

# The Gisborne Herald

TE NUPEPA O TE TAIRAWHITI

MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2020

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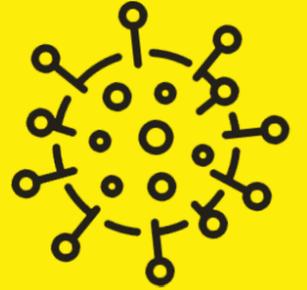
## LOCKED DOWN IN LONDON

Former Gisborne woman Samantha Whittle is in the heart of the United Kingdom as the Covid-19 coronavirus intensifies. London-based Samantha, who manages and part-owns a gym, has remained in the British capital and says the experience so far has been "scary". Her job usually involves daily personal interaction with people so the lockdown is a strange feeling. "It feels lonely enough being on the other side of the world without family and close friends, so this has added a whole new dimension." As of this morning, there had been 47,806 cases of Covid-19 in the United Kingdom, including 4934 deaths, 621 of those in the past day.

### SAMANTHA'S STORY ON PAGE 5

Picture of Samantha with the Tower Bridge in background supplied

## COVID 19



- Lockdown behaviour improving
- Embargo on fishing, diving on Coast
- Sacrifices making a difference: PM
- Online alcohol sales concerning
- Virgin Australia sheds 600 NZ jobs
- Boris Johnson hospitalised
- Queen's message: 'We will overcome this'

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# Forces joined to combat violence

by Matai O'Connor

TAIRAWHITI iwi, police and Gisborne-based family harm support services are working together throughout Covid-19 Alert Level 4 to help victims of an expected rise in family violence.

Tauawhi Men's Centre, Barnardos, Gisborne Women's Refuge/Te Whare Tu Whanau and Age Concern are some of the essential services in Gisborne continuing to offer support for those who are involved in family violence.

Police last week said they expected the level of domestic violence to increase during the lockdown as more people were at home and this could put extra pressure on couples and families.

Police commissioner Mike Bush said police would increase their response to family harm

and staff would also do more around prevention.

Whangaia Nga Pa Harakeke (WNPH) is an initiative where police and local iwi work in partnership to reduce family harm.

Gisborne is one of three pilot sites in areas with disproportionately high rates of family harm.

WNPH iwi co-director Tania Rauna is working with the community to coordinate a "harm-free response".

"We are testing a new way of working with our statutory partners and during Covid-19 we have collectively been successful in supporting vulnerable whanau sooner," Ms Rauna said.

Tairawhiti iwi have led the Covid-19 response plan. Working closely with Civil Defence Emergency Management and agency forums, they are

targeting pakeke (elders), persons with chronic conditions, high-needs whanau and marae.

Te Runanganui o Ngati Porou has mobilised Care Bear teams to support whanau and with a focus on pakeke. Support is being offered through the Horouta Whanau Ora Collective, Ngati Porou Hauora and Turanga Health.

Te Runanga O Turanganui A Kiwa is coordinating efforts through Ngai Tamanuhiri Trust, Rongowhakaata Iwi Trust and Te Aitanga A Mahaki Trust to support rural communities.

WNPH is working closely with Oranga Tamariki, Ministry of Social Development, Corrections and Hauora Tairawhiti to communicate, coordinate, collaborate and develop contingencies for supporting whanau.

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TOMORROW

GISBORNE



RUATORIA



WAIROA



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# LIFE IN LOCKDOWN



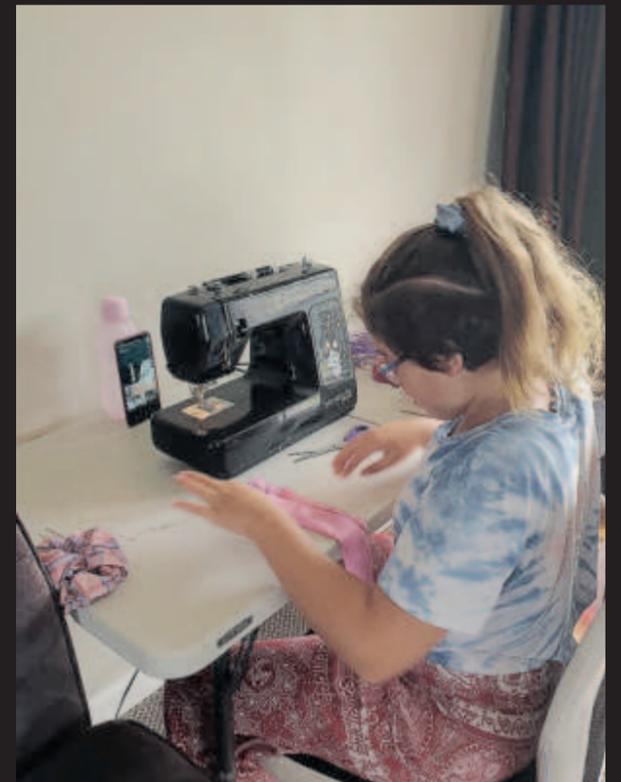
**LAWNMASTER:** Seven-year-old Danté Jubb gets cracking on the lawns.



**BRUSH STROKES:** Samara and Georgia Lee help dad Noah with some painting.



**HAMMER TIME:** Monty Burns does a great impersonation of Bob the Builder.



**FUTURE COCO CHANEL:** Phoenix Battin learns to sew.



## This was a Ferrari before the clock struck midnight

PARKVIEW Garden Centre co-owner Jared Owen in his gutted-out giant pumpkin. After months of pumpkins being nurtured around the district, growers received the disappointing news the Bushmere Arms Giant Pumpkin Festival had been cancelled just days out from the event. Jared does not enter his pumpkins into the competition but grows one every year to support the festival and the Gisborne East Coast Cancer Society. "Every year the pumpkins are getting bigger and bigger, so it would have been interesting to see if any others got as big as my pumpkin," he said. "Now I have 550 kilograms (estimated size) of pumpkin compost in my garden." Jared provides the seeds for the annual competition and says next year's will be available from October. "I think the seed packs this coming season will include a plant as well." Jared usually plants his giant pumpkin seed in early October to give the plant time to fill his pumpkin patch, which measures 9x9 metres. "You can happily plant one up until Christmas and still have a good-sized pumpkin at competition time." Jared has received a few suggestions on what he could do with what remains of his pumpkin, including a hot tub and a dodgem. He thought maybe he could turn it into a boat.

Picture supplied

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# Embargo on fishing, diving in Coast waters

LOCAL hapu have imposed an embargo on fishing and diving in northern East Coast waters until further notice in response to movement issues relating to the Covid-19 lockdown.

Representatives of Tarahaiti, Hunaara, Hinerupe, Te Aopare and Te Whanau a Kahu agreed to ban fishing, diving and shellfish collection from Te Koau to Otiki/Tunanui.

In a joint statement posted on Radio Ngati Porou's Facebook page, Te Aopare rohe moana representative Campbell Dewes cites the reason as deterrence to "outsiders" breaking the lockdown, going to Te Araroa, shopping and then going on to the beach.

The embargo extends from Whangaokeno (near East Cape Lighthouse) to Te Koau (between Te Araroa and Wharekahika).

Te Whanau a Tuwhakairiora representative and Wharekahika Maori committee chairman Kingi Houkamau added his support.

"Nobody living outside of Wharekahika is able to come diving or fishing as this is not essential. Expect our checkpoint to turn you away".

Trustees of Takutai Moana Rohe 1 supported the lockdown and recognised the potential for community transmission of the coronavirus.

"Advice has been to stay in our respective bubbles and for essential local travel only. "To collect, gather and harvest from the sea is a time-honoured inter-generational cultural privilege.

"To travel to collect, harvest and gather from the sea is breaking the lockdown and taking that cultural harvest privilege for granted.

"For these reasons alone, an embargo has been imposed within our Takutai moana rohe boundaries for the duration of the national emergency and Level 4 Covid-19 pandemic lockdown.

"Stay local, stay in your bubble and stay safe. Kia ora."

## Urged to shop local 'where you can'

EAST Coast residents travelling to Gisborne for medication or essential supplies have been urged to follow Alert Level 4 restrictions.

Gisborne District Council Emergency Coordination Centre group controller Dave Wilson has moved to clarify confusion around travelling on State Highway 35.

People from the East Coast are being encouraged to shop local but if they need to come to Gisborne to shop for medication or essential items, they should follow Covid-19 guidelines.

"There are some great initiatives being undertaken in Coast townships," said Mr Wilson.

"Some shops are allowing people to text or message their orders in for free delivery,

while others are looking to whanau in Gisborne to do their shopping, which is then couriered up the Coast.

"It is better to shop local where you can but we all appreciate that sometimes what you need is not available and a town visit is inevitable."

Local supermarkets are working to ensure people keep their two-metre social distance, with only limited numbers allowed in stores at any one time.

"Stay home to save lives is the simple message.

"Just one person from each household should be out shopping for groceries or picking up medications.

"It is a small sacrifice to be made for a huge benefit."

## Live blues coming to your lounge

POVERTY Bay Blues Club will continue its traditional live music session tomorrow night but in the comfort of your own lounge.

It is traditionally held on the first Tuesday of each month but for tomorrow's get-together, everyone involved will be in their bubble while maintaining an online connection.

Socially distanced in an online video, blues club captain Darryn Clyne said for now the PBBC could not meet in "the world's most beautiful bar — the Dome Room".

Instead, Spellbound Radio 106.8FM will stream the evening's performances at [www.onlineradiobox.com/nz/spellboundradio](http://www.onlineradiobox.com/nz/spellboundradio) from 8pm tomorrow.

Artists are invited to submit recordings — at 256kbps or higher mp3s — to [studio@spellboundradio.net](mailto:studio@spellboundradio.net)

"We'll start the jam at 8pm," says Clyne.

"We'll go from there and see where we come to. I think it's going to be a great collaboration."



**EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT MESSAGE:** Gisborne Emergency Department staff posted this picture on the Hauora Tairawhiti Facebook page asking for people to stay home during the Covid-19 lockdown. Read it, heed it.

# Tension rising under lockdown

FROM PAGE 1

Since Alert level 4 started, WNPH has closely monitored occurrences to track any changes and capture possible incidents before they recur.

"Covid-19 has created problems of overcrowding and housing as whanau are now in lockdown with up to 14 individuals, including children, in the household," said Ms Rauna.

"Individuals are not respecting the lockdown and causing stress for other family members.

"Drugs and alcohol have always been a major source of tension in family harm and this has not changed.

"With the addition of the lockdown, tensions run higher when younger family members are going to parties and returning home.

"Family relationships have come under strain as whanau feel the pressures of being in a bubble together.

"They have been open to police education on how to manage these and some whanau have been supported to move their bubbles."

Ms Rauna thanked all the services for their support during this time.

"It has been very heartening for our team to work collectively with our community and know that we are all in this together," she said.

Barnados and Tauawhi Men's Centre staff are working from home.

All Barnados staff are linked to the Barnados network system so it has been "business as usual" without the physical contact.

Gisborne Barnados service manager Dianne Saunders said their social workers were regularly contacting whanau they work with to ensure they were safe and keeping in their bubble.

"They have helped develop safety plans to ensure we can stay in touch and monitor safety for children remotely."

Barnados can assess the family's ability to access resources and advise them where necessary.

This includes information on "keeping the peace" and avoiding familial conflict, Mrs Saunders said.

"We are still receiving family violence referrals but we only contact people by phone."

The message to be kind is reinforced.

Mrs Saunders is in daily phone and email contact with staff

including a weekly Skype group "virtual coffee break".

"It's a place where we can all check in with each other.

"The Barnados team is coping well with the lockdown — looking after themselves, as well as keeping in touch with families they have worked with," Mrs Saunders said.

A Civil Defence contact list is available to everyone and Barnados' 0800 Whats up (0800 942 8787) helpline is open throughout the alert. It is a safe place for children and teenagers to talk to someone about their fears, anxieties or any other issues.

Tauawhi Men's Centre coordinator Tim Marshall said increased pressure caused by factors like isolation and having to stay home and being in the same space for much longer than usual could lead to family violence.

"And if people are out of work, there's the added financial stress coupled with the worry of the virus and keeping their whanau safe."

If people are feeling unsafe, call the police on 111.

"The Whangaia team will be able to provide direct follow-up and connect you with services."

**THERE** are things people can do at home to prevent family violence, says Tauawhi Men's Centre coordinator Tim Marshall.

Taking regular and agreed time-outs can prevent things from getting worse.

"Everyone in the household should be able to do this and it always works out best if everyone knows each other's plans beforehand and the time to talk that through is when everything is OK."

Even with the lockdown, we can all still step out outside or go for walks around the neighbourhood when we need to, he says.

"If you are starting to get frustrated or angry, a good simple visual model to remember is the Traffic Light; Red = Stop; Orange = slow down/cool down/think; Green = choose a safe response.

"Communication is key and best to use early. Having someone to talk to outside the whanau helps.

"Check in with your mates and use the online services and phones to stay in touch."

Tauawhi Men's Centre is physically closed but staff are working from home.

They are not 24/7 but people can contact Tim Marshall on 027 558 6362 or go to the centre's website or Facebook page.

## FAMILY NOTICES

## Deaths

**MEI, Jean Mate.** — 8.4.1933 ~ 6.4.2020. Passed away peacefully, at Gisborne Hospital, on 6th April 2020, aged 86. Beloved wife of the late Erueti. Loved mother and mother-in-law of Gaylene and Waka Taitapanui (dec), Hori (aka Biggles, dec), Edward and Andrea, Lynette and Fuji Turner (dec), Trish, James and Rose, Jacquelyn and Dave Peet. Our mother was loved and will be missed by her grand/great-grand/great-great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, Mum's brothers and sisters, and their families, extended whanau and friends. Due to the COVID-19 virus restrictions we are unable to give Mum the send-off she deserves. Once the virus alert has been lifted, we will be holding an unveiling and celebration of "This was her life" with all whanau and friends. We will notify everyone with sufficient forward notice, once the lockdown is over.

- Evans Funeral Service Ltd FDANZ  
www.evansfuneral.co.nz



**CLASSIC:** Snapped in the queue at Pak'nSave supermarket, this careful shopper was making very sure he — or she — was not going to pick up any lurking bugs while stocking up on the essentials.

Facebook picture

## Easter weather looking as good as it gets

by Roger Handford

EASTER . . . the last long weekend we look forward to before winter sets in.

But what do you do when you are already in a long weekend? That is, the month-long weekend imposed by the Covid-19 lockdown.

And — as if to rub salt into the wound — the weather outlook for Easter is almost as good as it gets.

The sun breaks through the clouds on Good Friday, and clear sunny skies are forecast to continue through to Monday.

The MetService outlook is backed by other world weather agencies, and shows a large high moving into the Tasman Sea from Australia, bringing westerly winds and clear skies.

The Gisborne district forecast shows temperatures around the 20-degree mark over the whole weekend.

However, the weather outlook is frustratingly irrelevant to a nation that would normally hit the highways, head to the beach, visit relatives and get in those last few barbecues.

With the coronavirus lockdown in force, travel, the beach and surfing are off the list. So are Easter family and church gatherings.

On the other hand, the sunshine will end the recent run of gloomy, overcast and showery weather, and allow people out into their gardens to enjoy the fresh air, and do a bit around the house.

And while Easter remembers a significant event for Christians, this Easter may also be a good opportunity for everyone to reflect on matters more spiritual than materialistic; to appreciate the good things we have; and to bear the current restrictions on our usual freedoms with good grace for the benefit of all.

# Lockdown behaviour

## Police note improvement but some reminders needed

POLICE noted an improvement in lockdown behaviour on the region's roads over the weekend, and when it comes to the rules relating to recreational activities.

Behaviour in the region's food and other essential supply outlets remains good.

Police have been visiting beaches to ensure the surfing fraternity stick to the rules in the wake of the Government's updated health guidelines in which all water-related activities have now been banned.

The Ministry of Health issued a Health Notice on Saturday, which advised "Recreation and exercise does not involve swimming, other water-related activity like surfing and boating, hunting and tramping or other activities of a kind that exposes the participants to danger or a situation where they might require search and rescue."

Police spoke to a kayaker at the weekend on the city beaches who witnesses said appeared to attempt to evade police by paddling between

Waikanae and Midway for about 20 minutes before coming to shore.

"On Sunday a male was spoken to by our staff who had been kayak fishing off Waikanae in relatively heavy seas," a police spokesman said this morning.

"Compliance with the recreational rules in lockdown has been improving, but the public should also be aware that hunting is not classed as an essential purpose."

The spokesman said behaviour at the supermarkets and dairies has been good, with good levels of compliance reported on the whole.

"If families can be reminded, where possible they should nominate a designated shopper to reduce the number of bubble members having to come into contact with other people."

The spokesman said Sunday was busy on the roads with noticeably more traffic.

"Again the message to the public is that travel should be for essential purposes only."

"But for some people that message is only getting through to them slowly."

He said so far police in Tairāwhiti had

not issued any infringement notices in relation to the lockdown.

The new Government announcement at the weekend gave them additional powers to do so.

On Saturday night and Sunday morning there were incidents where vehicles failed to stop for police.

"The first involved a stolen vehicle from Wairoa.

"The vehicle was sighted at Morere heading to Gisborne, failed to stop for police and continued on.

"Police used road spikes to bring it safely to a conclusion at Manutuke," the spokesman said.

"Two youths from Gisborne were charged with unlawful taking of a vehicle, failing to stop and unlawfully getting into a motor vehicle."

Two other passengers were referred to Youth Aid.

"The second (incident) involved a vehicle observed travelling at speed along Ormond Rd. Again this incident was concluded safely and the driver dealt with."

## Essential gorge works under way

ESSENTIAL service travellers going through the Waioeka Gorge will encounter some essential road works on SH2 through the gorge this week.

The NZ Transport Agency advises contractors will be undertaking essential maintenance activities in general, but specifically at Oponae, three kilometres east of Waiata Road.

"Works to repair an unstable section of embankment at that location got under way this morning and are expected to be completed before the end of May," said Bay of Plenty Transport System Manager Rob Campbell.

"The embankment was previously damaged during heavy rain and has since been reduced to one lane under priority give way.

"Temporary traffic management will be in place for the duration of the work, including a 30kmh temporary speed limit. Stop/Go traffic management will be in place from 6am to 5pm and traffic lights in place overnight from 5pm to 6am, Monday to Friday.

"Some weekend work may be required," Mr Campbell said.

"Completing this work now will ensure this section of road is robust enough to remain open despite the high river levels that are normal in winter."

# Slowdown in call-outs . . . 'long may that continue'

by Murray Robertson

FIREFIGHTERS have seen a "significant" slowdown in the number of emergency situations they have been called to so far during the lockdown.

They said the drop-off in cases in Tairāwhiti followed a nationwide trend.

A vehicle crash near Tolaga Bay and gas bottle explosion near Te Araroa have been their only accident calls since the Alert Level 4 lockdown started on March 26.

"We have had a significant drop in the

number of accident-related calls received, and the call-out rate overall when you factor in the likes of rubbish fires and medical assists has been minimal," said Fire and Emergency senior station officer Peter Carroll.

"I wouldn't like to guess the reasoning for it. Hopefully it's because people are being safe in their homes."

SSO Carroll said the dramatic drop in vehicles on the roads must be helping the situation.

"We are pleased not to have had the usual number of emergency calls. It could be

we've just been lucky so far. Long may that continue."

SSO Carroll said FENZ in Gisborne had divided its teams into four watches of six to eight firefighters.

"They each stay in their own bubbles to reduce the risks of virus transmission, with no cross-manning between watches.

He hoped residents were using this time to check their home smoke alarms were operating effectively.

"It's also a good opportunity to go over your home evacuation plans and your

safe meeting place in the event of a fire emergency in the home."

SSO Carroll felt the slowdown in emergency calls was a reflection of the positive way the community in general in the region had responded to the lockdown rules associated with Alert Level 4.

"Long may that continue in this challenging time."

The Herald hopes to get a response tomorrow from St John ambulance on what they have been experiencing to date during the lockdown.

# Life in London, but not as we know it

## ‘Everybody here raves about PM Jacinda Ardern’

by Wynsley Wrigley

CANCELLED international flights which left friends stranded helped Gisborne woman Samantha Whittle make a difficult decision — she would stay in locked-down London.

