

The Gisborne Herald

TE NUPEPA O TE TAIRAWHITI

TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2020

HOME-DELIVERED \$1.90, RETAIL \$2.20

**SPORT FACING
HUGE
COMEBACK
CHALLENGE**
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**TOLLEY
PLUMMETS
DOWN
NATIONAL
PARTY
RANKINGS**

COVID-19 PAGES 2-4, 6-16, 21-23

- NZ 'on verge of eradicating Covid-19'
- Level 1 at least a month away
- Social distancing non-existent on Auckland train
- Mixed reaction to income relief payment
- WHO suspends trial of drug Trump is taking



PGF \$7.5M PULLED ON PROJECTS

Money repurposed due to Covid-19



PROJECT SETBACK: PGF funding for the Mt Titirangi Puhi Kai Iti Connection project — to be developed at this site at the top of Kaiti Hill — has been withdrawn. The money has been repurposed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Picture by Liam Clayton

by Andrew Ashton

PGF funding of \$7.5 million has been withdrawn from planned projects in Tairāwhiti.

Projects involving Aotearoa Social Enterprise Trust (ASET) and Gisborne District Council have been affected after unused Provincial Growth Fund money was repurposed to help the nation's economic recovery from Covid-19.

ASET, which works to rehabilitate people back into the workforce, planned to set up a food processing facility at Commerce Place industrial park.

The land would have been made available by Trust Tairāwhiti, while \$1.7m of PGF funds would have covered the cost of a shed and food manufacturing and processing plant.

ASET chairman Larry Foster said it was disappointing to see the money go into a national pool but added it could still be possible to establish the processing facility.

"We delayed the start of our project as the build costs were starting to exceed our funding arrangements. We were in the process of looking for local partners or investors to investigate future options for our food processing facility before the lockdown occurred.

"The positive is all the consents, building design and plans have been paid for so there is still an opportunity for a plant to be built on this site.

"Our staff at ASET have been busy over the lockdown period doing what our core business is all about — providing our community with pastoral care,

donating and delivering food parcels, creating employment opportunities and dealing with family violence. We operate out of the Kaiti Mall and specialise in dealing with rangatahi (young people)."

ASET had a great rapport with the local community "and our door is always open to help those in need," Mr Foster said.

A spokeswoman for Regional Economic Development Minister Shane Jones said ASET was rescoping the project so it would not be ready to execute in the short term.

Another \$5.8m of funding has been withdrawn from the district council's Mt Titirangi Puhi Kai Iti Connection project.

"The funding has been withdrawn in the meantime as it is not yet shovel-ready," the spokeswoman said.

"It is important to note that these two projects represent a tiny fraction of the 64 projects worth close to \$238 million that have been announced for the Tairāwhiti region.

"Also, where PGF projects have been affected, the Provincial Development Unit will seek to prioritise other investments in that region."

The Mt Titirangi Puhi Kai Iti Connection project aims to bring together the voyaging, arrival and settlement histories of two cultures, and provide a world-class heritage experience at key sites based around the inner harbour.

The project was a joint application from the council, Ngati Oneone and the Department of Conservation.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



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GAME ON

Sport facing many barriers on comeback trail

by Murray Robertson

CLOSE to 80 percent of the sports organisations in Tairāwhiti expect to be moderately and in some cases significantly impacted by the Covid-19 crisis, and the impact will be long lasting.

Sport Gisborne Tairāwhiti (SGT) has received more than \$100,000 in grant applications as part of the Government's \$15 million support package for sport around the country.

The regional sports trust has been allocated \$211,000 to help sports clubs and organisations meet their costs and get through the crisis.

So far, around \$43,000 has been paid out locally and codes and clubs have been encouraged to contact SGT if they wish to apply.

SGT has compiled a report on the situation sport faces in the region.

"Sports activity ground to a halt during lockdown and funding streams for clubs have been disrupted," chief executive Stefan Pishief said.

"Although the various sports have plans for resumption, the impact of Covid-19 on the regional sporting system will be long lasting.

"We surveyed sport in the region and 45 organisations responded to it."

Mr Pishief said approximately half of the total number of sports organisations and all regional sporting organisations in Tairāwhiti responded to the survey, along with the majority of local associations.

"Sport is an essential vehicle to ensure our community's resilience and wellbeing in the face of a global crisis.

"Throughout lockdown, organisations reported their members feeling isolated from their social networks through not being able to participate.

"Although sports are increasingly allowed to resume activity, they face many barriers as detailed in this report.

"Through this time it's critical that they receive quality and timely support

from key agencies to ensure they can continue to improve quality of life, build essential life skills in our young people and bring Tairāwhiti closer together."

Covid-19 had presented a range of challenges for local sporting organisations like uncertainty, cancellations, reduced funding, reduced income and a shortened winter season.

"Their main concerns are an inability to pay staff salaries or continue day-to-day operations, a decline in membership numbers and the withdrawal of external funding.

"All the winter codes consider they face significant or moderate disruptions to their day-to-day operations and the same when it comes to financial impact.

"There are also serious concerns for the summer codes."

Mr Pishief said the strong message from the survey was that funding was top of mind at the moment.

"Most are battling uncertain futures and are unsure where funding will come from and of the long-term impact on membership, facility use, and from cancellations," he said.

"Around 10 percent of organisations surveyed are not experiencing much of an impact yet but remain unsure of longer-term effects for their codes."

Some clubs and organisations relied heavily on Gaming Trust grants and gaming had been adversely affected by Covid-19.

"We will use the survey to raise awareness around the support that's needed to help our sports get through this," said Mr Pishief.

"We will be taking it to the Gisborne District Council, to key funders and we will direct it to Sport New Zealand, who we anticipate will share it with central government.

"Sport is an essential ingredient in this community and must be given every assistance to survive."

“All the winter codes consider they face significant or moderate disruptions to their day-to-day operations and the same when it comes to financial impact. There are also serious concerns for the summer codes”

—Sport Gisborne Tairāwhiti chief executive Stefan Pishief



LOOKING AHEAD



FOCUS ON THE LAND

- Around 2800 head of cattle were yarded for today's Cattle Fair at Matawhero – prices and comment tomorrow.
- Federated Farmers believes tax policies need close focus as we head into election countdown mode
- The weekly AgriHQ report for the week beginning May 25.

TOMORROW



THE GUIDE

THURSDAY

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Accused admits assaulting man over missing woman

A MAN'S theory about the disappearance of Tolaga Bay woman Jamie Kaiwai was the reason for him assaulting someone at the township's tavern earlier this year, Gisborne District Court was told.

Paikea Tuariki Potaka, 22, pleaded guilty to a charge of assault laid under the Crimes Act and punishable by up to a year's imprisonment.

Judge Turitea Bolstad sentenced him to 80 hours community work.

Police prosecutor Brendan Mills submitted

the inuendo of criminal wrongdoing referred to by Potaka was an aggravating feature of the offence.

According to an agreed summary of facts, Potaka approached the victim in the tavern's garden bar at about 11pm on February 22.

Potaka accused the man of being responsible for the disappearance of Ms Kaiwai.

When the man denied it, Potaka punched him in the head causing him to fall to the ground.

While the man was down and trying to

protect his head with his arms, Potaka delivered about 10 more punches to the back of the man's head and shoulders.

The man suffered a small cut, bruising and soreness.

Counsel Lucy Rishworth said Potaka had known Ms Kaiwai his whole life.

After the initial verbal confrontation, the pair were shaking hands when the victim told Potaka to hit him if he thought he was responsible for Ms Kaiwai's disappearance.

Judge Bolstad noted Potaka had previous convictions. She reminded him people could not go around taking the law into their own hands or hitting people.

■ Jamie Kaiwai, 27, has been missing for more than seven months. The mother of one was last seen on Friday, October 11 at the Tolaga Bay wharf carpark. Her family continue to do everything they can to get to the bottom of her disappearance, and the police investigation is ongoing.

Tolley banking on better show in election

EAST COAST MP Anne Tolley, who publicly supported deposed National Party leader Simon Bridges, appears to be the biggest loser in the caucus reshuffle announced yesterday by new leader Todd Muller.



ANNE TOLLEY

Mrs Tolley, the Deputy Speaker of the House, has been ranked at no 32, and although the caucus rankings are not the party list rankings, which will be used in September's general election, the two lists are expected to be similar.

Mrs Tolley, the region's general electorate MP since 2005, has previously announced she will stand as a list candidate only.

If her ranking on the National Party list for this year's election is somewhere around 32, she would not be elected on current polling.

Last week Mrs Tolley told the Herald she was at 21 in the last party list, and was hoping for a higher ranking if the party supported her hopes of becoming Speaker of the House after the election.

Under current polling, she would not be returned to parliament if ranked at 21, she said.

But National would improve in the polls when voters started to consider economic issues rather than Covid-19 related health issues, Mrs Tolley said. The party would not be polling 30 percent at election time.

Mrs Tolley decided to stand as a list candidate only this year because of the demands and the Wellington-centric nature of being Deputy Speaker of the House.

Crash victims still in hospital

TWO young men seriously injured in two vehicle crashes on Friday night remain in hospital, one still in a critical condition.

They were involved in crashes in Sponge Bay Road and in Ngakoroa Road at Ormond.

The young man in his late teens from the Sponge Bay crash, in which a stationwagon left the road and ended up upside down in a tree, remains in a critical condition in Waikato Hospital. "He remains in our intensive care unit," a Waikato spokeswoman said.

The other man, aged 27, was flown to Middlemore Hospital in Auckland directly from the crash scene by the Trust Tairāwhiti Rescue Helicopter. "He remains in a stable condition," a Middlemore spokeswoman said.



REDEPLOYED: Kupa Simpson receives instruction during heavy equipment training as part of the Tairāwhiti regional economic support package redeployment programme. Photo by The Black Balloon

Economic support package put to work

TAIRAWHITI'S regional economic support package redeployment programme is intended to reduce the impacts of Covid-19, but the \$23.755m package will provide so much more for the region, Mayor Rehette Stoltz says.

While it initially aimed to assist displaced forestry workers, the scope of the programme has now been broadened to include all who have been affected by Covid-19, with people already having completed training and started their new jobs under the initiative.

The programme encompasses five key projects and aims to provide work and training for up to 200 people.

"At the very heart of each are the displaced workers who will have meaningful employment with the opportunity for training, new qualifications, additional skills and the possibility of long term jobs," Mrs Stoltz said.

"The difference this will make to whanau in our region is phenomenal. There is a real sense of excitement and anticipation about this already coming

through."

Work continued during Covid-19 Alert Levels 3 and 4 and when New Zealand moved to Alert Level 2 everything was ready to go, with phone interviews done to ensure projects could start as soon as possible.

Thirty-eight people are already working on projects.

These include environmental work across the rohe including on Titirangi (Kaiti Hill), parks and coastal beaches, the re-metalling of unsealed roads throughout the region and the clearance of hazardous trees from local routes. Eastland Group has been subcontracted to remove trees from powerlines in partnership with local arborists.

Trust Tairāwhiti is doing workforce development plans for key sectors to assist with the economic recovery of the region.

Workers who had lost jobs as a result of Covid-19 are referred into the programme from the Ministry of Social Development.

The \$23.755m programme is part of

\$28.205m allocated to Tairāwhiti in March, with the remainder going to local Government agencies, the Ministry of Social Development, Department of Conservation, New Zealand Transport Agency and Ministry of Primary Industries.

It is part of a wider \$100m national redeployment package.

"Creating employment pathways like these means long-term solutions for Tairāwhiti," says Mayor Stoltz.

"As a council we are committed to doing our part in paving the way for the economic recovery of our region. This is a big help for many while also benefiting the wider community."

Regional Economic Development Minister Shane Jones said he was delighted to see the funding provided by the Government to Tairāwhiti had been put to great use.

"It is providing work opportunities for those displaced through the Covid-19 pandemic and having a positive impact on the region through the work being carried out."

Mayor disappointed but 'we understand'

FROM PAGE 1

The original PGF application in 2018 stated it would provide a world-class site of unique cultural heritage, improve visitor access and circulation, and help diversify the region's tourism offering.

The project involves two parts — a multi-use wananga and panoramic viewing facility and the development of the Ruatānuika site located between the

summit and Puha Kai Iiti (Cook Landing Site).

Plans for the site include a new lookout, interpretative signage, public furniture and a significant sculpture to acknowledge Te Maro, who was killed following Captain Cook's landing.

Nationwide, a total of \$600m of PGF funding is being refocused on projects with more immediate economic benefits,

The funding comprises repurposed PGF money and unallocated funding from

the Regional Investment Opportunities Contingency.

"Whilst we are disappointed by the decision, we understand that the Government will be reviewing most of their funding decisions in light of the Covid-19 pandemic," Mayor Rehette Stoltz said.

"We will continue with getting the project shovel-ready and reapply for external funding when we are ready to proceed."

FAMILY NOTICES

Deaths

Deaths

KURU, Jack. — Jack and Sue looked after my daughter Emma as one of their own, with an open home and unconditional love. The list would be endless. Jack was a legend and such a generous man; you asked, he gave. Such a humble man. All my thoughts and hugs to Sue and family. Jack will be missed and remembered. Jack has carried his journey on and beyond. God bless you all.
- Arohanui, Mandy and whanau.

SYMES, (nee Smith), Winnie Flora. — Passed away peacefully, at Wairoa Hospital, on Friday 22nd May 2020. Loved wife of the late Frank (Tinker) Symes. Loved Mother of Stuart (dec) and Pauline, Yvonne and Tom Wairau, Graeme and Johnina, John and Alice, Anthony and TeWai, Stephen, Cecil and Bonnie. Much loved Bubu to her 26 Grandchildren and 32 Great-Grandchildren. A private family funeral service has been held. All messages can be sent to 24 Delhi Street, Wairoa 4108.

Winnie Flora Symes born 12 February 1933. Silana, Levuka, Ovalau, Fiji. Loved daughter of Tom and Rachael Smith (nee Gwilliam). Loved elder sister of Herbert, Cecil and Lynette. Loved aunty to Tania, Rachael (dec), Dawn and Thomas.

"Cere tu ko Ovalau, Mosi vei au, ni o Lovoni, Na Loloma Sa Kena I Yau."

"When you see Ovalau Island, Lovoni is the heart of the Island which is full of Love."

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TAKING A WALK: Contractors are hard at work replacing city centre footpaths. Here, the Eastland Asphalts team work on the Kahutia St footpath between Peel St and Customhouse St. The project is part of Gisborne District Council's footpath renewal programme and will cost \$137,000. The total cost of this year's full footpath renewal programme is \$307,000, funded by the New Zealand Transport Agency minor improvements fund and the council. Picture by Liam Clayton

Brakes set to be put on free parking

by Aaron van Delden

FULLY free parking in Gisborne city appears unlikely to last but the district council is looking to make it cheaper to park in the city centre than it was before the Covid-19 lockdown.

All downtown car parks have been free of charge since Alert Level 4 came into force in late March and the council took its parking wardens off the streets.

Councillors will get to decide tomorrow what parking savings to offer in a bid to attract people to the city centre.

Fully free parking is not among the options put forward in a report to councillors.

The alternatives include two hours of free parking each day, free parking on Saturdays or making all metered parking \$1 an hour.

The savings were an immediate response to the pandemic and associated economic downturn, the report said.

Accordingly, councillors would be asked to choose whether to apply the savings for three, six or 12 months.

Longer-term changes would be

considered once the council had a fuller picture of what was needed to aid recovery, the report said.

Although the council had received praise for the current free parking regime, some retailers were crying foul over city workers taking up the spaces outside their shops and affecting trade.

They told The Herald they believed workers were taking advantage of the situation by parking close to their offices, while the free all-day car parks on the outskirts of the CBD that they would normally occupy sat empty.

The report said paid parking was often criticised but, as a user-pays system, remained the fairest way to ensure short-term and medium-term parking was available.

Parking enforcement in the CBD generates about \$685,000 for the council's coffers each year.



Making metered car parks free for two hours each workday and all day Saturday would have the biggest impact on revenue, taking away about \$107,000 over three months.

Making all metered car parks \$1 an hour would take away about \$81,500 and free parking for two hours every day would lessen revenue by about \$42,000.

The report said rates might need to go up to offset the shortfall.

It did not elaborate on the potential impact of the changes on parking wardens.

The CBD's 806 metered car parks had an occupancy rate of just 17.5 percent in 2018/19.

The city also had approximately 1000 free all-day car parks within walking distance of the main street, Gladstone Road.

Other parking options being presented to councillors at tomorrow's finance and performance committee meeting include free weekday parking in the Grey Street carpark behind Farmers or leasing all Grey Street car park spaces to businesses.

Salvation Army opens up again

THE Salvation Army is back in operation under Alert Level 2 and is taking all Covid-19 precautions.

"We have opened the doors again to the public," said Captain Kevin Waugh.

The Army's foodbank is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1pm to 3pm.

A one-in, one-out system is operating, with social distancing. Hand sanitiser will be provided.

Visitors will be asked to provide contact details.

"Our budgeting service is also operating," said Captain Waugh.

"People can phone for an appointment and to talk with our financial mentor.

"They should ring 868-9468 or come into the centre and make an appointment.

Johnathan Pere, spokesman for East Coast Community Foodbank, said the foodbank remained closed.

The foodbank was updating systems and "sorting out drivers".

"We are currently implementing some changes if and when we are hit with a pandemic again," he said.

Co-op Bank stops giving out cash

The Co-operative Bank, which has a Gisborne branch, has announced it will soon operate a one-way cash system.

From June 8, customers will be able to make cash deposits — but not cash withdrawals.

Marketing communications manager Jessica Wallace said the decision was not due to any concerns about cash and Covid-19.

"When our customers visit our branches, our team will be there to support them with everyday banking needs, and they will still be able to deposit cash (notes only).

"This change is because as our digital offering grows, customers are using our services differently.

"Most customer transactions are now done via internet banking, our mobile app, EFTPOS or at ATMs."

Near-record cart-in numbers at port

by Murray Robertson

EASTLAND Port has exported 285,000 tonnes of logs since it was granted dispensation to operate during the final stages of Alert Level 4.

The port has gone close to its record for daily cart-in of logs.

The port was granted dispensation from Level 4 restrictions on April 21 and on top of the logs exported since then has handled 1000 tonnes of kiwifruit on one vessel, and a total 13 ships in all.

"The restart of the port during Alert Level 4 was a huge effort from everyone in the regional supply chain," said Eastland Port chief operating officer

Andrew Gaddum.

"The efficiency and pace at which it was achieved is a credit to the passion and drive of our industry, and all the local companies it serves.

"Since port operations resumed, cart-ins of logs have been steadily increasing. So much so, that last week we were very close to beating our best weekly cart-in ever."

A total 70,338 jas (tonnes) of logs were trucked to the port last week.

"The current cart-in record is 71,387 jas, achieved in December 2019.

"Strong cart-in numbers are vital to the successful operation of the port," Mr Gaddum said.

"On average, a log will only stay on port for eight days before it is loaded on to a ship.

"To ensure this level of turnover, we need a strong number of logs coming into the port, and ship bookings to take them away."

Four log ships are scheduled to visit Eastland Port between now and next Tuesday.

Mr Gaddum said that was a typical number.

"On average, log ships book with us around 10 days before arrival. Bookings will often come in waves as various shipping companies work out their schedules."

Lull in forest seeding after last year's mast

DEPARTMENT of Conservation monitoring shows New Zealand's forests are having a lull in seeding after last year's mega mast, which will lead to fewer predators in some areas.

Beech and some other forest trees seed every two to six years in what is known as a mast.

The mass seeding feeds native species but also fuels a rodent boom and upsurge in stoats, which has devastating impacts on native wildlife, if not controlled.

DoC uses climate modelling to predict forest masts a year ahead, then monitors the following summer to check if seed is present.

Along with predator monitoring, this information is important for predator control planning.

Recent seed sampling results confirm there is no significant beech forest mast this year, as forecast, said DoC principal science adviser Graeme Elliott.

"We finished seed sampling in March before the Covid-19 lockdown and results show there is little or no beech seed across the South Island and only a moderate mast at several North Island sites. "Rimu sampling also showed very little ripe fruit and new tips indicating that there will be no rimu mast this year or next."

DoC's latest modelling, using climate data from the past two summers, also indicates there will be

no major beech mast in 2021.

"After the massive beech and rimu mast last year, our forests are conserving resources and taking a break from widespread seeding.

"This means we are likely to see fewer rats and stoats in many areas and can refocus our predator control plans accordingly," said Graeme Elliott.

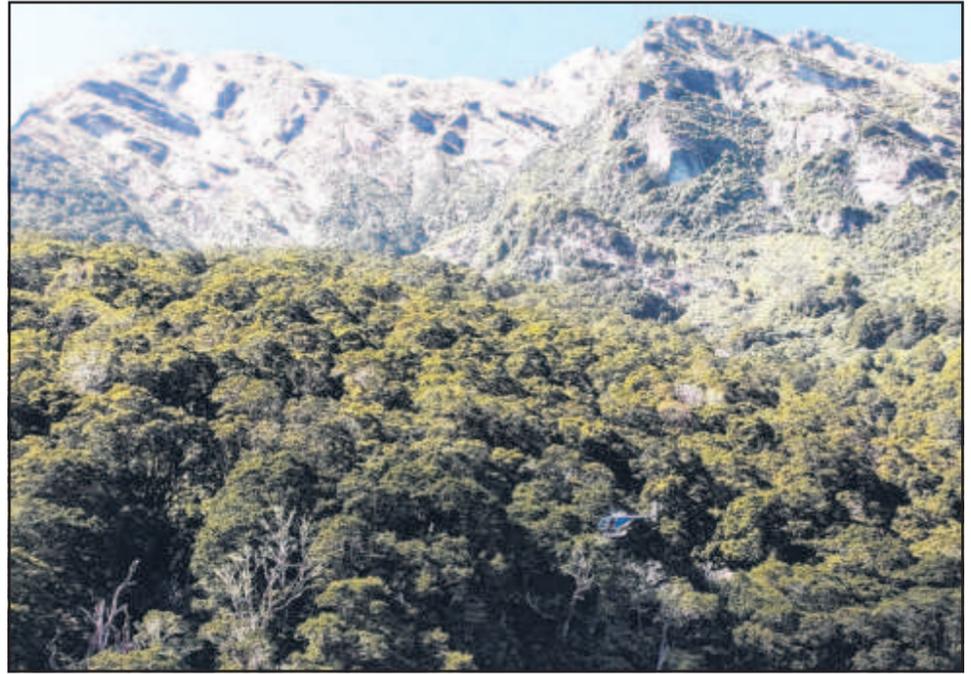
DoC's seed sampling involved snipping branches by helicopter from beech and rimu trees at selected sites throughout the country.

