EFFECTS: Canada's Philippe Gagne and Francois Imbeau-Dulac perform a dive during the men's three-metre synchro springboard final at the FINA Diving World Series in Montreal last month. The scheduled 2021 world aquatics championships, which include diving, will be affected by the postponement of the Olympics.

Picture by Graham Hughes/The Canadian Press via AP

"I don't think putting them in the same year makes a lot of sense, especially when really 2022, it should be relatively easy," he said.

"I don't know all the intricacies of the city of Eugene. I would imagine that having a little more time might be good."

Swimming also holds its biggest event outside the Olympics in odd-numbered years.

The 2021 aquatics championships — which in addition to swimming also include diving, water polo, artistic swimming, open water swimming and the non-Olympic sport of high diving — are set for

July 16-August 1 in Fukuoka, which is about 1090 kilometres southwest of Tokyo on the island of Kyushu.

Again, that timing won't work if the Olympics are shifted to the summer of 2021.

But Cornel Marculescu, the executive director of world governing body FINA, said there was no chance of the next worlds being bumped back to 2022.

"No, no, no, no, no, no," he defiantly told The Associated Press by phone.

Marculescu said the IOC was considering two

options for the Summer Games, which would have a direct impact on FINA's next move.

"If they do it in summer, then we will have to change the dates of the world championships," he said.

"If they do it at the beginning of the year, maybe we don't need to touch the dates. The only thing we do, we wait to see what is the IOC decision."

If the IOC goes with a summer date, FINA would have to decide whether to hold its world championships before or after the Olympics.

A fall date seems most likely, since it wouldn't conflict with the US Olympic swimming trials that are usually held about a month ahead of the Games.

"Before or after? I don't know," Marculescu said.

The other member of the Olympics' Big Three is gymnastics, which stages its world championships every non-Olympic year.

The 2021 event is set for Copenhagen, Denmark, but not until October 18-24, so it shouldn't be directly affected by the Olympic postponement. Training schedules and other competitions would have to be altered, however.

The world governing body said it would do "everything necessary to adapt its events calendar to fit the new dates" of the Olympics.

Swimming coach Bob Bowman, best known for his work with retired Olympic great Michael Phelps, said he was looking forward to the chance to prepare for the Olympics without a major event the year before. In addition to the every-other-year worlds, the Pan Pacific Championships are held two years ahead of the Olympics.

"It will be nice to have a low-key summer for the first time ever," he said.

"We can just kind of get into it without preparing for a major event, like worlds or Pan Pacs. It seems like there's always something coming up. Not having that will give us a real leg up on the preparation time they need."



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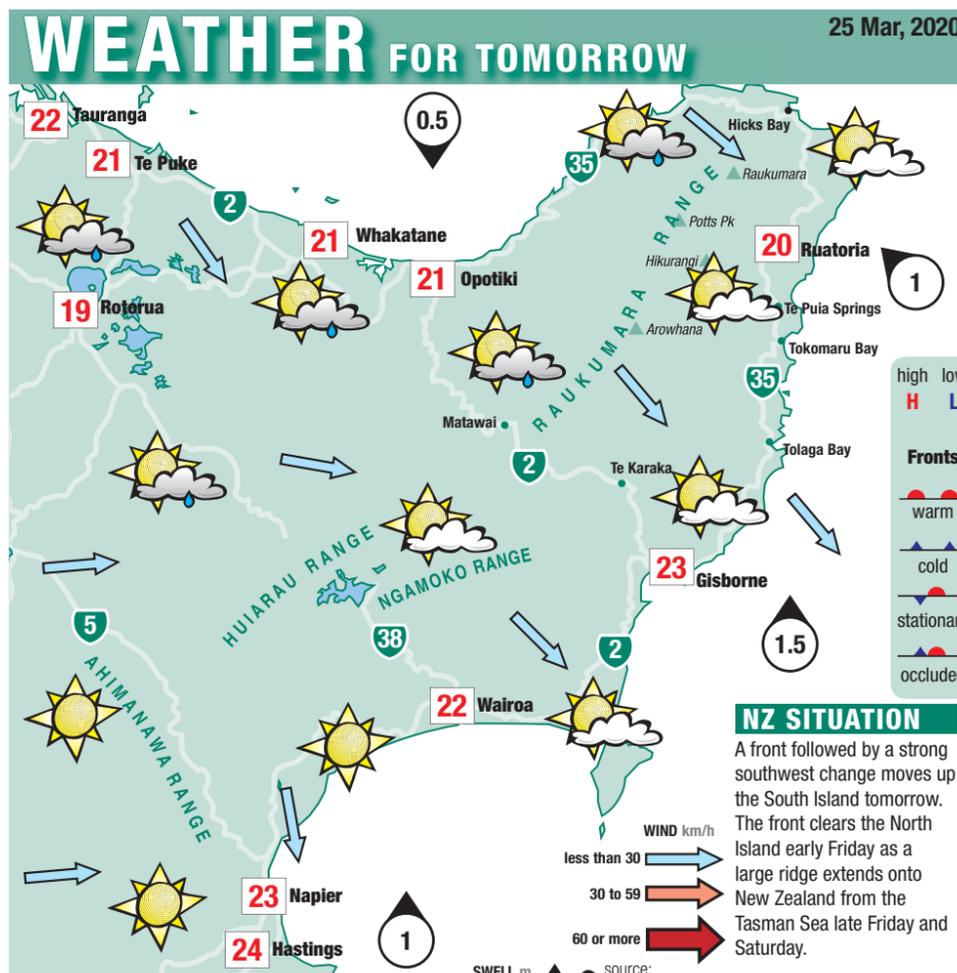
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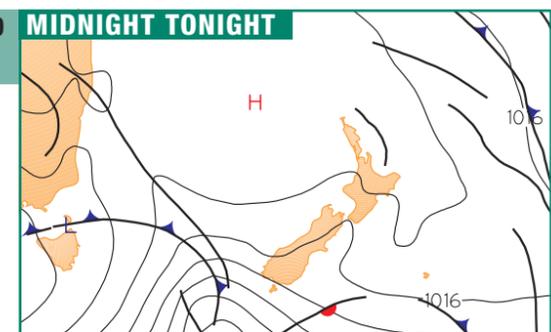
WEATHER FOR TOMORROW