Samantha has been in Europe since September 2017, and turned 26 “during all of this”.

She says London, in lockdown since last Monday, is scary.

“I’ll always have the idea that New Zealand is safer and further away from any harm,” she said.

Samantha has significant commitments in London.

She manages and part-owns a gym in Earlsfield in the London borough of Wandsworth.

Samantha and her partner have bought a home in Earlsfield and only moved in three weeks before the lockdown began.

She changed her visa last year, when she had been thinking of returning to New Zealand.

“If I was on that (original) visa still, there’s no way I would have stayed.

“The uncertainty of the length of time this will go on for also made it hard to make a decision.”

Samantha does not admire the way British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has handled the Covid-19 crisis.

“Boris, Boris, Boris,” she says ruefully.

She appreciates the Prime Minister is in an unprecedented situation but says communication with the British public has been poor.

There had been no clear statement or explanation similar to the New Zealand staged alert system.

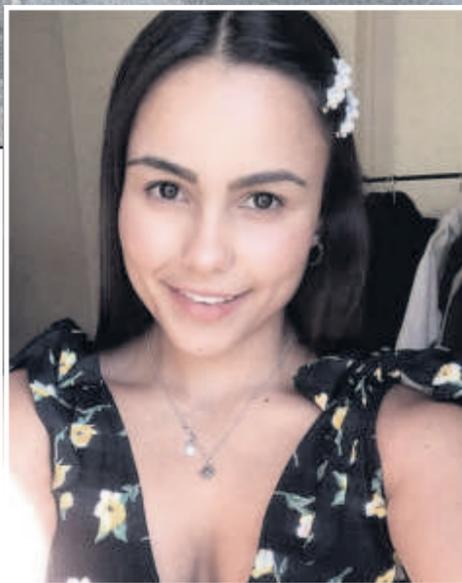
Samantha believes that lack of communication led to panic buying and rumours because no one knew what the next day would bring.

“No one knew what a lockdown meant.

“Boris gave the announcement at 8.30pm — lockdown effective immediately.”

She compared New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern favourably to her British counterpart.

“Everybody raves about her here —



legend!”

Samantha said a lockdown was inevitable in Britain because no one took social distancing seriously.

“People were still in the pub.”

She knows few New Zealanders who are still working — only nurses, “who I absolutely take my hat off to”.

Samantha said she was initially naive about the Covid-19 outbreak.

“I thought it wasn’t close enough to home to worry about.

“Stupidly, because I’m not in a high-risk category,

I almost thought I couldn’t be affected.” At one stage she thought it would be better to get Covid-19 “and be done with

**‘It feels lonely enough being on the other side of the world without family and close friends, so this has added a whole new dimension’**

**LOOKING AHEAD:** Gisborne woman Samantha Whittle, currently living in locked-down London, hopes people will increasingly appreciate “human interaction” and the opportunities which arise in life once the Covid-19 pandemic ends. Although enjoying the experiences and sights offered in the UK and Europe, “from afar I am so proud of New Zealand, always”, she says. Picture supplied

“It feels lonely enough being on the other side of the world without family and close friends, so this has added a whole new dimension.

“It feels almost sad how far removed physically you have to be from people. “I understand it’s necessary though. “Everyone has a mask on everywhere you look.”

She has gym equipment at home for exercise and also goes to a park, which she says is always full of people.

A Sainsburys’ supermarket is close by, but its shelves are emptied rapidly.

“We go almost daily to try to scramble bits.

“I can’t remember the last time I saw toilet rolls or canned tomatoes.

“A massive part of British culture is to go to the pub and get ‘razzed’.

“It’s different to home, people don’t really meet for coffee or go for walks.

“I can’t help but think it’s an opportunity for everyone to reassess, reconnect and find others things they enjoy.”

She now communicates more often with friends back in New Zealand and talks daily to her parents Wendy Dewstow and Fraser Grout, and Johnny and Charlie Whittle.

“I have more opportunity now. “London life is go, go, or be left behind, so it’s nice to be still for a while.”

Covid-19 would have long-term repercussions, not only for the economy, but for people, she said.

“I’m hopeful this situation will make us crave human interaction more, and be appreciative of all we are able to do.”

**THEN AND NOW:** Gisborne woman Samantha Whittle is experiencing the strangeness of a locked-down London first hand. This combo of images shows people queuing for a bus at Victoria Station in London, on Thursday, August 6, 2015 and an image taken from the same angle on Thursday, April 2, 2020. When Associated Press photographer Frank Augstein moved to London in 2015, what struck him most was the crowds. In years of covering political dramas, moments of celebration and tragedy and major sporting events, Augstein’s photographs have captured the city’s ceaseless movement. Augstein revisited in recent days many of the sites he has photographed, after Britain “like other countries around the world” went into effective lockdown to stem the spread of the new coronavirus.

AP picture by Frank Augstein



## More than 600 police staff in self-isolation

WELLINGTON — Hundreds of New Zealand's police — about 5 percent of the organisation — are in self-isolation.

There are 664 sworn and non-sworn staff off work. Of that number, 381 are frontline staff and 283 are non-sworn.

Police Association president Chris Cahill said they had managed to move a lot of staff around, so overall it had not affected services to the public.

He said many of those in isolation were due to complete it shortly, and with testing ramping up, it was becoming much clearer who may or may not have been exposed to the Covid-19 coronavirus.

There are still only two known confirmed cases in the police force.

Cahill said the distancing regime and personal protection equipment (PPE) police had been supplied with was keeping them safe. — RNZ

## Surgical masks essential for frontline staff

by Rowan Quinn, RNZ

AUCKLAND — Frontline emergency hospital staff are being told they should wear surgical masks at all times, in a protocol change prompted by overseas evidence.

The Australasian College of Emergency Medicine, which represents emergency doctors, is updating its guidelines today and wants the support of health authorities.

Its president, John Bonning, said ordinary surgical masks should be worn when dealing with all patients — even those with no signs of the virus.

Higher protection N95 masks should still be used for patients who could have Covid-19, he said.

There has been debate about the effectiveness of the surgical masks which tie at the back of the head and do not fully seal, allowing some air flow at the sides.

Dr Bonning said while they were not perfect, if used well they helped reduce the spread of



**PROTECTION:** Ordinary surgical masks should be worn when dealing with all patients, the Australasian College of Emergency Medicine says. File picture

the virus, particularly by those who did not yet have symptoms.

“You certainly shouldn't rely on them in a high-risk situation with a patient who clearly has Covid-19, but they do reduce transmission between co-workers,” he said.

Overseas, there was evidence colleagues were catching the disease from one another, he said.

“Remember, we're in our Level 4 bubbles

at home, but healthcare workers are going to hospital and a lot of us are mixing with each other. We're trying to practise distancing at work, but you do have to get close,” he said.

The masks were no replacement for stringent handwashing, gloves and other hygiene measures, he said.

There was no shortage of the basic surgical masks but N95 masks should still be reserved for suspected cases, he said.

# Lockdown ‘paying off’

But NZ not out of the woods as Cabinet mulls their next move

by Derek Cheng, NZ Herald

WELLINGTON — Cabinet ministers will today work through what needs to happen for the nationwide lockdown to end in 16 days and, although no decision has been made, the Prime Minister says there are reasons for optimism.

New Zealand seems to have avoided the exponentially tighter grip that Covid-19 has unleashed on other nations, but Jacinda Ardern was quick to warn that anyone relaxing their behaviour could jeopardise the progress made so far.

The 89 new cases yesterday was consistent with the number of new daily cases since the lockdown came into force, and the total of 1039 confirmed or probable cases was 3000 fewer than the predicted number for yesterday, which was provided to the Government on the eve of the lockdown.

But expert epidemiologists say there needs to be more testing data across all regions, socio-economic groups and ethnicities before the lockdown can confidently be lifted.

Ardern's warning to keep complying with lockdown rules came after a number of surfers headed out to Auckland's west coast yesterday morning, despite an

explicit ban on surfing announced the night before.

“There are still some I would charitably describe as idiots,” Ardern said of those who deliberately flouted the rules, citing in particular a Christchurch man who published a video of himself coughing on people.

**‘The sacrifices that you have made — it is making a difference.’**

— Jacinda Ardern

As New Zealanders emerge on day 12 of the lockdown, Ardern thanked them for their “sacrifices” by following the unprecedented restrictions that have been in place since March 26.

She revealed modelling — done by Asia-based macro advisory firm Wigram Capital Advisors — from the eve of the lockdown that showed there would be about 4000 cases yesterday.

The fact there were only 1039 showed that the lockdown was making a difference, Ardern said.

“Going hard and going early appear to

be paying off for us,” Ardern said at her press conference yesterday.

“The sacrifices that you have made - it is making a difference.”

The number of new cases since the lockdown has remained largely static, swinging between 58 and 89 cases each day.

But the United Kingdom and United States both recorded their deadliest days of the pandemic yesterday, with 708 deaths in the UK and more than 1000 in the US. More than 4000 people in Britain and 8000 in the US have died from coronavirus.

Ardern said no decisions had been made about lifting or extending the lockdown after four weeks.

“We're not at a point yet where we can see the full impacts of Alert Level 4.”

Cabinet will today consider the criteria for deciding to ease the lockdown, and how sectors from education to business will operate at different alert levels as schools and shops reopen.

Ardern said the criteria were yet to be worked through, but pointed to key factors including the number of new cases, rate of community transmission, and the ability to do rapid contact-tracing, which businesses and schools could help with.

Only 1 percent of the cases have been confirmed as community transmission, but Director-General of Health Ashley Bloomfield said many of the 18 percent of cases still being investigated were also likely to be via community transmission. But that 18 percent proportion did not appear to be growing, he said, and the low death rate — a single death in 1039 cases — also made it less likely an outbreak was happening undetected.

Another positive sign was that hospitals were not inundated; of the 15 coronavirus cases in hospital, three were in ICUs, two of whom were in a critical condition.

University of Otago epidemiologist Professor Michael Baker said the Government had bought itself time by putting the country into lockdown.

“All around the world, once you get on an exponential curve, it's really hard to get off it unless you take very decisive action. And that's what the Government did.”

But Baker was waiting for more detailed testing data by region, ethnicity and social groups to ensure the virus wasn't present in areas or among groups that might not have been widely tested.



### An important message from Three Rivers Medical

New Zealand is currently at Alert Level 4. In response, Three Rivers Medical has switched to mainly using telephone consultations. We may in time use video consultations as well.

You can ring and book your appointments as usual, and then a GP or nurse will call you back at the agreed time.

**Please do not come to the clinic unless you are asked to.**

Normal weekday and weekend charges will apply for consultations and prescriptions. Please note our revised opening hours are 9am-1pm and 2pm-6pm every day Monday to Sunday.

Please also note childhood and influenza vaccines can go ahead but only by calling the clinic for an appointment.

Our staff and telephone system are under pressure with the increase in volume of queries and telephone consultations.

We appreciate your patience during this time. Thank you for helping us unite against COVID-19.

75 Customhouse St  
Phone (06) 867 7411  
Afterhours call Healthline 0800 611 116  
[www.3rivers.co.nz](http://www.3rivers.co.nz)

**Although the office is physically closed you can still contact my office. Stay home, Save lives.**

**Office hours**

**Monday-Friday 9.00am-4pm**

**National HON ANNE TOLLEY**  
MP FOR EAST COAST

**Gisborne Electorate Office**

**A** | 5 Gladstone Road

**P** | 06 867 7571

**E** | [tolleygis@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:tolleygis@parliament.govt.nz)

Funded by the Parliamentary Service and authorised by Anne Tolley MP  
5 Gladstone Road, Gisborne.

29459-02



# Living at Alert Level 4 Monday 6 April Update

Our lives depend on us all staying home. Here are answers to some of our most frequently asked questions:

## FOR EVERYONE:

### How can I purchase essential, non-food items that I need for winter?

Only businesses who have registered to sell essential, non-food items with the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) can do so. All stores selling these essential items must adhere to strict guidelines to avoid the spread of COVID-19.

This includes **limiting sales** to items that keep people warm, replace key household appliances, or maintain people's health, eg: blankets, heaters, kitchenware and appliances, whiteware, computer equipment, and mobile phones.

### Where can I purchase essential, non-food items?

Stores that are open for essential, non-food items include Noel Leeming, The Warehouse, Harvey Norman, Briscoes and Farmers. If you need to order, do so responsibly, only purchasing items that are absolutely necessary to help your household safely isolate, stay connected to work, or study from home while we all unite against COVID-19.

### Will supermarkets be open over Easter weekend?

As with previous years, supermarkets and other essential businesses that are usually required to close on Good Friday (10 April), will still do so. Trading for essential services business can resume on Saturday 11 March and remain open on Easter Sunday (12 April).

### Where can I seek help if I'm feeling stressed or anxious?

If you feel you are not coping, it's important to seek help and professional support. Your family doctor is a good starting point. For support with grief, anxiety, distress or mental wellbeing, you can also call or text the 'Need to talk?' service on **1737**. This service is free, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and gives you the chance to talk it through with a trained counsellor.

### How can I keep myself safe if I live in an apartment building?

- Keep a 2-metre distance from people who are not part of your household.
- Wash your hands before you leave home and as soon as you get back. Use hand sanitiser, if available, as you enter and exit the common areas of the building.
- Gyms, swimming pools, and other gathering areas should be closed.
- If you need to touch a frequently used surface in a common area (such as a door handle, stair rail or lift button) use your elbow instead of fingers or use disinfectant hand wipes after contact.
- If you need to use a lift, wait until it is empty and only use with people from your household.
- Ask for deliveries to be left at the apartment building entrance for your collection.

### Who can I contact if I see people not following the rules on self-isolation?

You can tell the Police by completing the online form at **105.police.govt.nz**. Where possible, try to keep the phones free for those that need them in an emergency.

## FOR BUSINESSES AND WORKERS:

### How do I find out more information on essential businesses and what they cover?

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. If you have any queries about what an essential service is and if it applies to your business sector, you can get in touch with general enquiries at **0800 22 66 57** or email **essential@mbie.govt.nz** for advice regarding your specific business.

## Thank you New Zealand

If we all do our bit, we'll get through this. Thank you for working together and staying home. We can and must stick with it.

## Got questions?

Find the answers faster at **Covid19.govt.nz**

New Zealand Government

Unite  
against  
COVID-19



**STRESS UPON**  
**STRESS:** According to Alcohol Healthwatch executive director Nicki Jackson surge in consumption of alcohol was worrying as there is a direct link between the level of alcohol use in our country and the level of accidental and self-inflicted injuries that require medical or police assistance.

Picture supplied

# 'Almost free reign'

*Health watchdog worries as alcohol sale goes online*

WELLINGTON — Allowing all alcohol retailers to sell online during the lockdown is doing more harm than good, a health watchdog says.

A rule change late Friday night meant all alcohol stores could now sell online, while some retailers have had to stop delivery services because they could not cope with demand.

But the surge in consumption was worrying, Alcohol Healthwatch executive director Nicki Jackson said. There is a direct link between the level of alcohol use in our country and the level of accidental and self-inflicted injuries and other alcohol-related conditions that require medical or police assistance. "We need to take active steps to reduce the availability of alcohol at this time, particularly to protect our mental health."

It comes as a government u-turn on a decision to crack down on the sale of alcohol that took place on Friday night,

she said. At 6.20pm on Friday the list of essential businesses was amended, restricting online sales to online-only businesses. In effect, this meant that online sales were restricted to around a few hundred online businesses, and prevented hundreds and hundreds of physical bottle shops from selling online, Dr Jackson said. But later that evening the decision was reversed giving alcohol retailers "almost free reign" to sell their products, she said.

"Closing our physical bottle shops to prevent social contact has simply ended up opening the door to access alcohol from the comfort of your couch. At a time when public health and keeping otherwise healthy people out of hospital is our priority. Some online alcohol retailers are now waiving their usual delivery fees and requiring minimum purchases of large, harmful bulk quantities of alcohol, she said.

"Alcohol is a discretionary product. It is counterproductive for alcohol to be so widely available online while the health system is under huge stress, even before mass hospitalisations."

The Ministry of Health said in response to an RNZ request for comment, "We have noted the concerns of Alcohol Healthwatch. The current policy reflects the cross-government position."

A Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment spokesperson said alcohol was always included as an allowable product due to the risk of panic buying as the country transitioned from Alert Level 3 to 4.

Alcohol providers must always adhere to the conditions of their licence and as with all businesses operating under Alert Level 4 they must operate in a way that minimises the risk of Covid-19 spreading, the spokesperson said. — RNZ

# Hospice's strict lockdown: One visitor for a loved one

AUCKLAND — Families with a loved one in hospice are having to choose one person to be a visitor, who then must stay onsite and sleep in the same room.

Mercy Hospice Auckland has locked its gates on College Hill, and designated "onsite visitors" are asked not to leave, even to take a walk around the block. If they choose to go, another person can't take their place.

The extraordinary restrictions are to protect staff and patients from Covid-19, and will make an already emotional time for families even tougher. Some other hospices have stopped taking patients, but Mercy Hospice's chief executive Paul Couper said his team decided to do everything possible to keep their 13 inpatient beds available.

"We are allowing one family member or support person to stay onsite, for the entire length of time. They can walk around our grounds outside, but they can't leave and then come back. They need to stay on our secure grounds."

"The biggest impact is on other family members, and there are some tragic and heart-wrenching stories of people wanting to visit relatives who might be in the hospice. And it is a difficult call — we have not been able to allow that to happen, for the good of all of our staff and the patients."

The onsite visitors are fed and have access to shower and laundry facilities, and support for video or other online contact with wider family.

Most of the inpatient rooms already have another bed that

can be rolled out. The visiting restrictions and the impact on families had added to an already stressful time for staff, Couper said. However, the families he had spoken with were appreciative the hospice remained open and for the care received.

Vulnerable patients might be in the hospice for only a few days, with the average length of stay about 10 to 12 days. Other patients stay for months, and some return home.

Couper said the organisation had struggled to get enough personal protective equipment (PPE). The situation was reaching a point of crisis last week before some gear was finally supplied, but there remained uncertainty about an ongoing and timely supply.

Families face further restrictions if their loved one dies during lockdown. Funeral services were banned under the Alert Level 4 restrictions, even for close family. On Monday the ministry announced new guidelines, allowing a limited number of family members within the same social-distancing "bubble" as the deceased to visit them in the funeral home. Full services will have to wait until after the lockdown ends.

"As much as we are absolutely behind the Government's restrictions and we understand what they are for, it does mean that families are going to suffer," said Gary Taylor, president of the Funeral Directors' Association.

Hospitals have also introduced strict visiting policies, including for new parents. — NZ Herald

## GISBORNE'S ESSENTIAL BUSINESSES

During the lockdown period some Gisborne business are still operating including

Unite against COVID-19

**Police, Fire & Emergency, Health Providers, Pharmacies, Supermarkets, Dairies and Service Stations**

**Kerbside rubbish and recycling collections, Gizzy Bus Services**

**The below businesses are available, but please do not visit the business premises – please make contact via phone or email first**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gillies Electrical</li> <li>• Michael Low Plumbing</li> <li>• Laser Electrical &amp; Plumbing Gisborne</li> <li>• Steve Wolter Plumbing</li> <li>• M.E. Jukes water tanker</li> <li>• Farm Vets</li> <li>• Vet Ent</li> <li>• CareVets</li> <li>• Eastland Vets</li> <li>• Pit Stop</li> <li>• Self-service laundries</li> <li>• AON NZ Insurance</li> <li>• Emerre &amp; Hathaway Insurance</li> <li>• Carl Horn Drainage</li> <li>• Terry Taylor Drainage Ltd</li> <li>• Wayne's Waste</li> <li>• Hansen &amp; Tomlinson</li> <li>• Lock &amp; Alarm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evans Funeral Services</li> <li>• Gisborne Taxis</li> <li>• Eastland Network</li> <li>• The Gisborne Herald</li> <li>• Think Water</li> <li>• Larsen Sawmilling</li> <li>• Gisborne Office Products Depot</li> <li>• Gisborne Financial Services</li> <li>• CSL Security</li> <li>• Gas and Gear</li> <li>• Eastland Insurance Services</li> <li>• Commercial Vehicle Testing Ltd</li> <li>• Business Applications Ltd</li> <li>• Total Parts and Service Ltd</li> <li>• Driving Miss Daisy</li> <li>• Hallrite Plumbing and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gasfitting Ltd</li> <li>• Mac's Firewood</li> <li>• The Tyre General</li> <li>• PGG Wrightsons &amp; Fruit Fed Supplies</li> <li>• Eastland Generation</li> <li>• Eastland Port</li> <li>• Eastland Group</li> <li>• Gisborne Airport</li> <li>• Ocean Beach Motor Lodge</li> <li>• DB Judd Holdings Water Tanker</li> <li>• Forbes Appliances</li> <li>• Water 2U Limited</li> <li>• Bone Dry Firewood Supplies Ltd</li> <li>• Gisborne Auto Electrics</li> <li>• C &amp; G Plumbing Ltd</li> <li>• Business Applications Ltd</li> </ul>
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**If your business should be added to this list please phone The Gisborne Herald on 021 708 799**

Business Applications are available for servicing of Eftpos & office equipment for essential businesses. Call 868 6096 24 HOURS

## BUSINESS APPLICATIONS LTD

31957-01

# Social services ask for halt of debt collection and fees

AUCKLAND — Utility, housing, banking and finance companies are being asked to pause disconnections, debt collections and waive penalty fees as people struggle to pay their bills during the Covid-19 lockdown.