More than 1100 beech trees and 600 rimu trees were sampled at 46 sites. Only sites in the Kaimanawa and Kaweka forest parks showed moderate seed present.

NIWA provides DoC with data from its virtual climate station network and this is used in the Delta-T model to predict beech masts, which appear to be triggered by a significant temperature increase between consecutive summers.

Modelling predicts seeding is unlikely in most of New Zealand's beech forests in 2021, except in the northern tip of the South Island and north of Lake Wakatipu in Otago where some seeding is possible.

With no major forest mast occurring this year, DoC is planning its Tiakina Nga Manu predator control programme over about 550,000ha of conservation land, which will include North Island



MODELLING DATA: DoC sampling of beech and rimu trees has shown a lull in seeding this year. Picture by DoC

areas that missed out on predator control in last year's largely South Island mast response programme.

The national programme is focused on protecting the most at-risk populations of native species such as kokako, kiwi, kaka, kea, whio/blue

duck, kakariki karaka/orange-fronted parakeet, mohua/yellowhead, tuke/rock wren, long and short-tailed bats/pekapeka, frogs/pepeketaua and giant land snails.

It is also aimed at protecting native forests from the impact of possums.

Twenty-one years down the track

Whinray Reserve restoration brings birdsong back to Motu

by Mark Peters

IN 1770, gentleman scientist Joseph Banks described the almost overwhelming volume and melody of birdsong in Queen Charlotte Sound.

"This morn I was awakd by the singing of the birds ashore from whence we are distant not a quarter of a mile, the numbers of them were certainly very great who seemd to strain their throats with emulation perhaps; their voices were certainly the most melodious wild musick I have ever heard, almost imitating small bells but with the most tuneable silver sound imaginable, to which maybe the distance was no small addition."

Such forests are mostly silent now, as predators such as rats and stoats have exterminated many bird species.

But through the Whinray Eco Trust, Motu community members and other volunteers aim to turn the clock back and replicate the Queen Charlotte Sound's cacophony of birdsong at Whinray Scenic Reserve, said Ecoworks co-founder Steve Sawyer.

After 21 years of forest restoration, the reserve is on track to achieve the dream of restoring the level of birdlife Banks experienced during James Cook's venture into New Zealand.

"Forest bird populations have increased massively since 2014 when intensive rat control began.

"Prior to this, the forest was very quiet with extremely low bird numbers. I think we got there just in time — before we lost key species.

"Over recent years, we have recorded flocks of 30 kereru in neighbouring gardens in Motu."

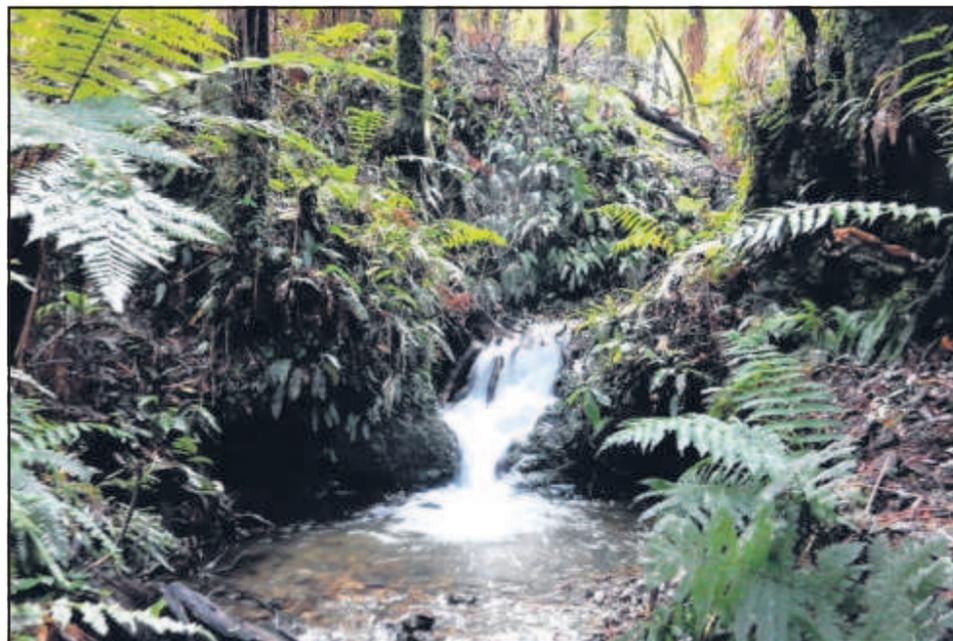
Miomiro, mokomoko and more in Motu

"The North Island robin was also a rare find, and we now have breeding pairs scattered across the reserve."

Robins are badly impacted by rats and stoats, and, because the females incubate the eggs, they are often killed first, said Steve.

While robins might be spotted in some forests, most robin populations are made up of males on the search for a mate.

"This summer, the robins will be trained to feed on meal worms. They will be monitored closely by Carol Wakelin and



Tina Drummond so we can gauge how well they are breeding in the reserve."

Other species such as North Island tomtit/miomiro, whitehead/popokotea, rifleman/titipounamu, bellbird/korimako, warbler/riroriro and falcon/karearea are also commonly seen and heard. "Even the North Island kaka has returned recently."

At ground level, one of the most exciting discoveries recently made at the reserve was that of the striped skink.

"This is a small tree-climbing lizard from the East Coast of New Zealand.

"After years of pest control, it has recovered and lives within mature totara forest in Whinray Reserve."

The native long-tailed bat population is also flourishing.

To monitor the bats, Whinray Eco Trust members use acoustic recorders that detect the mammal's ultra-high frequency clicks as they navigate their way along forest-covered streams inside the reserve.

Native Hochstetter's frogs are more abundant in the pest management area.

"Searches during the early 2000s often revealed nothing, but, over the past few years, we have found three new colonies in small gully heads."

All three colonies are protected by pest trapping.

Kiwi thriving

Eighteen out of every 20 kiwi chicks are killed each year by stoats, which means New Zealand's brown kiwi population is disappearing rapidly.

In the past 21 years, however, the stoat control project has allowed kiwi and many other species to recover.

When restoration work started at Whinray Scenic Reserve in 1999, only eight kiwi remained.

Ferrets and other pests had killed all but the last brown kiwi in the area.

Thanks to the efforts of the Motu community and Whinray Eco Trust, who manage pest control and wildlife recovery in the reserve, the site is now home to more than 30 adult and juvenile kiwi.

Many others live on private farmland in the surrounding Motu area.

Eight kiwi are radio tagged at Whinray Reserve and breeding is set to start again.

The first eggs are expected to be laid in July this year.

Radio transmitters last only 12 months and are being replaced with new, \$360 VHF radio transmitters that will enable the Whinray Kiwi team to monitor the birds and their breeding this season.



CACOPHONY OF SOUND: The restoration of the Whinray Scenic Reserve in Motu has seen forest bird populations increase, such as the North Island robin (above). Pictures supplied

Pest control

Over the past 21 years, several hundred stoats have been removed.

As well as stoats, the pest control programme at Whinray Reserve and the greater Motu area has controlled more than 2500 possums, and at least 8000 ship rats, ferrets, weasels, wild cats, deer and pigs.

"This has allowed the bush to regenerate, forest birds to breed successfully and even lizards, weta and native bats to increase hugely in number," Steve said.

This is all thanks to a 21 year effort by the local Motu community and the many sponsors and supporters in the Tairāwhiti community and across New Zealand who have helped the Trust make restoration, Steve said.

"The Whinray Scenic Reserve is getting better with age.

"It is now one of the only untouched forest reserves in the Gisborne and East Cape Region to hold such a variety of amazing species within original 800-year-old kahikatea-matai forest.

"The Whinray Scenic Reserve is definitely worth a visit on a sunny morning."

Four-week wait for Level 1

Relief for churches, funerals as limit goes to 100

by Derek Cheng, NZ Herald

WELLINGTON — Kiwis face at least four more weeks of Alert Level 2, despite barely any new Covid-19 cases and the limit on all public gatherings being raised to 100 from Friday.

Physical distancing obligations and limits on social gatherings remain, but from Friday there can be 100 people at weddings and funerals — as well as private parties.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said the low number of new Covid-19 cases, including only three in the past fortnight, allowed the 10-person limit on gatherings and 50-person limit on funerals and tangi and church services to be eased. Private parties were also allowed from Friday.

However, instead of increasing the limit in stages, as Australia is doing, Ardern said it could jump straight to 100 from midday Friday.

But New Zealand must stay at Alert Level 2 for at least a further month.

Cabinet will review the Level 2 settings on June 8 — but will not consider whether the nation is ready to move to Level 1 until June 22.

If ready, Kiwis would be given a few days' notice before the change.

The latest move is likely to be welcomed by event organisers, churches, wedding planners and funeral directors who have all been stymied by the restrictions to date.

But Professor Michael Plank, from Te Punaha Matatini and Canterbury University, yesterday said it was a "cause for concern".

"Covid-19 doesn't tend to spread in ones and twos. It tends to spread to a large number of people in one go at big, social gatherings, such as a wedding or bar," Plank said. "If this happens, trying to trace 100 people and all their contacts is a lot harder than if there were just 10."

Ardern clarified that the three Ss — seated, single server, and separation — will still apply for bars and restaurants to reduce mingling with strangers, meaning public dance floors must stay empty.

But private parties with dance floors have been given the green light,

where physical distancing rules will be effectively reduced to guidelines rather than obligations.

Asked about people planning a party for Friday night, Ardern said: "Keep a list of who you've invited."

The current settings under Level 1 have no restrictions on social gatherings, and no obligations — only an encouragement — for physical distancing. Border limits will stay.

No new cases of Covid-19 were reported yesterday, and with no new recoveries, active cases remain at 27.

Yesterday the Ministry of Health published its definition of elimination — a broad range of control measures to stop the transmission of Covid-19.

"Elimination does not mean eradicating the virus permanently from New Zealand; rather it is being confident we have eliminated chains of transmission in our community for at least 28 days and can effectively contain any future imported cases from overseas."

It is unclear if that meant 28 days of no new cases was a prerequisite for success.

Director general of health Ashley Bloomfield said elimination was an ongoing process.

"There's still a pandemic out there. Even if we're confident there's no transmission of disease inside the country, the possibility of it coming in means we need to maintain an elimination approach.

"If we do get a case, we need to be able to test, we need to be able to isolate and contact trace."

A 28-day Covid-free window was similar to a definition proposed yesterday in a University of Otago public health blog, authored by professors Nick Wilson, Michael Baker, and Martin Eichner, and doctors Matthew Parry and Ayesha Verrall.

The modelling they outlined showed that no new cases for between 27 and 33 days meant Covid-19 was eradicated with 95 percent probability. For a 99 percent level of probability, the blog said, it would have to be between 37 to 44 days.

Meanwhile Otago associate professor Brian Cox said there were five active cases outside of the main clusters, and two weeks since an out-of-cluster case

Otago associate professor Brian Cox said there were five active cases outside of the main clusters, and two weeks since an out-of-cluster case was identified. This indicated "we are on the verge of completely eradicating Covid-19".



CAUTIOUS: The leap to much larger public gatherings has been called "a cause for concern". NZ Herald picture

was identified.

This indicated "we are on the verge of completely eradicating Covid-19".

The risk of importing cases meant border checks — including testing of passengers before they depart and as they arrive — should be in place before any travel between Covid-free countries might be allowed, he added.

Ardern said a trans-Tasman Covid-free bubble was still on the cards, and could

even happen with some Australian states if not all of them had the virus contained.

Both countries would need to be satisfied that the chances of spreading the virus between the countries was effectively zero, she added.

Yesterday the Government said Kiwis who lost their jobs due to the Covid-19 crisis will be able to get \$490 a week tax-free for 12 weeks.

Good news for leaders of all faiths

by Kim Moodie, NZ Herald

AUCKLAND — Church leaders and funeral directors are welcoming the relaxed limit on social gatherings to 100 people, allowing services to inch closer to pre-Covid conditions.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern yesterday announced that the change will take effect from midday Friday, allowing churches to resume services and more mourners to attend funerals and tangi.

Christchurch's Anglican Bishop Peter Carrell said he welcomed the move and was happy that parishes could safely resume meeting for worship.

"Lockdown has been a challenging time, and I appreciate the Government has had to balance health, economic, and cultural needs and that it has taken a cautious approach to date," he said. "I'm sure this will be good news for leaders of all faith groups."

But Level 2 rules will linger as worshippers gather for prayer, as churches remain vigilant about hygiene protocols, social distancing and contact-tracing regimens.

Funeral Directors Association president Gary Taylor also welcomed the announcement, saying it would allow more people a chance to say goodbye to a loved one.

Taylor said the previous funeral restrictions, capped at 50 people, added pressure to already grieving families to decide who could and could not attend the funeral.

While the strict hygiene, physical distancing and contact tracing rules would also remain in place at services, Taylor was encouraged by Cabinet's June 22 date to decide on a move to Level 1. Ardern said yesterday's announcement was an intention to give people notice of the change, but she was also mindful of religious communities that normally congregate on Fridays.

Only 10 people were initially allowed at a funeral and tangi at Level 2. But that number was extended to 50 people on May 13 after the Government came under fire for allowing restaurants and sports events to have up to 100 people.



Dr Mohammed Rizwan

Last Sunday, May 17, Destiny Church in Auckland held a service for the first time since the lockdown — and its pastor, Bishop Brian Tamaki, said it was an act of "civil disobedience".

Tamaki was among many leaders to express their frustration at the 10-person limit, saying churches

could easily comply with social distancing rules.

No level 2 restrictions appeared to have been flouted at the service, despite Tamaki suggesting he had broken the law by opening the church doors and saying at the time he was willing to be arrested.

Otago Muslim Association chairman Mohammed Rizwan said he was yet to talk with his council, but he expected the Dunedin mosque would be open for daily prayers five times a day.

Friday prayers would typically attract gatherings of more than 100 people.

Options could include dispersing people into two or three sessions.

"I think people will be relieved... relieved and happy," Dr Rizwan said.

Family First NZ welcomed Friday's police decision clarifying the previous conflicting advice relating to the meeting of churches.

An internal police guideline which supplements the Operational Policing Guidelines on Alert Level 2 says that "the Covid-19 Public Health (Alert Level 2) Order 2020 is silent on places of worship specifically".

Police guidelines included: "Permit no more than 100 people in the place of worship at any one time not including workers."

This was in conflict with statements by the Prime Minister and advice on the Ministry of Health websites, Bob McCoskrie said.

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Passengers pile into train during after-school rush

AUCKLAND — An Auckland commuter was shocked to find themselves crammed on an afternoon train service yesterday as school children piled into the carriage.

After nearly two months of lockdown, with physical distancing rules still in place, the passenger said train-goers were “bunched together” and stood packed in the aisle when all of the seats were filled.

“No one was checking how many people were coming on board,” he said.

“We’d been in lockdown so long and to go into a place where physical distancing wasn’t being observed, it was really alarming.”

At Alert Level 2, people are urged to maintain physical distancing while out and about, staying 2m apart in public and in retail stores, and 1m apart in the workplace, at cafes, or restaurants.

As the westbound train pulled into the Newmarket station shortly after 3.15pm, schoolchildren began to pile onboard, sitting shoulder to shoulder.

But just a few stops later, all the seats were filled as commuters crammed inside.

“The train got really full — so full that children were standing in the corridors. They were bunched right up, there was no physical distancing whatsoever.

“I’m not blaming the children, they need to get home from school. But I think it needs to be managed better.”

The experience was “insanity” when compared to the strict rules hospitality venues and bars had to operate under at Level 2, the passenger said.



OVERCROWDED TRAINS: An Auckland commuter was shocked to see a packed carriage with students standing shoulder to shoulder. Picture supplied

“I’ve seen that AT buses are counting how many people are aboard. I can’t understand the inconsistencies between buses and trains.”

An Auckland Transport spokesman said it was disappointing to see that some passengers hadn’t followed physical distancing rules.

“We will be reminding the schools and their students what the rules are,

everyone has to play their part.

He said that schoolchildren had been mixing with other customers at the Newmarket and Grafton stations, leading to Transdev staff working to solve the issue on three Western Line services from Britomart — at 3.02pm, 3.12pm and 3.22pm.

“Transdev staff ensure that customers do not board three out of the six carriages

at Britomart and Parnell,” he said.

“When the trains arrive at Grafton and Newmarket, they are met by Transdev staff, AT Transport Officers, Aviation Security officers, Armourguard staff and school teachers who by then have briefed and organised the children on the platform.”

Schoolchildren then board the carriages reserved for pupils and are monitored by staff at the Transdev Operations Centre throughout the rest of their journey.

“Public announcements from the Operations Centre are made throughout in support of the process.”

Overall, those aboard AT services had maintained good levels of physical distancing, he said.

It comes as Air New Zealand passengers brazenly burst their bubbles aboard a recent Auckland to Queenstown flight, standing shoulder to shoulder in the aisle.

“I felt vulnerable, really unsafe,” a passenger on the flight told The NZ Herald. “That disembarkment ruined everything I’ve been doing for the last two months.”

“Every rule has been broken in this five minutes of disembarking the plane. That one process could restart the whole thing.”

An Air New Zealand spokesman said it appeared the disembarkation process on the flight did not take place in accordance with the airline’s new process and staff would be looking into the incident.

— NZ Herald



INVESTIGATION INTO DEATH OF ONE-YEAR-OLD: A homicide investigation has started following the death of a toddler in Clover Park on May 23. File picture

Homicide investigation

AUCKLAND — Police have launched a homicide probe after a one-year-old died in the Auckland suburb of Clover Park.

Police attempted to revive the child after being called to a house on May 23. The child died at the scene.

There have been no charges or arrests and police say the investigation is ongoing.

IN Porirua this morning, a pedestrian is in serious condition after being hit by a vehicle. Police say they were called to the scene on Driver Crescent in Cannons Creek just before 7am.

Two ambulances attended the scene and the patient was taken to Wellington Hospital.

A MAN has died following a workplace accident last night.

The incident happened on Unity Drive in Rosedale, an industrial area on

Auckland’s North Shore.

It is understood the incident was at the Alto Packaging facility.

THE search for two Tasman trampers missing for over a fortnight has been impacted again by bad weather.

Jessica O’Connor and Dion Reynolds, both 23, set off into the Kahurangi National Park on May 9.

After they failed to return, police launched a search and rescue operation with support from FENZ, LandSAR, USAR, NZDF, Mt Cook Alpine Cliff Rescue, and volunteers, but it has so far been unsuccessful.

Now, land and air searches have been suspended due to “unfavourable conditions” overnight and on Monday. There was up to 100 millimetres of rain forecast.

Police say it isn’t safe to continue to search currently. — NZ Herald

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Winners, losers of pay top-up

Two-tier welfare system a 'slap in the face' for some

by Simon Collins, NZ Herald

AUCKLAND — Redundant recruitment co-ordinator Leah Pao is overjoyed at a new \$490-a-week "income relief payment" that will more than double her income on the dole.

"I think it's amazing, especially for me," said Pao, 29, whose job with Qantas ended suddenly on April 3 after only nine months in the role.

"I was going from a salary, which I was really privileged to get, and what I'm on now is a third of what I was getting, so the \$490 will definitely help," she said.

But Tina Barnett, 56, whose job as a table games supervisor for SkyCity will end on June 19 after almost 17 years, will miss out on the new payment because she is getting a redundancy payout of more than \$30,000.

The Government reckons about 230,000 people who lose their jobs due to Covid-19 between March 1 and October 30 this year will get either the \$490-a-week fulltime payment or a \$250 a week part-time payment for 12 weeks at a cost of \$1.2 billion.

Auckland Action Against Poverty advocate Brooke Fiafia welcomed the payment, which you can get if you lose your job, even if your partner is still working — as long as they don't earn over \$2000 a week.

"This is a breakthrough because it's individualised. This is exactly what we have been campaigning for."

But it also creates what Fiafia described as "two tiers of unemployed — those deserving of liveable incomes and those who are not".

All 305,000 people who were on benefits on February 29 will stay on normal benefit rates, which are \$250.74 a week for a single adult aged 25 or over, such as Leah Pao, or \$375.17 for a single parent with children, such as



BOOSTED INCOME: Leah Pao, who lost her job as a recruitment co-ordinator due to the pandemic, will be able to claim the Government's Covid-19 relief payments. NZ Herald picture

Tina Barnett.

The \$490 relief for 12 weeks is only for NZ citizens or permanent residents who were working at least 15 hours a week, lost their jobs due to Covid-19 between March 1 and

October 30, don't get more than \$30,000 in redundancy pay and don't have a partner earning \$2000-plus a week.

"The Government is creating a two-tier welfare system where the newly unemployed receive higher incomes than those on main benefits who live below the poverty line," Fiafia said.

"It is a slap in the face for the hundreds of thousands of people on a benefit who rely on food grants to survive because their benefits do not cover basic expenses."

She said the Government should individualise all benefits and permanently increase them to at least line-up with the income relief payments.

Pao had only recently moved into recruitment work with Qantas after six years managing a retail store, but found she was good at it and wants to find a new job in the same field.

"I was doing so well, and then Covid-19 happened, and because I was in the aviation industry we were the first to be affected," she said.

"It is the first time I have been on the unemployment

What is the new payment?