25 Mar, 2020

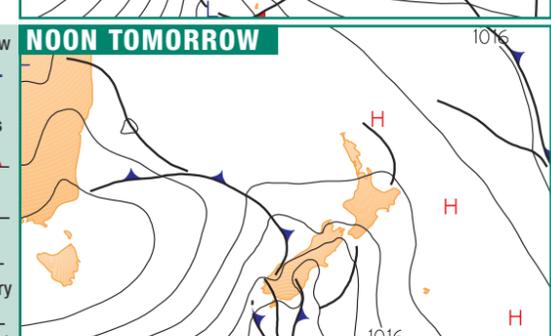


NZ SITUATION
A front followed by a strong southwest change moves up the South Island tomorrow. The front clears the North Island early Friday as a large ridge extends onto New Zealand from the Tasman Sea late Friday and Saturday.

MIDNIGHT TONIGHT



NOON TOMORROW



GISBORNE TIDE MOVEMENT

Thursday Mar 26			Friday Mar 27					
am	3	6	9	noon	3	6	9	pm
Hicks Bay			Hicks Bay					
Waipiro Bay			Waipiro Bay					
Tolaga Bay			Tolaga Bay					
Gisborne			Gisborne					
Wairoa			Wairoa					

SUN-MOON-MAORI FISHING GUIDE

© OceanFun Publishing www.ofu.co.nz Maori fishing guide by Bill Hohepa

Rise 7:16 am Set 7:10 pm	Rise 7:17 am Set 7:09 pm
Rise 8:31 am Set 8:19 pm	Rise 9:28 am Set 8:45 pm
Best at 2:07 am 2:27 pm	Best at 2:48 am 3:09 pm

GISBORNE CITY

TOMORROW	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
morning min 10 max 23 Mainly fine with northwesterlies.	morning min 12 max 21 Cloudy periods. Early change to southwesterlies.	morning min 10 max 18 Cloudy periods and a few showers. Southerlies.	morning min 10 max 18 Cloudy periods and a few showers. Southerlies.

GISBORNE REGION

TOMORROW	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
morning min 10 max 23 Mainly fine with northwesterlies.	morning min 12 max 21 Cloudy periods. Early change to southwesterlies, strong about the coast.	morning min 10 max 18 Cloudy periods and a few showers. Southerlies.	morning min 10 max 18 Cloudy periods and a few showers. Southerlies.

GISBORNE SUN PROTECTION ALERT

10:25 AM - 4:00 PM PROTECTION REQUIRED

Whatever your skin colour Data provided by NIWA

GISBORNE READINGS

Taken at the Airport, for the 24 hours to 9am, Wednesday 25 Mar 2020

SUNSHINE hours	
On Tuesday, 24 Mar	4.2
To date for March	138.5
Average for March	179.0
To date this year	688.6
To date last year	748.8
WIND km/h	
Max gust on Tue 24 Mar	S 37
RAINFALL mm	
24 hours to 9am, Wed 25 Mar	0.0
To date for March	46.4
Average for March	102.0
To date this year	108.0
To date last year	178.6
EVAPOTRANSPIRATION mm	
Daily average for past week	2.3
TEMPERATURE °C	
Maximum	16.8
Minimum	7.4
Grass minimum	1.4
BAROMETRIC PRESSURE	
At 9am 25 Mar (hPa)	1016.2
At 9am 25 Mar (inches)	30.01