Making the pleas in an open letter, 15 social service organisations also called for a moratorium on debt collection and late payment fees imposed by central and local government.

"Covid-19 is causing immense disruption to our society and our economy. Hundreds of thousands of New Zealanders and their families now face having to survive on a reduced income," the letter said.

"These people are worried about whether they can pay their rent or their mortgage, while keeping their homes warm and keeping food on the table."

Essential services companies such as energy, telecommunications and internet, banking, finance, insurance and rental housing, should take "additional steps" to support their community during the Covid-19 crisis, it said.

The group had three key requests:

- No disconnections or service cessation. Companies should continue to offer their services without interruption.
- Waive penalty and late fees, including additional interest charges. No one should pay extra while they are struggling to pay bills on time.
- Pause debt collection. People should not be pursued by debt collectors during this time.

While some providers had already taken some of those steps, the group

wanted to see "coordinated industry-wide commitments to do the right thing by people, their families and whanau."

"We are calling on all essential service providers to publicly commit to implementing these minimum relief measures. Businesses and governments should not hesitate to go further."

Christians Against Poverty chief executive Aimee Mai said it was now more important than ever that essential services and money lenders had compassion for New Zealanders facing hardship.

"As Covid-19 hits home, applications for high-interest loans are increasing amongst people with low credit scores. Some are seeking loans just to buy food," she said.

Citizens Advice Bureau chief executive Kerry Dalton said it was vital that providers of services people could not do without "do their bit and be socially responsible."

"They need to ensure that those whose income has been hit hard by the Covid-19 crisis continue to receive their essential services without this increasing hardship through debt or penalties."

The 15 signatory groups on the letter are: Age Concern, Child Poverty Action Group, Christian Budgeting New Zealand, Christians Against Poverty, Citizens Advice Bureau NZ, Community Law Centres of Aotearoa, Consumer NZ, FinCap, Good Shepherd NZ, Methodist Alliance, New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services, Nga Tangata Microfinance, NZ Council of Trade Unions, Social Services Providers Aotearoa and The Salvation Army.

— RNZ

**It was vital that providers of services people could not do without did their bit and were socially responsible.**

— Kerry Dalton

# Prisoners hit by lockdown conditions

by Guyon Espiner, RNZ

AUCKLAND — Prison guards say they are having to confine prisoners to their cells for between 20 and 23 hours a day in most jails to manage physical distancing during the Covid-19 outbreak.

Normally prisoners would be out of their cells between 8am and 5pm each day but Alan Whitley, president of the prison guards' union the Corrections Association, says these are not normal times.

"Some prisons are locked down for 23 hours a day. Some prisons are a little bit less, some maybe 20-22 hours a day," he said.

"We're doing it so we can maintain a form of social distancing with the prisoners and the staff that work there because we only have so much area for us to be able to exercise the prisoners when they're out of the cell."

The long hours of lockdown are a concern to Hamilton woman Shell Boyd, who has two sons in prison. "Could you imagine locking up an entire jail for 23 hours a day," she asked. "They're not doing anything but sitting in cells — that is dangerous."

The Department of Corrections confirmed prisoners had increased lockdown hours but said no prison had a 23-hour lockdown policy during the pandemic.

"No sites are operating a 23-hour lock-up," National Commissioner Rachel Leota said in a statement to RNZ. "There are reduced unlock hours at some sites to ensure physical distancing between prisoners and staff and these hours will

vary depending on the site and operational requirements."

Leota said Corrections was doing "everything possible to ensure prisoners continue to be provided with minimum entitlements set out in the Corrections Act" while also trying to prevent the virus getting into prisons.

But the conditions imposed during the pandemic are a worry for Flaxmere woman Helen Gelletly, whose partner is serving a five-year sentence at Spring Hill prison.

She can't see her partner now because visits are banned during the pandemic, as are release-to-work activities.

Inmates were given a \$5 phonecard instead but that was to last a whole week and the demand for phones was high. "There are only limited phones and when they're only out for an hour a day, as you can imagine, there's quite a bit of demand for the phones."

Corrections told RNZ that prisoners should still receive any approved personal property sent to them but that has not been Helen Gelletly's experience.

RNZ has seen an email showing she was denied permission to send basic clothes, including underwear and t-shirts, to her partner.



National Commissioner Rachel Leota

The email, from a Corrections officer at Spring Hill, said the prison was not receiving any property during the Covid-19 lockdown.

The Corrections Association said that was partly because at risk guards — those who were older or had underlying health conditions — were staying home. "We've got fewer staff there at the moment. So jobs like that might not be happening," Whitley said.

Corrections have also suspended face-to-face visits by legal advisors but prisoners can still speak to legal counsel by phone.

This system was working well, according to Auckland defence lawyer Graeme Newell, who spoke to two clients at Mt Eden and Paremoremo prisons last week.

"Those prisoners told me that conditions had remained as they always had been," he said. "Prisoners were pleased that prison staff were wearing face masks to prevent infection to the prison population, so in general the impression I got was that prisoners were as happy as you could be in that situation."

Corrections said all prisons remained free of Covid-19 although one inmate at Hawke's Bay Regional Prison has been refusing testing for about 10 days and remains in isolation.

During the pandemic, new prisoners are being separated from others for two weeks after arriving.

Inmates are still being transferred between prisons but if they have been anywhere in between, such as a court hearing or a hospital visit, they would also be isolated for 14 days.

# New World worker tests positive for coronavirus

by Jenny Ling, Northern Advocate

KAIKOHE — A staff member at New World Kaikohe supermarket has tested positive for Covid-19, prompting Northland public health officials to urge anyone who has shopped at the store to keep an eye on their health.

Northland District Health Board is advising anyone who shopped at the supermarket between March 20 and 30 to check themselves for symptoms of the virus, following contact tracing conducted on the latest confirmed case.

Foodstuffs head of corporate affairs Antoinette Laird confirmed a team member from New World Kaikohe recently tested positive for coronavirus.

"As soon as the store was alerted, their immediate team members were tested as a precaution and were sent home to self-isolate," Laird said.

"A deep clean of the department and the wider store was undertaken overnight."

"Team members who worked closely with the staff member will remain at home until their test results come back and confirm each individual's status is negative. We are doing everything we can to support all of our team at New World Kaikohe at this time."

Laird said the owner of New World Kaikohe is working closely with NDHB and is taking their guidance on what additional steps need to be taken.

The district health board has advised the risk to other staff members and the public is considered low, she said.

She urged people to only visit the supermarket when absolutely necessary.

"It is not a social occasion and we ask the public to limit the number of visits and time they spend in-store to help us minimise the risk to all."

NDHB medical officer of health Dr Catherine Jackson said people should stay at home if they are not well.

"While I acknowledge our community will feel concerned, you only need to be tested if you have symptoms of Covid-19," Jackson said.

Supermarkets are essential services during Alert Level 4 of the Covid-19 response and lockdown.

"There are things you can do to keep yourself and your whanau safe when accessing essential services," Jackson said.

"Only go (to the supermarket) when you really need to, wash your hands when you get home and keep social distancing. If possible, have just one person from your bubble run errands."

Former Kaitiaki Hospital GP Tom Mulholland said people should be careful when shopping and only pick up items they intend to buy.

Mulholland — who runs mobile health clinics around the country, including in Northland — said though catching the virus by touching groceries "would be commonplace" it would still be less problematic than people coughing or sneezing on others.

"If people are handling things and putting them back, then that's the most likely place people will catch the virus as it does live on inanimate objects for a little while," he said.

Meanwhile, Ngapuhi have opened a new iwi-led community testing station in Kaikohe.

NDHB now has seven community-based testing centres throughout Northland. The others are in Whangarei, Dargaville, Kaitiaki, Kerikeri, Kawakawa and Rawene.

The new initiative was launched on Friday at 16 Mangakahia Rd and will continue until further notice.

It was set up by Te Hau Ora o Ngapuhi, as part of Te Runanga-a-Iwi o Ngapuhi in partnership with Broadway Health Centre and has support from Mahitahi Hauora.

Residents who meet certain criteria, which are the same as at other testing stations, will be tested for Covid-19.

# 'Victory for the oceans'

by Robin Martin, RNZ

NEW PLYMOUTH — An environmental group says a Court of Appeal decision upholding a ruling preventing the mining of millions of tonnes of ironsands off the coast of Taranaki is a victory for the ocean.

Kiwis Against Seabed Mining (KASM) has been in a protracted battle — alongside other environmental groups, iwi and fishery companies — with mining company Trans-Tasman Resources.

It was attempting to get a High Court decision quashing consents granted to it in 2017 overturned.

Instead, the Court of Appeal found there had been multiple errors in granting the original consents.

KASM spokesperson Cindy Baxter said Friday's decision was vindication for years of hard work.

"This is a victory for the oceans. The Court of Appeal has ruled that protecting the environment is the bottomline and that's what we have argued all the way through."

"They can't just go and dig up 50 million tonnes of the seabed every year for 35 years and claim there's no impact on the environment."

"So we are really, really pleased. It's fantastic for the people, for the whales and all the creatures in the Taranaki Bight."

The Court of Appeal, in its decision, found the Environmental Protection Authority's decision-making committee, which required the casting vote of its chair to grant the original consents, focused too much on managing the effects of the proposed project instead of its primary objective of protecting the environment.

"The DMC erred in focusing on the sustainable management objective that applies to all marine consents under the Exclusive Economic Zone Act, and failing to give separate and explicit consideration to the environmental bottom line of protecting the environment from pollution caused by discharges of harmful substances."

The court also found interests of Treaty



PROTRACTED BATTLE: Environmental group celebrates after mining company loses its appeal to mine off the coast of Taranaki. File picture

of Waitangi principles were not adhered to.

"The kaitiakitanga relationship between tangata whenua and the marine environment and its resources is a relevant 'existing interest'. That kaitiakitanga relationship includes, but is not limited to, the stewardship and use of natural resources such as kai moana. The cultural and spiritual elements of kaitiakitanga must also be considered."

The Maori Party also welcomed the decision and congratulated Ngati Ruanui and Te Kaahui o Rauru for their perseverance.

"Here in Aotearoa, from Raukumara to Te Hiku to Kaikoura to Patea, we have seen that Maori are on the front line of resisting extractive industries that pollute our environment and pushing for transformative climate action," Maori Party president Che Wilson said.

"Ngati Ruanui and (Maori Party candidate) Debbie Ngarewa-Packer have led the fight against seabed mining in Aotearoa. If elected as the MP for Te Tai Hauauru this year, Debbie will take that fight into Parliament."

Wilson said the Maori Party position was to ban all seabed mining permits across Aotearoa.

"We would also ban new onshore oil and gas permits, fracking, and new coal mines. A vote for the Maori Party is a vote for strong action on climate change and protecting our natural environment."

If Trans-Tasman Resources resource consents application had been successful, it wanted to mine for iron ore in a 66sq km area of seabed off the Taranaki Bight.

The company intended to dig up to 50 million tonnes of sand each year, extract the iron ore from it, and dump the residue on the sea floor.

It has said the scheme would create 300 jobs and add \$160 million to New Zealand's GDP.

In a statement on Saturday, chairman Alan J Eggers said Trans-Tasman Resources was awaiting its legal team's analysis of, and advice on, the Court of Appeal's rulings and conclusions.

Eggers said further comment on the Court of Appeal judgement would be made once its board had received that advice.



# Loss of 600 jobs

## Virgin Australia shuts NZ operations

AUCKLAND — About 600 New Zealand-based jobs have been lost with the announcement that Virgin Australia is shutting down its New Zealand operations, effective immediately.

Flight attendant Kylie Halligan said staff are devastated, and are disappointed Virgin could not be persuaded to apply for the government's 12-week staff wage subsidies.

But she said the announcement does allow them to move on to try to find other jobs sooner, rather than continuing to wonder if the company would survive after the lifting of travel restrictions introduced in March to prevent the spread of the Covid-19.

She said the staff includes office staff, cabin crew and pilots, and many will now be forced to look for work outside the aviation and travel industries. "There's a lot of pain and grief for what we've lost. The Virgin Australia bases here in New Zealand were relatively small and we all knew everyone. The bonds formed while working and staying away from home all the time could never be replicated in any other profession."

While many will get a redundancy payout, about 19 staff had not been at the firm long enough to qualify, which was very hard, Halligan said.

"We're now moving into a job market that's going to be flooded with a whole lot of other people who've just been made redundant, so that just makes moving on to a new job so much harder."

Another staff member, who did not want to be named, said the company could have done more to help staff in the lead-up to the decision.

"The tag line of the Covid-19 pandemic seems

to be 'these are unprecedented times'. This phrase has been used to justify some... disappointing behaviour... from Virgin Australia."

Many of the employees had been with the company more than a decade, or in the case of pilots had trained for more than a decade to get qualified, they said.

"The airline industry will not be what it was before. We are unlikely to find jobs working as crew again with much ease. My heart is broken from the sudden upheaval for my whanau and I feel dazed and lost."

Rachel Mackintosh, Assistant National Secretary of E Tu, the union representing airline staff, said that the union is not convinced Virgin took every avenue it could have to help staff.

"The company should have applied for the wage subsidy and done more to ensure the continuity of employment and pay for their workers. The global aviation industry is in a precarious state. Airlines have been in a race to the bottom line for over a decade and workers are paying the price."

"We are urging all employers, in aviation and beyond, to take advantage of the government wage subsidy and not let the workers bear the full brunt of the downturn."

Virgin Australia have been approached for comment.

International passenger flights to and from Australia were suspended on March 30, as a result of Australian travel restrictions. To mark the shutdown, the firm released a choreographed video of staff performing to the song "Don't Stop Believing." — RNZ

# Finance company mortgage borrowers fear losing homes

by Tamsyn Parker, NZ Herald

AUCKLAND — Hard-up home loan borrowers say finance companies are knocking back their requests for six-month loan holidays, leaving them worried they will lose their homes.

But the finance industry body says it is working with the Government to come up with liquidity support for the sector which would enable companies to do more for those in financial hardship.

Last week, the Government reached an agreement with the New Zealand Bankers Association to allow retail banks to offer home loan deferrals to borrowers left in financial hardship by Covid-19.

Thousands of Kiwis have already applied for the mortgage relief that will allow them to pause on paying the principal on their loan and add the interest to their loan.

But so far borrowers from non-bank lenders have been left to negotiate arrangements with finance companies reluctant to take on more risk.

One self-employed businesswoman who didn't want to be named said she faced losing her home as she could not pay her mortgage.

"As soon as the announcement was made that we were going into lockdown, I have had no work and no opportunity of getting any work until after the lockdown. My businesses are based on me leaving the office and being on the road and meeting people."

The woman said her lender, Avanti Finance, had told her they were not providing mortgage holidays as they were a finance company.

"It's hard enough being self-employed, being a small business, and now facing the likelihood of losing my home whilst everyone who has a first mortgage with a bank

gets assistance — it's pretty hard to swallow."

Avanti Finance chief executive Mark Mountcastle said up until Friday it had been suspending immediate payment obligations and waiving fees and charges until the situation became clearer around how it should handle six-month deferrals and what the statutory obligations were for doing so.

"Only today (Friday) late morning was confirmation received as to how these obligations should be viewed by non-banks, which was not clear beforehand. While this guidance is helpful, it appears there remains a two-level regulatory environment between banks and non-banks."

He said from Friday, Avanti Finance would be discussing longer-term arrangements with customers including deferrals in cases of need.

In the meantime, Lyn McMorran, chief executive of the Financial Services Federation, said its members were

doing what they could to help people. She said it was hard for lenders to extend support because of the uncertainty of the situation and the current funding system, which didn't allow them to have a large proportion of their borrowers in arrears.

McMorran said the sector had been left playing catch-up to the agreement made by the banks but she said didn't blame the Government as banks were systemically important and had to be prioritised first.

Reserve Bank figures show non-banks had \$3.2 billion worth of housing loans on their books as of February while banks had \$277 billion.

McMorran said she was hopeful an arrangement could be reached in the next week or so and she urged borrowers to be patient.

**Borrowers from non-bank lenders have been left to negotiate arrangements with finance companies reluctant to take on more risk.**

# Real estate market grinds to halt but rush expected

by Anne Gibson, NZ Herald

AUCKLAND — Buyers and sellers have largely pushed pause on New Zealand's \$3 billion-a-month house sales market but wealthy landlords see rich pickings and are already calling agents about bargains.

Economist Tony Alexander surveyed 240 real-estate agents and mortgage brokers, and found that despite a few electronic sales, the once-thriving market had quietened. About 53 people gave detailed replies.

"Buyers are anticipating lower prices, but many have left the market amid loss of KiwiSaver funds, jobs and incomes. The biggest group to pull back is first-home buyers. Vendors — unless potentially stressed — are also leaving the market," Alexander found. Less wealthy landlords are worried about rent losses.

Real Estate Institute chief executive Bindi Norwell said average monthly settlements from March to April were about \$3.6 billion in the past three years so that was the value of the market now lost in the Alert Level 4 lockdown. In Auckland alone, \$1.5 billion of property sales were usually made in that period, she noted.

Owen Vaughan, editor of NZME-owned property listing site OneRoof, said buyers and vendors were still doing deals, but virtual walk-throughs were taking the place of open homes. Several agencies were running auctions online.

"Some of the sales in the past week have seen vendors enjoy above-CV prices, while cashed-up, financially secure buyers are making offers on properties without having physically inspected them," Vaughan said. "It's likely that once the lockdown lifts, there will be a rush back to open homes by those who were already well advanced in their buying journeys. Buyers and sellers are using the lockdown to do their research."

Alexander said city-based real estate agents were less concerned about prices falling than those in the regions and he cited Wanaka where big sales prices and rent drops were expected "as new buyers back away and many existing owners look to sell to free up capital for their businesses. Auckland's inner-city apartment market looks also likely to take a hit from students walking away from leases. Airbnb properties coming in the market with no new students coming in."

Well-capitalised landlords, some inactive for ages, are now calling agents about bargains, Alexander found. "Some banks have pulled back on accepting new loan applications but it is not clear if this is due to lack of willingness to lend, or just a temporary staff capacity issue. Spec builders are very worried," he found.

"Cashed-up buyers feel they now have the ultimate upper-hand. Some are indicating that they will put everything on hold until after the September general election. There are many frustrated



**MARKET DOWN:** Well-capitalised landlords, some inactive for ages, are now calling agents about bargains. File picture

buyers who have been unable in the past year or so to find what they want. These people are hopeful of greater supply becoming available." Some buyers are having to walk away from their unconditional contracts because they have lost their jobs, potentially losing their deposits.