It's a temporary payment of \$490 a week for someone who loses a fulltime job of 30 hours a week or more due to Covid-19, or \$250 for someone who was in a part-time job working 15 to 29 hours a week. It will be available for 12 weeks to anyone who loses a job between March 1 and October 30, with the first payments available from June 8.

Who can get it?

NZ citizens or permanent residents who don't get more than \$30,000 in redundancy pay, didn't have income protection insurance and don't have a partner earning at least \$2000 a week.

What are the obligations?

Recipients must:

- Be available for, and actively seeking, suitable work;
- Take appropriate steps towards gaining new employment;
- Engage with suitable work programmes and courses and identify and take opportunities for employment, redeployment and training.

What will it cost?

\$1.2 billion gross, or \$570 million net after deducting what people would have received on normal benefits.

How do you apply?

Apply online on the Work and Income website from June 8.

Q&A

benefit and it's hard. I'm paying \$200 a week rent, and the benefit that I get pretty much just covers my rent, so I'm dipping into my savings."

However, she hopes to find a new job before the 12-week relief pay ends.

Barnett, a Unite Union delegate at SkyCity, felt tossed around by the news of the relief

payment. "When I heard about it, there was a sense of relief," she said. "But then there was disappointment when I found out it was capped at \$30,000 in redundancy payments."

"That just shattered me."

Barnett still supports a daughter, 16, and, before Covid-19, she had two sons aged 17 and 18 at Tangaroa College in Otara. They have now left school.

"They chose to go and work to help Mum out. They managed to become labourers on construction sites."

She is now thinking of leaving Auckland to find cheaper housing.

Wellington music student William Lopez Sanchez, 23,

expects he may qualify for the \$250-a-week part-time Covid-19 relief payment because the Lambton Quay Burger King where he worked for about 20 hours a week has closed down.

He also borrows about \$250 a week for living expenses through the student loan system, and pays \$210 in rent, so the relief payment will be a

welcome bonus.

"It won't exactly replace what I had before, but I can make do on it without struggling," he said.

Chief executive of Community Law Centres Sue Moroney

It was disappointing the Government hadn't used the opportunity to address migrant workers who had lost their jobs but couldn't access any support.

said it was disappointing the Government hadn't used the opportunity to address migrant workers who had lost their jobs but couldn't access any support. "It's a developing humanitarian migrant crisis... It's inexplicable why the Government hasn't done anything."

Moroney is calling for the Government to use Section 64 of the Social Security Act to grant emergency benefits to people not otherwise entitled to them while an epidemic notice is in place.

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STAYING: The National Party's Amy Adams (left) has decided to put off retiring from politics. She is pictured with National's new leader Todd Muller and the party's deputy leader Nikki Kaye.

NZ Herald picture

Life for pair who tortured, killed teen

Retirement put on hold

WELLINGTON — Amy Adams has explained her new Covid-19 Recovery portfolio is about overseeing a cohesive strategy to get New Zealand out of economic chaos and to support our most vulnerable.

Adams, who is currently the MP for Selwyn but who will go list-only at the 2020 election, is back at number 3 in the National Party rankings after rescinding her decision to retire. She has justified the reversal by saying all hands are needed on deck to help get New Zealand's wheels turning again following Covid-19's economic destruction.

The pandemic forced New Zealand's border to be closed, the country to shut most businesses and go into lockdown, and trade routes to be disrupted. As a result, unemployment is expected to increase to just under 10 percent by September and many companies to go under. Adams told The AM Show that during this economic crisis, a fully-thought-through plan was necessary.

"We are going to make sure when we approach this challenge, we approach it with a single, integrated, completely developed plan that is ready to be delivered. Not a series of disparate announcements that I don't think hang well together with a cohesive strategy," she said.

"So that is my job. My job is to make sure that across all 55 MPs, who are all working incredibly hard in their own areas, that work comes together in a way that is comprehensive, and is well-thought-through, and, more importantly, is ready to roll."

Since March, when the full wrath of Covid-19 began to emerge, the current Coalition Government has made numerous announcements of schemes and programmes it is putting in place to try to cushion the economic blow. That includes a wage subsidy initiative, a new online recruitment tool, and enabling more loans for businesses. It also pinpointed the development of new infrastructure as necessary to stimulate the economy.

On Monday, the Government announced workers who have lost their jobs to Covid-19 will be eligible for tax-free weekly payments of up to almost \$500 a week for 12 weeks. New National Party leader Todd Muller called that "ill-defined and ill-directed" and said there should be a stronger focus on helping businesses.

Adams told The AM Show the National Party plan would prioritise creating jobs and keeping people in them. However, she said there will still be work on supporting the unemployed and hinted the party may propose changes to how we look after vulnerable Kiwis.

"What we are going to do is approach this absolutely as an economic crisis, but also, we are going to think about it in terms of the ways we support our vulnerable New Zealanders. The system for supporting our vulnerable is under immense pressure and that is going to continue to escalate," she said.

"It is not only an opportunity, but a necessity, to stop and think about how we do that well in this country given the scale of what we are going to face. That is just one aspect of this, I see many aspects of this."

As of May 15, there were 350,735 people on a main benefit, up from 302,023 on March 20. In terms of the Jobseeker Support benefit, there were 188,432 on May 15, up from 145,006 on March 20. Adams said the "huge numbers" of people entering the welfare system — many for the first time — would have an "amazing impact not only on the system's ability to deliver, but much more importantly on those people and the mental health and the impact of that".

"I think if we just try and shovel more people through the system we have got, that is a recipe for failure."

"(Social Development spokesperson) Louise Upston and I have already started talking about ways in which we are going to need to think about this differently."

Adams wouldn't go into detail about her ideas, saying she would work with her colleagues on them first. — Newshub

Warning: This story contains graphic and violent content.

AUCKLAND — A "terrible loss of humanity" saw an Auckland teenager brutally tortured and murdered in a damp, cold, derelict house. Today her killers were jailed for life.

Following a trial last September in Auckland, Ashley Winter and Kerry Te Amo were both found guilty by a jury of murdering 17-year-old Dimetrius Pairama. They had earlier pleaded guilty to kidnapping.

The pair were both sentenced to life imprisonment today by Justice Timothy Brewer via video link in the High Court. Winter must serve at least 19 years and four months' behind bars before being eligible for parole, while Te Amo was given a minimum period of 19 years.

After taking Miss Pairama, Winter and Te Amo tortured her over several hours, including burning her, before eventually giving Miss Pairama the chilling choice of how she wanted to die — being stabbed or being hanged.

A noose was fashioned out of some torn bedsheets. Te Amo cut the teen's lifeless body down, while Winter fixed her makeup.

They would discard Miss Pairama's body in a rusty steel drum at the abandoned state house in Mangere on a rainy night in July, 2018.

The case involved Winter and Te Amo running what was described by the Court of Appeal as "cut-throat defences", as they blamed each other for murdering Pairama.

Crown solicitor at Manukau, Natalie Walker, who prosecuted Winter and Te Amo, said there appeared to be no reason for the "terrible loss of humanity".

Walker told the court Winter was at a high risk of reoffending and the community is entitled to protection from her.

"This was sadistic violence in which she was the ringleader," Walker said. "She doesn't accept responsibility."

Miss Pairama's mother, Lena Hetaraka-Pairama, told the court today she struggled to hear what had happened to her daughter.

"My hand shook from the hurtful, evil things I was hearing."

She said she "still can't forgive myself" for not keeping Miss Pairama safe. The teen had spent time in Oranga Tamariki care and also on Auckland's streets.

Justice Brewer said the pain and sense of



Dimetrius Pairama was killed in 2018. She was 17.

loss Miss Pairama's family felt would not be made better by today's sentencing.

He said Winter, also known as Ashleigh Tonga, was the "dominant" offender and generally "in charge". He believed the second strike offender became involved in the murder "because (she) found the situation exciting".

"You have a tendency to be dramatic as you showed in your police interview of July 9, 2018," the judge said.

A third person was also charged with murder and kidnapping, but the now 18-year-old never stood before a jury after the Court of Appeal ruled her unfit to stand trial.

She was found to suffer from mild intellectual disability and foetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) and has been at the Mason Clinic, a forensic psychiatric services secure unit in Pt Chevalier, since September, 2019.

After a depositions hearing earlier this month, Justice Brewer will make a decision about what is required and best for the teen and society.

Another teenager was at the house and gave evidence during the trial as the Crown's key witness. She was given immunity from prosecution by the deputy solicitor-general.

Winter's counsel, Matthew Goodwin, said the events which occurred in the derelict building were "brutal, callous and senseless".

He said it may have come about because of resentment over rumours Miss Pairama was in a relationship with an ex-boyfriend of the third accused.

However, Te Amo's lawyer, Shane Tait, who has called the case "the house of horrors on Buckland Road", said even after a lengthy trial there remains no clear motive.

Justice Brewer also said he remained unsure why Pairama was degraded, tortured and beaten.

But Hetaraka-Pairama has told the NZ Herald she believed her daughter was killed as part of a gang retaliation. — NZ Herald

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Air NZ braces for big loss

Impairment charge of up to \$450 million expected

AUCKLAND — Air New Zealand has confirmed it expects to report an underlying loss for the 2020 financial year while estimating hedging losses and aircraft impairments of up to \$560 million.

The airline, which said today it has yet to draw on the Government's \$900m loan, says while the recent move to Alert Level 2 allowed it to get its domestic engine turning again, it is clear that it will take some time for demand to return to pre-Covid levels.

"We are preparing for a scenario in which the airline is still 30 percent smaller than pre-Covid levels in two years' time" says chief financial officer Jeff McDowall.

For the second half of the 2020 financial year, Air New Zealand's network capacity is expected to be approximately 50 percent lower than the prior comparative period, driven by a reduction of approximately 90 percent in the fourth quarter.

In light of this and the fact there was very little revenue coming in during Alert Levels 3 and 4, the airline is now expecting to report an underlying loss for the 2020 financial year.

It currently has \$640 million of short-term liquidity, versus \$1 billion prior to the outbreak.

That doesn't include any of the \$900 million Government loan facility.

"We have not yet needed to draw down on the government loan facility, as we continue to utilise all available levers to reduce our cash burn and right-size the business to reflect the expectation that, for some time, our airline will be smaller than it was pre Covid-19" says McDowall.

In a market update, the company said it would feel the impact of \$85m-\$105m from fuel hedging de-designation, aircraft impairment charges of \$350m-\$450m, and reorganisation costs of up to \$160m in the full financial year.

Cash Burn

Measures taken to minimise cash burn include slashing 4000 jobs or 30 percent of the workforce, which is expected to drive annualised savings of \$350 million to \$400 million.

It has deferred or cancelled almost \$700 million in expected capital expenditure to December 2022, including deferrals of planned A321 NEO deliveries.

The combination of these and other measures mean it expects to reduce its average monthly cash outflows by approximately \$50 million to \$60 million for



SLOW RECOVERY: Though the recent move to Alert Level 2 allowed Air NZ to get its domestic engine turning again, it is clear that it will take some time for demand to return to pre-Covid levels, says the airline. File picture

the 2020 financial year.

More changes are likely, including possible further job losses.

"We will continue to seek out further opportunities to consolidate facilities, reduce capital spend, review fleet composition, supply chain costs and adjust our labour base further," said McDowall.

He added, however, "we know

that demand for air travel will eventually rebound, so we are cognisant of striking the right balance between removing cost from the business and ensuring the airline is in a strong position to ramp up as demand recovers."

Unparalleled impact

The Covid-19 pandemic has had an unparalleled impact on

the aviation industry, and the future landscape of the airline will look vastly different to what it does today, chief executive Greg Foran says.

"This is without a doubt the most significant challenge our airline, and indeed the entire aviation industry, has ever faced. The implementation of domestic travel restrictions and border closures have been incredibly effective at slowing the spread of Covid-19 in a number of countries, including here in New Zealand, but they have also had a profound impact on demand for air travel.

"Throughout this pandemic, Air New Zealand's focus has first and foremost been on protecting the health and safety of our customers and our team, while also taking swift and decisive action to protect the long term viability of the airline and preserve liquidity. We are doing everything in our power to ensure Air New Zealand emerges strongly from this crisis.

It did not provide specific guidance due to uncertainty regarding demand for air travel under New Zealand's Alert Level 2, the period of time in which social-distancing will be required on the aircraft and the timing of a shift to Alert Level 1. — NZ Herald

TAB cuts jobs after plans to reduce its workforce 30pc

AUCKLAND — The sports betting agency the TAB is informing staff of job losses today, after a proposal to cut hundreds of roles due to the Covid-19 downturn.

TAB had consulted on removing 220 jobs over the last two weeks, 30 percent of its workforce.

A spokesperson would not confirm the final number or details of the redundancies, but said staff were being told the fate of their jobs today before the company made a public statement tomorrow.

The betting company's parent entity, the Racing Industry Transition Agency (formerly the Racing Board) said revenue was down almost 50 percent in April, with most live sports and racing cancelled over the last few months.

"Despite far reaching efforts to reduce costs across the TAB, including salary reductions, staff taking leave and reducing all non-essential expenses, it simply was not enough to offset the

blow Covid-19 has had, and will have, on our industry," executive chair Dean McKenzie said.

"The implication of the pandemic extends beyond the immediate impact to the TAB, with racing and sport looking very unpredictable over the next year. The reality is the TAB will need to be a leaner, more efficient business with fewer roles, and focused on driving our core wagering and gaming business." — RNZ

Vodafone NZ committed to 5G, 'internet of things' future

AUCKLAND — Projects have fallen off his wish list during the Covid-19 response but Vodafone chief executive Jason Paris has no plans to apply the brakes to deployment of its 5G network, as the firm focuses on the "internet of things."

"5G brings applications for remote health, autonomous vehicles and things like smart sensors, which allow schools to halve their heating bills, for example."

Paris said while some operating expenditure and strategic moves had been shelved as the firm shifted into "survival minimum" mode, there were those investments that were the "right things to do" for the longer-term business and its customers.

He told a Trans-Tasman Business Circle video conference yesterday that because data usage was up overall that didn't mean telcos were making more money.

"Our roaming revenue stopped overnight during shutdown. People are using wifi at home and more people using more data means we have to upgrade our services, with the extra cost of doing that."

He said from a customer perspective there was

also an increased number of hardship requests and provision for bad debts. "So we are helping customers navigate that."

Shareholder backing

Paris said that, until its sale to the Infratil/Brookfield Asset Management consortium last May for \$3.4 billion, Vodafone NZ had been effectively "held back" for the previous five years during which investment was constrained and it was executing to a Vodafone Group strategic template, 50 percent of which was irrelevant to New Zealand.

"Under the consortium, we are focused 100 percent on our New Zealand strategy, so we now have a massive opportunity to be more cloud-based and more agile."

He said the New Zealand and Canadian ownership mix had also created a positive dynamic.

"They have different bents, with their level of aggression and retail balancing well — overall we have a clear vision as to where we'll be in three to five years' time." — BusinessDesk

SHAREMARKET YESTERDAY

WELLINGTON — New Zealand shares rose in light trading ahead of public holidays in the US and UK, as investors remain wary of growing tensions between the US and China.

The S&P/NZX 50 Index advanced 1.1 percent to 10,775.80. Within the index, 33 stocks rose, 11 fell and six were unchanged. Turnover was \$74.4 million, the lowest since January.

The local market started the week on a tentative note as investors continued to digest China's decision last week to scrap its annual growth target. Separately, Chinese lawmakers seeking greater control over semi-autonomous Hong Kong aggravated an already tense relationship with the US.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng index fell 1 percent today after the US responded by threatening to

sanction the city and undermine its status as a financial hub.

However, the New Zealand and Australian markets followed a warm lead from Wall Street, which performed a last-minute U-turn on Friday night to close marginally higher despite trading weaker throughout most of the session. The S&P/ASX 200 was up almost 1.5 percent in afternoon trading.

Michael McCarthy, chief market strategist at CMC Markets, said he was surprised to see such a strong Australasian performance considering the risks that come with rising tension between the US and China.

Oceania Healthcare led the local market higher, rising 3.8 percent to 83 cents.

Grant Williamson, a director at Hamilton

Hindin Greene, said the aged care provider started to gain last week and has built up some momentum.

Z Energy rose 3.6 percent bring it back up to its capital raising price of \$2.90. Williamson said it was an encouraging sign for the fuel retailer who has yet to compete the retail portion of the capital raising.

Fisher & Paykel Healthcare increased 3.3 percent to \$30.15 and a2 Milk rose 1 percent to \$19, although both on light volumes.

Kiwi Property Group rose 2.1 percent to 96 cents. The company reported a net loss of \$186.7 million as an already announced \$290 million write-down in its property values hit the bottom line. The property investor said retail traffic at its shopping malls has recovered under Level 2 restrictions, and was down just 8 percent from a year earlier.

Infratil increased 1.3 percent to \$4.77. Tilt

Renewables, which is controlled by Infratil, rose 0.3 percent to \$3.15 after reporting a net profit of A\$478.4 million as the wind farm developer benefited from the sale of a wind farm for a A\$486 million gain. Tilt shareholders will vote to approve a capital return next month.

Air New Zealand rose 0.8 percent to \$1.255. It extended its schedule of minimal international operations by another two months to August 31. Overall international capacity is down around 95 percent.

Auckland International Airport also rose, gaining 3.1 percent at \$5.98.

Sky Network Television today completed the first phase of a capital raising, bringing in \$119.2 million from investors to shore up its balance sheet. The television network's shares dropped 48.2 percent to 17.1 cents when trading resumed, still comfortably above the 12-cent placement offer. — BusinessDesk

EDITORIAL

Our plan, to move forward together

A faster track to normality

News yesterday that gathering sizes can increase from just 10 straight to the maximum 100 allowed under Alert Level 2 from Friday signals a welcome fast-tracking towards normality for our social interactions, and the restoration of smaller-scale events.

It does come as a surprise, though, as the Prime Minister told us on Wednesday last week not to expect such a move, saying the cap on gatherings would likely increase to 20 people one week, 30 the next.

Either our health authorities did not expect the exit from lockdown to continue so well in public health terms — only three new Covid-19 cases have been reported in the past fortnight, all related to known clusters — advice has changed, or the Government has succumbed to pressure to open up faster.

If it is the latter, a bruising backdown two weeks ago over funeral sizes and an alleged lack of empathy, as well as pressure from faith communities, would have been front of mind. The latter was already released somewhat, though, when police issued new operating guidelines for places of worship last Friday, saying multiple groups of up to 10 could attend a service as long as each group kept 2m apart.

Jacinda Ardern also announced that a move to Alert Level 1 (which has no restrictions on gathering size) will be considered no later than June 22; and the settings of Level 2 will be reviewed on June 8.

Earlier in the day the Government announced a new \$490-a-week "income relief payment" (\$250 for a part-time worker) available for 12 weeks from June 8 to anyone losing a job due to Covid-19 from March 1 to October 30 — as long as they don't get more than \$30,000 in redundancy pay or have a partner earning \$2000-plus a week.

With the tax-free payment about twice as much as the normal benefit for a single adult, and \$115 a week more than for a single parent with children, it naturally raises questions around equity and the existing level of benefit payments.

The Government response is that it has already lifted benefits and has never shied away from the need to improve the welfare system; there were similar payments after the Canterbury earthquakes and global financial crisis; and that these are unprecedented times with large numbers of people unexpectedly losing their jobs, who need time to adjust or find other employment.

It won't help, though, to have the Green Party accusing Labour today of breaking a core promise in their coalition agreement, to overhaul the welfare system.

by Mayor Rehette Stoltz



AS a region, we are slowly getting used to life with social distancing, lots of hand washing and limited operations. Hopefully we will keep on moving in the right direction and soon we will settle on our new post-Covid normal.

Since we have moved to Level 2, I have visited several businesses around town and checked in with shop owners and managers.

In the past week, I have strolled through the CBD, and it was lovely to see and feel the buzz of activity. Many people are out and about, interacting respectfully in a social-distancing-responsible way.

Business owners are grateful that they are allowed to operate and get their businesses up and running. Times have been tough during Levels 3 and 4 and unfortunately some shops will not be opening their doors again.

Every single business owner has mentioned

the great upsurge of local support — thank you, thank you, thank you.

By spending our money locally, we show our appreciation for these small businesses which are such an integral part of who we are as a region.

It was also lovely to see the great support for local businesses at Saturday's Farmers' Market.

More than ever, our businesses — big and small — will need our support. As a council, we will look at how we can support them to operate with as little red tape as possible; and as a region, we can show our support by keeping our dollars local.

Our Regional Covid-19 Response and Recovery Plan, "Rau Tipu Rau Ora", will be finalised this week. The plan will bring together actions to get our economy moving by investing in and supporting businesses and workers, creating new employment opportunities and focusing on opportunities for recovery and growth. It also focuses on supporting and empowering our communities and whanau, and looking after our environment is a key factor.

It will be a living document that will evolve to include more actions as community input continues, and new evidence and insights emerge.

I want to thank our iwi partners, business groups, primary production representatives, business owners, social service providers, health providers, environmental stewards and many more who have contributed to bringing this regional plan together. Your input highlighted actions needed for our combined recovery — some to focus more on and some that we might do differently going forward.

This is our plan and we can only move forward successfully if we do it together.

I am proud of how we, as a region, responded to the challenges that we faced during Levels 4, 3 and 2.

I know that together, working towards a common goal of looking after our people and our place, we can rebuild and recover from these tough times. We have done it before, and we will do it again.

Kia kaha Tairawhiti.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, ONLINE COMMENTS

Huge smoking problem

Re: Drug wrecked his life ... May 4 comments.

As a lung cancer patient advocate I need to explain to Martin Hanson that we have a problem with smokers. I have been reminded several times that we cannot discriminate against smokers. However, in this forum I get a chance to have my say.

In New Zealand, 2200 people get diagnosed with lung cancer every year; 1800 will die. This is huge compared to our statistics on coronavirus.

In our Tairawhiti region, girls hold a cigarette in one hand and a cell phone in the

other. I would like to tell them to stop smoking, but the law says I can't.

Martin is right that it's a human behaviour problem but honestly, the importance of our future hangs largely here.