WORLD TOMORROW

Adelaide	fine	11 24
Amsterdam	fine	-1 10
Bangkok	fine	27 34
Beijing	drizzle	9 10
Berlin	fine	-1 11
Brisbane	fine	19 28
Buenos Aires	showers	19 25
Cairo	rain	15 26
Canberra	fine	8 20
Cape Town	fine	12 20
Delhi	windy	19 31
Frankfurt	fine	-1 12
Geneva	fine	-2 8
Hong Kong	showers	22 26
London	fine	0 13
Los Angeles	rain	7 16
Melbourne	fine	12 22
Moscow	fine	0 12
New York	fine	4 12
Paris	fine	1 11
Perth	showers	21 37
Singapore	thunder	25 34
Stockholm	fine	1 10
Suva	thunder	24 32
Sydney	showers	17 23
Tokyo	fine	6 19
Toronto	showers	4 11

TODAY IN HISTORY

1994 – Strong winds in Napier necessitated the use of heavy bails in the cricket match between India and New Zealand. In the middle of Stephen Fleming's innings the ball rolled onto the stumps when he was out of his ground but the bails stayed on. Fleming stayed on the pitch to make 97.

For the latest weather info including Weather Warnings visit metSERVICE.com



Close finish to Poverty Bay club's open mixed triples PAGE 26



Postponement will affect other big events set for 2021 PAGE 27

OLYMPICS DELAYED

TOKYO — The Tokyo Olympics have been postponed to 2021, the first such delay in the Games' 124-year modern history, as the coronavirus crisis wrecked the last international sporting showpiece still standing this year.

Though a huge blow to Japan, which has invested \$US12 billion (\$NZ20.66 billion) in the run-up, the decision was a relief to thousands of athletes fretting over how to train as the world headed into lockdown to fight a disease that has claimed more than 16,500 lives.

Pressure had been building on the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and its president, Thomas Bach, with some athletes and sporting bodies angry that a seemingly inevitable decision had taken so long.

After a call between Bach and Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, both parties said the July 24-August 9 Games would be moved to the summer of 2021, to be a celebration of triumph over the coronavirus.

The Olympic flame, already lit at Olympia in Greece and carried around Japan in a now-cancelled torch relay, would stay in the host nation until then as a symbol of hope.

"This Olympic flame will be the light at the end of this tunnel," Bach said.

An "unprecedented challenge for mankind" had inevitably led to an unprecedented challenge for the Games.

Although it was the first Olympics postponement, they were cancelled outright three times during the two 20th century world wars. Major Cold War boycotts also disrupted the Moscow and Los Angeles Games in 1980 and 1984.

Bach, who last week was still planning to take four weeks to deliberate on a postponement, said it was still too early to set a new date for the Games.

Athletes were disappointed but broadly endorsed the delay, given health risks and disruption to their training as gyms, stadia and swimming pools shut down around the world.

Australian double Olympic champion swimmer Cate Campbell said she was reeling but ready for the new challenge.

"The goalposts haven't disappeared — just shifted," she said, after Australia had said its athletes would not go to Tokyo 2020 if the Games went ahead.

US skateboarder and gold medal hopeful Nyjah Huston was frustrated, though, especially as his sport was scheduled to make its debut at the Games.

"When skating finally makes it in the

Olympics then it gets postponed," the 25-year-old wrote on Instagram, after a delay had begun to look inevitable.

The coronavirus outbreak has raged around the world since early this year, infecting nearly 380,000 people and wrecking sports events from the European football championships to Formula One motor racing.

Despite their disappointment, not to mention the logistical headaches and financial losses coming, a poll indicated that about 70 percent of Japanese agreed with a delay.

‘The goalposts haven't disappeared — just shifted’

—Australian double Olympic champion swimmer Cate Campbell

Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike told reporters the delayed Games would still be branded "Tokyo 2020".

In a crowded sporting calendar, which will be making up for this year's cancellations, World

Athletics said it was willing to move its world championships, scheduled for August 6-15, 2021, in Oregon, to clear a path for the Olympics.

The Athletics Association said a poll of more than 4000 track and field competitors had indicated that 78 percent had wanted the Games to be delayed.

Tuesday's decision came 122 days before the planned opening ceremony

at Japan's newly built National Stadium, which was to usher in the 16-day carnival of sport featuring 11,000 athletes from 206 nations and territories.

It is not the first time a Japanese Olympics has run into problems. Both the 1940 Summer and Winter Olympic Games were due to be held in Japan but were cancelled due to World War 2.

It was not clear whether athletes who had already secured spots in Tokyo this summer — more than half of those due to compete — would need to qualify again.

Postponing the Olympics is also a heavy blow that is almost certain to push Japan's persistently weak economy, the world's third-largest, into recession.

The New Zealand Olympic Committee supports the postponement decision.

"New Zealand athletes were surveyed yesterday and told us they were ready to support this extremely tough decision," New Zealand Olympic Committee chief executive Kereyn Smith said.

"We will immediately contact and offer support to athletes. We will also work through plans with our performance partners High Performance Sport NZ and the New Zealand sporting bodies."

SUN SETS ON 2020 GAMES; SET TO RISE IN 2021: The Olympic rings are pictured at the entrance of the International Olympic Committee headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland. Picture by Jean-Christophe Bott/Keystone via AP