Some buyers are targeting the lockdown period to make their purchase, he said. "Some buyers, having signed the contract, are looking to place their own property on the market as soon as the lockdown ends to get a quick sale. They are fearful of deposit loss should they fail to settle and uncertain about getting bridging finance if needed," Alexander found. Some sellers are holding off so proper marketing can start when the

lockdown ends. Landlords with tenants who can't or won't pay rent fear the lack of cash flow will cause severe short-term hardship for the investment sector.

"This is seen as potentially causing extra properties to be placed on the market once the lockdown ends," Alexander said.

In fact, existing small investors reliant on rental income have withdrawn from the market, partly because of the Government's proposal to permanently end no-cause terminations. Those are barred during the lockdown and rents are frozen. Alexander said law changes could drive some landlords to sell: "There is a feeling that on top of legislative changes, this will be the final straw for some — a prospect seemingly relished by the well-capitalised professional long-term investors."

Some landlords expect post-lockdown bargains and want to lock in current low interest rates to new mortgages: "They feel that listings are going to dry up and the properties will mainly be distressed sales." Interest from Chinese investors in new development projects appeared to be as strong as ever, he said.

On the lending front, many property owners suffering financial hardship wanted to convert from interest/principal loans to interest-only loans. "Applications for new finance have largely dried up. Some banks are offering only three months' deferral with a review in three months," he said.

EDITORIAL

# Thanks to essential workers, volunteers

## Cautious optimism for NZ on Covid-19

As the first signs of cautious optimism over the battle to contain Covid-19 begin to appear, the good news is countered as the economic effects start coming through.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern described the situation after 10 days of lockdown as a "good start" but said it was still too soon to know if the four-week period would be enough. The number of confirmed cases had just passed 1000, which was 3000 less than one model she had been shown. It was well below the numbers that would have seen the health system overwhelmed.

On television this morning Director General of Health Ashley Bloomfield was also upbeat but restrained, saying merely that the current level of infection was very encouraging.

Perhaps the star of morning television today was the Queen delivering only her fourth public message — apart from Christmas ones — of her 68-year reign.

The Queen is a skilled communicator and touched the exact right note with her comment "we will meet again", a reference to a wartime Vera Lynn song.

The other piece of breaking news this morning was that UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson has been admitted to hospital 10 days after testing positive for Covid-19.

While the pandemic seems to have finally peaked in Italy and Spain, it is gathering force in its new epicentre, the United States.

Here in New Zealand, as time goes on more attention is being focused on the economic and human effects of the lockdown, with the Ministry of Social Development being swamped.

MSD deputy chief executive Viv Rickard said they were getting up to 20,000 calls a day, and on Wednesday last week there were 100,000 applications for benefits and wage subsidies.

So far \$3.7 billion of the Government's business package has already been spent.

One of the few criticisms of the Government has been the absence of updated information such as unemployment numbers. Mr Rickard says the ministry hopes to start releasing unemployment benefit statistics this week.

More details are also coming in of the huge blow suffered by the tourism industry, on which 12 percent of New Zealanders rely. It has been estimated that half the 393,000 people employed in the sector could lose their jobs.

So, we are a long way from being out of the woods but if we all follow the requirements of the lockdown, there is fresh hope of an eventual return to normal — even if it has to be gradual.

### WHAT'S ON IN COUNCIL THIS WEEK

by Pat Seymour



GREETINGS to whanau up and down this region as we move into week two of a lockdown, something that none of us have ever experienced before.

There continues to be no council meeting activity during the lockdown but a meeting via "Zoom" authorised actions the chief executive can take in the emergency if a meeting is necessary. It also allowed her delegated authority to spend up to \$1 million; this is not specific to the Covid-19 emergency but across all business of council during the lockdown period.

First of all, sincere thanks to all the civil defence and emergency management team of GDC and the police and fire services, as they work on initiatives to protect the most vulnerable and keep this community safe. Sincere thanks, too, to the volunteers in our townships on the Coast where the community have come together to create checkpoints. These men and women have been taking all the safety precautions recommended by government agencies and their

mission is to keep Tairāwhiti safe and Covid-19-free for their vulnerable communities. There is plenty of advice on the radio and internet for those who use these news mediums. Check out the government website [www.covid19.govt.nz](http://www.covid19.govt.nz) for more details and daily updates.

The 1pm national briefing by the Ministry of Health and other agencies is always a good source to keep up to date. We do know that many in our community do not follow the news — that seemed obvious in the beginning when some of the public were slow to realise the magnitude of the issue looming for New Zealand.

Now, however, it seems many more are tuned into sources of information, and our daily newspaper has been very forthcoming with the bold black and yellow pages of advice.

It will be disappointing for some of our smaller hospitality business who struggle to survive through what are relatively quiet winters, having to face the Covid-19 impact now. We may see fewer cafes and small entertainment businesses when we come out the other side. Our thoughts are with those businesses and their employees.

Economically we are fortunate that many of our service industries rely on the agribusiness, farming, forestry and horticulture sectors. Once the lockdown is lifted, activity will ramp up again.

Many of those harvesting businesses are still working as essential industries now, which is great for their employees.

Special thanks must go to all our front-line medical, nursing and pharmaceutical professions who are ready and able to support the needs of this community. The hospital staff are equipped to manage an increase of cases but, of course, we hope that will not happen.

GDC staff and some councillors are making phone calls to people in our community over 65, starting with over 70s living alone, then over 70-year-old couples. The calls are to check that our residents are able to access the services, groceries or pharmaceuticals they need. I have been asked how GDC accessed the phone numbers and age of some residents? In this period of a declared civil defence emergency, government agencies can share data — which can only be used for the purpose it has been provided for. And residents are not compelled to answer the questions. It is purely to be sure that there is no one in an isolated pocket of our community who needs help. If you have not had a call yet, there are welfare services making grocery shopping or contacts available if you call the GDC welfare team on 0800 653 0800. Please keep safe, and stay at home.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, ONLINE COMMENTS

## Well done No teeth...

Re: Helping out in Toko, April 4 story.

What awesome community spirit. Brings out the best in people. Well done Toko.

MICHELLE LEXMOND

## A laugh helps

Re: You gotta laugh, March 31 photos.

Awesome. Nice to see some people have a sense of humour. I know it's hard times for all of us but a laugh helps to put us in the right frame of mind. We can still have fun.

WAYNE RAULT, Timaru

Thank you Gillian Ward for your response to my questions over the council's letter to Winston Peters, however I would like to make the following point:

The BERL report merely states it could be viable. It does not hold to account the promises made by the various parties in Government. I would have expected the council to be holding all parties that made the promise to reinstate the rail to their pre-election promises.

I found the council letter to be a Clayton's letter with no teeth, merely a weak support of the report.

W. BROWN

## Officers should mask up

Re: Suggestion re checkpoints, April 1 comment.

Police officers must wear masks as well, as they often get close to people's faces — eg, stopping a driver for a breath test. Also, after each test it is a must to sanitise the

breath-testing device.

If police officers do not take adequate precautions, they could get the virus and start spreading it to the community.

ISABEL NESHAUSEN

## Extra puzzles appreciated

Congratulations Gisborne Herald on your much-needed puzzle page. So many of us over 70s, locked in, look forward to our puzzle magazines each week and suddenly they are gone along with our iconic magazines.

There is such a need for puzzles to keep the grey matter working and to provide some light relief from the endless news on the Covid-19 situation. Well done and thank you so much.

LINDA FRANCIS

## Reality check needed

I have seen people fighting for every breath, drowning in their own fluids, or with lungs ravaged by disease having to have their trachea cut and a ventilator force air in to keep them alive.

Flippancy and selfishness in the face of the current emergency is pathetic and despicable. If you think giving up a walk, a jog, a bike ride or an outing with the dog is an imposition, let me remind you of the horrors suffered in Europe, Britain, the Mediterranean, the Far East and Russia during World War 2. For six long years many millions died or were left terribly damaged

by war — shelling, bombing, disease, starvation, death by gas chamber, Einsatz squad or the SS; Japanese and German prison camps, medical experiments — the list is endless.

I recently read a Sunday paper article about how millennials are doing it tough.

The writer and many others in this lucky nation of ours need a sharp reality check — especially those with their noses out of joint because of the current few restrictions.

To borrow a home-grown phrase: "We don't know how lucky we are, mate."

ROGER HANDFORD

## Workers have to be well

Re: It's not Zombie Apocalypse, April 4 letter.

When a 21-year-old daughter or someone's wife catches Covid-19 and passes it to an asthmatic son, your diabetic colleague or your sister who is struggling with the effects of treatment for cancer, is that a tragedy Craig?

What about a scenario where there are so many sick employees that local businesses struggle to maintain operations and productivity is affected anyway? Is that a tragedy Craig?

Have you seen that most infections here are being picked up in women and those aged 20 to 29? Those probably returning from overseas?

Hold your horses, Craig. It must

be hard to break the capitalist habits of a lifetime for a few weeks. An economy also relies on having people well enough to do the mahi.

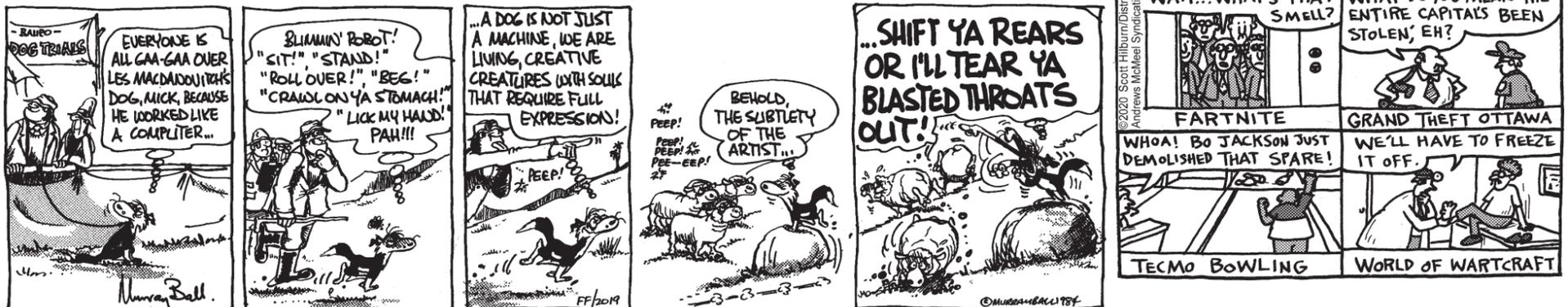
Having contracted viral pneumonia in my early 20s as a mother of two young boys, I will remember how incredibly sick I was and that it took me nearly six months and countless subsequent illnesses to fully recover. I was constantly having to take days off work as a teacher. The guilt and stress was hard to take.

I would hate another Gisborne person of any age to go through that in the name of the almighty dollar! We are not living the premise of that '80s TV show Logan's Run just yet.

LARA MEYER

[editor@gisborneherald.co.nz](mailto:editor@gisborneherald.co.nz)

- 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.





UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson.  
AFP picture

## UK PM Boris Johnson hospitalised

LONDON — UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson has been admitted to hospital for tests, 10 days after testing positive for coronavirus, Downing Street has said.

He “continues to have persistent symptoms of the new coronavirus”, a spokeswoman said. One of those symptoms was a high temperature.

Hospitalising the UK prime minister was described as a “precautionary step”, taken on the advice of his doctor. Johnson would remain in charge of the government and urged people to follow its social-distancing advice.

“On the advice of his doctor, the prime minister has tonight been admitted to hospital for tests,” the spokeswoman said.

“This is a precautionary step, as the prime minister continues to have persistent symptoms of coronavirus ten days after testing positive for the virus.”

She added: “The prime minister thanks NHS staff for all of their incredible hard work and urges the public to continue to follow the government’s advice to stay at home, protect the NHS and save lives.” — BBC story via RNZ

## 5G conspiracy theory ‘fake, dangerous’

LONDON — A conspiracy theory that links 5G mobile telecommunications masts to the spread of the Covid-19 coronavirus is dangerous fake news and completely false, the British government said after masts in several parts of the country were torched.

When asked by a reporter about the so-called “theory” that the 5G masts could play a role in the spread of the disease, British Cabinet Officer Minister Michael Gove said: “That is just nonsense — dangerous nonsense as well.”

Mobile phone masts have in recent days been vandalised and telecommunications staff have been abused in Birmingham and Merseyside, damaging connectivity at a time when people need it more than ever.

An arson attack at a tower in Birmingham owned by BT, Britain’s biggest telecommunication company, caused significant damage. It provided 2G, 3G and 4G services to thousands of people, but did not even have 5G capability, the company said.

NHS England’s national medical director, Stephen Powis, said the 5G idea was fake news with no scientific backing that risked damaging the emergency response to the outbreak.

“The 5G story is complete and utter rubbish, it’s nonsense, it’s the worst kind of fake news

“Mobile phone networks are absolutely critical.

“Those are also the phone networks that are used by our emergency services and our health workers and I’m absolutely outraged, absolutely disgusted that people would be taking action against the very infrastructure that we need to respond to this health emergency,” Powis said.

Vodafone, the world’s second largest mobile operator, said the attacks were now a matter of national security. — Reuters story via RNZ



### CRITICAL MEDICAL SUPPLIES:

In this March 24 file photo, stacks of desperately-needed medical supplies are stored at the Jacob Javits Centre. The centre will become a temporary hospital in response to the Covid-19 outbreak in New York.

AP picture

# US has ‘wasted months’ preparing for pandemic

WASHINGTON, DC — As the first alarm bells sounded in early January that an outbreak of the novel coronavirus in China might ignite a global pandemic, the Trump administration squandered nearly two months that could have been used to bolster the federal stockpile of critically-needed medical supplies and equipment.

A review of federal purchasing contracts by The Associated Press shows federal agencies largely waited until mid-March to begin placing bulk orders of N95 respirator masks, mechanical ventilators and other equipment needed by front-line healthcare workers.

By that time, hospitals in several states were treating thousands of infected patients without adequate equipment and were pleading for shipments from the Strategic National Stockpile.

That federal cache of supplies was created more than 20 years ago to help bridge gaps in the medical and pharmaceutical supply chains during a national emergency.

Now, three months into the crisis, that stockpile is nearly drained just as the numbers of patients needing critical care is surging.

Some state and local officials have reported receiving broken ventilators and old, dry-rotted masks.

“We basically wasted two months,” Kathleen Sebelius, health and human services secretary during the Obama administration, told AP.

As early as mid-January, US officials could see that hospitals in China’s Hubei province were overwhelmed with infected patients, with many left dependent on ventilator machines to breathe.

Italy soon followed, with hospitals scrambling for doctors, beds and equipment.

The US Department of Health and Human Services did not respond to questions about why federal officials waited to order medical supplies until stocks were running critically low. But US President Donald Trump

## Americans brace for ‘saddest, toughest’ week

NEW YORK CITY — Americans braced for what the nation’s top doctor warned on Sunday (local time) would be “the hardest and saddest week” of their lives.

“This is going to be our Pearl Harbour moment, our 9/11 moment,” US Surgeon General Jerome Adams told Fox News Sunday.

“It’s going to be the hardest moment for many Americans in their entire lives, and we really need to understand that if we want to flatten that curve and get through to the other side, everyone needs to do their part.”

Adams’ comments were echoed by Dr Anthony Fauci, the country’s foremost infectious diseases expert.

“Things are going to get bad and we need to be prepared for that,” Dr Fauci said on CBS’s Face the Nation. “It’s going to be shocking to some and certainly disturbing . . .

“We just have to buckle down.

Dr Fauci said that he hoped the pace of new infections would plateau soon, but that the virus was unlikely to be completely eradicated this year. That meant



ANTICIPATING ‘OUR PEARL HARBOUR MOMENT’: US Surgeon General Jerome Adams speaks in the James Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House.  
AP picture

the US could see the a resurgence during the next flu season, he said.

Worldwide, more than 1,266,800 people have been confirmed infected with the novel coronavirus, Covid-19, and over 65,200 have died.

The US has the highest number of confirmed cases in the world — over 333,000. Deaths in the US had topped 9530 at the time of going to press this morning, according to [www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/](http://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/). — AP, Agencies

has asserted that the federal government should take a back seat to states when it comes to dealing with the pandemic.

Trump and his appointees have urged state and local governments, and hospitals, to buy their own masks and breathing machines, saying requests to the dwindling national stockpile should be a last resort.

Experts in emergency preparedness and response have expressed dismay at this approach by the Trump administration, saying the federal government must take the lead in ensuring medical supplies are available and distributed where they are needed the most.

“States do not have the purchasing power of the federal government. They do not have the ability to run a deficit like the federal government. They do not have the logistical power

of the federal government,” said Sebelius, who served as governor of Kansas before running the nation’s healthcare system.

Because of the fractured federal response to Covid-19, state governors say they are now bidding against federal agencies and each other for scarce supplies, which is driving up prices.

“You now literally will have a company call you up and say, ‘Well, California just outbid you,’” Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, D-N.Y., said. “It’s like being on eBay with 50 other states, bidding on a ventilator.”

For nearly a month, Trump rebuffed calls from Cuomo and others to use his authority under the Defence Production Act to order companies to increase production of ventilators and personal protective equipment.

He suggested the private

sector was acting sufficiently on its own.

More than three months after China revealed the first Covid-19 cases, Trump finally relented last week, saying he would order companies to ramp up production of critical supplies. By then, confirmed cases of Covid-19 within the US had surged to the highest in the world.

Trump spent January and February playing down the threat from the new virus. He derided warnings of the pandemic reaching the US as a hoax perpetrated by Democrats and the media.

As the World Health Organisation declared the outbreak a global public health emergency on January 30, Trump assured the American people that the virus was “very well under control” and he predicted “a very good ending”.

— AP



**FIRST KNOWN INFECTION IN A TIGER:** Nadia, a Malayan tiger at the Bronx Zoo in New York, has tested positive for the new coronavirus, in what is believed to be the first known infection in an animal in the US or a tiger anywhere, federal officials and the zoo said on Sunday (local time). Wildlife Conservation Society via AP

## Tiger tests positive for Covid-19

NEW YORK — A tiger at the Bronx Zoo has tested positive for the new coronavirus, in what is believed to be the first known infection in an animal in the US or a tiger anywhere, federal officials and the zoo said on Sunday (local time).

The four-year-old Malayan tiger named Nadia, and six other tigers and lions that have also fallen ill, are believed to have been infected by a zoo employee who was not yet even showing symptoms, the zoo said.

The first animal to become unwell, Nadia, began showing symptoms on March 27.

All the animals were doing well and were expected to recover, said the zoo, which has been closed to the public since March 16.

"We tested the tiger out of an abundance of caution" and aim to "contribute to the world's continuing understanding of this novel coronavirus," said Dr Paul Calle, the zoo's chief veterinarian.

The finding raises new questions about the transmission of the virus in animals.

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA), which confirmed Nadia's test result at its veterinary lab, said there were no known cases of the virus in US pets or livestock.

"There doesn't appear to be, at this time, any evidence that suggests that animals can spread the virus to people or that they can be a source of the infection in the United States," said Dr Jane Rooney, a veterinarian and a USDA official.

The USDA said on Sunday it was not recommending routine coronavirus testing of animals, in zoos or elsewhere, or of zoo employees.

Still, Rooney said a small number of animals in the US have been tested through the USDA's National Veterinary Services Laboratories, and all those tests came back negative except for Nadia's.

The coronavirus outbreaks around the world are driven by person-to-person transmission, experts say.

There have been reports of a small number of pets outside the United States becoming infected after close contact with contagious people, including a Hong Kong dog that tested positive for a low level of the pathogen in February and early March. Hong Kong agriculture authorities concluded that pet dogs and cats could not pass the virus to human beings but could test positive if exposed to the virus through their owners.

Some researchers have been trying to understand the susceptibility of different animal species to the virus, and to determine how it spreads among animals, according to the Paris-based World Organisation for Animal Health. — AP

# 'We will overcome this'

LONDON — The Queen has given a special address to the UK and the Commonwealth on the global coronavirus pandemic.

Her address was broadcast on TV, radio and social media.

The Queen thanked people working on the frontline.

"I am sure the nation will join me in assuring you that what you do is appreciated and every hour of your hard work brings us closer to a return to more normal times," she says.