Smoking cannabis is also a human behaviour problem and I think having a referendum about it will be the best we can do. I do hope those who see the light vote accordingly against this addictive drug, and that in the future we have another referendum banning smoking in Aotearoa once and for all.

ALAIN JORION

Reality check required

The political collywobles of regular columnist Clive Bibby are to be expected, but a reality check is sorely needed.

His alarming twitch at the word "socialism" is strange coming from a conservative who presumably embraces the Christian ethic, with its strong emphasis on caring for the poor, the weak, the down-trodden and those on the margins of society. Like that other Jewish reformer and game-changer, Karl Marx, Jesus stressed his rejection of worldly power and the unbridled greed of the rich. Thank God then for socialist principles!

How has Jacinda Ardern erred in making her focus the health and wellbeing of the majority, while at the same time laying heavy emphasis — not over-looking mammoth amounts of financial support — on the plight of small businesses?

It is certainly gratifying to see another ideologue (to mirror Mr Bibby's use of that word as a term of derision) taking a lead from Labour's policies in this regard! Todd Muller is on safe ground in endorsing support for those in business who need help, but it will be entertaining to discover exactly how much more he would have dispensed had he been in the Prime Minister's place — or how much more he will promise in his attempt to take power.

Mr Bibby suspects that Jacinda may have "exhausted her bag of tricks", which seems highly unlikely given her remarkable intelligence, political insight and the kind of savvy that has the entire world regarding her with awe. The bag of tricks to be feared is what Muller and his desperate band start waving around in the next four months.

M. ANDERSON

Yankee Doodle Toddy

Geez, just when the Nats thought they had it sorted with the election of a new leader to replace the "dirty little street fighter", it has turned to custard again.

It simply beggars belief that Yankee Doodle Dandy Muller thinks there is nothing wrong with continuing to display a Make America Great Again hat in his office.

Trump's MAGA hat has become a symbol of far-right bigotry, of white supremacy and hatred of "the other". Muller thinks it's perfectly OK to keep it on display because, well, you know, the Democrats are making a mess of it as well as Trump.

What sort of political judgement is that?

But wait, there's more. He wrote a book as a youngster where he

dreamt of being the US President and reigning for decades. Any megalomaniacal tendencies on display here? Is that weird or what? He's a Kiwi for goodness sake. Does he now secretly entertain fantasies of donning his MAGA hat and joining white supremacists complaining about the lockdown in the US whilst being heavily armed with an AR-15 assault rifle, pistols, knives and ammo?

Just imagine he's our Prime Minister and a serious foreign policy dispute arises between NZ and the US, just like the nuclear-armed and powered warships standoff of yesteryear. Which side of the fence would he be on?

This is seriously kooky stuff and brings into question his fitness for office.

BRUCE HOLM

Best wishes Priorities a bit off ...

Re: 'A huge honour', May 1. A big well done to Kirky. A great ambassador for rugby and we need more like him. Also a great cyclist, remembering Ride of the Legends. Best wishes.

RODGER ARNEIL, UK

A real cost?

I'm pleased to hear from Larry Foster there is a commitment by the community group to reinstall the Endeavours. Can the council please advise how the \$8000 cost for resource consent is made up. Is this a real cost to council, or the council raising funds?

BARB WOODS

ANDREW APPLEBY

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.



GLOBAL BRIEFS

WHO halts trial of 'Trump drug'

GENEVA — The World Health Organisation said on Monday that it will temporarily drop hydroxychloroquine — the anti-malarial drug US President Trump said he is taking — from its global study into experimental Covid-19 treatments, saying that its experts need to review all available evidence to date.

In a press briefing, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said that in light of a paper published last week in the *Lancet* that showed people taking hydroxychloroquine were at higher risk of death and heart problems, there would be "a temporary pause" on the hydroxychloroquine arm of its global clinical trial.

Tedros said the executive group behind WHO's global "Solidarity" trial met on Saturday and decided to conduct a comprehensive review of all available data on hydroxychloroquine and that its use in the trial would be suspended for now.

Dr Michael Ryan, WHO's emergencies chief, said there was no indication of any safety problems with hydroxychloroquine in the WHO trial to date, but that statisticians would now analyse the information.

"We are just acting on an abundance of caution based on the recent results of all the studies to ensure that we can continue safely with that arm of the trial," he said.

WHO said it expected to have more details within the next two weeks.

Last week, Trump announced he was taking hydroxychloroquine although he has not tested positive for Covid-19.

His own administration has warned the drug can have deadly side effects, and the European Medicines Agency and the US Food and Drug Administration warned health professionals last month that the drug should not be used to treat Covid-19 outside of hospital or research settings due to numerous serious side effects that in some cases can be fatal. — AP

Iran reopens major shrines

TEHRAN — Iran has reopened its Shia Muslim shrines, two months after they were closed to combat the coronavirus.

Worshippers will be allowed to access courtyards, but not covered areas. They must also wear face masks and abide by social-distancing rules.

People were sprayed with disinfectant and had their temperatures checked at Tehran's Abdol Azim shrine on Monday.

Iran has suffered the Middle East's worst Covid-19 outbreak, with 137,000 cases and 7450 deaths reported.

In recent weeks, the Government has begun relaxing restrictions in an attempt to revive an economy that was already in crisis because of US sanctions.

Iran's Shia shrines are visited every year by tens of millions of pilgrims, who spend many hours praying near the tombs they house. Many also kiss or touch the tombs.

When the holy city of Qom emerged as the epicentre of the Covid-19 outbreak in late February, health experts expressed alarm that the shrine of Hazrat Masumeh was not shut. Its custodian said it should stay open as a "house for cure".

On March 16, as the official death toll approached 1000, the Government ordered the closure of major religious sites, schools and universities to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

The decision angered some hardliners, and mobs attempted to break into the shrine of Hazrat Masumeh and also the shrine of Imam Reza in Mashhad.

On Monday, the shrines were allowed to reopen with some limitations. — AP

Branson rocket fails first flight

CALIFORNIA — Sir Richard Branson's Virgin Orbit company has tried unsuccessfully to launch a rocket over the Pacific Ocean.

The booster was released from under the wing of one of the UK entrepreneur's old jumbos which had been converted for the task.

The rocket should have ignited its engine seconds later but engineers had to terminate the flight.

Virgin Orbit's goal is to try to capture a share of the emerging market for the launch of small satellites.

It is not clear at this stage what went wrong but the firm had warned beforehand that the chances of success might be in the region of 50:50.

The history of rocketry shows that maiden outings very often encounter technical problems.

The firm is sure to be back for another attempt pretty soon — depending on the outcome of the post-mission analysis.

Engineers already have a second rocket built at Orbit's Long Beach factory in California. — BBC

Severe storm lashes west Australian coast

PERTH — Tens of thousands of homes and businesses lost power, buildings were battered and trees were uprooted as a vast stretch of the west Australian coast was whipped by a severe storm yesterday for the second straight day.

No casualties were reported from what Acting Assistant Commissioner of Western Australia state's Department of Fire and Emergency Services Jon Broomhall called a "a once-in-a-decade-type" storm system.

The system that struck an extraordinarily large area was the result of remnants of late-season Cyclone Mangga tracking southeast and colliding in the southern Indian Ocean with a northeast-moving cold front.

The combined weather system lashed a 1200-kilometre stretch of the west coast from Carnarvon to Cape Leeuwin and including the state capital, Perth, with winds gusting at more than 90 kilometres per hour overnight, Bureau of Meteorology manager Neil Bennett said.

Wind speeds reached 132kph at



WILD WEATHER: There were reports of damage to buildings, homes, electricity infrastructure and trees across Perth as a severe storm hit the coast and brought wind gusts of more than 100 kilometres per hour. AP picture

Cape Leeuwin, the strongest for the month of May since 2005.

Heavy rains lashed 1500 kilometres of coastline from the Margaret River winery region in the south to Exmouth in the north. The rain and 8-metre waves caused flooding along the coast and eroded beaches, Bennett said.

"It was really right up and down the coast, including the Perth area, but particularly that southwest area of (Western Australia state) really caught the brunt of this one," Bennett said of the storm.

The storm was subsiding by yesterday afternoon. Up to 65,000 homes and businesses had lost power at the height of the emergency.

But power had been restored to all but 24,000 by Monday afternoon, Western Australia Premier Mark McGowan said.

The inland gold mining town of Kalgoorlie lost power to 15,000 homes when winds blew a backyard shed into an electricity substation, Western Power spokesman Paul Entwistle said. — AP

'I don't regret what I did'

Johnson's aide refuses to resign over lockdown trip

LONDON — British leader Boris Johnson's powerful chief aide insisted on Monday that he wouldn't resign for driving the length of England while the country was under strict lockdown — a trip he made without informing the Prime Minister first.

The Government is facing a tide of anger from politicians and the public over the revelation that Dominic Cummings travelled more than 400 kilometres from London to his parents' home in Durham, northeast England at the end of March.

Cummings said he travelled so that extended family could care for his 4-year-old son if he and his wife, who had suspected coronavirus, both fell ill.

He said the three of them stayed in isolation in a building on his father's farm.

His trip came after the Government imposed a strict "stay home" order, and

Cummings is being accused of flouting the rules he expected the rest of the country to follow. Many Britons have taken to social media and radio phone-ins to recount how the lockdown had prevented them from visiting elderly relatives, comforting dying friends or attending the funerals of loved ones.

In a televised news conference in the garden of 10 Downing St. — all but unheard of for an unelected adviser — Cummings tried to quash the controversy with a detailed but unrepentant account of his movements.

Cummings insisted that "the rules . . . allowed me to exercise my judgement" and that his need to ensure childcare for his son was an "exceptional situation".

The Government's stay-at-home rules, introduced on March 23, said people with children should comply "to the best of your ability".

Deputy Chief Medical Officer Jenny Harries later said that "if you have adults who are unable to look after a small child, that is an exceptional circumstance". She said in that case, people without childcare or family

support should contact their local authority for help — something Cummings didn't do.

"I don't regret what I did," Cummings said, although he acknowledged that "reasonable people" might disagree with his actions.

Cummings said he didn't tell the Prime Minister, who had just been diagnosed with Covid-19, about his decision to leave London, because "he was ill himself and he had huge problems to deal with".

"Arguably, this was a mistake," Cummings said.

Johnson has stood by Cummings, saying he "followed the instincts of every father and every parent".

"Of course I do regret the confusion and the anger and the pain that people feel," Johnson said at the Government's daily news briefing. "That is why I

wanted people to understand exactly what had happened."

A self-styled political disrupter who disdains the media and civil service, 48-year-old Cummings has been essential to Johnson's rise to power. He was one of the architects

of the successful campaign to take Britain out of the European Union, and orchestrated Brexit champion Johnson's thumping election victory in December.

Five months on from that triumph, Johnson's government is facing criticism for its response to a pandemic that has hit Britain harder than any other European country. Britain's official coronavirus death toll stands at 36,914, the second-highest confirmed total in the world after the United States.

The coronavirus laid low a swath of senior UK officials, including Cummings, Health Secretary Matt Hancock and Johnson himself, who spent several days in intensive care at a London hospital in April.

The UK is gradually easing its lockdown, initially by allowing more outdoor recreation.

The Government plans to reopen schools starting on June 1, and Johnson



Boris Johnson



Dominic Cummings

said on Monday that the vast majority of shops in England will be able to open two weeks later, as long as they can become "Covid-19 secure".

Some scientists said Cummings' behaviour would make it harder to enforce continued social-distancing.

Stephen Reicher, a social psychologist who sits on a group advising the Government, said "more people are going to die" because the episode would undermine adherence to the lockdown rules.

The opposition Labour Party said the Government's message was that there was "one rule for Boris Johnson's closest adviser, another for everybody else".

Ominously for Johnson, some Conservative lawmakers also expressed unease. Member of Parliament Paul Maynard said the aide's actions were "a classic case of 'do as I say, not as I do,'"

The conservative *Daily Mail* newspaper, usually supportive of Johnson, blared "What planet are they on?" in a headline about Cummings and the Prime Minister.

Cummings, who usually exerts power from the sidelines, looked uncomfortable but didn't admit fault during a live media grilling that lasted more than an hour.

He said that people felt "understandable anger", but insisted much of it was "based on reports in the media that haven't been true".

He said he hadn't considered resigning. Asked whether Johnson should consider sacking him, Cummings said: "That's not for me to decide. It's up to him to decide." — AP

Trump honours fallen service members on Memorial Day

BALTIMORE — President Donald Trump honoured the fallen on Monday in back-to-back Memorial Day appearances, coloured by an epic struggle off the battlefield, against the coronavirus.

Eager to demonstrate national revival from the pandemic, Trump doubled up on his Memorial Day public schedule, while threatening to pull the Republican National Convention out of Charlotte in August unless North Carolina's Democratic governor gives a quick green light to the party's plans to assemble en masse.

The US death toll from the pandemic approached 100,000; North Carolina two days earlier reported its largest daily increase yet in Covid-19 sickness.

Trump first honoured the nation's fallen at Arlington National Cemetery. Presidents on Memorial Day typically lay a wreath and speak at the hallowed burial ground in Virginia. But the coronavirus crisis made this year different.

Many attendees arrived wearing masks but removed them for the outdoor ceremony in front of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Trump, maskless as always in public, gave no remarks. He approached a wreath already in place, touched it and saluted.

Trump then travelled to Baltimore's historic Fort McHenry, where he declared: "Together we will vanquish the virus and America will rise from this crisis to new and even greater heights. No obstacle, no challenge and no threat is a match for the sheer determination of the American people."

His Democratic opponent, Joe Biden, chose Memorial Day to make his first public appearance in the two months since the pandemic closed the country. Biden emerged unannounced from his Delaware home to lay a wreath at a nearby park, with no crowd gathered to greet him. It was a milestone in a presidential campaign that has largely been frozen.

Biden's words were muffled through a black cloth face mask. "Never forget the sacrifices that these men and women made," he said. "Never, ever, forget."

The US leads the world with more than 1.6 million confirmed coronavirus cases and nearly 98,000 deaths, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University.

Trump tweeted his frustration with North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper, who has been moving his state into a cautious reopening that will keep indoor entertainment venues, like its NBA arena, closed for the time being. — AP

Egypt's doctors criticise govt over 'negligence'

CAIRO — Egypt's medical union on Monday blamed the government for increasing levels of coronavirus infections and deaths among healthcare professionals, its sharpest criticism yet of the country's handling of the pandemic.

Citing growing frustration over a lack of protective equipment, testing and hospital beds for front-line doctors, the union described the Egyptian health ministry's negligence as "a crime of killing by irresponsibility."

The union reported that 19 doctors have died and 350 have contracted the virus, according to official figures, although testing of medical staff remains limited.

"The health ministry bears full

responsibility," it said, "as a result of its failure to protect them."

Egypt, the Arab world's most populous country, has officially recorded 17,967 infections and 783 fatalities due to Covid-19. Although it's a modest toll compared with the US and Europe, the curve is rapidly accelerating.

With under-resourced quarantine hospitals filling up, many fear the worst is yet to come.

"The health system may completely collapse, and a health catastrophe may strike the whole country," the union warned in its statement.

In an apparent response to the torrent of criticism, health minister Hala Zayed said the Government was "following up to

provide the best possible care" to medical staff. Authorities have sought to allocate 20-bed capacity floors at quarantine hospitals for staff who have fallen ill, she said, and provide "sufficient stocks" of protective gear.

The minister also promised to launch an "urgent" legal investigation into the case of Walid Yehia, a young doctor who died of coronavirus over the weekend after struggling to find treatment at a crowded Cairo hospital.

The Egyptian government has resisted the kind of total lockdown seen in other countries in the region, hoping to stave off the worst economic repercussions. But calls have grown for stricter measures as infections show no signs of abating. — AP

Japan lifts state of emergency in capital

TOKYO — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe lifted a coronavirus state of emergency in Tokyo and four other remaining areas on Monday, ending the restrictions nationwide as businesses begin to reopen.

Abe also unveiled a plan for a new stimulus package to support businesses hit by the pandemic.

Experts on a government-commissioned panel approved the lifting of the emergency in Tokyo, neighbouring Kanagawa, Chiba and Saitama prefectures, and in Hokkaido to the north, which had more cases and remained under the emergency declaration after it was removed in most of Japan earlier this month.

Under the emergency, people were asked to stay at home and non-essential businesses were requested to close or reduce operations, but there was no enforcement. Since May 14, when the measures were lifted in most of Japan, more people have been leaving their homes and stores have begun reopening.

Japan, with about 16,600 confirmed coronavirus cases and about 850 deaths, has so far avoided a large outbreak like those experienced in the US and Europe despite its softer restrictions.

"We were able to bring the outbreak nearly under control in just a month and a half in a uniquely Japanese way" without enforcing measures with penalties, Abe said. "We demonstrated the power of the 'Japan model.'"

But the world's third largest economy has fallen into a recession, and public discontent over Abe's handling of the outbreak has sent his support ratings tumbling. Recent media surveys show public support for his Cabinet has



EASING RESTRICTIONS: Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced the lifting of the coronavirus state of emergency from Tokyo and four other remaining prefectures. AP picture

plunged below 30 percent, the lowest since he returned to office in December 2012.

Abe said the lifting of the emergency does not mean the end of the outbreak. He said the goal is to balance preventive measures and the economy until vaccines and effective drugs become available.

"Our goal is to create a new normal," he said. "We need a new approach to resume our daily social and economic activity."

Abe also announced a new stimulus plan worth about 100 trillion yen (US\$930 billion) to provide financial support for companies hit by the pandemic. Cabinet approval of a second

supplementary budget to fund the additional stimulus is expected later this week.

Combined with an earlier 117 trillion yen stimulus, the amount of spending will be more than 200 trillion yen (US\$1.9 trillion), he said. The new package will include loan programmes to reduce the burden of rent for store owners and subsidies for local governments to step up regional measures.

Abe declared the state of emergency on April 7 in several parts of Japan including Tokyo, expanded it to the entire nation 10 days later, and then extended it until the end of May. — AP

'Complete lack of competence'

Brazilian President shifts blame to mayors, media, health officials

RIO DE JANEIRO — With Brazil emerging as one of the world's most infected countries, President Jair Bolsonaro is deflecting all responsibility for the coronavirus crisis, casting blame on mayors, governors, an outgoing health minister and the media.

By contrast, he portrays himself as a clear-eyed crusader willing to defend an unpopular idea — that shutting down the economy to control Covid-19 will ultimately cause more suffering than allowing the disease to run its course.

The refusal of governors to fall into line with his decree allowing gyms to open, he said, verged on authoritarianism.

Asked about Brazil's death toll surpassing China's, he feigned impotence: "I don't work miracles. What do you want me to do?"

Confronted with a travel ban imposed on Brazil by the US because of widespread Covid-19, one of Bolsonaro's advisers called it press hysteria.

Since the outbreak started,

the Brazilian leader has avoided acknowledging the potential effects of his actions, particularly in undermining local leaders' stay-at-home recommendations.

A rare exception came in mid-April, as Bolsonaro appointed a new health minister tasked with sparing the economy from the coronavirus.

"Reopening commerce is a risk I run because, if it (the virus) gets worse, then it lands in my lap," he said.

Less than two weeks later, as Brazil's death toll blew past 5000, he told reporters, "You're not going to put on my lap this count that isn't mine".

Almost a month on, the death toll in the country of 211 million has more than quadrupled, to 22,666, and continues to accelerate.

The Brazilian Supreme Court

determined that states and cities have jurisdiction to impose isolation measures. So Bolsonaro on May 7 walked purposefully across the capital's Three Powers Plaza to the top court, a tight cluster of ministers and business leaders in tow, and demanded local restrictions be tempered.

"Some states went too far in their restrictive measures, and the consequences are knocking on our door," he said, adding that tens of millions of Brazilians have lost their income. He has repeatedly singled out some local leaders by name.

When governors defied Bolsonaro's subsequent decree that gyms, barbershops and beauty salons be allowed to operate as essential services, he accused them of undermining the rule of law and suggested the move would

invite "undesirable authoritarianism to emerge in Brazil".

Latin America's largest nation has confirmed 363,000 Covid-19 cases, more than any nation except the US, and experts say that figure is a significant undercount due to insufficient testing.

The strain on Brazil's underfunded hospitals has pushed them to the brink of collapse in multiple states and prevents some patients from getting treatment.

Havoc and heartache are unfolding beneath a void of leadership, according to Miguel Lago, executive director of Brazil's Institute for Health Policy Studies, which advises public health officials.

Brazil is "completely incapable of dealing with and responding to this crisis as this crisis should be responded to — with complete leadership, clear messages, political stability and unity", Lago said. "That's not the case here. Basically, what we are seeing is a complete lack of seriousness and competence." — AP

Since the outbreak started, the Brazilian leader has avoided acknowledging the potential effects of his actions.

Digital stage for dancers

Indonesian choreographers put up shows online amid lockdown

JAKARTA — Before the coronavirus pandemic arrived, 2020 seemed fated to be a great year for Siko Setyanto's dance career: touring Germany and South Korea, performances in Indonesia, classes and more classes. Now this man in motion has spent more than two months holed up at home with his wife.

"For dancers, it is like the bloodline stopped in our body," he says. "I cannot move freely, no more job . . . while my economic responsibilities do not stop. Personally, I was stressed too."

He was rescued by two choreographers in Indonesia's capital who have given a traditional system for tipping artists, saweran, a modern twist — posting video recordings of dancers' work on YouTube and asking for donations to keep the dancers and their art alive.

"We remember a long time ago we watched performances with the saweran system," said Rusdy Rukmarata, who masterminded the project with Yola Yulfianti.

"No ticket box, no promotion, only space in the market and the musicians. People can watch them for free and if they like them, they give the tip to the performers," Rukmarata said.

So Rukmarata and Yulfianti, members of the Jakarta Arts Council, started Saweran Online



on the Indonesian Dance Network channel. On this digital stage, dancers can show their work; the shows are free, but viewers are encouraged to donate.