There are thanks from the Queen too for "those of you who are staying at home" and by doing so, "helping to protect the vulnerable and sparing many families the pain already felt by those who have lost loved ones".

She says: "Together we are tackling this disease, and I want to reassure you that if we remain united and resolute, then we will overcome it."

The Queen said it was a time of compassion.

"Across the Commonwealth and around the world, we have seen heart-warming stories of people coming together to help others, be it through delivering food parcels and medicines, checking on neighbours, or converting businesses to help the relief effort," she says.

She added that it had become a time of reflection for some as well.

"Though self-isolating may at times be hard, many



**RARE SPECIAL ADDRESS:** The Queen makes a special address to the UK and the Commonwealth from Windsor Castle, Windsor, England. Her rare address was broadcast on TV, radio and social media. Buckingham Palace image grab via AP

people of all faiths, and of none, are discovering that it presents an opportunity to slow down, pause and reflect, in prayer or meditation."

The Queen urged Britons in her address to exercise self-discipline in "an increasingly challenging time".

With 621 more deaths reported on Sunday (local time), Britain has 4934 virus deaths overall among 47,806 cases.

The UK PM Boris Johnson has been hospitalised with the virus and among those who have also had the virus

include the health secretary, England's chief medical official and the Queen's own son, Prince Charles, who is the heir to the British throne.

There are fears that Johnson's Conservative government did not take the virus seriously enough at first and that beautiful spring weather would tempt Britons and others outside to break social distancing rules.

The Queen's message was filmed by a single cameraman wearing protective equipment, with all the other technical staff

in another room.

Her address came less than a week after Prince Charles came out of self-isolation following his diagnosis of coronavirus.

Prince Charles, 71, spent seven days self-isolating in Scotland after testing positive and displaying mild symptoms.

On Friday, he opened the NHS Nightingale Hospital in London via video link.

Buckingham Palace previously said the Queen last saw her son on March 12, and was "in good health".

— BBC, RNZ, AP

## Glimmer of hope as Italy's virus curve falls

ROME — There are signs of hope in Europe amid the deadly coronavirus outbreak.

On Sunday (local time), Italy's daily death toll was at its lowest in more than two weeks, and its infection curve was finally on a downward slope.

In Spain, new deaths dropped for the third straight day.

Angelo Borrelli, the head of Italy's Civil Protection agency on Sunday, said there were 525 deaths in the 24-hour period since Saturday evening. That was the lowest such figure in the country since 427 deaths were registered on March 19.

At the time of going to press this morning, Italy had a total of 15,887 deaths and nearly 129,000 confirmed Covid-19 cases (www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/).

A day shy of one month under a national lockdown that the Italian government ordered, the lower count of day-to-day deaths brought some encouragement to the country.

The number of intensive care unit (ICU) beds occupied by Covid-19 patients has also decreased in the past few days, including in northern Lombardy — Italy's most stricken region.

Borrelli also noted with a measure of satisfaction that the number of those



**'STAY AT HOME':** People are turned away by a local policewoman as a parish priest, Maurizio Mirilli, celebrated Palm Sunday mass from the his church's bell tower, in Rome. Churches are closed to the faithful all over Italy due to the Covid-19 outbreak.

AP picture

hospitalised but not in ICU beds had also decreased.

Italy recorded 4316 new cases on Sunday.

**On Sunday (local time), Italy's daily death toll was at its lowest in more than two weeks.**

Earlier in the outbreak, daily increases in caseloads topped the 6000 mark.

"The curve, which had been plateauing for days, is starting to descend," national health official Silvio Brusaferro told

reporters, referring to graphs indicating daily numbers of confirmed cases.

However, Borrelli warned: "This good news shouldn't make us drop our guard."

For days, anticipating a possible downward slope in the curve, government and health authorities in Italy have cautioned that restrictions on movement would likely last in some form for weeks.

Restrictions on movement vary from country to country. In Germany and Britain, residents can exercise and walk their dogs, as well as go to the supermarket and do

other essential tasks.

Swedish authorities have advised the public to practice social distancing, but schools, bars and restaurants were still open.

Spain announced 6023 confirmed new infections on Sunday, taking its national tally to 130,759 but down from an increase of 7026 infections the previous day.

Spain's confirmed new virus deaths dropped for the third straight day, to 674 — the first time daily deaths had fallen below 800 in the past week.

"We are starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel," PM Pedro Sanchez said. — AP

# Using virus to push wall agenda

WASHINGTON, DC — US President Donald Trump is taking an old political adage to heart: never let a crisis go to waste.

The new coronavirus is projected to kill more than 100,000 Americans.

It has effectively shut the US economy down (as well as many other economies around the world), torpedoed the stock market and disrupted people's normal lives.

However, in this moment of upheaval, Trump and his advisers have not lost sight of the opportunity to advance his agenda.

Trump has called on Congress to revive the tax deduction for business-related expenses on meals and entertainment, arguing it would help bolster high-end restaurants that have been hammered by the outbreak.

Trump's own tax law in 2017 sliced the tax rate for corporations, from 35 percent to 21 percent, and eliminated the deduction.

"This is a great time to bring it back," Trump said of resurrecting the tax break. "Otherwise a lot of these restaurants are going to have a hard time reopening," he said at a White House briefing last Wednesday (local time).

During a Rose Garden briefing on Sunday, Trump said he had spoken with celebrity chef Wolfgang Puck about the idea. Trump also name-checked prominent restaurateurs, including Thomas Keller, Daniel Boulud, and Jean-Georges Vongerichten, as he tried to make the case for reviving the deduction. Vongerichten is a tenant at the president's Trump International Hotel and Tower in New York.

"Congress must pass the old, and very-strongly proven, deductibility by businesses on restaurants and entertainment," Trump tweeted recently. "This will bring restaurants, and everything related, back — and stronger than ever. Move quickly, they will all be saved!"

Trump has repeatedly credited himself with moving in late January to bar entry from foreigners who had recently been in China.

The US president later also ordered the temporary suspension of travel from much of Europe to the US, and has largely closed the US borders with Canada and Mexico.

But Trump has notably used the crisis to remind Americans about his 2016 campaign



**NOT LETTING COVID-19 CRISIS GO TO WASTE:** US President Donald Trump speaks about the coronavirus in the James Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House in Washington, as Vice President Mike Pence and Dr Deborah Birx, the White House coronavirus response co-ordinator, listen. AP picture

promise to build a wall along the US-Mexico border. He argues a wall would help contain the coronavirus. In a tweet last month, he said the structure is "Going up fast" and "We need the Wall more than ever!"

Leading public health experts, however, disagree.

Robert Redfield, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, told lawmakers last month that he was unaware of any indication from his agency that physical barriers along America's borders would help halt the spread of the coronavirus in the US.

Still, Trump argues that the virus has only highlighted that his instincts on the border wall were right.

The virus — and the subsequent opportunity to invoke emergency powers — has allowed Trump to lock down the borders and make sure virtually no immigrants are getting in.

Trump in recent days has grumbled that American companies such as 3M and GM have not not doing enough to provide American medical workers and first responders with vital equipment they need.

However, the president and his aides have also made a broader argument about the need for the country to retool regulations to encourage the manufacturing of medicine and other key safety equipment on American soil.

Peter Navarro, a senior trade adviser to Trump, said the pandemic, which has left hospitals short of ventilators and protective masks, has underscored the president's "buy American, secure borders, and a strong manufacturing base" philosophy.

"Never again should we have to depend on the rest of the world for our essential medicines and countermeasures," Navarro said.

On the same day that the White House announced projections that 100,000 to 240,000 Americans were likely to die from coronavirus, the Environmental Protection Agency introduced a controversial new federal rule that would relax mileage standards for years to come.

The rollback is a victory for Americans who like their SUVs and pickup trucks, but it is hardly without a cost. The

government's own projections indicated that the new standards also mean more Americans would die from air pollution, and there would be more climate-damaging tailpipe exhaust fumes and more expenses for drivers at the gas pumps.

**Trump has argued that the virus has only highlighted that his instincts on the border wall were right.**

Trump hailed the new rule as a reason for Americans to go out and buy big, new cars.

"Great news! American families will now be able to buy safer, more affordable, and environmentally friendly cars with our new SAFE VEHICLES RULE," Trump tweeted.

Democratic lawmakers and environmental groups condemned the rollback, and years of legal battles are expected, including from California and other states opposed to the change.

Trump announced on Friday he was nominating a young, federal judge to fill a high-profile vacancy on the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

Judge Justin Walker, 37, was confirmed less than six months ago for a seat on the US District Court in Western Kentucky after a contentious nominating fight about his credentials.

The former clerk to retired Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy is one of the youngest federal judges in the country. He also has deep ties to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, a Kentucky Republican who hailed the nomination as an opportunity to "refresh the second-most-important federal court in the country." Walker also clerked for Justice Brett Kavanaugh when Kavanaugh was a judge on the DC appeals court.

The Trump administration has worked feverishly to overhaul the federal courts.

Even in the midst of battling a pandemic, Trump has not lost sight of the long-term impact his nominations to the federal bench will have on his legacy. — AP

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New South Wales races at Kembla Grange Tuesday Jetbet 10 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: IN FLANDERS, MACROURA, ALREADY BLESSED
Race 2: DUENNA, BLUEANT, COMARCO
Race 3: PIONEER, JACQUINE REWARD, BIGGER THAN THORN
Race 4: KARMAZONE, I ARIZE, CREATOR
Race 5: WILD IMPACT, THINK STRAIGHT, MIRA
Race 6: MIMESIS, HISTORY, BENONI
Race 7: MONTERRAT, KAVALMO, BUZZ

10 5s25 In Flanders (5) 55 100 B Mc Dougall
11 Macroura (14) 55 91 B Loy
12 Marboosha (11) 55 91 SCRATCHED
13 Saimaa (8) 55 93 Ms W Costin
14 The Prater (13) 55 89 Ms K Nisbet

3 Corrimal Handicap 4.05
\$35,000, Class 1, 1200m
1 Njordicus (11) 55 96 SCRATCHED
2 37312 Jacquine Reward c (13) 59 96 C Lever
3 s2210 Pioneer th (7) 59 100 T Wolfgram

5 Berkeley Harbour Handicap 5.20
\$35,000, 3yo & up Benchmark 64, 2000m
1 s550 Think Straight (8) 61 92 B Loy
2 41652 Hamogany tdbh (10) 58 92 T Wolfgram

6 6s Mimesis (12) 57 98 Y Ichikawa
7 Pepikhani (4) 57 92 Ms W Costin
8 67 My Rock Singa (5) 56.5 92 B Loy
9 8 Delicately (10) 56 92 B Loy

1 Duck Creek Dash Plate 2.45
\$35,000, 2yo Maiden SW, 1000m
1 9s Already Blessed (1) 57 98 S Guymier
2 Ocean Emperor (11) 57 88 SCRATCHED

2 Muddy Gully Plate 3.25
\$35,000, Maiden SW, 1200m
1 3624s Sethlans (1) 59 91 S Guymier
2 22s2 Battleground b (13) 58.5 100 A Layt

4 Mullet Creek Mile Hcp 4.40
\$35,000, Class 2, 1600m
1 4066s Creator (5) 60.5 94 C Lever
2 22s22 I Arize cdw (4) 59 96 N Heywood

6 Mount Keira Handicap 5.55
\$35,000, Maiden, 1400m
1 0 King Ratel (8) 58.5 86 N Heywood
2 7225s Costa Zu (3) 58 90 S Guymier

7 Cataract Creek Handicap 6.35
\$35,000, Class 1, 1400m
1 15s22 Montserrat (1) 61 100 B Mc Dougall
2 Mission Dream (11) 58.5 94 SCRATCHED

Victoria races at Bendigo Tuesday 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: THE BILLIONAIRE, FAVELL, ON THE PROGRAM
Race 2: ZOU DANCER, ALLMYLIFE, DIVINE CAPRICE
Race 3: QUESADILLA, SECRET SAUCE, PSOAS
Race 4: TRALEE ROSE, PARAPHERNALIA, GINGERSON

2 Granturismo (8) 58 85 J Allen
3 Lionel (10) 58 86 B Allen
4 Master Bartholdi (11) 58 84 B Prebble

5 Australian Bloodstock Hcp 5.00
\$31,500, 3yo & up Maiden, 2400m
1 26437 Easton You Beauty (5) 58.5 91 Ms A Kelly (a2)

7 RMBL Investments Rising Stars 6.00
\$31,500, 3yo & up Benchmark 64, 1300m
1 04s41 Midnight Cowboy dw (11) 63 90 Ms M Lloyd (a2)

8 The Big Screen Company 6.30
\$31,500, 3yo & up Benchmark 64, 1600m
1 81352 Cape Richards dwbn (9) 63.5 97 Ms M Lloyd (a2)

1 Bendigo Locksmiths Plate 3.00
\$31,500, 2yo Maiden SW, 1000m
1 Bartos (2) 58 80 B Prebble
2 335 Favell (9) 58 100 B Rawiller

3 Jayco Plate 4.00
\$31,500, 3yo Fillies Maiden SW, 1100m
1 2422s Annabeth (6) 57 85 C Douglas
2 Guarded Diamonds (2) 57 85 J Bowditch

6 Avis Car and Truck Rental 5.30
\$31,500, 3yo & up Benchmark 64, 2400m
1 s3211 Hey Happy (16) 61 90 W Egan
2 12283 Nethin' Leica High dwn (9) 61 100 N Callow

9 Hygain Handicap 7.00
\$31,500, 3yo & up Benchmark 78, 1000m
1 8514s Kaplumpluch wn (3) 60.5 90 J McNeil
2 8s00s Salorsci d (5) 58.5 81 J Allen

10 The Big Screen Company 6.30
\$31,500, 3yo & up Benchmark 64, 1600m
1 81352 Cape Richards dwbn (9) 63.5 97 Ms M Lloyd (a2)

Queensland races at Rockhampton Tuesday Jetbet 14 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: PRINCE DUPORTH, APOLOGY ACCEPTED, JOMERA
Race 2: TARAKI, MISS DE MIRAGE, DON'T DOUBT MAEVE
Race 3: MASON'S CHANCE, POETIC HEART, CAVELLTON

2 Belroma Park Handicap 2.55
\$19,000, Benchmark 65, 1200m
1 7s688 Sniponet wh (3) 62 90 Ms E Smith (a1.5)

5 Springton Park Handicap 4.50
\$19,000, Benchmark 58, 1400m
1 1s638 Chanamaro th (12) 61.5 92 R Oakford

7 DLV Finance Capricornia Classic 6.04
\$75,000, 2yo SW, 1200m
1 491 Goodbye Earl ch (18) 58 95 Ms D Graham (a)

8 XXXX Gold Handicap 6.42
\$19,000, Open, 1050m
1 5780s Sword Of Justice wh (8) 64 92 M Barnham

1 Rum City Foods Handicap 2.20
\$19,000, Maiden, 1200m
1 So Proud h (14) 59 79 Ms B Richardson
2 527s0 Encumbrance h (8) 58.5 96 M Barnham

3 Mayor's Cup Handicap 3.34
\$19,000, Open, 1400m
1 13666 Friendly Dragon tdwh (1) 63.5 97 B Pengelly

6 Rockhampton Mini Loads & Truck Hire 5.27
\$19,000, Benchmark 58, 1400m
1 22132 Elle A Walking dw (3) 64.5 95 Ms E Bell (a3)

9 www.bloodstockauction.com 7.20
\$19,000, Rating 55, 1050m
1 43s43 Santisimo cdwh (13) 60 90 B Pengelly

10 The Big Screen Company 6.30
\$31,500, 3yo & up Benchmark 64, 1600m
1 81352 Cape Richards dwbn (9) 63.5 97 Ms M Lloyd (a2)

Legend: T - Won at track, C - Won at this distance on this course, D - Won at this distance on another course, M - Won in slow or heavy going, B - Beaten favourite at last start, H - Trained on track, N - Won at night, S - Spell of three months, F - Fell, P - Pulled up, L - Lost rider, TV - Featured on Trackside TV.

# Brain training - keeping your mind active

## SIMON SHUKER'S CODE-CRACKER

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. Enter the letter or letters given in the control grid into the main grid, then use your knowledge of words to work out which letters should go in the missing squares. As you get the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and control grid. Check letters off the A to Z list at the bottom as you identify them.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
5	2	8	7	11	2	9	12	10	1	2	13	3	16
14	15	7	16	6	6	7	4	17	4	17	4	17	4
6	17	2	1	18	10	18	19	12	6	10	5	18	6
6	5	19	7	11	20	6	19	6	19	6	19	6	19
18	4	21	6	9	7	6	22	19	10	9	6	7	20
2	7	1	19	23	8	21	8	21	8	21	8	21	8
1	1	2	5	2	24	10	18	10	6	7	9	22	9
18	25	6	7	13	7	6	10	23	10	23	10	23	10
10	26	26	10	25	2	18	6	2	1	11	6	11	6
1	10	10	5	19	12	12	25	12	25	12	25	12	25
7	2	18	6	7	6	24	23	2	7	7	8	13	26

© Simon Shuker www.codecracker.co.nz

**A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
C	U	M	B	E	R	S	H	O	X	W	I	P
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
T	A	N	Z	Y	J	G	Q	K	V	D	L	F

## LYRICAL

**How good is your memory?**  
Name the song and the singer or band

**60s**  
But if you try sometimes you might just find/  
You get what you need

**70s**  
But every night all the men would come  
around/And lay their money down

**80s**  
Out of the doorway the bullets rip/To the  
sound of the beat

**90s**  
Some of those that work forces/Are the same  
that burn crosses

**00s**  
Don't be fooled by the rocks that I got

**10s**  
Baby, I'm dancing in the dark with you  
between my arms

## 9=6

	B	O	D	
A				R
P				H
D				M
	E	R	Y	

**HOW TO PLAY**  
Fill in the nine blank squares to make six words, three across and three down. More than one solution may be possible.

**Missing letters**  
A A C E E L R T T

30/3

## WORDFIT

Can you find all the words into the grid? We've given one to get you started.

- 3 LETTERS**
- AIR
  - ANY
  - AWE
  - BYE
  - EAT
  - EMU
  - ERA
  - ERR
  - EVE
  - GEM
  - GET
  - HEM
  - IRE
  - IVY
  - LEE
  - MAP
  - NET
  - ODE
  - PAL
  - PRY
  - RAM
  - RYE
  - TIP
  - VIE
- 4 LETTERS**
- AIMS
  - AMID
- 5 LETTERS**
- ALARM
  - ALERT
  - ALICE
  - AMIGO
  - AMINO
  - AMITY
  - AMUSE
  - ARENA
  - CHART
  - CREST
  - CRIMP
  - DEALT
  - DEBTS
  - DINGO
  - DRYER
  - BODY
  - CLAP
  - DEER
  - GOSH
  - RAGE
  - RATS
  - ROTA
  - TAPE
  - TOSS
  - TSAR
  - UPON
  - WAND
  - EASED
  - EASES
  - EERIE
  - EGRET
  - ENEMY
  - ERASE
  - GLACE
  - GULPS
  - HANGS
  - KNAVE
  - LACED
  - LADLE
  - LEMUR
  - METRE
  - OWNER
  - PLANT
  - RAKED
  - REFER
  - RENTS
  - RERAN
  - RESIN
  - RUNES
  - SAMOA
  - SARAH
  - SATYR
  - SAUNA
  - TEARY
  - THYME
  - TRACT

- 6 LETTERS**
- TROTH
  - VAMPS
  - VASES
  - VEERS
  - WILED
  - WIRES
  - FIERCE
- 7 LETTERS**
- ARISING
  - FULCRUM
  - ISTHMUS
  - LICENCE
- 8 LETTERS**
- CATALYST
  - ESPRESSO
  - OPTICIAN
  - TUTELAGE
- 9 LETTERS**
- SMELTS
  - STRATA
  - VIEWER
- 10 LETTERS**
- PERTURB
  - TESTIFY

## ANACROSS

Anacross is a two-part puzzle. First solve the anagrams below, then work out how to fit the words into the grid above.

- LORD SAL
- GET IT SO
- DUET LEX
- I RETAIN
- ROLL AVE
- STARETS
- SO IT ATE
- EELS SUS

## DOUBLE CROSS

Reveal a completed crossword by deleting one of the two letters in each square

## WORDSEARCH

These are D words

Can you find all of these words in the grid?

E	D	L	E	S	E	I	D	E	D	U	C	T	I	O	N	O	M
T	L	A	M	T	E	V	U	D	R	U	M	M	E	R	S	Q	Y
A	E	D	F	Q	L	T	M	W	A	K	E	L	G	P	U	B	U
L	S	O	I	F	H	D	E	A	M	D	H	L	G	T	O	N	A
F	M	R	X	G	O	C	Y	R	A	N	O	I	T	C	I	D	C
E	A	S	U	U	N	D	L	F	T	C	L	G	C	A	B	Z	M
D	D	A	B	E	B	D	I	E	I	H	X	F	F	D	U	I	W
R	R	L	F	T	H	M	I	L	C	T	S	E	G	I	D	M	E
D	E	E	D	O	I	K	A	D	A	S	Y	A	T	F	S	C	X
T	D	E	E	B	T	B	D	O	U	G	H	E	D	F	A	H	D
S	T	R	G	D	H	T	C	C	P	L	A	I	M	R	N	V	O
A	N	G	R	E	D	D	I	K	D	Y	K	J	G	A	E	L	C
C	A	A	E	L	F	A	Y	D	T	O	H	S	S	C	D	A	U
N	N	S	E	I	W	M	I	N	M	T	I	J	I	T	F	M	M
W	I	I	Q	V	M	C	I	R	A	D	Y	L	G	I	K	I	E
O	M	D	A	E	E	A	R	N	Y	M	M	V	Y	O	C	C	N
D	O	W	A	R	D	S	D	U	C	T	I	L	E	N	U	E	T
W	D	T	G	Y	D	R	I	Z	Z	L	E	C	C	H	D	D	I

- |          |          |         |         |
|----------|----------|---------|---------|
| DAFFODIL | DOUBLET  | DRAW    | DUCTILE |
| DAINTY   | DOUGH    | DREAM   | DUEL    |
| DAIRY    | DOWNCAST | DRIZZLE | DUVET   |
| DAME     | DRAIN    | DRUMMER | DWARF   |
| DAMSEL   | DRAMATIC | DUBIOUS | DYNAMIC |
| DASH     | DRAUGHT  | DUCK    |         |

## WORDWHEEL

Fill in the missing letter to make an eight-letter word which can read either clockwise or anticlockwise

Saturday: ABRASION

## 5x5

Insert the missing letters to make ten words — five across the grid and five down. More than one solution may be possible.

S	L	T		
	A	V		
I	L	S		
	T	R		
S	C	S		

## YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

### Double Cross

5x5

### WordFit

### Wordsearch

### Anacross

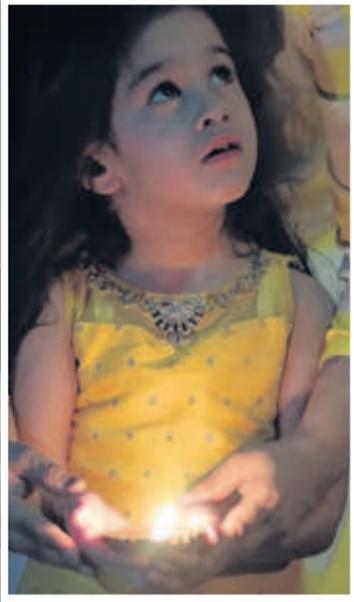
C	A	N	N	O	N	S
O		U		P		I
L		L		O		C
A		M		E		R
R		A		O		L
S		T		R		A
S		T		R		A

### 9=6

	S	C	T
S	C	O	U
S	A	M	B
A	L	I	E
E	C	R	

### Lyrical

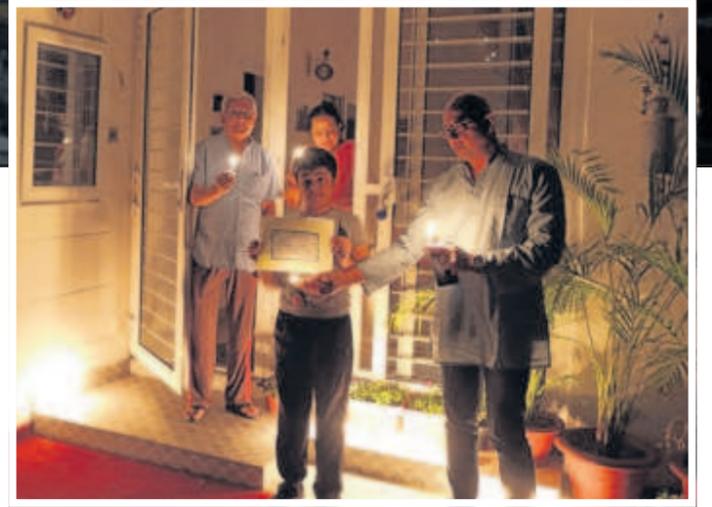
- 60s: Blowin' in the Wind, Bob Dylan
- 70s: Brass in Pocket, The Pretenders
- 80s: Industrial Disease, Dire Straits
- 90s: Walking in Memphis, Marc Cohn
- 00s: You're Beautiful, James Blunt
- 10s: Something Just Like This, Coldplay & The Chainsmokers



**ILLUMINATING INDIA:** Indians hold traditional lamps from the balcony of their houses while flashlights and candles are seen illuminating houses and high-rise residential buildings as the citizens marked the country's fight against the Covid-19 pandemic across the nation on Sunday, April 5. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi had, in a Friday

broadcast, urged the country's 1.3 billion people to switch off lights at their homes at 9pm for 9 minutes on Sunday night and light candles, lamps and even use mobile torches standing in their balconies. Modi said that such a gesture will dispel the darkness created by the coronavirus and show that people are together in their fight against the epidemic.

AP pictures



**Junior Sudoku**

Fill in the puzzle so each 3x2 square and each line and column contains the numbers 1-6

4		1	5		
	2	3	6		
5	3				
			3	2	
	5	6	1		
3	4			6	

**BUILD A WORD**



How many words of three or more letters can you make from these blocks? You may use each letter only once. Plurals are OK but no words starting with a capital letter are allowed. There is at least one word that uses all five letters.  
Good 9 Very Good 11 Excellent 16+

**7x7**

A crossword for beginners

1			2			3
4						
5	6					7
	8					

**ACROSS**

- 4. Not certain about something (6)
- 5. A large wild spotted cat (7)
- 8. Wanting food (6)

**DOWN**

- 1. Opposite of empty (4)
- 2. Kangaroos are good at this (7)
- 3. Drop of water from your eye (4)
- 6. A sound heard bouncing back (4)
- 7. There are seven \_\_\_ in the week (4)

**MAGIC SQUARE**

Enter numbers so that every row, column and corner-to-corner diagonal adds up to **15**

		1	
			3
			4

**BUILD A WORD**

Asp, nap, naps, nip, nips, pain, PAINS, pan, pans, pin, pins, sap, sin, sip, snap, snip, spa, span, spin.

**SUDOKU**

4	6	3	1	2	5
1	2	5	3	6	4
5	3	2	6	4	1
6	4	1	5	3	2
2	5	6	4	1	3
3	1	4	2	5	6



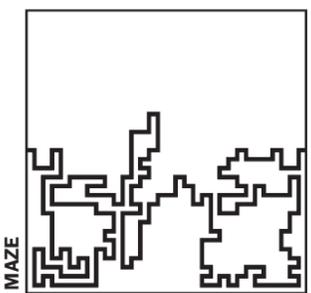
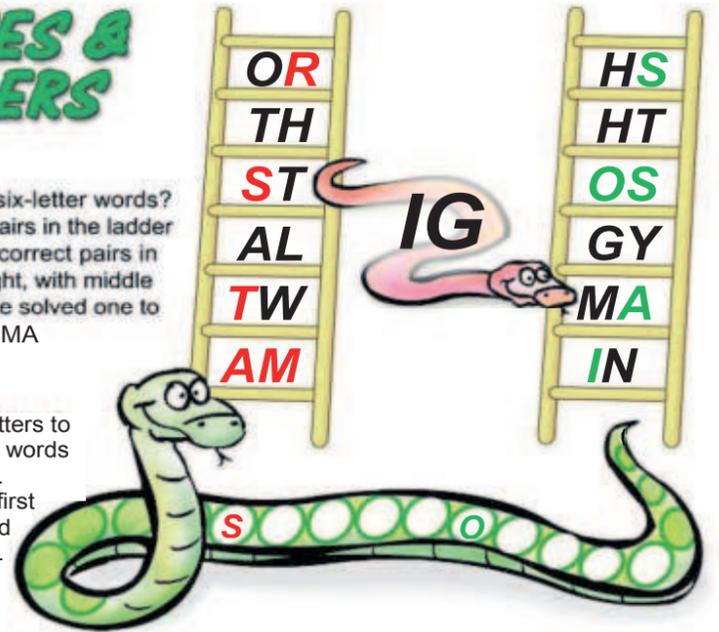
**SNAKES & LADDERS**

**Puzzle One**

Can you solve the six-letter words? Connect the letter pairs in the ladder on the left with the correct pairs in the ladder on the right, with middle letters IG. We have solved one to start you off: STIGMA

**Puzzle Two**

Use the coloured letters to make two five-letter words on the snake's back. We have given the first letter of the red word and the green word.



**MAGIC SQUARE**

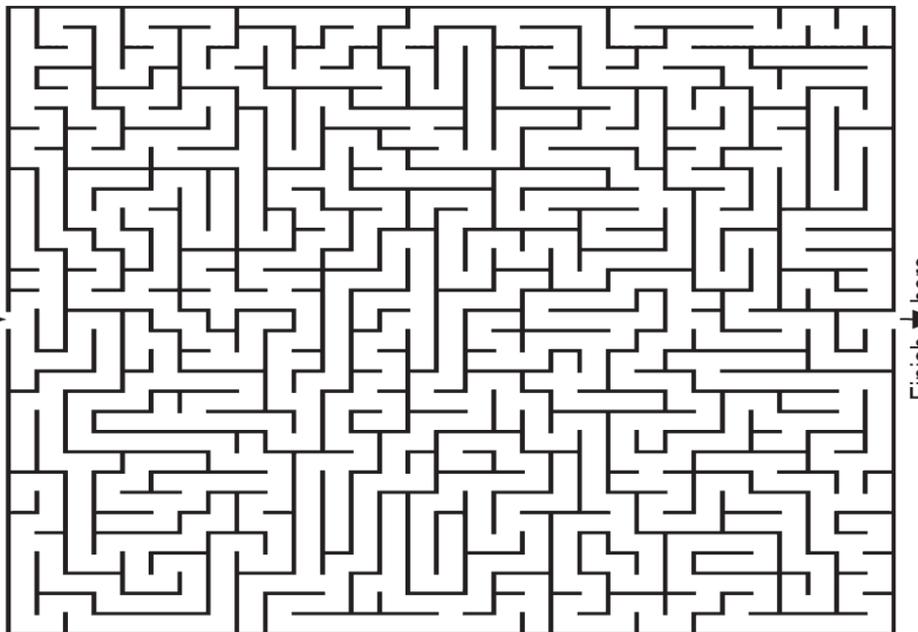
6	1	8
7	5	3
2	9	4

7X7

**Across:** 4. Unsure, 5. Leopard, 8. Hungry.  
**Down:** 1. Full, 2. Jumping, 3. Tear, 6. Echo, 7. Days.

**SNAKES & LADDERS**  
STIGMA, ALIGHT, AMIGOS, ORIGIN, THIGHS, TWIGGY, SMART, OASIS.

Start here



Finish here

# MONDAY—TUESDAY'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 FINAL Fair Go At 40** *TV*  
The final of two half-hour specials celebrating 40 years of fighting for the little person; reflecting on the laughs, tears, and moments that have made Fair Go a hit for 40 years.

**8pm Dog Squad** *PGR TV*  
Christchurch Delta team Regan and Kosmo do not let hard-nosed car thieves get away easily; drug dog Tai has a busy day at the office; Biosecurity dog Mintee surprises a man.

**8.30 FINAL Border Security** *TV*  
Two men claiming to be friends carry some unusual belongings; native shingle-back lizards are discovered; a kitchen hand is caught carrying undeclared meat and fruit.

**9pm Prodigal Son** *AO TV*  
Malcolm and the team investigate a motorcycle-gang robbery.

**9.55 Seven Sharp** *TV*  
Stories of the day from around New Zealand.

**10.25 FINAL The Red Line** *PGR TV*  
Tia receives a financial windfall from an unlikely source.

**11.25 FINAL The Catch** *AO TV*  
Alice and Ben have no choice but to face their pasts; a betrayal could change everything.

**TUESDAY**

**12.15 Emmerdale** *PGR TV*  
**12.45 Te Karere** *TV*  
News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

**1.10 Infomercials**  
**5.35 Te Karere** *TV*  
**6am Breakfast**  
**9am Les Mills Body Balance** *TV*  
**10am Tipping Point** *TV*  
**11am Cash Trapped** *TV*  
**Noon 1 News At Midday** *TV*  
**12.30 Emmerdale** *PGR TV*  
Jessie considers the new job; Doug feels guilty; Rishi is determined to rebuild the business.

**1pm 1 News Special** *TV*  
The latest updates regarding Covid-19 and how it will affect you.

**1.30 Coronation Street** *PGR TV*  
David pushes himself too far; Bethany and Daniel get their hands dirty; Ray's professionalism is questioned.

**2pm Tipping Point** *TV*  
**3pm 1 News Special** *TV*  
The latest updates regarding Covid-19 and how it will affect you.

**4pm Te Karere**  
**4.30 Highway Cops** *TV*  
A bovine bolter makes an escape attempt; a not-so-sober driver is stopped in Dunedin; a would-be inventor touts his wares.

**5pm The Chase** *TV*

## TVNZ 2 © TVNZ 2020

**5.10 The Simpsons** *TV*  
When Lisa discovers a talent for solving crossword puzzles, she enters a crossword tournament – unaware that Homer bet against her.

**5.40 Young Sheldon** *TV*  
**6.05 The Big Bang Theory** *TV*  
**6.30 Neighbours** *TV*  
**7pm Shortland Street** *PGR TV*  
Damo digs himself in deeper; Cece is ready for change; Esther goes bush.

**7.30 MOVIE Ant-Man** *PGR TV*  
2015 Action. A master thief is recruited to carry out a robbery, armed with a suit that allows him to shrink in size, but increase in strength. Paul Rudd, Evangeline Lilly, Michael Douglas.

**9.35 FINAL The Walking Dead** *AO TV*  
**10.25 Two And A Half Men** *PGR TV*  
**10.55 Mom** *PGR TV*  
**11.20 FINAL Grey's Anatomy** *AO TV*

**TUESDAY**

**12.45 Cougar Town** *PGR TV*  
**1.05 Shortland Street** *PGR TV*  
**1.30 Regular Show** *TV*  
**1.40 Infomercials**  
**2.45 Quantico** *AO TV*  
**3.30 Desperate Housewives** *AO TV*  
**4.15 The Fresh Prince Of Bel Air** *TV*  
**4.40 Emmerdale** *PGR TV*  
**5.05 Neighbours** *PGR TV*  
**5.30 Infomercials**  
**6.30 Rescue Bots Academy** *TV*  
**6.40 Takaro Tribe** *TV*  
**6.50 Bluey** *TV*  
**7am The Tom And Jerry Show** *TV*  
**7.25 Thunderbirds Are Go!** *TV*  
**7.50 Wacky Races** *TV*  
**8.15 Littlest Pet Shop** *TV*  
**8.35 Be Cool Scooby Doo!** *TV*  
**8.55 Monchhichi Tribe** *TV*  
**9.20 The Insectibles** *TV*  
**9.30 Muppet Babies** *TV*  
**9.55 Best Of Chuggington Collection** *TV*  
**10.05 Mickey And The Roadster Racers** *TV*  
**10.30 Infomercial** *TV*  
**11.30 Neighbours** *PGR TV*  
**11.55 Selling Houses Australia** *TV*  
**1pm Judge Rinder** *PGR TV*  
**2pm Splitting Up Together** *PGR TV*  
**2.30 Shortland Street** *PGR TV*  
**3pm Les Mills Born To Move**  
**3.20 Goodnight Kiwi**  
**3.25 Powerpuff Girls** *TV*  
**3.35 Get Clever**  
**4pm Pokemon: Sun And Moon: Ultra Legends** *TV*  
**4.25 The Deep** *TV*  
**4.45 Friends** *TV*  
**5.10 The Simpsons** *TV*  
**5.35 Young Sheldon** *TV*

## BRAVO

**5pm Judge Jerry**  
**5.30 Hoarders** *TV*  
**6.30 Love It Or List It**  
**7.30 Snapped** *PGR*  
**8.30 Injustice With Nancy Grace** *AO*  
**9.30 A Lie To Die For** *AO*  
**10.30 Snapped** *PGR TV*  
**11.30 Killer Couples** *AO TV*

**TUESDAY**

**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 The People's Court** *TV*  
**5pm Judge Jerry**  
**5.30 Hoarders** *TV*

## THREE

**5pm Millionaire Hot Seat** *TV*  
Six contestants compete to win cash, hosted by Eddie McGuire.

**6pm NewsHub Live At 6pm**  
Comprehensive coverage of global and local news.

**7pm The Project**  
News and entertainment show.

**7.30 Married At First Sight Australia** *PGR TV*  
**9.05 Talking Married** *AO TV*  
**9.15 SVU** *AO TV*  
A fellow detective asks the SVU for help when he suspects his two daughters are being groomed by a serial predator; Kat disobeys the captain's orders.

**10.10 NewsHub Late**  
**10.40 The Hui** *TV*  
**11.15 NewsHub Nation** *TV*  
An in-depth weekly current-affairs show.

**TUESDAY**

**12.15 Infomercials** *TV*  
**6am The AM Show**  
**9am The Café**  
**10am Infomercials** *TV*  
**11.25 Millionaire Hot Seat** *TV*  
**12.25 Face The Truth** *PGR*  
**12.55 Dr Phil** *PGR*  
**1.55 Married At First Sight Australia** *PGR TV*  
**3.25 Mexican Fiesta With Peter Kuruvita**  
Chef Peter Kuruvita goes on a journey of culinary discovery through the world of Mexican cuisine.

**4pm United Plates Of America** Gary Takle travels to the big cities of the US to discover the underlying food culture that exists in each town.

**4.30 NewsHub Live At 4:30pm**  
**5pm Millionaire Hot Seat** *TV*

## CHOICE

**5pm Rachel Allen: All Things Sweet**  
**5.30 Mysteries At The Museum**  
**6.30 Salvage Hunters**  
**7.30 World's Most Luxurious**  
**8.30 Lost Worlds: Deeper Into The Black Sea**  
**10.30 Salvage Hunters**  
**11.30 Mysteries At The Museum**

**TUESDAY**

**12.30 Hugh's Three Good Things**  
**1am Rachel Allen: All Things Sweet**  
**1.30 Caribbean Pirate Treasure**  
**2am America Over The Edge**  
**3am World's Most Luxurious**  
**4am Lost Worlds: Deeper Into The Black Sea**  
**6am Paul Hollywood's Pies And Puds**  
**7am Hugh's Three Good Things**  
**7.30 Rachel Allen: All Things Sweet**  
**8am Hope For Wildlife**  
**9am Caribbean Pirate Treasure**  
**9.30 Top Of The Shop**  
**10.30 Mysteries At The Museum**  
**11.30 Salvage Hunters**  
**12.30 Lost Worlds: Deeper Into The Black Sea**  
**2.30 World's Most Luxurious**  
**3.30 Love Nature: Ocean Giants**  
**4.30 Jamie's 30-Minute Meals**  
**5pm Gourmet Farmer Afloat**  
**5.30 Mysteries At The Museum**

## PRIME

**5pm 3rd Rock From The Sun** *TV*  
**5.30 Prime News**  
**6pm Pawn Stars**  
**7pm Storage Wars**  
**7.30 Aussie Pickers** *PGR TV*  
**8.30 MOVIE The Forger** *AO TV*  
2014 Drama. A petty thief makes a deal with the devil, agreeing to one last robbery in exchange for an early release from jail. John Travolta, Christopher Plummer.