There are more than 60 videos by individuals and dance groups from various backgrounds and genres. Included are traditional Indonesian dance, contemporary ballet and even dance workouts for older viewers. Some dancers provide

SHOW MUST GO ON: Two Indonesian choreographers are helping fellow dancers who lost their jobs due to the virus outbreak by setting up a YouTube channel as a platform where dancers, choreographers and dance teachers can perform and receive donation from viewers.

AP picture



videos, while others record performances at Rukmarata's studio.

Each donation is divided: 75 percent for the performer, 20 percent to other Covid-19 needs in Indonesia and the rest to pay for the project's costs.

Siko Setyanto saw money deposited in his bank account two weeks after his video went up. The cash is important to Setyanto, but so is the opportunity to show his art: "I really appreciate how this programme can be a place for the dancers to express our works."

Yulfianti said performers are responsible for attracting viewers and support.

"The dancers should be as creative as they can. They should attract their viewers too," Yulfianti said. The two have been joined in their effort by independent art producer Ratri Anindyajati, who has recovered from Covid-19 and is renowned as Case 03 in Indonesia.

Anindyajati said her survival has inspired her to do more for others during the pandemic.

"As I grew up with the dance community, I would like to help them. Moreover, it is not only helping people around the dance community," but also others who need aid, Anindyajati said. — AP

Virus-hit Fiji Airways sacks close to 800 staff

NADI — Nearly 800 Fiji Airways staff, including cabin crew and pilots, have been made redundant today.

FBC News obtained a copy of the termination letter that was sent to 775 staff from the airline.

In the letter, Fiji Airways said the severe effects of Covid-19, had resulted in the company taking the "drastic step".

Staff have been given 48 hours to return any Fiji Airways property and to collect personal belongings from the office.

The letter said people who had been released could reapply for roles when the situation allowed.

All 79 expatriate pilots with the airline have had their contracts terminated as part of the moves.

Fiji Airways said eight expatriate executives had also been laid off.

The airline had six local executives who have retained their jobs and now constitute the majority of the leadership team.

The staff being let go will be paid a minimum notice period of one month, plus any accumulated leave and other entitlements.

A 20 percent permanent salary reduction would also be implemented for all employees from June 1.

In the short term staff are only being asked to work between two and five days a week.

Fiji Airways Managing Director and Chief Executive, Andre Viljoen, said the adjustments were necessary and unavoidable as the Covid-19 crisis continued to cause the further suspension of international services.

He said the company was also negotiating with its lenders and aircraft lessors for loan and lease payment deferrals, and arranging debt finance from a number of financial institutions.

Mr Viljoen said the move was a very difficult one and had only been made after exhausting all other options. — RNZ



TERMINATED: Apart from laying staff off, Fiji Airways has asked the remaining staff to work between two and five days a week, in the short term. Picture supplied by Fiji Government via RNZ


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Combating Covid-19

Virus stalls work to save rare rhino subspecies

NANYUKI, Kenya — It's not quite a case of coitus interruptus, but efforts to create a very special baby are definitely on hold. Blame the pandemic.

Groundbreaking work to keep alive the nearly extinct northern white rhino subspecies — population, two — by in-vitro fertilisation has been stalled by travel restrictions. And time is running out.

The two northern white rhinos are female. The goal is to create viable embryos in a lab by inseminating their eggs with frozen sperm from dead males, then transfer them into a surrogate mother, a more common southern white rhino.

As of January, three embryos had been created and stored in liquid nitrogen. But further key steps now have to wait.

"It has been disrupted by Covid-19, like everything else," said Richard Vigne, managing director of Ol Pejeta Conservancy in Kenya, home of the two remaining rhinos. "That is, the process of collecting more eggs from the females as well as the process of developing the technique to introduce the northern white rhino embryo into the southern white rhino females."

It's an international effort that includes conservationists from Kenya, the Czech Republic, Germany and Italy — many affected by closed borders or restricted travel.

For those involved in the effort, acutely aware of time, the delay can be painful. The procedure to create viable embryos has proven to be safe, they say, and can be performed regularly before the animals become too old.

In January, the transfer of the embryos to surrogates had been planned for the coming months. In March, the plan had been to collect another round of eggs from the two remaining females.

Because those eggs are limited, scientists are working with embryos from southern white rhinos until they can establish a successful pregnancy. Seven or eight transfers so far have failed to take hold. A



LIFE INTERRUPTED: Female northern white rhinos Fatu, 19, right, and Najin, 30, left, the last two northern white rhinos on the planet. Travel restrictions due to the lockdowns has become a hurdle to save Northern white rhinos. AP picture

receptive female is needed, along with the knowledge of exactly when she ovulates.

"We know time is working against us," said Cesare Galli, an in-vitro fertilisation expert based in Italy. "The females will age and we don't have many to choose from."

He hopes restrictions on international travel will loosen in the coming weeks so key steps can resume in August.

"The problem is quite serious," he said. "Certainly as soon as international travel is resumed, it will be the first priority to go to Kenya and collect more eggs from the two females."

Even when travel can resume, another problem looms. The Ol Pejeta Conservancy also is home to primates — non-human primates — which are susceptible to the coronavirus, Galli said.

"If you bring in the virus accidentally, it's an additional risk," he said. "You threaten one species to save another."

So for now, the two northern white rhinos wait. Fatu and her mother, Najin, roam and graze within sight of rangers in the company of one intended surrogate mother, a southern white rhino named Tewa.

One of the rhinos' keepers, Zachariah Mutai, was sympathetic. "They won't have a

chance anymore to have babies in a natural way, but the only hope is to save them with the scientific way," he said.

The ultimate goal is to create a herd of at least five animals that could be returned to their natural habitat in Africa. That could take decades.

Decades of poaching have taken a heavy toll on rhino species. The animals are killed for their horns, which have long been used as carving material and prized in traditional Chinese medicine for their supposed healing properties.

The last male northern white rhino was a 45-year-old named Sudan, who gained fame in 2017 when he was listed as "The Most Eligible Bachelor in the World" on the Tinder dating app as part of a fundraising effort. He was euthanised in 2018 because of age-related illness.

This effort to keep the northern white rhino subspecies alive has been a good way to draw the world's attention to the issue of extinction, Vigne said.

"The rate of extinction of species on this planet is now the fastest that has ever been recorded, much faster than the rate dinosaurs went extinct, and that is as a result of human activity," he said. "So there comes a time where we have to draw a line . . . and say 'no more'." — AP

Thousands wait to take oath for US citizenship

BOSTON — Wendy De Los Santos passed the test to become a US citizen just days before government offices shut down nationwide because of the coronavirus pandemic.

In mid-March, officials said they would tell her in a few weeks when she could publicly recite the oath of allegiance, the final step before becoming an American citizen.

More than two months later, she's still waiting.

"It is causing some anxiety. It would be nice to finish the process, even if it has to be done virtually," said De Los Santos, a 38-year-old Boston-area medical assistant originally from the Dominican Republic.

While many parts of American life have pivoted online or are beginning to re-emerge from weeks of lockdowns, the citizenship process has ground to a halt.

US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), which handles citizenship, visa, refugee and asylum claims, postponed in-person services on March 18, citing concerns about the virus spreading. It's extended the suspension at least through June 3.

A limited number of small naturalisation ceremonies have taken place, but advocates complain that most aspiring citizens haven't been told when the final step will happen.

Citizenship groups warn the delays threaten to disenfranchise thousands of potential voters in a critical election year.

Registration deadlines for primaries are approaching in a number of states, and would-be voters must be citizens when they register or risk facing criminal charges or even deportation, they say. "This is yet another attempt to politicise access to voting," said Kristen Clarke, president of the Washington DC-based Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.

"The final ceremonial step should not be used as a pretext to deny otherwise citizenship-eligible individuals access to the ballot."

USCIS is holding more ceremonies as it becomes better at using new formats, deputy director for policy Joseph Edlow said.

But he said federal law requires people to take their oath "publicly" and "in person" and that key parts of the ceremony can't be done virtually, such as collecting permanent resident cards and issuing

citizenship certificates.

"Naturalising new United States citizens is a critical benefit we administer at USCIS and we're working hard to resume that process," Edlow said in a statement. "However, we will not ignore federal law, which has clear in-person requirements for naturalisation, in the name of convenience or expediency."

But federal law also requires citizenship ceremonies be conducted "as frequently as necessary" to "minimise unreasonable delays," said Chiara St. Pierre, an attorney with the International Institute of New England, which is helping De Los Santos and others waiting to take their oath.

President Donald Trump could issue an executive order temporarily easing the in-person requirement or authorising others to administer the oaths, such as postmasters and notaries public, St. Pierre said.

Trump, however, has used his executive powers to push immigration restrictions during the pandemic, including suspending refugee arrivals, halting some visa processing, largely closing the nation's borders and turning away asylum-seekers.

"There are a lot of options for getting this done," St. Pierre said of citizenship ceremonies.

Complicating matters, USCIS told Congress last week that it needs \$1.2 billion in emergency funding and to charge higher fees just to stay afloat.

The agency is almost entirely funded by service fees — including the roughly \$725 it charges for processing a citizenship application — but that revenue has dried up during the crisis, officials said.

The agency declined to say how many people have participated in ceremonies since the pandemic took hold in the US but said that at least 85 have been scheduled through to June 4 in a dozen cities, including San Antonio, Salt Lake City, Philadelphia and Anchorage, Alaska.

In Phoenix this week, about 30 people a day took part in small naturalisation ceremonies in the USCIS office parking lot. Donning face masks and waving small American flags, the aspiring citizens recited the oath outside their cars.

USCIS declined to say how many people are waiting, but advocates say it's easily in the hundreds of thousands. — AP

Yemeni gravediggers overwhelmed amid spike in virus deaths

ADEN, Yemen — At a cemetery in Yemen's largest southern city, dozens of fresh graves were a testament to a spike in deaths amid the coronavirus pandemic.

The cemetery workers who bury them don't know what killed the newly deceased. But there's no denying that there's been an increasing number of people getting sick in the port city of Aden — likely from the coronavirus.

Many are buried with few precautions and only a small number of attendees. Workers wear masks or cover their faces with a cloth.

Mohammed Ebeid, a gravedigger in Aden, said there's been five times the normal traffic, with 51 burials in the last week at the cemetery where he works.

"This is something strange, we've never seen it before," he told The Associated Press late last week.

The international aid group Doctors Without Borders has reported a spike in deaths and infections from coronavirus, including health

workers at a facility it runs in the city. Residents of Aden had previously said several hospitals shut their doors, as healthcare workers feared contracting the virus while lacking protective equipment.

The spike has also exposed the extent of the virus's spread in the war-torn country.

Caroline Seguin, Doctors Without Borders' operations manager for Yemen, told the AP on Friday that the mortality rate at their facility treating Covid-19 patients was "very, very high," and that a lot of people have arrived "almost dead, or already dead."

The group, which is known by its French acronym MSF, said in a statement last week that the high number of deaths at its Covid-19 treatment centre in Aden "speaks to a wider catastrophe unfolding in the city." The key southern port has recently witnessed a new chapter of political infighting between and government forces and southern separatists who declared self-rule last

month, leaving health authorities in disarray.

The facility had no choice but to turn away patients, said Seguin, because they did not have enough staff and supplies to treat the patients. MSF's facility is the only dedicated Covid-19 centre for all of southern Yemen.

Seguin said at least 40 health workers at the facility were Covid-19 patients or suspected patients, but MSF couldn't confirm that because of a shortage of tests.

The group said on Thursday that "as many as 80 people have been dying in the city per day during the past week, up from a pre-outbreak normal of 10."

Earlier this month, the United Nations said it was extremely concerned by the rapid spread of the virus in Yemen. It said community transmission was going widely undetected, and unmitigated in many places, due to the lack of testing.

The Health Ministry of Yemen's internationally recognised government,



CATASTROPHE UNFOLDING: The cemetery workers who bury the dead don't know what killed the newly deceased. But there's no denying that there's an increase in the number of sick people in the port city of Aden — likely from the coronavirus. AP picture

which controls Aden, has reported only 212 confirmed cases including 39 deaths in the southern Yemen, which is low. In the north, which is controlled by the Houthi rebels, the numbers are

even lower, but there are reports of unexplained deaths there as well. So far, the Houthis have reported four cases, including one death of a Somali migrant. — AP

No need for 'turd taxis' in Wgtn after pipe fix

WELLINGTON — The trucks hauling human waste around Wellington's south coast to a landfill will finally stop now a sewer pipe has been repaired.

The "turd taxis" have been making about 150 round trips a day, driving the sludge from the Moa Point treatment plant to a landfill after two pipes failed in January.

Engineers from Germany were flown in to help with the repairs, but the lockdown restrictions from the Covid-19 pandemic meant they had to go into quarantine for two weeks before being able to start work.

A liner fitted to the first of two 1.8km pipes two weeks ago has now been tested and the pipe is now up and running.

The second pipe is expected to be fixed in about three weeks.

Wellington Mayor Andy Foster said completing the repairs under lockdown rules had been difficult, and he thanked residents for their patience.

"Covid-19 created a number of challenges for these critical and highly technical major projects — from the border closure and disruption of international freight through to the need for social-



ENGINEERS FROM GERMANY HELPED WITH THE REPAIRS: Left, Max Vollenbroich from the German firm Amex-Sanivar helps guide the folded and taped high-strength liner towards the sludge pipe. Picture supplied

distancing protocols on site.

"In that context, Wellington Water and its contractor partners have done a fantastic job to reach these milestones," Mr Foster said.

The trucking and repair work is estimated to cost the Wellington City Council at least \$16 million.

Owhiro Bay Residents' Association spokesperson Eugene Doyle said yesterday that it was a great day for their community and the city, and he thanked the truck drivers who worked around the clock.

Wellington Water chief executive Colin Crampton

said yesterday that having one pipeline back online means the trucking of the sludge could stop immediately.

He said the second pipe is a backup and also allows large volumes of sludge to be transported more efficiently.

— RNZ

Nearly 90 staff to lose jobs at Invercargill's ILT

INVERCARGILL — Eighty-seven of ILT's workforce of 606 staff will be made redundant after restructuring due to the pandemic's impact on the hospitality sector.

ILT chief executive Chris Ramsay said the business was unable to retain its full quota of staff in the current economic environment.

According to its website, ILT, which was formerly known as the Invercargill Licensing Trust and has a monopoly on the development of premises licensed for the sale of alcoholic beverages in Invercargill, operates more than 20 businesses in the hospitality sector.

With recovery predicted to take a significant amount of time, the overall commercial sustainability of the organisation was paramount, he said.

"It was a relief to reach the point where our restaurants and bars are able to trade, but even at Alert Level 2, the restrictions imposed do seriously impede our ability to do so profitably," Mr Ramsay said.

"We know people are hurting from this decision — we're not immune to that. Trust me, we feel it personally and professionally."

The decision to restructure, following a consultation process, came with a lot of angst, he said.

"To be faced with this reality has been confronting and an incredibly difficult process for everyone involved.

"Our focus from the outset of this pandemic has been to protect our ILT team, and we've explored every possible scenario to try to save jobs.

"Unfortunately, the impact of Covid-19 on both the hospitality and tourism sectors — the very two we are reliant on for survival — has been catastrophic."

— New Zealand Herald

Arrests made at hotel housing people in quarantine

by Lincoln Tan, NZ Herald

AUCKLAND — Two men were arrested at an Auckland hotel on Saturday where people are being housed in managed self-isolation.

The arrests happened just minutes after a fire alarm was triggered.

A witness, Jon Philip Smith — who arrived in Auckland on May 19 from Brisbane and was also in self-isolation at the Rydges Hotel on Federal Street — said a man tried to run away and was arrested by police.

In a statement, police said they were called shortly before 6pm on Saturday following a fire alarm activation.

"One person was taken into custody in connection to a mental health incident."

However, police said the man was arrested for allegedly intentionally triggering a fire alarm and not because he was "trying to escape".

"As he's appearing before the court, we can't comment further," a police spokesman said.

Another intoxicated man also breached the cordon placed outside the hotel after the fire alarm went off.

"He was aggressive to police staff and assaulted an officer. He was arrested at the scene," the spokesman said.

Kiwi travellers returning from

overseas are placed in two-week mandatory isolation at one of 13 Auckland hotels to stop the virus from spreading.

Mr Smith, 68, said people in the hotel were being denied exercise because of a shortage of security officers and that social-distancing protocols were not observed when the fire alarm was activated.

People at the hotel were "clearly getting fed up", and staff had told Mr Smith this was not the first time someone had tried to escape.

"The kitchen staff told me that even last week, there were people who had escaped but were found and brought back to the hotel," Mr Smith said.

"It appeared that this man was also trying to escape when police arrested him."

On the day after he arrived and again last Saturday, Mr Smith said he was told he could not have his daily exercise

because there were not enough security officers.

"I made the request that I wished to take some exercise and was told, because of the influx

of passengers from my flight, there were not enough officers available for me to do so," he said.

"This is a clear case of the incompetent attempt by the health department to save us from a virus which has been



(virtually) eliminated but, at the same time, they are denying someone like myself — a person who needs cardio exercise and has heart disease — the basic human right to exercise."

Mr Smith said the fire alarm going off on Saturday evening meant everyone who was self-isolating at the hotel needed to use two sets of fire-escape stairs.

He said "poor social distancing" was evident throughout the process.

"The set I used led through a narrow passage and door where social distancing at that point did not exist," he said.

"Police also failed to ask residents to social distance at any time in the evening, and aviation security appeared to be non-existent until the fire department declared a false alarm and masks were supplied."

Mr Smith said that on Friday evening he was also told he could not exercise on a small

concrete pad outside the hotel's main entrance on Kingston Street, after being told earlier that he could.

"I was told I could no longer use this area because a bus was to arrive with more new residents in it and it was too much risk to my health to remain in the area and I should go to my room," he said.

"Staff on site had changed into full protective clothing and were wearing face masks, which I had not seen them wearing before."

He was concerned people with symptoms were being mixed with those who had arrived without symptoms of the disease, such as himself.

He believed standards were being lowered when there was a sudden influx of new arrivals because spare capacity was not available at short notice.

Up to 18 hotels are being used in Auckland for the purpose of managed self-isolation, with

two of these hotels having been specifically set aside for those with symptoms and those who are being tested for Covid-19.

"Protecting our border is a critical part of the Government's strategy to eliminate Covid-19, especially now that domestic cases are at such low levels," a Ministry of Health spokeswoman said in response to Mr Smith's claims.

"We do not want to put the good progress we have made in jeopardy and we know international arrivals are a potential source of new cases."

The spokeswoman said there were formal plans and procedures in place to ensure the health and safety of staff and guests during their quarantine.

"Those plans and procedures include for emergency situations," she said.

"The Ministry of Health and other Government agency staff regularly monitor the performance of hotel accommodation providers, and (we) are satisfied that the health requirements around social distancing, personal hygiene and exercise are being met.

"That said, we would encourage hotel guests to talk to on-site management if they have specific concerns."

More than 2000 New Zealanders are currently in managed isolation (or quarantine). Since facilities were first established, at least 25 coronavirus cases had been detected.

Mr Smith is one of about 300 guests currently in quarantine at the Rydges.