**10.35 The Late Show With Stephen Colbert** *PGR*  
**11.35 Love Island UK** *TV*

**TUESDAY**

**12.05 Love Island UK Aftersun**  
**12.35 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 100 Things To Do** *TV*  
**9.25 Advocates Of Change**  
**10am MasterChef Junior USA**  
**10.30 The Chase Australia** *TV*  
**11.30 Everybody Loves Raymond** *TV*  
**Noon Modern Dinosaurs** *TV*  
**1pm Robot Wars**  
**2pm Celebrity Antiques Road Trip** *TV*  
**3pm Wheel Of Fortune**  
**3.30 Jeopardy**  
**4pm Antiques Roadshow** *TV*  
**5pm 3rd Rock From The Sun** *TV*  
**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 Te Nutube**  
**6.20 Darwin + Newts** *TV*  
**6.30 Te Ao: Maori News**  
**7pm Whanau Living** *TV*  
**7.30 Timoti's Travels**  
**8pm Te Ao With Moana**  
**8.30 Ants On A Shrimp** *AO TV*  
**10.20 #whiuatepatai** *AO TV*  
**10.50 Nga Pari Karangaranga O Te Motu** *TV*  
**11.20 Te Ao: Maori News** *TV*  
**11.50 Closedown**

**TUESDAY**

**6.30 Paia**  
**6.40 My Mokai**  
**7.10 He Rourou**  
**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 He Kakano** *TV*  
**9.30 Opaki** *TV*  
**10am Waiata** *TV*  
**10.30 Morena** *TV*  
**11am Nga Tamariki O Te Kohu** *TV*  
**Noon Nanakia** *PGR TV*  
**12.30 City Slickers Rodeo** *TV*  
**1pm Nga Pari Karangaranga O Te Motu** *TV*  
**1.30 Ako** *TV*  
**2pm Toku Reo** *TV*  
**3pm Kapa Haka Whanau** *TV*  
**3.30 Playlist**  
**4pm HakaNation**  
**4.30 Pukana**  
**5pm Paia**  
**5.10 My Mokai**  
**5.40 He Rourou** *TV*  
**5.50 E Kori** *TV*  
**5.55 E Ki E Ki**



**Prodigal Son**  
9pm on TVNZ 1



**Ant-Man**  
7.30pm on TVNZ 2



**The Forger**  
8.30pm on Prime

## RNZ NATIONAL

**5pm Checkpoint**  
**6.30 Trending Now**  
**7.06 Nights With Bryan Crump.**  
**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.  
**9.30 Insight**  
**10pm News At Ten**  
**10.15 Lately With Karyn Hay.**  
**11.06 Nashville Babylon**

**TUESDAY**

**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 Storage Wars** *PG*  
**6.30 Storage Wars** *PG*  
**7pm Border Security: Australia's Frontline** *M*  
**7.30 Hawaii Five-0** *MV*  
**8.30 Borderforce US: The Bridges** *M*  
**9.30 A1: Highway Patrol** *MVLC*  
**10.30 SVU** *MV*  
**11.15 Storage Wars** *PG*  
**11.40 Storage Wars** *PG*

**TUESDAY**

**12.05 Modern Family** *PG*  
**12.30 Modern Family** *PG*  
**12.55 Wheel Of Fortune** *PG*  
**1.20 Jeopardy!** *PG*  
**1.40 Border Security: Australia's Frontline** *M*  
**2.05 A1: Highway Patrol** *MVLC*  
**2.50 Borderforce US: The Bridges** *M*  
**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*  
**7.35 Modern Family** *PG*  
**8am Border Security: Australia's Frontline** *M*  
**8.25 Storage Wars** *PG*  
**8.50 Storage Wars** *PG*  
**9.15 Hardcore Pawn** *PG*  
**9.40 Hawaii Five-0** *MV*  
**10.25 SVU** *MV*  
**11.10 Modern Family** *PG*  
**11.35 Modern Family** *PG*  
**Noon Raw Live** *MVC*  
**3.05 Modern Family** *PG*  
**3.35 Modern Family** *PG*  
**4pm The Simpsons** *PG*  
**4.30 Jeopardy!** *PG*  
**5pm Wheel Of Fortune** *PG*  
**5.30 Hardcore Pawn** *PG*

### MOVIES PREMIERE DISCOVERY

**6.20 Godzilla II: King Of The Monsters** *MVL 2019 Action.*  
Kyle Chandler, Millie Bobby Brown.  
**8.30 Time Out** *MS 2018 Comedy.*  
When a troublesome prisoner is granted a weekend out of prison to see her dying mother, a new corrections officer is assigned to keep an eye on her. Tessa Thompson, Melissa Leo.  
**9.55 Stan And Ollie** *PGL 2018 Comedy.* Steve Coogan, John C Reilly.  
**11.30 School Spirit** *18VLS 2018 Horror.* Corey Fogelmanis, Jessi Case.  
**TUESDAY**  
**12.51 Beirut** *MVL 2018 Action.* Jon Hamm, Rosamund Pike.  
**2.36 Making Babies** *MLS 2018 Comedy.* Eliza Coupe, Steve Howey.  
**4am School Spirit** *18VLS 2018 Horror.* Corey Fogelmanis, Jessi Case.  
**5.23 Cleanin' Up The Town: Remembering Ghostbusters** *M 2019 Documentary.*  
**7.28 Godzilla II: King Of The Monsters** *MVL 2019 Action.*  
**9.37 Time Out** *MS 2018 Comedy.*  
**11am Stan And Ollie** *PGL 2018 Comedy.*  
**12.35 Beirut** *MVL 2018 Action.*  
**2.23 Hal** *MC 2018 Documentary.*  
**3.53 Destination Wedding** *MLS 2018 Comedy.*  
**5.17 Behold My Heart** *MV 2018 Drama.*

**5.40 Aussie Gold Hunters** *PG*  
**6.35 Towies** *PG*  
**7pm Towies** *PG*  
**7.30 Top Gear** *PG*  
**8.30 Mighty Car Mods: Turbos And Temples** *PG*  
**9.25 Jay Leno's Garage** *PG*  
**10.15 Car Crash Global Caught On Camera** *PG*  
**11.05 Naked And Afraid XL** *MC*  
**11.55 How It's Made** *PG*

**TUESDAY**

**12.20 How Do They Do It?** *PG*  
**12.45 World's Deadliest Drivers** *PG*  
**1.10 World's Deadliest Drivers** *PG*  
**1.35 Deadliest Catch** *PG*  
**2.25 Bering Sea Gold** *PG*  
**3.15 Gold Rush: White Water** *PG*  
**4.05 Expedition Unknown** *PG*  
**4.55 Naked And Afraid XL** *MC*  
**5.45 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 Top Gear**  
**9.10 Mighty Car Mods: Turbos And Temples** *PG*  
**10am How It's Made** *PG*  
**10.25 How Do They Do It?** *PG*  
**10.50 Expedition Unknown** *PG*  
**11.40 Aussie Gold Hunters** *PG*  
**12.30 Evil Lives Here** *MVC*  
**1.20 Blood Relatives** *M*  
**2.10 Top Gear**  
**3pm Gold Rush: White Water** *PG*  
**3.50 Deadliest Catch** *PG*  
**4.45 Fast N' Loud** *PG*  
**5.40 Aussie Gold Hunters** *PG*

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- A friendly Phone Call
- Urgent Supplies

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# Gisborne their NZ home

## Zimbabwean family cherish welcome they received

FOOTBALL by John Gillies

IF Gisborne football had a prize for the most enthusiastic player who most obviously enjoyed the game, Thistle's Mcxeivior (Max) Mika would have been a perennial contender.

For the past five seasons the Zimbabwean immigrant has been a tireless presence in the midfield of John Stirton's Eastern League first division side Massive, or – if called on – the Pacific Premiership teams coached by Matt Hastings or Garrett Blair.

Now Mika, his wife Florence, son Tavonga, 9, and daughter Tia, 6, are settling into new surroundings in South Auckland, but the 37-year-old diesel mechanic says he will always regard Gisborne as his New Zealand home.

He and Florence had started talking about going overseas in 2013. They had been living in South Africa, in the city of Kempton Park, near Johannesburg, since they were married in 2009. Violence, the political situation and a desire to see what the world had to offer were behind their decision to emigrate.

They were particularly interested in Canada and New Zealand, so when a friend who had moved to New Zealand passed on news about an opening for a diesel mechanic in Gisborne, Mika sent off his CV.

Back came the offer of a job with Weatherell Transport Ltd. "With no hesitation", he accepted it and started work in mid-November 2014. His wife and children arrived the following month.

It was at Weatherell Transport that he was named Max by one of his workmates who said the given name Mcxeivior (pronounced Maczavior) was too hard for everyday use, and the shortened form stuck.

He wanted to thank business owners Steve and Jane Weatherell for giving him the opportunity to live and work in New Zealand, and workshop manager Red Kernohan for helping him settle into work in a new country.

Mika loved football but since schooldays he had played only for a junior club – the Kwekwe Stars – and in a few social games.

His father Frank had died in 1998 and, from the age of 16, his focus was helping provide for his mother Reginah and younger sister Talent. His apprenticeship studies and work pushed sport into the background.

In Gisborne, though, he thought playing football would be a good way to meet people.

Stirton noticed him watching a practice session and invited him to join in. Come to think of it, they were short that weekend . . . would he like a game?

"That was the beginning of the adventure," Mika said.

He would forever cherish the way he, his wife and their children were welcomed into the club. He praised the leadership of club committee stalwarts Ron Young, Shannon Dowsing, Mark Pearce and David Ure, and the guidance of coaches Stirton, Hastings and Blair.

He was also grateful to Central Football's Blake Mulrooney, who had got Tavonga to play for Gisborne's under-10 reps.

Among his best memories of football in Gisborne were the clashes between Thistle and Gisborne United in the Eastern League first division – or the Championship as it was called last season – and the Pacific Premiership.

"It was always good to compete against those guys – the likes of Stu Cranswick, Damon Husband, Corey and Josh Adams, and Kieran Venema . . . good lads."

With Thistle, Mika received winners' medals for the Eastern League Division 1 title in 2015 and '16, the Bailey Cup in 2015 and '18, and the Championship title and the Chris Moore Cup in 2019. In all competitions across five seasons, he scored 45 goals.

This year, Mika has played one game for the Matt Bouma-Higgins-coached Papakura City – in central midfield – against Papatoetoe at the beginning of last month. They lost 2-1, but he was looking forward to the next game, and then the



**ON ATTACK:** Gisborne Thistle midfielder Mcxeivior (Max) Mika crosses the ball in a Chatham Cup match against Havelock North Wanderers at Childers Road Reserve last year. Mika and his family have moved to Wattle Downs, near Manurewa, following Mika's appointment as workshop foreman at the Scania New Zealand service centre in Drury. File picture by Paul Rickard

postponements started. Tavonga had also joined the club, at under-11 level.

On the work front in Gisborne, Mika spent two years at Weatherell Transport and then three at CablePrice (NZ) Ltd, who were the distributors for Scania. He attended courses in Wellington for further training in Scania trucks and their repair and maintenance, which stood him in good stead when he successfully applied for the job of workshop foreman at Scania New Zealand's first service centre, in Drury. He started there in December, and he and his family have settled in rented accommodation in Wattle Downs near Manurewa.

Both he and Florence made use of the opportunities for further study while in Gisborne. He studied occupational health and safety to diploma level with the Southern Institute of Technology, and started National Certificate in Business (first-line management) studies with the Motor Industry Training Organisation. He is excited at the opportunities that might yet arise.

Florence studied computing, business administration and health sciences, and worked in administration for Electrinet. In Auckland she is doing administrative work for a floor resurfacing business.

It's all a long way from Harare, Zimbabwe, where they met in 2007. Florence, the only girl of six siblings, had just left school when she met Mcxeivior, who had gone to the Zimbabwean capital to do his apprenticeship as a petrol and diesel motor mechanic.

Mika was born on August 11, 1982, in Bulawayo, the second biggest city in Zimbabwe, and raised in the Midlands town of Kwekwe. His father owned a shop where he repaired television sets, video cassette recorders and other electronic equipment.

When Frank Mika died, his son felt the responsibility of breadwinner fell to him.

"I had to find something like an apprenticeship so I could look after the family," Mcxeivior Mika said.

That meant moving to Harare, where he did his apprenticeship from 2000 to 2005 – working mainly on aviation equipment – with a company called Aviation Ground

Services. He continued working there until 2008, when he moved to South Africa.

He and Florence were married in Harare in 2009, but work was in South Africa. They lived in Kempton Park, near O. R. Tambo International Airport, where Mika fixed ground handling equipment.

He trained for further duties whenever he could. Eventually he was part of teams marshalling aircraft, operating tow trucks and power units pulling and pushing aircraft into position, and conducting headset ground-to-cockpit communications for marshalling.

In December 2013, he was one of the operations group sent to Mthatha in the Eastern Cape province to do the marshalling for the arrival of the aircraft carrying the body of Nelson Mandela, for the state funeral and burial at the village of Qunu, where Mandela grew up.

By now, Mika and his wife were looking to emigrate. Although they were materially better off in South Africa than they would have been in Zimbabwe, they were worried about xenophobic attacks that seemed to target Zimbabweans, among others.

Mika wanted to emphasise, though, that not all South Africans were hostile towards foreigners. Most of those he met were "very nice people".

After independence and a national election in 1980, Zimbabwe (formerly Rhodesia) had created a constitution that recognised education as a basic human right. In the 1980s, the numbers of students, teachers and schools exploded. With lessons taught primarily in English, the education system produced a generation of young adults with functional skills in English, literacy and numeracy.

Political and economic turmoil at home fed the flow of educated and skilled workers from Zimbabwe to neighbouring countries and beyond. A popular destination was South Africa, where an ability to speak English was an advantage in the job market.

Some unemployed South Africans saw the immigrant workers as outsiders taking jobs they could have had. (South Africa's

unemployment rate in 2013 was 25 percent of the workforce. In 2019 it was 29 percent, with youth unemployment at 58 percent.)

Several highly publicised attacks on foreigners convinced Mcxeivior and Florence Mika they should look overseas to find a place where they could raise a family in peace and harmony. They believe they've found it in New Zealand.

The nature of life in Zimbabwe is conducive to the development of a multilingual population. It has a world-record 16 official languages, including sign language. The three most widely used are Shona, Northern Ndebele and English.

Mika says most people in Zimbabwe would have seven languages, with English usually the second.

Many of the languages are similar, and some could be mistaken for those used in South Africa, such are the similarities in vernacular and pronunciation, he says.

Asked how many languages he spoke, he said, "Probably more than 15. My mother tongue is Shona, and you get five different languages coming out of that."

"I moved around a lot. I was born in Matabeleland, in Bulawayo, where Northern Ndebele is the main language. I grew up in Kwekwe in the Midlands, speaking Shona. And we originally came from the Eastern Highlands – a place called Mutare – where they speak another language, and we used to go and visit."

Mika and his wife haven't been back to Zimbabwe since they came to New Zealand. They have family there, and had planned to go back to see them this year. But with the Covid-19 pandemic gripping the world, they can't see that happening any time soon.

Mika's work is classed as essential, so at the Scania service centre they are doing four days on, three days off, in two teams of four technicians working at judicious distances from one another.

After hours, Mika keeps fit with at-home workouts and football drills with Tavonga. Both are looking forward to the day they can get back out on the playing field.

# NBA legend Kobe Bryant to enter Hall of Fame

## BASKETBALL

LONDON — Kobe Bryant will be posthumously inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

The five-time NBA champion died in a helicopter crash in January alongside his 13-year-old daughter Gianni and seven others.

Bryant retired from the NBA in 2016 after a career that saw him win NBA MVP in 2008, named Finals MVP twice and earn 18 All-Star selections.

“He was one of the greatest competitors who stepped on the court and made sure his impact was felt on both sides of the ball,” the Hall of Fame said in a statement on Saturday.

“He is ranked 4th on the NBA’s career points list (33,643). We congratulate posthumously 5x

NBA Champion Kobe Bryant.”

Tim Duncan, a five-time NBA champion with the San Antonio Spurs, and Kevin Garnett, who helped the Boston Celtics win the championship in 2008, were also named in the class of 2020.

The trio headline nine inductees who will be enshrined on August 29.

Two-time NBA champion coach Rudy Tomjanovich finally got his call, as did longtime Baylor women’s coach Kim Mulkey, 1000-game winner Barbara Stevens of Bentley and three-time final four coach Eddie Sutton.

Also headed to the Hall this year are former FIBA secretary general Patrick Baumann and Hall of Fame chairman Jerry Colangelo.

Duncan and Garnett were widely perceived to be locks as 15-time NBA All-Stars, while Bryant

died about three weeks before the Hall of Fame said he was a finalist.

“Obviously, we wish that he was here with us to celebrate,” Vanessa Bryant, Kobe’s wife, said on ESPN’s broadcast of the class announcement.

“But it’s definitely the peak of his NBA career and every accomplishment that he had as an athlete was a stepping stone to be here. So we’re incredibly proud of him.”

Garnett is the only player in NBA history with at least 25,000 points, 10,000 rebounds, 5000 assists, 1500 blocks and 1500 steals. He also was part of Boston’s 2008 NBA title.

“This is the culmination,” he said.

“All those hours . . . this is what you do it for, right here. To be able to be called ‘Hall of Famer’ is everything.” — PA



**RECOGNISED:** Former LA Laker Kobe Bryant talks at a news conference in this December 2017 file photo. Bryant and fellow NBA greats Tim Duncan and Kevin Garnett headlined a nine-person group announced on Saturday to join the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. AP file picture



## WINNING NUMBERS

DRAW No. 1948

BONUS NUMBER

WINNING NUMBERS **06 10 11 13 20 30** **31**

Total Lotto prizes **\$1,734,867**

DIVISION	PRIZE MONEY	No. OF WINNERS
ONE 6 winning Nos	<b>\$1,000,000</b>	<b>1</b>
TWO 5 winning Nos plus the Bonus No.	<b>\$20,159</b>	<b>6</b>
THREE 5 winning Nos	<b>\$486</b>	<b>247</b>
FOUR 4 winning Nos plus the Bonus No.	<b>\$53</b>	<b>523</b>
FIVE 4 winning Nos	<b>\$25</b>	<b>9438</b>
SIX 3 winning Nos plus the Bonus No.	<b>\$21</b>	<b>10,962</b>
SEVEN 3 winning Nos	<b>Bonus Ticket</b>	<b>124,104</b>



WINNING NUMBERS **20 10 06 11**

Total Strike prizes **\$158,940**

TOTAL	PRIZE MONEY	No. OF WINNERS
Four out of Four	<b>ROLLOVER</b>	<b>0</b>
Three out of Four	<b>\$500</b>	<b>48</b>
Two out of Four	<b>\$60</b>	<b>2249</b>
One out of Four	<b>Bonus Ticket</b>	<b>53,513</b>



WINNING NUMBER **02**

DIVISION	PRIZE MONEY	No. OF WINNERS
ONE Lotto Division 1 + winning Powerball No.	<b>ROLLOVER</b>	<b>0</b>
TWO Lotto Division 2 + winning Powerball No.	<b>\$24,220</b>	<b>2</b>
THREE Lotto Division 3 + winning Powerball No.	<b>\$860</b>	<b>23</b>
FOUR Lotto Division 4 + winning Powerball No.	<b>\$92</b>	<b>51</b>
FIVE Lotto Division 5 + winning Powerball No.	<b>\$48</b>	<b>741</b>
SIX Lotto Division 6 + winning Powerball No.	<b>\$38</b>	<b>886</b>
SEVEN	<b>Bonus Ticket + \$15.00</b>	<b>9534</b>

32041-01

The Gisborne Herald does not make any assurances as to the accuracy of this information. Please check your tickets at a Lotto shop.

# Good progress in pay talks: Rugby Australia

RUGBY by Adrian Warren and Melissa Woods, AAP

SYDNEY — Rugby Australia didn’t reach an emergency interim pay deal with the Rugby Union Players’ Association (RUPA) on Sunday, but insisted progress was made.