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Race 3: RAINING SIXES, TRAJAN, ROCKONEVA
Race 4: IDOL LUCY, HARDCORE JET, BOOT CAMP TIARA
Race 5: IDOL MEGHAN, ZARA FAB, ELSA BLUEBLOOD
Race 6: TRUE TESTAMENT, SLAM IT, ESTER
Race 7: COCKNEY RIP OFF, SEDGEBROOK SAINT, WATCH MARJEN
Race 8: IDOL WILSON, ALLEGRO RORY, DOUBLE CHANGE
Race 9: WIFI ROBYN, IDOL LITTLE GIRL, JOHNY MOWHAWK
Race 10: PENNY MOWHAWK, SEDGEBROOK COMET, BIGNITY AVA
Race 11: BIG TIME LENNY, ALAMEIN GRAEME, JACKS POINT
Race 12: COOKIE BISCUIT, ZARA DAIKEN, WATERLOO PINK

1 Kernow Construction 12.01 \$1365, C0, 305m

1 Hardcore Kylie n/wtd Agent & Williams
2 Wifi Inga n/wtd G & S Fredrickson
3 43 Big Time Jewel n/wtd Lisa Cole
4 66234 Telltale Signs n/wtd Melissa Olden
5 73765 Jack Marjen n/wtd Marcie Flipp
6 33484 Citizen Zagreb n/wtd John McInerney
7 Wifi Bomber n/wtd G & S Fredrickson
8 Big Time Beat n/wtd Lisa Cole
EMERGENCIES:
9 78384 Big Time Goldie n/wtd Wendy Kite
10 32687 Paving Way n/wtd Lana Pearce

2 Wanganui Toyota 12.20 \$1365, C0, 305m

1 8s723 Idol Andy n/wtd Marcie Flipp
2 28 Big Time Tommey n/wtd Lisa Cole

3 Allegro Lincoln n/wtd Lisa Cole
4 Hardcore Brute n/wtd Agent & Williams
5 57222 Go Blue n/wtd Nathan Udy
6 6 Cave Witch n/wtd L E Dunkerton
7 Oh Miss Jordie n/wtd M S Clark
8 Wifi Flee n/wtd G & S Fredrickson
EMERGENCIES:
9 58836 That's Frank n/wtd John McInerney
10 68767 Trudy Remarkable n/wtd Carol Morris

3 First Security Reverse Criteria 12.39 \$1450, C1, 305m

1 57677 Trajan n/wtd John McInerney
2 85388 Bigtime Champ 17.66 Agent & Williams
3 s7587 Rose And Crown n/wtd Mark Goodier
4 71885 Raining Sixes 18.32 Brian Goldsack
5 68757 Big Time Rusty 18.13 Agent & Williams
6 77777 Hypothetical 18.13 Melissa Olden
7 28587 Rockoneva n/wtd Bill Hodgson
8 27868 Small Boy 18.32 Agent & Williams
EMERGENCIES:
9 78778 Cool Wolf 17.86 Diane Donlon
10 58778 Dottie Bell 18.09 Leanne Bell

4 Member's \$12 Roast On Friday's 12.59 \$1365, C0, 305m

1 Hardcore Jet n/wtd Agent & Williams
2 Allegro Skye n/wtd Lisa Cole
3 Wifi Sophie n/wtd G & S Fredrickson
4 Wifi Sapphire n/wtd G & S Fredrickson
5 24632 Idol Lucy n/wtd Marcie Flipp
6 75742 Boot Camp Tiara n/wtd Lana Pearce
7 Big Time Hazel n/wtd Lisa Cole
8 54377 Oma Rapeti n/wtd Carol Morris
EMERGENCIES:
9 6 Big Time Boots n/wtd Lisa Cole
10 77575 Freckle n/wtd John McInerney

Jetbet 3 TAB D. 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 11-12 T. 1-2-3, 4-5-6, 7-8-9, 10-11-12 Q. 2-3-4-5, 9-10-11-12 PL6 7-12

5 Red Snapper Seafoods 1.19 \$1450, C1, 305m

1 25682 Zara Fab 18.03 Nathan Udy
2 53448 Bigtime Fred 17.67 Agent & Williams
3 13212 Idol Meghan 17.60 Marcie Flipp
4 66455 Nuclear Jewel 17.90 Liz Doody
5 44273 Elsa Blueblood 18.06 John McInerney
6 16 Big Time Rocket 17.57 Lisa Cole
7 52568 Thrilling Ivy 18.10 Sue Gommans
8 23F45 Judge Me Jackie 17.91 Lana Pearce
EMERGENCIES:
9 67464 Rowdy Ruby 17.75 Susie Kite
10 13856 Clansman Douglas 18.16 Brian Goldsack

6 Aon Insurance Reverse Criteria 1.39 \$2505, C1, 520m

1 88s77 Rambo n/wtd W Woods
2 454s7 True Testament 30.59 Bill Hodgson
3 87767 Three Of Hearts 30.82 Bill Hodgson
4 77756 Jay Mike 30.43 Nathan Udy
5 48786 Arm Turner n/wtd John McInerney
6 37567 Slam It 31.26 John McInerney
7 88788 Bigtime Chloe 30.76 Mark Goodier
8 582s8 Ester n/wtd Nathan Udy
EMERGENCIES:
9 84467 Opawa Lara n/wtd Nathan Udy
10 76456 Stormy Jay 30.51 Wendy Kite

7 Accell Canine Therapy 1.59 \$1450, C1, 305m

1 53368 Bigtime Rosie n/wtd G & S Fredrickson
2 58723 Sedgbrook Saint 17.78 Liz Doody
3 63547 Hurricane Al 17.85 Carol Morris
4 64224 Cockney Rip Off 17.72 Melissa Olden
5 35436 Gemmas Dilemma 18.16 John McInerney
6 73516 Watch Marjen 18.20 Marcie Flipp
7 58778 Dottie Bell 18.09 Leanne Bell

8 78525 Idol Ziggy n/wtd Marcie Flipp

EMERGENCIES:
9 48836 Bigtime Hannah 17.80 Sue Gommans
10 65457 Monty 18.00 Nathan Udy

8 Laser Plumbing 2.22 \$1450, C1, 305m

1 26444 Summer Glee 17.66 John McInerney
2 76532 Idol Wilson 18.19 Marcie Flipp
3 73533 Double Change n/wtd Sue Gommans
4 38117 Allegro Rory 17.81 Lisa Cole
5 43588 Final Straw 18.06 Nathan Udy
6 72657 Bright Concept 17.84 Leanne Bell
7 23646 Big Time Rose 17.94 Agent & Williams
8 34284 Yasawa Lights n/wtd Angela Turnwald
EMERGENCIES:
9 42565 Idol Jan 17.80 Marcie Flipp
10 36484 Retail Mayhem 18.03 Lana Pearce

9 Book Your Function @ Hatrick 2.39 \$1450, C1, 305m

1 43642 Idol Little Girl 18.13 Marcie Flipp
2 64362 Johnny Mowhawk 18.03 David Denbee
3 6s537 Star Way 18.11 Carol Morris
4 61676 I'll Be Loyal 18.05 Bill Hodgson
5 53753 Goldstar Auburn n/wtd Sue Gommans
6 23513 Wifi Robyn 17.79 G & S Fredrickson
7 56835 Checkpoint 17.95 Marcie Flipp
8 24356 Always Dizzy 18.07 John McInerney
EMERGENCIES:
9 47644 Bombshell Blonde 18.02 Nathan Udy
10 3F845 Taranaki Brie 18.16 Colleen Brider

10 Adept Accountants 2.59 \$2505, C1, 520m

1 61524 Sedgbrook Comet n/wtd Fred Kite
2 88s5 Opawa Tai 30.66 Nathan Udy

3 47543 Bigtime Ava 30.70 Peter Clark
4 66564 Gray Bale 30.23 W Woods
5 35547 Cavatate 30.55 J & D Bell
6 68242 Big Time Roonie 30.63 Lisa Cole
7 77513 Penny Mowhawk n/wtd David Denbee
8 23235 Cossie Cooper 30.35 Melissa Olden
EMERGENCIES:
9 7478s Marley Farley 31.16 Ross & Voyce
10 76456 Stormy Jay 30.51 Wendy Kite

11 CPF Insurance 3.19 \$1450, C1, 305m

1 44121 Big Time Lenny 17.90 Lisa Cole
2 25853 Jacks Point 17.97 W Woods
3 66875 Justa Gift 17.62 J & D Bell
4 5F166 Sideline Sally 18.25 John McInerney
5 765s1 Idol Leo 18.10 Marcie Flipp
6 41734 Alamein Graeme 18.03 Kettlewell & Phillips
7 53F48 Bigtime Roll 17.65 Sue Gommans
8 38862 Bigtime Coco 17.72 Nathan Udy
EMERGENCIES:
9 74457 Opawa Marcie n/wtd Marcie Flipp
10 45854 Mickey Mowhawk 17.96 David Denbee

12 Palamountains Nutrition 3.39 \$1685, C2, 305m

1 33558 Arthur's Crown 17.76 Richard Waite
2 34126 Zara Daiken 17.93 Nathan Udy
3 31823 Waterloo Pink 17.90 Wendy Kite
4 41247 My Pablo 17.92 Nathan Udy
5 33161 Cookie Biscuit 17.73 Marcie Flipp
6 25146 Lucky Scar 17.88 Nathan Udy
7 18483 Alamein Stryda 17.74 Kettlewell & Phillips
8 15462 Viking Ash 17.79 Nathan Udy
EMERGENCIES:
9 21387 Choice Sister 18.01 Carol Morris
10 13381 Wifi Bolt 17.77 G & S Fredrickson

New South Wales races at Canterbury Park Wednesday

Selections
Race 1: MIRAVALLE, ANGEL HELENA, BALLISTIC LOVER
Race 2: SOLE HEIR, CONCEALED, EDMOND
Race 3: JETSKI, ATLANTIC KING, PAPAL WARRIOR
Race 4: MILUNKA, MAUI GIRL, MADAM LEGEND
Race 5: CONTINUATION, TOULON BROOK, KIRWAN'S LANE
Race 6: MONTE DITTO, PINVINCIBLE, CRISTAL BREEZE
Race 7: DREAM CIRCLE, SNEAK PREVIEW, BIGBOYROY

1 Iron Jack Handicap 2.50 \$45,000, 2yo Fillies Maiden, 1250m

1 2s43 Ballistic Lover b (1) 58 100 Ms R King
2 About To Launch (2) 57 85 N Rawiller
3 Angel Helena (9) 57 84 K Mc Evoy
4 0 Karauna (5) 57 81 G Schofield
5 Miravalle (3) 57 85 J Mc Donald
6 Zelfy (6) 57 84 J Bowman
7 45s Found Our Thrill (10) 56.5 88 T Clark
8 7 Samiam Seussie (4) 56.5 84 J Collett
9 4s73 Willinga Panache (7) 56.5 97 Ms L Day (a3)
10 364 Hirondele (8) 56 90 T Berry
11 6s95 Kerrisdale (11) 55.5 92 J Van Overmeire (a1.5)

2 Microphone @ Darley 3.25 \$45,000, 2yo C&Gs Maiden, 1250m

1 California Cible (10) 58 89 K Mc Evoy
2 5 Concealed (2) 58 95 R Dolan (a)
3 Edmond (3) 58 90 A Adkins
4 6 Equation (17) 58 100 T Berry
5 Euphrates (11) 58 91 Ms R King
6 Foscolo (9) 58 90 J Mc Donald
7 Grenado SCRATCHED
8 Le Vizir (12) 58 89 J Collett
9 Oregon (8) 58 90 J Bowman
10 Scenic Warrior (13) 58 90 S Clipperton
11 Supremo (6) 58 91 N Rawiller
12 The Denzel (5) 58 92 Chris C Williams (a2)
13 Ps53 Sea Boss (7) 57.5 92 A Hyeronimus
14 24s Sole Heir (4) 57.5 94 T Clark
EMERGENCIES:
15 Pyrmont SCRATCHED
16 7s Black Meteor (1) 57 87 J Van Overmeire (a1.5)
17 9 King Lenny (15) 57 89

3 Yes Yes Yes @ Coolmore 4.00 \$45,000, 3yo Benchmark 66, 1250m

1 s1675 Jetski (6) 61.5 97 J Van Overmeire (a1.5)
2 s5712 Darleb w (7) 61 96 J Bowman
3 s2104 Battleground wb (11) 60.5 97 T Clark
4 420s1 Papal Warrior cw (5) 60 98 J Mc Donald

5 31142 Jailbreak wb (8) 59.5 97 K Mc Evoy
6 4133s Atlantic King (2) 59 95 J Collett
7 14663 Lillemor (1) 58.5 100 Ms L Day (a3)
8 1368s Vienna Rain (3) 58 98 N Rawiller
9 1734s Lubuk (10) 56.5 98 B Avdulla
10 4446s War Baron (4) 55.5 93 A Adkins
11 s54s2 Irish Angel b (9) 55 99 T Berry

4 Ranvet Handicap 4.35 \$45,000, 3yo & up F&M Benchmark 72, 1550m

1 2143s Birth Of Venus w (11) 62.5 92 Chris C Williams (a2)
2 40s11 Maui Girl w (10) 61 95
3 196s9 Whiskey Shooter tn (13) 59.5 90 A Hyeronimus
4 20719 Aesop's Fable w (6) 59 97 J Van Overmeire (a1.5)
5 s6010 Laila De Vega w (3) 59 97 N Rawiller
6 10231 Mumentum w (9) 59 94 Ms L Day (a3)
7 23246 My Demetra w (12) 59 97 T Berry
8 5s115 Madam Legend w (5) 58.5 95 K Mc Evoy
9 9s56s Song And A Prayer w (4) 58 100 Ms R King

10 411s0 Lady Highly (1) 57.5 90 J Collett
EMERGENCIES:
11 531s1 Smart Decision w (8) 57 96 T Clark
12 2140s Milunka cw (2) 57 93 J Mc Donald
13 110s7 Autumn Rain (7) 57 91 J Bowman

5 TAB Handicap 5.10 \$45,000, 3yo & up Benchmark 64, 1900m

1 59330 Monsieur Sisu tcw (10) 62.5 97 R Dolan (a)
2 12454 Fast Talking (3) 61.5 94 N Rawiller
3 120s8 Continuation d (7) 61 97 K Mc Evoy
4 155s7 De Valera cwn (9) 60 96 B Avdulla
5 23133 Moon Panther (8) 60 100 J Mc Donald
6 76132 Toulon Brook w (2) 60 95 Ms L Day (a3)
7 23931 Celtic Love w (13) 59.5 95 Ms R King
8 21222 Kirwan's Lane wb (6) 59 99 J Bowman
9 s0573 Ocean Walzer n (15) 59 94 J Van Overmeire (a1.5)
10 80150 Emperor Harada w (11) 58 95 T Clark
11 89221 Notabadidea w (4) 57 95 A Adkins
12 s77s7 Cleverley (14) 55.5 91 S Clipperton
13 27969 Misty Summer (1) 55 94 T Berry
14 1s259 Without Risk w (5) 55 93 J Collett
EMERGENCY:
15 8s595 Isadora Twinkle w (12) 54 90

6 Headwater @ Vinery 5.45 \$45,000, 4yo & up Benchmark 70, 1250m

1 s1s0s Lead Choreographer (2) 63.5 93 Chris C Williams (a2)
2 5332s Cristal Breeze (11) 61 93 K Mc Evoy
3 52107 Epic Dan dw (12) 61 97 T Berry
4 1s128 Pinvincible tw (8) 61 99 A Hyeronimus
5 70s96 Quadriga cn (1) 61 99 J Bowman

6 143s9 Sedition w (9) 60.5 100 Ms L Day (a3)
7 3178s Almerheri tw (6) 59.5 97 N Rawiller
8 23962 Monte Ditto tw (10) 59.5 97 J Collett
9 s3649 Thitledo w (4) 58.5 95 J Van Overmeire (a1.5)

10 80938 Drachenfels dw (3) 57.5 96 Ms R King
11 4537s Vitesse (7) 57 95 J Mc Donald
12 Weather Channel SCRATCHED
13 3s940 Heaven On Earth tdwn (5) 56.5 97 A Adkins

7 Sky Racing Active 6.20 \$45,000, 3yo & up C.H&G's Benchmark 70, 1550m

1 333s2 Bigboyroy cn (15) 61.5 99 Ms L Day (a3)
2 0s217 The Cartoonist cw (11) 61 92 R Dolan (a)
3 s9910 Chalmers dw (5) 60.5 93 J Bowman
4 6155s Clevanicc cwn (12) 60.5 90 K Mc Evoy
5 02600 The Bald Eagle cw (14) 60.5 90 B Avdulla
6 70013 Assault'n'bathory wb (10) 60 96 J Van Overmeire (a1.5)
7 308s3 Chocolatier (2) 60 97 N Rawiller
8 s9594 Donandkim (8) 59.5 94 A Adkins
9 81033 Sneak Preview (6) 59.5 92 T Clark
10 25s90 Monasterio tdwn (3) 59 91 A Hyeronimus
EMERGENCIES:
11 17132 Dream Circle w (13) 59 96 J Collett
12 95s20 Holy Reign (4) 58.5 100 J Mc Donald
13 19s95 Bullet Master (7) 57.5 93
14 27935 Ladies' Gem w (9) 54 89
15 70060 Notabadharada w (1) 54 90

Victoria races at Sale Wednesday

Selections
Race 1: I AM MAMWAAZEL, MISS CONDUCT, DARK PHOENIX
Race 2: PARIS PIKE, NOT FOR IZZY, DARCY EKCELS
Race 3: SEQUALUS, LARIAT, HUMMALONG
Race 4: MOI CHOUX, BEAUTY SUPREME, CHINA AFFAIR
Race 5: MASTER MONTARO, LAKE'S FOLLY, WRITE ENUFF
Race 6: BIG BREW, KANSINO, MR MONACO
Race 7: TABERNA, ZOUY'S COMET, BLENDEES EDITION
Race 8: MIROKU, VICI, STREET TOUGH

1 Ladbrokes Back Yourself 2.25 \$31,500, 2yo Maiden SW, 1200m

1 Bequester (13) 58 79 A Lynch
2 Calaveras (9) 58 82 C Williams
3 Cherry Tortoni (14) 58 83 W Egan
4 Foxgossip (2) 58 82 J Noonan
5 Gumnuts (12) 58 81 B Rawiller
6 2s I Am Mamwaazel (1) 58 96 L Nolen
7 Maui (5) 58 81 B Thompson
8 Region Eff (16) 58 81 M Dee
9 Saltpeper (6) 58 82 D Stackhouse
10 Dark Phoenix (15) 56 84 C Newitt
11 Miss Conduct (3) 56 87 J McNeil
12 Mystique Falcon (4) 56 82 M Poy (a)
EMERGENCIES:
13 5s Not A Zak (8) 58 89 C Douglas
14 4 Kellers Shelter (7) 58 100 C Newitt
15 5 Super Yulong (10) 58 83
16 6s Harlem Blues (11) 58 91 R Bayliss

2 Ladbrokes Same Race Multi 3.00 \$31,500, Maiden SW, 1717m

1 54s66 Borondino Dream (3) 58.5 93 J Mott
2 88 Captain Nico (10) 58.5 89 C Rawiller (a1.5)
3 27s02 Darcy Ekceles (7) 58.5 96 M Walker
4 63732 Frankie Fiorente (15) 58.5 97 L German (a)
5 680s9 I'm Here Too h (5) 58.5 82 P Moloney
6 249s3 International Gem (14) 58.5 90 D Stackhouse
7 33s58 Irish Pardon (1) 58.5 93 M Allen
8 99s46 Message (6) 58.5 94 J Childs
9 722 Not For Izzy (2) 58.5 100 C Williams
10 s05s4 Paris Pike (12) 58.5 97 C Newitt
11 66038 Kapher Darri h (8) 56.5 91 Ms K Walters
12 80s47 Our Party Animal (9) 56.5 91 B Thompson
EMERGENCIES:
13 70s66 Adie (4) 56.5 93 D Stackhouse
14 5s67L Mystical Melody (11) 56.5 89
15 58855 Solodka (13) 56.5 86 B Mertens

3 Ladbrokes Multi Builder 3.35 \$31,500, Maiden SW, 1000m

1 480 Black Stream (16) 59.5 87 J Maskiell
2 56263 Harpers Bight h (13) 59.5 83 B Higgins
3 9 Just Ralph h (1) 59.5 81 J Bowditch
4 Libertus (8) 59.5 82 D Stackhouse
5 2s9 Sacer Vates (17) 59.5 90 A Lynch
6 Diamond Stock h (11) 57.5 82 L German (a)
7 23s3s Hummalong (5) 57.5 100 J Mott
8 Jazzles (4) 57.5 85 J McNeil
9 2 Sequalus (3) 57.5 94 J Noonan
10 8827s Wanted Miss (2) 57.5 85 Ms C Hefel (a2)
11 70s4 Japery b (9) 57 100 W Egan
12 4 Lariat (10) 55 100 J McNeil

EMERGENCIES:
13 9s Make An Effort (12) 57.5 85 B Park
14 0 Another Pluck (6) 57.5 74 H Grace (a1.5)
15 68s Zebonet (14) 59.5 82
16 57 Wild Charlotte (15) 57.5 87 M Walker
17 75s Miss Lathos h (7) 57.5 73

4 Ladbrokes Odds Boost 4.10 \$31,500, 3yo Benchmark 64, 1000m

1 1s012 Moi Choux cdwn (3) 63.5 88 Ms E Brown (a3)
2 331s2 Beauty Supreme dwn (8) 60.5 100 J Childs
3 41 China Affair dwn (6) 59 82 C Douglas
4 775s5 Santorini Summer w (4) 59 94 J Bowditch
5 223 With Edge (9) 58 83 C Williams
6 21 Beatrix dwn (10) 57 83 J Noonan
7 33218 Ameliaranne cw (5) 56.5 86 M Cartwright (a2)
8 0s96s Paris dwb (11) 56.5 91 L Nolen
9 4164s Bush Christmas b (7) 56 84 C Rawiller (a1.5)
10 88s72 Kingstar Amber w (1) 56 90 J McNeil
11 42160 Miss Starway dw (2) 56 85 C Newitt

5 Ladbrokes Odds Handicap 4.45 \$31,500, Benchmark 64, 1100m

1 207s8 Mutual Respect dw (9) 61.5 87 H Grace (a1.5)
2 577s1 Lake's Folly tw (14) 60.5 96 M Allen
3 2s211 Red Maestro d (3) 60.5 93 D Stackhouse
4 79s40 Devil's Rain cwn (10) 60 90 A Lynch
5 1 Master Montaro n (12) 59.5 95 M Walker
6 27s5s Hochadel w (13) 59 83 T Stockdale (a)
7 23s22 Write Enuff wb (4) 58 100 J McNeil
8 91252 The Great Bratski cw (6) 57.5 99 C Williams

9 8s620 Miss Belisa dwn (11) 56.5 92 B Mertens
10 84858 I'm Cheeky wh (2) 56 87 J Bowditch
11 6s107 Cobain c (1) 56 89 Ms S Wynne
12 83342 Unlimited Ability wh (5) 56 91 Ms K Walters
EMERGENCIES:
13 s8570 No Nonsense Ned wh (8) 56 83 P Moloney
14 43886 Rokurokubi dh (7) 56 77 Ms C Hall

6 Ladbrokes Switch Hcp 5.20 \$31,500, 3yo & up Benchmark 64, 2200m

1 20142 Mr Monaco wn (15) 62.5 86 J Mott
2 7s475 Dandre wn (18) 62 86 C Rawiller (a1.5)
3 02s67 Kalalo wn (6) 61 95 Ms L Lafferty (a2)
4 14269 Big Brew w (3) 60 100 C Williams
5 s4408 Cleo's Poet w (17) 59.5 87 H Grace (a1.5)
6 1s006 Pharrell tcw (11) 59.5 83 M Cartwright (a2)
7 s5032 Lord Lennox (16) 58.5 84 M Allen
8 s3615 Infallybelle w (14) 57.5 85 D Schmitt
9 16518 Miss Harriette (13) 57 90 B Melham
10 2421 Kansino (10) 56.5 85 M Walker
11 00s80 Pembroke Isle wn (4) 56 84 J McNeil
12 10727 Set Us Free b (7) 56 87 B Higgins
EMERGENCIES:
13 74505 Prince Alby (8) 57.5 84 B Thompson
14 41s89 Wicked Trilogy w (2) 56 84 Ms B Grylls
15 90024 Mr Jammo n (12) 56 81
16 15268 Darken Up wh (1) 56 78 Ms K Walters
17 17990 Randolph w (9) 56 79
18 55049 The Armani wh (5) 56 78

7 Ladbrokes Money Back Odds 5.55 \$31,500, Benchmark 64, 1600m

1 00s4 Zouy's Comet dn (6) 62 94 M Cartwright (a2)
2 787s4 Into Rio dwn (9) 60.5 98 C Williams

3 76s37 Blenders Edition dw (7) 60 98 J Bowditch
4 0s172 Taberna tdn (4) 58.5 100 H Grace (a1.5)
5 s26s9 Bouffon (5) 58 80 A Lynch
6 4027s Craftsman (11) 57.5 92 B Thompson
7 7s327 Empire Liberty dwn (15) 57 95 C Rawiller (a1.5)

8 88s04 Hazard Ahead dwn (12) 57 90 M Poy (a)
9 62452 Herman's Bells (2) 57 90 J Maskiell
10 s7443 No Joy (1) 57 96 W Egan
11 1793s Sassoon dh (10) 56.5 90 L Nolen
12 s567s Abebe w (14) 56 80 B Mertens
EMERGENCIES:
13 6s008 The Welder dh (3) 56 80
14 18086 Sebring Star d (13) 56 86
15 68564 Be Miss Luchy w (8) 56 90 Ms C Hefel (a2)

8 Ladbrokes Cash In Hcp 6.30 \$31,500, Benchmark 70, 1400m

1 s89s0 So We Are dw (13) 61 88 C Rawiller (a1.5)
2 43239 Muswellbrook w (5) 60.5 94 J Mott
3 s7s42 Street Tough wbn (4) 60.5 100 W Egan
4 14s46 Toosby cwn (10) 60.5 95 D Stackhouse
5 0s281 Wilde Gem tw (12) 60.5 95 M Cartwright (a2)
6 s3862 Deep Euphoria dw (9) 60 98 M Dee
7 65s54 Trigger Point tdw (2) 60 91 M Walker
8 7476s Honorable Mention w (8) 59.5 89 B Melham
9 8s032 Miroku (7) 59 91 B Thompson
10 16s44 Vici (3) 58.5 95 C Williams
11 22118 Whittington Stone dwn (6) 58.5 94 J Noonan
12 0s822 Miss Skeptical w (11) 57 91 B Higgins
EMERGENCY:
13 4268s Frankly Harvey dw (1) 58.5 88 J Bowditch

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.

TUESDAY—WEDNESDAY'S TELEVISION GUIDE

TVNZ 1

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5pm The Chase A quiz show where contestants must stay one step ahead of The Chaser.

6pm 1 News At 6pm The latest news, sport, and weather.

7pm Seven Sharp Stories of the day from around New Zealand.

7.30 Eat Well For Less NZ A blended family who have become too reliant on jars of white sauce get a cuisine make-over, and Michael and Ganesh also help them save for a dream holiday goal.

8.30 Unbreakable Local series that follows a group of 12 young Kiwis as they pursue their life goals.

9.30 20/20 Carolyn Robinson presents the best of international current affairs.

10.30 Seven Sharp Stories of the day from around New Zealand.

11pm Sunday Will the next generation be unfairly burdened with the cost of Covid-19? At 29-years-old, Charles Ma is building a town with thousands of homes – but how has he done it?

11.55 Children Who Kill Susanna Reid is in America with access to high-profile cases involving children who kill, as the country questions what is the correct punishment for this crime.

WEDNESDAY

12.50 Emmerdale News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

1.15 Te Karere News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

6am Breakfast Ellen is joined by actress Christina Applegate.

9am The Ellen DeGeneres Show Ellen is joined by actress Christina Applegate.

10am Tipping Point Gemma opens up and confides in Rita; Leanne breaks upsetting news to Imran; Gemma finally admits to Chesney that she needs help.

11am The 100k Drop Faith is under pressure; Chas and Paddy agree on a name; Lydia's suspicions are aroused.

12.30 Emmerdale News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

TVNZ 2

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5.05 The Simpsons A quiz show where contestants must stay one step ahead of The Chaser.

5.35 Home And Away Eddie doubles down on deceit; Shereez must step up; Marty's mystery hits too close to home.

6pm The Big Bang Theory Chefs Pete Evans, Manu Feildel, and Colin Fassnidge preside as Fans take on Faves; season four runners-up Jake and Elle have their eyes on the prize, but their quarrels may stand in the way of success.

6.30 Neighbours Super stylist Gok Wan returns to tackle people's low self-esteem and guide them to a place of loving themselves.

7pm Shortland Street Covid-19 updates in nine Pacific languages.

7.30 My Kitchen Rules: The Rivals Liz and the task force join Red in pursuing a billionaire suspected to be a high-end art thief.

8.30 NCIS Has this woman found love online, or is she being catfished?

8.40 NEW How To Look Good Naked The body of a well-regarded naval technician is found floating in a lake; Sloane's daughter makes an unexpected request.

8.40 NEW How To Look Good Naked Super stylist Gok Wan returns to tackle people's low self-esteem and guide them to a place of loving themselves.

9.40 FINAL First Dates NZ After Holly and Amy experience unfair double standards, they gather Piper and the girls in their class for a protest to make their voices heard.

10.35 Two And A Half Men News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

11.05 Mom News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

11.30 Paradise Hotel News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

WEDNESDAY

12.20 The Resident News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

1.05 Shortland Street News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

1.30 Regular Show News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

1.40 Infomercials News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

2.45 The Walking Dead News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

3.30 Desperate Housewives News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

4.15 The Fresh Prince Of Bel Air News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

4.40 Emmerdale News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

5.05 Neighbours News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

5.30 Infomercials News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

6.30 Rescue Bots Academy News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

6.50 Bluey News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

7am Peppa Pig News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

7.05 The Tom And Jerry Show News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

7.25 Teen Titans Go! News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

7.50 Unikitty! News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

8.15 Moon And Me News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

8.35 Mission Force One News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

9am Infomercials News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

10am Neighbours News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

10.30 Murphy Brown News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

11.20 Army Wives News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

12.10 Selling Houses Abroad News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

BRAVO

5.10 Judge Jerry News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

5.40 Hoarders News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

6.30 Love It Or List It News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

7.30 Say Yes To The Dress Atlanta News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

8.30 The Real Housewives Of Beverly Hills News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

9.30 Killer Siblings News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

10.30 Snapped News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

WEDNESDAY

12.10 Infomercials News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

10am Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

10.55 Snapped News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

11.50 The Kelly Clarkson Show News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

12.50 The Real Housewives Of Beverly Hills News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

1.45 Below Deck News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

2.45 FINAL Keeping Up With The Kardashians News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

3.45 Mom's A Medium News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

4.15 Dance Moms News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

5.10 Judge Jerry News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

5.40 Hoarders News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

THREE

5pm Millionaire Hot Seat News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

6pm NewsHub Live At 6pm News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

7pm The Project News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

7.30 David Lomas Investigates News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

8.30 NCIS News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

9.20 NCIS News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

10.15 NewsHub Late News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

10.45 Covid 19 Update For Pacific Peoples News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

11.15 The Blacklist News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

12.10 Infomercials News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

6am The AM Show News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

9am The Café News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

10am Infomercials News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

11.25 Millionaire Hot Seat News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

12.20 Face The Truth News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

12.50 Dr Phil News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

1.50 NEW The House That £100k Built: Tricks Of The Trade News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

2.55 Restoration Man News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

4pm Travels With The Bondi Vet News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

4.30 NewsHub Live At 4:30pm News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

5pm Millionaire Hot Seat News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

WEDNESDAY

5pm Choccywoccydoodah News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

5.30 Mysteries At The Museum News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

6.30 American Pickers News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

7.30 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

8.30 Restoration Man News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

9.30 George Clarke's Old House New Home News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

10.30 American Pickers News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

11.30 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces News and current affairs from a Maori perspective.

W

kidzonly



ART TO LIFT SPIRITS: East Coast MP Anne Tolley sponsored a competition during the lockdown, inviting school children to submit artworks thanking our essential services. "Art is a powerful tool for expressing emotions and building community spirit in these very challenging times of the Covid-19 crisis," Mrs Tolley said. She is pictured with the winners of the Thanking Essential Services Art competition (TESA), from left, Sierra Blumfield, Hanna Sofia Gamboa, Lucy McDiarmid and Sage Alexander, with competition judge Phoebe Gander.

Picture by Paul Rickard

IN THE OFFICE

Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? Read backwards or forwards, up or down, or diagonally. The words will always be in a straight line. Cross them off the list as you find them.

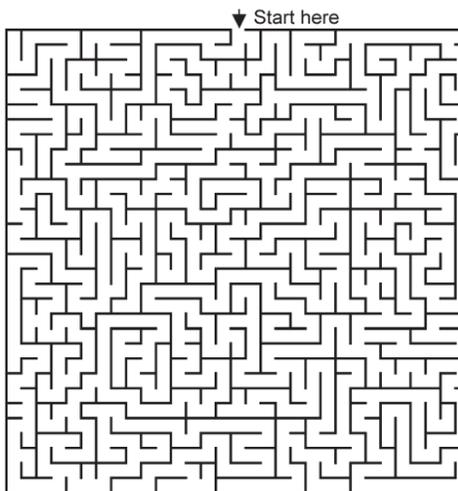
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| ATLAS | DESK | LETTERHEAD | SCISSORS |
| BELL | DIARY | LIGHTS | SHREDDER |
| BOOKS | DICTIONARY | MANUAL | STAMPS |
| CABINET | DRAWER | MONITOR | STAND |
| CALCULATOR | ENVELOPES | PAPER | STAPLER |
| CALENDAR | ERASER | PENCILS | STOOL |
| CHAIR | FILE | PINS | SWITCHBOARD |
| CHART | FOLDER | PLUG | TABLE |
| CLIPBOARD | INVOICE | POTPLANTS | TAPE |
| COMPUTER | LAMP | PRINTER | TELEPHONE |
| COPIER | LEDGER | RULER | TRAY |

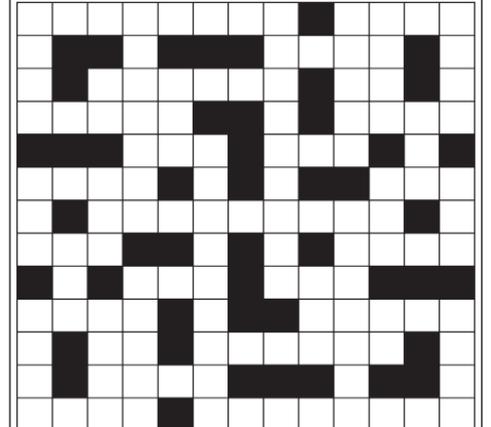
SUDOKU

Enter numbers into the squares so that every row, every column and every 3x2 box contains all the numbers from 1 to 6

		2	3		4
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WORD-FIT



Fit all the words into the grid to create a finished crossword.

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684

TRIO

These four words can be completed using the same three-letter sequence. Can you find it?

GR ___
 ___ _ ECT
 ___ _ IRE
 R ___ _ ED

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

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

TRIO SOLUTION
PIL

Kumble urges teams to adjust and perhaps play two spinners

CRICKET by Rob Forsaith, AAP

SYDNEY — International Cricket Council power broker Anil Kumble has urged teams to adjust to an interim ban on using saliva to shine the ball, suggesting that allowing the use of an artificial wax would fly in the face of a ball-tampering crackdown.

The council's cricket committee, chaired by Kumble, recommended last week that it should be illegal to use spit to work on the ball because of the risk of Covid-19 transmission.

Josh Hazlewood and Pat Cummins are among those to have expressed concern the change could mean test cricket becomes even more of a batsman's game.

Kookaburra has developed an artificial wax, allowing balls to be shined without using sweat or saliva.

Kumble said the cricket committee discussed the innovation, but ultimately didn't want to proceed with something

that could be viewed as tantamount to ball-tampering.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) sought to stamp out tampering after the Cape Town sandpaper saga in 2018, having been deeply concerned when an arms race between teams wanting to generate reverse swing erupted.

"We have been very critical and we have been very focused on eliminating any external substances coming into the game," Kumble told Indian broadcaster Star Sports.

"Obviously, tampering has had a great impact over the past couple of years.

"ICC took a decision but then Cricket Australia took an even tougher stance on what happened during that series between South Africa and Australia, so we did consider that.

"Using wax is not allowed; we have never used external substances. We can use sweat."

The ICC chief executives' committee is expected to rubber-stamp the law change in June.

Kumble, who snared 619 test wickets during a decorated career, quipped that spin might play a bigger role in games.

"Everyone is talking about how it will affect the pacers, grass should be left on pitches," the former leg-spinner said.

"Why not leave it dry and play two spinners?"

"Of course, we all know saliva has been part and parcel of cricket for so many years.

As bowlers, we used to apply saliva on the ball, sometimes for grip also.

"But this disease can also be asymptomatic. That is why we decided to ban saliva on the ball."

India's former captain and coach added the ban was "only an interim measure".

"As long as we have control over Covid in a few months or a year's time, then I think things will go back to as normal as they can be . . . these rules won't apply," Kumble said.

"As long as the medical advisory doesn't change, the rule will stay."

Sled dog race winner and team hitch a ride home

IDITAROD

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Thomas Waerner won this year's Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race in March, but he is still waiting to return to his home in Norway.

Waerner and his 16 dogs have been stranded in Alaska by travel restrictions and flight cancellations caused by the coronavirus pandemic, The Anchorage Daily News reported at the weekend.

"I like Alaska a lot," Waerner said. "It's kind of my dream place. But I have a family."

Waerner has five children and 35 other sled dogs in Torpa, Norway. He missed the 10th birthday of one of his children and misses morning coffee with his wife, Guro, who left Alaska in March, shortly before health restrictions stopped travel.

The 47-year-old plans to fly home in early June on a DC-6 aircraft bound for the Air History Museum in Sola, Norway.

Everts Air Cargo of Fairbanks is selling the historic plane, and Waerner said the museum was expected to seal the deal this week.

"We are hitchhiking," Waerner said. "The plane is going to Norway, and we are going with them. We are so lucky."

Before the trip, Waerner is expected to undergo a Covid-19 test and collect his dogs from a kennel in Salcha owned by fellow musher Arleigh Reynolds.

Waerner said he had friends in the Alaskan towns of Ester and Salcha, and often spent a few days around Fairbanks after the Iditarod.

This year, a few days turned into more than a few weeks and Waerner is ready to resume his normal life.

"My wife has been taking care of 35 dogs, the kids, and working as a veterinarian," he said.

Once he returned home, "Yes, dear," would be the answer for everything, he said.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough that clear up in two to three weeks.

For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia, and death. The vast majority of people recover. — AP

8	3					5		
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2357 EASY

SUDOKU

SUDOKU is a logic puzzle made up of 81 squares on a 9x9 grid.

To solve the puzzle, each row, column and 3x3 grid within the larger grid must end up containing each number from 1 to 9, and each number can only appear once in a row, column or box.

A sudoku grid has a single unique solution, which can be reached without using guesswork.

SOLUTION IN NEXT PUBLICATION.

	3		4					
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2356 HARD

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

by Eugenia Last

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Chris Colfer, 30; Shanola Hampton, 43; Jack McBrayer, 47; Paul Bettany, 49.

Happy Birthday:

Open up about the way you feel and what your intentions are. Explore the possibilities and different lifestyles that suit your personality as well as your dreams, hopes and wishes. Be honest with yourself about what's doable. Don't spread yourself too thin when you should be focusing on what's most important to you. Your numbers are 6, 14, 20, 27, 33, 39, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19):

Use what you've learned to help you get through a challenge. Draw on experience, knowledge and whatever resources you have to ensure that you make the best decision possible. It's time to firm up on a commitment. 2 stars

TAURUS (April 20-May 20):

Be prepared if you want a change you implement to work. Iron out subtle but essential details before you leap forward. An opportunity is beneficial only if you are in a position to make it work for you. Uncertainty is a red flag. 4 stars

GEMINI (May 21-June 20):

Beware of false information or advice. Double-check facts and sources before you make decisions that can affect your position, reputation or well-being. Pour your heart into honing your skills and keeping up with technology. 3 stars

CANCER (June 21-July 22):

An adjustment will determine how well a project turns out. Follow your instincts, and you will find a solution that allows you to bypass dealing with institutions or authority figures. Play by the rules, and fix what isn't working for you. 3 stars

LEO (July 23-August 22):

Before you make a move, discuss your intentions with someone aware of your circumstances and a reliable source for honest and helpful input. Don't be tempted by a flashy offer when a minor adjustment is all that's required. 3 stars

VIRGO (August 23-September 22):

Take a back seat, and be an observer for the time being. Someone will use persuasive tactics to try to push you in a direction that isn't in your best interest. Make a change if it benefits you. 3 stars

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):

An open mind will take you on a journey that will lead to a brighter future. What you learn today will point you in a new direction. Online correspondence classes and finding information that will improve your health are favored. 4 stars

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):

Listen to complaints, and rectify the problem promptly. Make an effort to enhance your living conditions as well as your relationships with those close to you. Take the edge off by striving to keep the peace. 2 stars

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):

A calculated risk will pay off. Follow your intuition, not what someone tells you. A personal relationship should be reevaluated and your intentions revealed. Honesty and integrity matter, and judgments will be made. It's time to commit or move on. 5 stars

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):

Keep your thoughts to yourself and your eye on what's happening around you. If you act in haste or jump to conclusions, you will send the wrong message. Don't make an emotional change; make a smart move in order to avoid trouble. 3 stars

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):

Do your best to understand what others are trying to tell you. Speak from the heart and offer realistic suggestions, and you will turn a difficulty around. A positive attitude will lead to personal gain. Self-improvement projects are favored. 3 stars

PISCES (February 19-March 20):

Listen, watch and assess what's happening around you. Don't make promises or get involved in something foreign to you. Believing someone without checking references or facts will end up being costly. Protect your heart, possessions and passwords. 5 stars

Birthday Baby:

You are adventuresome, imaginative and unpredictable. You are playful and helpful.

STAR RATINGS

FIVE STARS: Nothing can stop you now. Go for the gold.
FOUR STARS: You can pretty much do as you please. It's a good time to start new projects.
THREE STARS: If you focus your efforts, you will reach your goals.
TWO STARS: You can accomplish a lot, but don't rely on others for help.
ONE STAR: It's best to avoid conflicts. Work behind the scenes or read a good book.

DOUBLE CROSSWORD

No 10,999

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

SOLUTIONS TO PUZZLE 10,998

QUICK
Across: 1 Steadfast; 8 Run; 9 Appropriate; 11 Proceed; 12 Unite; 13 Sturdy; 15 Relate; 17 Items; 18 Ailment; 20 Emancipator; 22 Tan; 23 Tolerable.
Down: 2 Top; 3 Dove; 4 Abrade; 5 Trade; 6 Precipitate; 7 Increment; 10 Procurement; 11 Passivity; 14 Distant; 16 Rascal; 19 Leper; 21 Oil.

CRYPTIC
Across: 1 Withdraws; 8 Ill; 9 Second-class; 11 Reports; 12 Bench; 13 Attain; 15 Beacon; 17 Tales; 18 Reposes; 20 In good taste; 22 Net; 23 Test pilot.
Down: 2 Ice; 3 Donor; 4 Accuse; 5 Shame; 6 Rising costs; 7 Clap hands; 10 Capital city; 11 Real thing; 14 Insight; 16 Proofs; 19 Put up; 21 Two.

Quick Crossword answers also fit the large grid

QUICK CLUES

- ACROSS**
7. Conflagration (5)
8. Unfold (4,3)
9. Feat (7)
10. Drunkard (5)
12. Incivility (10)
15. All-knowing (10)
18. Unmoving (5)
19. Zeal (7)
21. Detergent (7)
22. Circular (5)

- DOWN**
1. Fawning (10)
2. Glad (5)
3. Nought (4)
4. Janitor (6)
5. Throw overboard (8)
6. Joined (7)
11. Backward (10)
13. Cheeky (8)
14. Unbeliever (7)
16. Tell (6)
17. Fashion (5)
20. Unusual (4)

CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS

7. Scene of combat a long time back (5)
8. Raids on raids, perhaps (7)
9. Relatively gentle colour? (7)
10. A first-class colour spread abroad (5)
12. They go on fast, on water only (10)
15. Loyalties that are relatively important (6,4)
18. Delete the first letter in Gaelic (5)
19. Results of lobbying? (7)
21. Assemble for prayer (7)
22. She puts quite a lot of ice in her beer (5)

DOWN

1. Standing charge for car drivers (7,3)
2. Designed by Manet, perhaps (5)
3. Fine opportunity for entertainment (4)
4. It may be used to sort out a difficult problem (6)
5. Introduction before a stroll? (8)
6. Good route for a long-distance driver (7)
11. Died with heart strain - in great pain? (10)
13. Didn't take things in a big way (8)
14. Friendly question of what I can do (7)
16. One invests in them and hopes (6)
17. Reliable firm (5)
20. Sang out in difficulty (4)

1		2		3		4		5		6	
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18						19		20			
21								22			

Players demand certainty over contracts

FOOTBALL by Ed Jackson, AAP

GOLD COAST — A-League players are demanding certainty for their futures with more than 100 contracts set to expire at the end of the week.

Almost half of the contracted players in the competition are due to become free agents after May 31, leaving them without a job but also able to move to other clubs in Australia or overseas.

League stakeholders including FFA are attempting to broker a solution, most likely involving a short-term extension of deals until the 2019-20 season can be completed but time is running out.

Sydney FC captain Alex Wilkinson, president of Professional Footballers'

Australia (PFA), said players were growing increasingly worried that the contract situation would undermine attempts to resume the league.

"Without some certainty, we risk losing them to the game as well as compromising a fair end to the season," Wilkinson told AAP, adding those players with contracts set to expire were "in limbo".

FFA has yet to confirm a date to either resume the competition or allow players to start training.

It's understood resolving the contract situation is the most pressing priority for organisers at this stage.

The A-League was suspended in late March with just a handful of rounds

remaining before finals.

An initial proposal, put forward by the governing body featuring dramatic pay cuts for players, is understood to have been rejected by clubs and the players' union.

Despite no set date being established, FFA chief executive James Johnson has indicated he expects the A-League to be under way by August, depending on Covid-19 restrictions on travel and large gatherings being eased.