A RA statement said talks had been positive and robust, as they sought to reach an agreement on salary cuts forced by the coronavirus pandemic which has prevented games being played.

The governing body said both parties had agreed to move negotiations forward and ongoing discussions were scheduled for this week.

RUPA chief executive and former Wallabies lock Justin Harrison said on Saturday it might take a week or longer to reach an agreement, given what had transpired in other codes on the same issue.

“Rugby Australia remains focused on securing a fair and reasonable deal with the players that will help protect the long-term future of our game,” CEO Raelene Castle and RA chairman Paul McLean said on Sunday in a statement.

“We also welcome recent comments by World Rugby as it assists all national unions navigate through this very difficult time.

“The players understand that the burden must be shared by everyone in our game and we will look to reach an agreement which is fair and reasonable given the extraordinary circumstances we are in.”

RUPA opted on Sunday not to make any public statement.

Last week, RUPA had complained it had not been given access to financial information before previous meetings

## Folau payout at risk if RA folds: report

MELBOURNE — Axed Wallaby Israel Folau’s multimillion-dollar payout from Rugby Australia could reportedly take a major hit if the sport’s governing body is forced into insolvency.

The former fullback ace was sacked by RA last year over his homophobic social media posts, including one stating hell awaits homosexuals.

The two parties agreed to an out-of-court settlement in December after the Folau sued RA for religious discrimination.

While the terms weren’t made public, it’s understood to be around \$3m, which is the remainder of his four-year contract.

According to The Australian, the settlement is being paid off in instalments with those payments at risk should RA go under.

Should RA be forced to declare itself insolvent, Folau would become an unsecured creditor and depending on its assets, he would likely be paid out only a few cents in the dollar.

Folau has been playing rugby league with French-based club Catalans Dragons in the Super League, although competition is currently suspended due to the coronavirus pandemic.

He is reportedly expecting his first child later this year with former netball star wife, Maria. — AAP

with RA.

Earlier last week, some 75 percent of RA’s non-player workforce were stood down and the governing body announced a \$9.4 million loss.

Castle herself announced she was taking a 50 percent pay cut and members of the RA executive would sacrifice 30 percent of their wage.

Two of Australia’s greatest halfbacks, Nick Farr-Jones and Will Genia, offered their opinions on the problems bedeviling Australian rugby, with neither painting a pretty picture.

“I wouldn’t be surprised if an administrator was appointed in the next fortnight,” Farr-Jones told ABC radio’s The Ticket on Sunday.

The halfback felt his former teammate Phil Kearns had the credentials to take over as CEO if Castle lost the job.

“Phil Kearns has got three-and-a-half decades of being intricately involved in

the game,” Farr-Jones said.

“He knows people, he’s trusted by people and he has been in broadcasting for a long time, and that’s the most important thing RA has to lock away.

“He would be great with securing sponsors and with fans.”

Genia, who retired from international rugby after the 2019 World Cup, said he was “incredibly sad” about the state of Australian rugby and called for unity.

“In a situation like this, it’s easy to point the finger at Raelene and whoever and mismanagement of this and that. But the only way the game can get through this is if everyone works together and looks for solutions, as opposed to just playing up problems,” Genia told AAP.

“Just the image of the game — everyone is so willing to throw each other under the bus, as opposed to wanting to work together to find solutions.”

# Ex-Saints NFL kicker Dempsey dies, aged 73

## AMERICAN FOOTBALL

NEW Orleans Saints great Tom Dempsey has died aged 73 after contracting the coronavirus.

Signed by the NFL franchise in 1969 as an undrafted kicker out of Palomar College, his 63-yard attempt the following year set the NFL record for the longest field goal — a kick that was not surpassed until 2013.

Dempsey, who was born without toes on his right foot and fingers on his right hand, had been

in the grips of Alzheimer’s and dementia since 2012.

He was diagnosed with Covid-19 on March 25 and died on April 4 aged 73.

Saints owner Gayle Benson said: “Our thoughts and prayers are extended to Carlene and the entire Dempsey family on the passing of their dear Tom.

“The New Orleans Saints family is deeply saddened and heartbroken at this most difficult time.

“Tom’s life spoke directly to the power of the human spirit and exemplified his resolute determination to not allow setbacks to impede following his dreams and aspirations,” said the Saints owner.

“He exemplified the same fight and fortitude in recent years as he battled valiantly against illnesses but never wavered and kept his trademark sense of humour.

“He holds a special place in the hearts and minds of the Saints family.” — AAP

# Champion’s husband stymies virtual race effort

## TRIATHLON

SYDNEY — Australia’s triathlon world champion Mirinda Carfrae has found virtual reality competitions created to sustain sport amid the novel coronavirus outbreak have unexpected hazards.

The three-time world ironman champion was competing against Jocelyn

McCauley of the United States, Canada’s Angela Naeth and Jeanni Seymour of South Africa in the inaugural Ironman VR Pro Challenge women’s race when disaster struck.

Carfrae was doing well on the 90 kilometre bike stage when she suffered a virtual mechanical failure. Husband Tim O’Donnell tripped over the cord of

her smart trainer, disconnecting it and putting her out of the race.

“He decided to bring my trophies in here as motivation and when he walked around the back he kicked out the plug. What an idiot,” Carfrae said.

McCauley won the race, which was shown live on Facebook, with Naeth second and Seymour third. — AP

# Squeeze going on clubs, players

FOOTBALL by Rob Harris, AP

ENGLISH Premier League footballers failed to reach an agreement on Saturday with clubs to take 30 percent pay cuts during the coronavirus pandemic, escalating a bitter public row as their union claimed the government would lose out on more than £200 million (around \$NZ415 million) in tax.

"This would be detrimental to our NHS (National Health Service) and other government-funded services," the Professional Footballers' Association said in a statement.

Taking on the Premier League as a whole, the PFA said the £20 million being given to the NHS by the world's richest football competition was "welcome, but we believe it could be far bigger".

The union's strident stance came after further talks on Saturday involving clubs and the league as Liverpool became the latest Premier League side to defy political anger by using a government bailout scheme to furlough some non-playing staff.

The government said it was "concerned" by the standoff between players and their clubs.

"People do not want to see infighting in our national sport at a time of crisis," tweeted Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden, whose cabinet brief covers sport.

"Football must play its part to show that the sport understands the pressures its lower-paid staff, communities and fans face."

Liverpool, who lead the league by 25 points, followed, Bournemouth, Newcastle, Norwich and fellow 2019 Champions League finalists Tottenham Hotspur in furloughing staff.

Under a job retention scheme implemented to help businesses survive the national lockdown, staff can be put on furlough and receive 80 percent of their salaries from the government, up to a maximum of £2500 a month.

Liverpool said it would top up salaries to ensure



**NO AGREEMENT YET:** Manchester City's Raheem Sterling (centre) fights for the ball during an English Premier League football match against Manchester United at Old Trafford, Manchester, last month. Players and the clubs have yet to agree on pay cuts to help the league ride out the coronavirus pandemic. AP picture

staff still received the full amount, but that still means using public funds to pay some staff. Former Liverpool defender Jamie Carragher called that a "poor" move, saying "respect and goodwill" would be lost by the club.

The European champions have been owned for a decade by John Henry's Fenway Sports Group, which also features the Boston Red Sox. Liverpool made a pre-tax profit of £42 million on a turnover of £533 million last year and said "complex" talks were continuing with players about savings on salaries.

A meeting of Premier League clubs on Friday had ended with agreement on the need to ask players to have 30 percent of their pay cut or deferred. But the standoff between the players' union and clubs continues.

"The players are mindful that the combined tax on their salaries is a significant contribution to funding essential public services — which are especially critical at this time," the PFA said in a statement.

"Taking a 30 percent salary deduction will cost the Exchequer (treasury) substantial sums."

If the season cannot be completed, the Premier League could owe broadcasters a reported £762 million. Burnley, who have nine of their 38 games remaining, estimate a cash shortfall of £50 million.

The union raised the prospect of a lengthy spell without games. Reducing pay by 30 percent over a year equated to £500 million, the PFA said, claiming the government would lose out on more than £200 million in tax.

"What effect does this loss of earning to the government mean for the NHS?" the PFA statement continued.

"Was this considered in the Premier League proposal and did the health secretary, Matt Hancock, factor this in when asking players to take a salary cut?"

The PFA said players would still like "precise details" of their commitment settled, recognising a need to help their clubs, non-playing staff, lower-league sides and the health service.

"However, to achieve a collective position for all Premier League players — of which there are many different financial and contractual circumstances from club to club — will take a bit more time," the union said.

There are moves to cut costs at the English game's governing body, the Football Association, with the national teams unable to play and the FA Cup suspended. Broadcaster Sky Sports reported on Saturday that England manager Gareth Southgate had agreed to a 30 percent pay cut.

"The financial implications of the coronavirus are not yet known," the FA said.

"However, as a not-for-profit organisation, we want to ensure that we take the appropriate course of action to support the wider organisation and our employees."

"We will make a further announcement on our next steps in due course."



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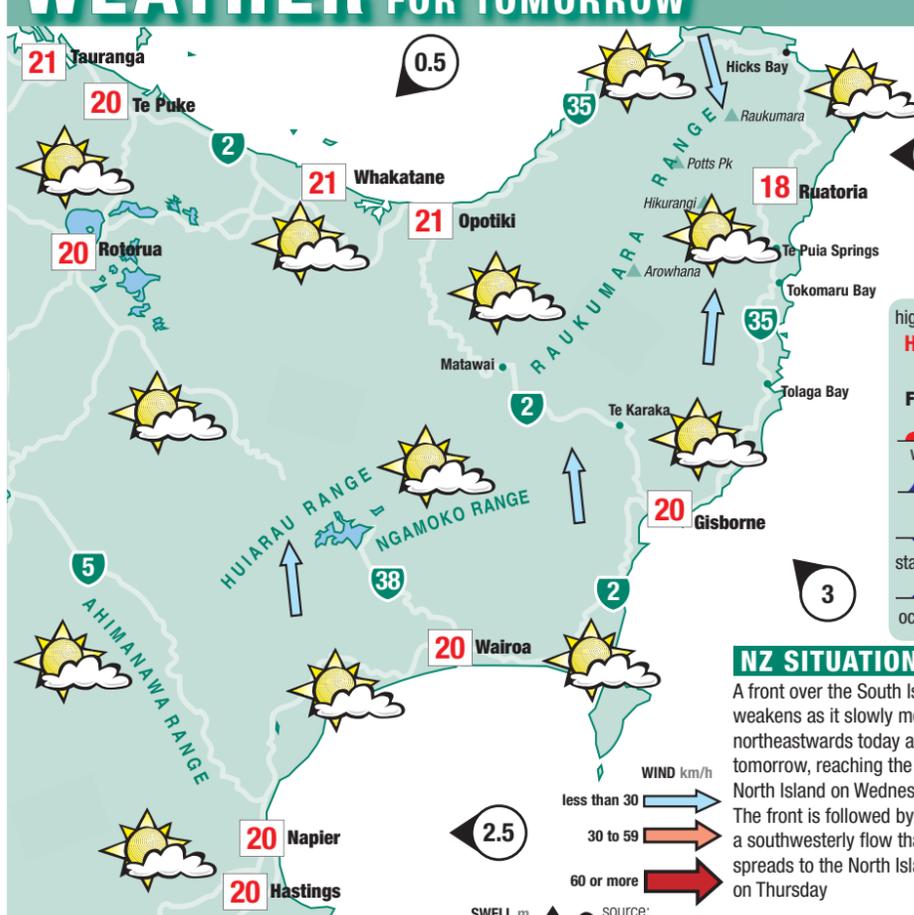
eit.ac.nz | 0800 22 55 348



TE AHO A MĀUI

## WEATHER FOR TOMORROW

6 Apr, 2020



**high low**  
H L

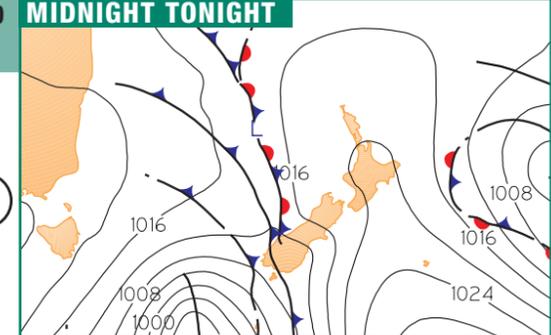
**Fronts**  
warm  
cold  
stationary  
occluded

**WIND km/h**  
less than 30  
30 to 59  
60 or more

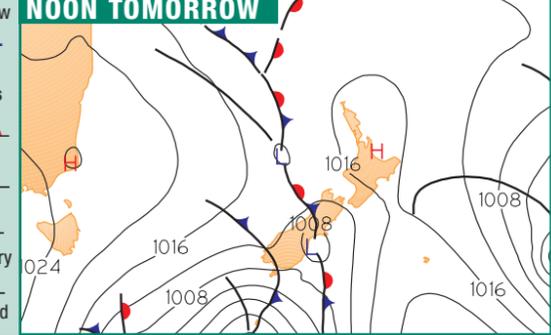
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e.g. S 1m

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### MIDNIGHT TONIGHT



### NOON TOMORROW



### GISBORNE TIDE MOVEMENT

Tuesday Apr 7		Wednesday Apr 8	
am	noon	am	noon
3	6	3	6
6	9	6	9
9	12	9	12
12	3	12	3
3	6	3	6
6	9	6	9
9	12	9	12

Location	High	Low
Hicks Bay	H 5:21am 5:51pm	L 11:46am 12:41pm
Waipiro Bay	H 5:14am 5:44pm	L 11:39am 12:34pm
Tolaga Bay	H 5:02am 5:32pm	L 11:27am 12:22pm
Gisborne	H 4:34am 5:06pm	L 10:50am 11:45pm
Wairoa	H 4:15am 4:45pm	L 10:32am 11:27pm

### SUN-MOON-MAORI FISHING GUIDE

Sun		Moon	
Rise	6:28 am	Rise	6:29 am
Set	5:52 pm	Set	5:50 pm
Set	4:44 am	Set	6:00 am
Rise	5:40 pm	Rise	6:14 pm

Best at	
11:17 am	12:11 pm

### NZ SITUATION

A front over the South Island weakens as it slowly moves northeastwards today and tomorrow, reaching the North Island on Wednesday. The front is followed by a southwesterly flow that spreads to the North Island on Thursday.

### NZ TOMORROW

Auckland	fine	21
Hamilton	fine	22
Tauranga	fine	21
Rotorua	fine	20
Taupo	fine	18
Napier	fine	20
New Plymouth	fine	20
Palmerston North	fine	21
Wellington	showers	18
Christchurch	showers	22
Queenstown	showers	17
Dunedin	showers	18

### GISBORNE SUN PROTECTION ALERT

9:35 AM - 2:40 PM  
PROTECTION REQUIRED  
Slip. Stop. Stap and Wrap  
Data provided by NIWA

### GISBORNE READINGS

Taken at the Airport, for the 24 hours to 9am, Monday 6 Apr 2020

<b>SUNSHINE</b> hours	2.9
To date for April	19.5
Average for April	156.0
To date this year	754.9
To date last year	803.8
<b>WIND</b> km/h	SE 26
Max gust on Sun 5 Apr	SE 26
<b>RAINFALL</b> mm	0.0
To date for April	6.0
Average for April	106.0
To date this year	144.6
To date last year	234.4
<b>EVAPOTRANSPIRATION</b> mm	2.0
Daily average for past week	2.0
<b>TEMPERATURE</b> °C	18.7
Maximum	18.7
Minimum	12.3
Grass minimum	9.0
<b>BAROMETRIC PRESSURE</b>	1025.8
At 9am 6 Apr (hPa)	1025.8
At 9am 6 Apr (inches)	30.29

### WORLD TOMORROW

Adelaide	fine	13	21
Amsterdam	fine	8	18
Bangkok	showers	28	34
Beijing	cloudy	9	18
Berlin	fine	6	21
Brisbane	showers	19	28
Buenos Aires	fine	9	21
Cairo	fine	15	26
Canberra	cloudy	8	18
Cape Town	fine	11	19
Delhi	drizzle	17	33
Frankfurt	fine	6	22
Geneva	fine	6	21
Hong Kong	rain	17	20
London	fine	4	19
Los Angeles	showers	12	18
Melbourne	cloudy	10	16
Moscow	fine	-3	11
New York	cloudy	9	16
Paris	fine	8	19
Perth	fine	20	34
Singapore	thunder	24	34
Stockholm	rain	4	12
Suva	thunder	23	29
Sydney	showers	16	22
Tokyo	fine	7	18
Toronto	fine	4	13

### GIBBORNE CITY

TOMORROW	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
morning min 9 max 20	morning min 9 max 23	morning min 12 max 19	morning min 12 max 19
Fine with high cloud. Light S turning N by evening.	Fine to start, then cloud increasing. Northwesterlies.	Cloudy periods. Showers developing later as NW change SW.	Fine spells. Southwesterlies.

### GIBBORNE REGION

TOMORROW	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
morning min 9 max 20	morning min 9 max 23	morning min 12 max 19	morning min 12 max 19
Becoming fine with some high cloud in the morning. Southerlies turning northerly.	Fine to start, then cloud increasing. Rain about the ranges by evening. Northwesterlies.	Cloudy periods. Showers developing later as northwesterlies change southwest.	Fine spells. Southwesterlies.

For the latest weather info including Weather Warnings visit [metSERVICE.com](http://metSERVICE.com)



**Mika cherishes welcome his family received at club** PAGE 21



**Pressure going on Premier League clubs, players** PAGE 23

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Football ..... 21  
Rugby ..... 22  
Football ..... 23

# Return of NRL could rest on ability to get wacky

**LET'S GET EXPERIMENTAL:** Trent Robinson arrives to meet the fans in Sydney the day after the Sydney Roosters won back-to-back NRL titles, beating Canberra 14-8 at ANZ Stadium last October. Robinson is urging people to be experimental to get NRL restarted after the chaos caused by the coronavirus pandemic. AAP picture

## RUGBY LEAGUE by Pamela Whaley, AAP

SYDNEY — Wacky rules and experimental formats will breathe life back into the NRL if it's cleared to return in 2020, according to Sydney Roosters coach Trent Robinson.

The three-time premiership winner, known as one of the greatest thinkers in the game, is on the NRL's innovation committee.

Led by Wayne Pearce, the committee is tasked with revamping the competition's schedule in preparation for a restart after the coronavirus shutdown.

"If we're going to get this competition on, it's going to be a shortened season," Robinson told Fox League Live last night.

"Let's experiment with stuff that we would never do, that we would never actually try.

"Let's offer a great product. Let's get out there on the world stage and offer the game of rugby league."

The committee will reconvene on Thursday and discuss a range of experimental ideas

including playing in conferences, isolating the players in a bubble and moving the competition to an island.

Isolating teams in a "bubble" would require individuals to self-isolate for 14 days, and then teams to isolate for the same period in locked-down hotels.

Robinson is confident the competition can restart this year but, to do so, rugby league needs to work together and forget rivalries in the meantime.

"We have to stop worrying about our little cocoon of: 'I wonder how the Roosters are going?'" he said.

"I'll get back to that when the competition gets decided but we all become rugby league people now.

"Let's get this game back on as safely as possible and let's experiment with conferences; let's work out how the game looks.

"We're going to have to go into bubbles anyway to do that.

"So how can we ignite some of the things we've talked about for probably two decades, the conference system?"

"How do we light up

people's interest in the competition again in a different way but still 80 minutes of 13 on 13?"

Australian Rugby League chairman Peter V'landys is hell-bent on restarting the NRL season in June or July, giving teams at least a month to complete a mini pre-season.

Robinson believes a fortnight is the minimum amount needed to prepare players.

"I reckon two weeks is the shortest amount of time that you could do," he said.

"If we get going in six to seven weeks, you could do two weeks because they've been training for a long time to get ready for the season.

"If you're talking about four months' time, you might have to take it out to four to five weeks.

"If we get the opportunity to play and train together, I don't think we're going to waste too much time training and not playing.

"If we get the OK to train together and we've done the isolation period that we need to, let's find the shortest possible way to get out there."