Wilkinson said players remained committed to completing the season but were concerned that a lack of adequate training time before a condensed schedule was a recipe for injury.

A study by the Jena Institute of Sport

in Germany, looking at Bundesliga players, has indicated a spike in injuries within that league since its return a fortnight ago from a Covid-19 suspension.

Wilkinson said the study's results suggested players needed as much time as possible to train before the A-League resumed.

"The players want to get back to work and finish what we started," he said.

"Across the league, the players have continued to maintain fitness for a return, but there is no substitute for team training.

"If we do not resume adequate team training in advance of a restart, players face an increased risk of injury."

Forwards keen to be tested in NRL

Crowds back when it's safe

RUGBY LEAGUE by Daniel Gilhooly, AAP

WELLINGTON — Jazz Tevaga says the Warriors' forwards might be cobbled together but they'll ambush NRL opponents who don't rate them, starting with the star-laden St George Illawarra pack.

Tevaga is among four injured middle forwards who will miss Saturday's Round 3 encounter after rupturing a knee ligament during their isolation period in Tamworth.

Club medics hope the tough back-rower will be ready in a month for their Round 7 match against Melbourne, although Tevaga is targeting a return two weeks earlier, against North Queensland.

The Warriors are still seeking a loan player to bolster their fading stocks. While Tevaga said that would be a significant boost, he believed their current forwards had the firepower and enthusiasm to ruffle feathers.

The Dragons' pack is set to be back at full strength after the return of fit-again brothers Tariq and Korbin Sims and hooker Cameron McInnes.

James Graham, Paul Vaughan and Tyson Frizell are imposing figures for a Warriors pack who can boast only Adam Blair, Tohu Harris and Agnati Paasi as seasoned first-graders.

"They've got a pretty classy side, a few stars in that forward pack," Tevaga said.

"The good thing about our young fellas is that they're hungry and they just want to get some



TORRID TIME AHEAD: Issac Luke, here in action for the Warriors, is likely to get a "physical reception" when he takes the field for St George Illawarra against his old club on Saturday. NZ Herald picture

NRL experience under way.

"Sometimes, you can get a bit complacent when you know you're playing against younger boys . . . if the Dragons do, they're going to be in trouble because our young fellas are ready to go."

Tevaga said the Warriors' resolve was toughening as kick-off neared. The players had spent three weeks solely in each other's company since leaving Auckland.

He was grateful for words of support from rival players and

commentators, given the Kiwi club's many hurdles, but said the sentiment was being ignored.

"They've said some nice things but we don't want any sympathy. We want to give this comp a real good crack."

The return of McInnes means former Warrior Issac Luke is likely to be on the St George Illawarra bench.

Tevaga indicated veteran Luke would get a physical reception when he ran on.

RUGBY LEAGUE by Scott Bailey and Matt Encarnacion, AAP

SYDNEY — Reopening stadium gates for NRL fans will be dependent on the advice of medical experts, according to Health Minister Greg Hunt.

ARL Commission chairman Peter V'landys has continued his bold plan towards NRL normality after floating the idea of having capped crowds back from July 1.

While the New South Wales and Queensland governments yesterday said they were open to the possibility, they conceded discussions might be premature.

For Hunt, the answer is simple.

"We'll be guided by the medical expert panel," he said.

"There is a process which has been set up with the states and the medical expert panel to review all of the professional sports.

"And they will make judgements without fear or favour. They won't make judgements on economic imperatives or anything (like that).

"Our goal is to get Australians back to as much normality as possible as soon as possible, but our guideline is to do it safely."

V'landys believes declining infection rates mean some club members could be able to attend games while observing social distancing during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Should V'landys succeed with his latest push, it would make rugby league one of the few sports in the world to be operating with spectators.

NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian insisted the return of fans to sporting events is not part of any plan her government is exploring.

"It's up to organisations to consider

their options but certainly we're not in that space yet," she said.

Pushed further on whether she felt it was too soon, the premier said: "We're working our way through the list, and that's not on the list yet."

NSW chief health officer Kerry Chant agreed and added that the biggest risk would be the interactions of people on a large scale.

"We're very keen to work with all organisations on how to establish a Covid-safe environment," Chant said.

"We don't want mingling of groups that normally do not mingle.

"That is the reason we have limited the bookings to 10 (in restaurants), so you don't have larger-scale interactions.

"We are vigilant and monitoring but, as the premier said, we are considering every organisation's need and are happy to work with them."

V'landys has managed to win over both state governments on the safe return of the sport for Thursday's resumption under strict biosecurity measures.

Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk was at one stage one of the most-vocal critics before relenting this month.

She was more open yesterday to the idea of capping crowd sizes.

"In July, I think the road map says gatherings of 100 people," Palaszczuk said.

"But they can submit a plan and, of course, we will take each month as it comes."

The NRL will keep a close watch on infection rates as the nation continues to come out of lockdown.

The league remains hopeful of being able to have bigger numbers at finals matches and November's three-game State of Origin series.

Morris twins set to make history with the Roosters

RUGBY LEAGUE by Adrian Warren, AAP

SYDNEY — Rugby league twins Brett and Josh Morris are poised to create a little piece of NRL era history, once they turn out together for the Sydney Roosters.

The 33-year-old New South Wales and Kangaroos backs played together for St George Illawarra (2007 to 2008) and Canterbury (2015-18).

No siblings have played together at three different NRL clubs.

Josh joined his brother at the Roosters after being granted a release by the Sharks two months ago.

The hiatus caused by the coronavirus pandemic has prevented them from playing together for the Roosters.

That is poised to change on Friday when the two-time defending premiers meet old foes South Sydney in the first round of games to be played since the competition was suspended in March.

"It's exciting being back in the same colours as Jmoz and what better way to start (than) with our biggest rivals Souths?" Brett Morris said.

"We've had that fairly long break with the coronavirus and in that time it was just about trying to get him up to speed with our training programmes, the way we go about our business and the mentality behind the way we train.

"He picked that up quickly and he's had the past couple of weeks back with the boys and he's slotted in nicely."

Gutherson urges Eels to embrace the possibilities

RUGBY LEAGUE by Matt Encarnacion, AAP

SYDNEY — Parramatta NRL captain Clint Gutherson has told his teammates to live up to the hype of becoming the first Eels side to win a premiership in more than 30 years.

The league will emerge from its coronavirus lockdown on Thursday night when the season resumes with the ladder-leading Eels facing Brisbane.

Parramatta, impressing with a 2-0 start before the season's suspension, are widely tipped to challenge for their first title since 1986.

One bookmaker has them only behind Melbourne and Canberra to lift the Provan-Summons trophy in late October, and it's an

expectation Gutherson relishes.

However, the Eels' fullback also recalled how the club fared the last time they were listed among the favourites just two years ago, only to finish last.

"It's a good thing to be mentioned," Gutherson said yesterday.

"(But) we know what happened in '18, so that wasn't fun. You have to live up to the pressure if you want to win it. It's there now.

"As a team, we've just got to win games and get the media off our back.

"That's the way we're looking at it.

"We've just got to go out there on Thursday and start again well.

"That can build us into the next couple of rounds and really focus on what we want to do and the style we want to play."

Charity match lives up to hype

GOLF

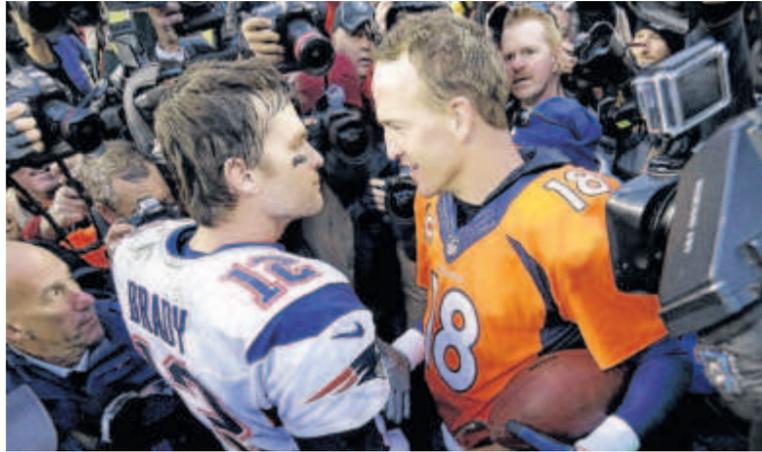
WEST PALM BEACH — Tom Brady delivered the shot of the match but Tiger Woods earned a measure of revenge against Phil Mickelson as he teamed with Peyton Manning to win The Match: Champions for Charity. The PGA Tour is set to return on June 11 and it has a tough act to follow after Woods lagged a long birdie putt on the 18th close enough to secure a 1-up victory for his pairing.

The goal was to raise US\$10 million (NZ\$16.4m) for Covid-19 relief funds and online donations sent money climbing, with a final figure of US\$20m (NZ\$32.8m). "Knowing \$20 million was raised and helping people going through tough times, it was an honour to be invited," Manning said. "It's something I'll always remember." This made-for-TV exhibition, with two NFL greats along for

the ride, surpassed 2018's The Match, in which Mickelson defeated Woods in a playoff under lights. The spectacle at Medalist Golf Club on Sunday included world No.4 golfer Justin Thomas pitched in as an on-course reporter, bringing a mixture of humour and insight. Woods and Manning took the lead on the third hole and never trailed, building a 3-up lead in fourballs on the front nine. It was a closer battle coming home, played in modified alternate-shot format. Brady struggled for most of the day and took a beating on social media and in the broadcast booth from NBA legend Charles Barkley, while Brooks Koepka offered \$100,000 if the six-time Super Bowl champion could just make a par. One shot silenced everyone. With his fourth shot on the par-5 seventh from the fairway, with Barkley needing him relentlessly, Brady's shot landed beyond the pin and spun back into the cup. "Shut your mouth, Chuck," Brady said. "That's why you're the goat (greatest of all time)," Barkley responded. The entertainment didn't stop even as the rain, which caused a



ALL IN GOOD FUN: In this April 2018 photo, Tiger Woods (left) and Phil Mickelson share a laugh on the 11th tee while playing a practice round for the Masters at Augusta National Golf Club in Georgia. Yesterday, Woods and Peyton Manning played Mickelson and Tom Brady in The Match: Champions for Charity, which had a goal of raising US\$10 million for Covid-19 relief efforts. It raised US\$20m. File picture by Curtis Compton/Atlanta Journal-Constitution via AP



RIVALS IN A COMMON CAUSE: In this January 2016 photo, New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady (left) and Denver Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning talk following the NFL AFC championship game in Denver. Yesterday they teamed up with Phil Mickelson and Tiger Woods to renew their rivalry in a good cause. AP file picture

late start, returned. Woods was playing for the first time since mid-February but his game was as sharp as his words. Mickelson on the fifth hole asked Woods to mark his ball from some 80 metres away. "You want me to mark with a US Open medal," Woods, a three-time champion of the only major Mickelson hasn't won, responded. "Do you have one? I have some silver ones," Mickelson said, referring to his record six runner-up finishes. — AP



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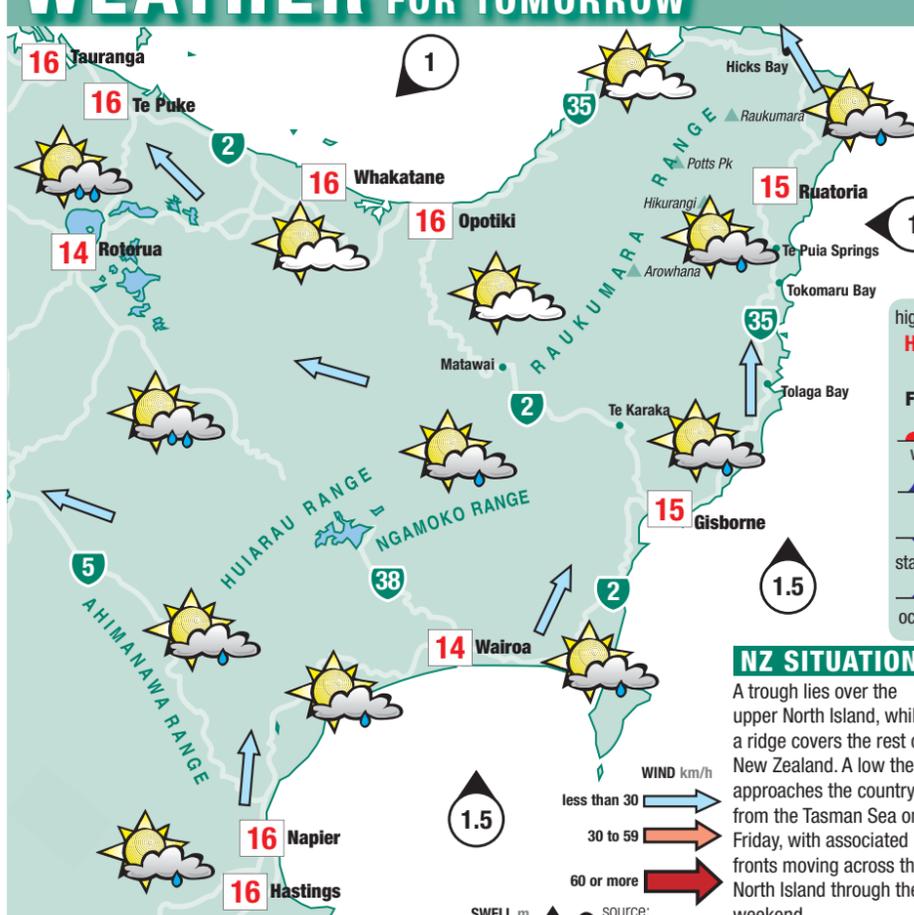
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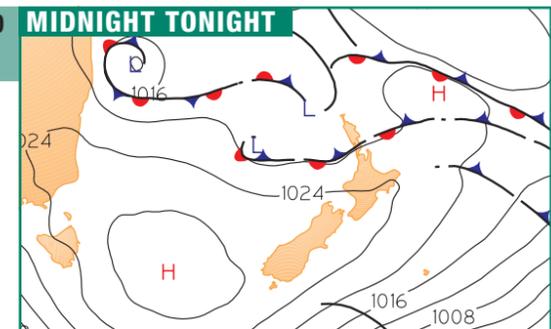
WEATHER FOR TOMORROW

26 May, 2020

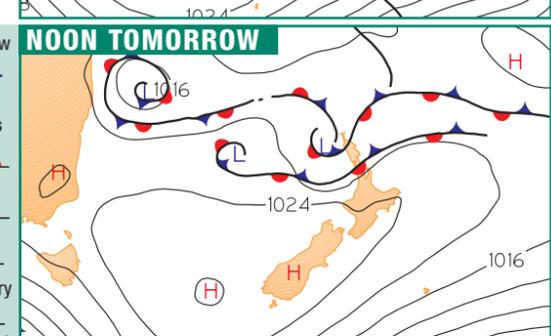


NZ SITUATION
A trough lies over the upper North Island, while a ridge covers the rest of New Zealand. A low then approaches the country from the Tasman Sea on Friday, with associated fronts moving across the North Island through the weekend.

MIDNIGHT TONIGHT



NOON TOMORROW



GIBSRONE TIDE MOVEMENT

Wednesday May 27		Thursday May 28	
am	pm	am	pm
Hicks Bay	H 9:40am 10:10pm L 3:44am 3:59pm	Hicks Bay	H 10:27am 10:57pm L 4:31am 4:46pm
Waipiro Bay	H 9:33am 10:03pm L 3:17am 3:32pm	Waipiro Bay	H 10:20am 10:50pm L 4:04am 4:19pm
Tolaga Bay	H 9:21am 9:51pm L 3:05am 3:20pm	Tolaga Bay	H 10:08am 10:38pm L 3:52am 4:07pm
Gisborne	H 9:11am 9:36pm L 3:04am 3:19pm	Gisborne	H 9:58am 10:24pm L 3:52am 4:06pm
Wairoa	H 8:58am 9:14pm L 2:50am 3:04pm	Wairoa	H 9:46am 10:03pm L 3:38am 3:51pm

SUN-MOON-MAORI FISHING GUIDE

Sun		Moon		Maori	
Rise	7:13 am	Rise	7:13 am	Best at	3:24 am
Set	4:57 pm	Set	4:57 pm	Best at	4:19 am

NZ TOMORROW

Auckland	showers	17
Hamilton	showers	15
Tauranga	showers	16
Rotorua	showers	14
Taupo	fine	13
Napier	showers	16
New Plymouth	showers	16
Palmerston North	fine	15
Wellington	fine	13
Christchurch	fine	14
Queenstown	fine	13
Dunedin	fine	13

GIBSRONE READINGS

Taken at the Airport, for the 24 hours to 9am, Tuesday 26 May 2020

SUNSHINE hours	3.4
To date for May	119.9
Average for May	146.0
To date this year	1045.3
To date last year	1092.2
WIND km/h	
Max gust on Mon 25 May	NW 44
RAINFALL mm	
24 hours to 9am, Tue 26 May	3.2
To date for May	54.2
Average for May	88.0
To date this year	224.8
To date last year	305.2
EVAPOTRANSPIRATION mm	
Daily average for past week	1.2
TEMPERATURE °C	
Maximum	24.0
Minimum	11.9
Grass minimum	10.3
BAROMETRIC PRESSURE	
At 9am 26 May (hPa)	1018.9
At 9am 26 May (inches)	30.09

WORLD TOMORROW

Adelaide	showers	10	17
Amsterdam	fine	8	21
Bangkok	rain	27	34
Beijing	fine	15	29
Berlin	fine	9	22
Brisbane	fine	14	25
Buenos Aires	fine	10	20
Cairo	fine	20	34
Canberra	fine	2	15
Cape Town	fine	8	18
Delhi	fine	29	46
Frankfurt	fine	9	25
Geneva	fine	9	24
Hong Kong	showers	26	30
London	fine	14	26
Los Angeles	fine	19	31
Melbourne	showers	9	16
Moscow	rain	11	17
New York	fine	17	24
Paris	fine	14	27
Perth	showers	10	21
Singapore	thunder	25	34
Stockholm	rain	11	18
Suva	showers	22	29
Sydney	showers	13	20
Tokyo	cloudy	17	26
Toronto	showers	18	32

GIBSRONE CITY

TOMORROW	morning min 8 max 15	THURSDAY	morning min 7 max 16	FRIDAY	morning min 7 max 19
Cloudy periods, the odd shower. Southerlies.		Cloudy periods, chance shower. Southerlies dying out afternoon.		Long fine spells. Winds mainly light.	

GIBSRONE REGION

Cloudy periods and isolated showers. Southerlies.	Cloudy periods, with isolated showers about the coast. Southerlies dying out in the afternoon.	Long fine spells. Winds mainly light.	SATURDAY Showers and northeasterlies developing.
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For the latest weather info including Weather Warnings visit metSERVICE.com



Luke can expect 'physical reception' from Warriors PAGE 22



Mickelson, Woods, Brady and Manning raise US\$20m PAGE 23

Cricket, Iditarod. 21
Rugby league..... 22
Golf..... 23



BREAKING AWAY: Jesse Fleming, of Waikohu, tries to step out of a tackle by High School Old Boys midfield back Hayden Stuart on Tiny White Day last year. Fleming missed much of last season through injury but returns to the field this year and will coach the Waikohu backs. Picture by Paul Rickard

Waikohu on a roll

RUGBY by Ben O'Brien-Leaf

THEY do it all well out at Te Karaka. GT Shearing Waikohu as a premier side play hard rugby. They are the flagship team for a club whose fans turn out in numbers and with voice to match any band of supporters, and whose aftermatch hospitality is second to none.

The last four years have been memorable for Waikohu — grand finalists for the first time in 2017, Lee Brothers Shield champions a year later, knocked out by YMP in the sudden-death semifinal last July and holders of the Barry Cup, symbol of sub-union supremacy. Having defended the Cup five times last year and still holding it at the end of the season, Waikohu earned the right to have their name engraved on it.

Guiding Waikohu in the Civil Project

Solutions Premier Grade this year will be first-year head coach Ra Broughton, who has family ties to Whatatutu.

The 32-year-old former Gisborne Boys' High School first 15 member played halfback for Horowhenua-Kapiti (20 caps) and played nine games for the New Zealand Defence Force.

"Waikohu is community-driven: the club's a hub," said Broughton, who was encouraged to take on his new role by captain and hooker Geoff Pari, who heads up a senior leadership group with a two-three split between forwards and backs.

"Geoff takes the forwards for us and he's got many good qualities," Broughton said.

"He's approachable and positive, and is a down-to-earth, calming influence . . . with his experience and background in the club, players respond to that."

There is great enthusiasm for rugby

at Waikohu. Forty players turned out to train before the Ngatapa 10s tournament and the lockdown.

Strongman Jarryd Broughton will return to Waikohu's ranks at tighthead prop. Adrian Wyrill — who scored for OBM in the 2019 grand final — and Kupu Lloyd, formerly of High School Old Boys, will bolster the back row.

First five-eighth Tione Hubbard was part of a very good Hawke's Bay Maori side last year, and the superbly skilful Kelvin Smith, Tane McGuire and Ethine Reeves have the versatility to cover all positions from 10 to 15.

Jesse Fleming will coach the Waikohu backs and play himself, having missed the majority of 2019 with first a broken finger and then a broken collarbone.

Ra Broughton spoke of the special value he and his squad place on the expertise of Poverty Bay Heartland head

coach Tom Cairns.

"The boys feel as if we're being recognised by the union, with the head coach coming out to team training," Broughton said.

"The guys are like sponges; they lap up his knowledge. He's also helped me to profile players' strengths, to plan and build a foundation for them."

Keen coaches are like gold; hard-working players also have a major impact on those around them. Adrian Wyrill, winner of the Paul Sceats Memorial Cup as Poverty Bay's Player of the Year in 2019, was outstanding for OBM and is now ready for a big season with Waikohu.

"From what I've experienced, Waikohu is a family-oriented, welcoming and humble club," Wyrill said.

"These people show respect where respect is due, no matter who you are."