

The Gisborne Herald

TE NUPEPA O TE TAIRAWHITI

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2021

HOME-DELIVERED \$1.90, RETAIL \$2.20

GGHS RUN FOR IT

PAGE 2



GOVT GRILLED ABOUT HOUSING

PAGE 6



SEX ABUSE 'BRUSHED UNDER THE CARPET'

PAGE 9



UNACCEPTABLE: Tairawhiti Technology Trust chairperson Carolyn Carpendale, her husband Wayne Carpendale and treasurer Maurice Alford say the proposal to close the city's only Kiwibank branch casts Gisborne as irrelevant. Picture by Liam Clayton

'A KICK IN THE GUTS'

Anger at proposed closure of city's Kiwibank branch

by Jack Marshall

A PROPOSAL by Kiwibank to close its only branch in Gisborne is being labelled as a "kick in the guts".

The state-owned bank said it was facing a rapid shift in customer preferences as more customers move online, and that it would first consult with the local community regarding proposed closure.

But Tairawhiti Technology Trust treasurer Maurice Alford says, "It's a kick in the guts for the already disenfranchised."

"From our experience working with older people transitioning to the digital world, they're like foreigners," said Mr Alford.

"It's not like they can just jump in the car and go somewhere else."

The bank says over the past five years over-the-counter transactions have steadily declined.

When The Herald visited for a photo there yesterday afternoon, customers were coming and going in a steady stream.

Mr Alford said it was unacceptable for a bank owned by the New Zealand government to close in the region.

"The main Aussie banks still have a presence here and then there's Kiwibank thinking about not supporting our region, it sends the message that we are irrelevant and unimportant."

Kiwibank revealed the closures — seven are flagged — in a statement announcing its half-year result, in which net profit rose \$4 million to \$55 million for the six months to December 2020.

It says it is responding to customers' direction.

"For every 1000 transactions/activities at Kiwibank, 977 are now digital, 15 are via ATM, five are in-branch and three are through our contact centre," the bank said in a statement to The Herald.

"We are mindful this proposal may create uncertainty for some. We have informed our people in the branch and we are now contacting community groups seeking feedback."

"There are 3.5 fulltime

equivalent roles in our Gisborne branch and we're working through options with the team, including the possibility of redeployment.

"We appreciate the proposed changes can create uncertainty for our people, our customers, and communities and that's why there is a period of time so we can make fully informed decisions," said the statement.

That window to give feedback is small.

After announcing the possible closures yesterday, the bank said it would accept feedback until March 12, two weeks from today, and that a final decision would be made by the end of March.

The media release with the proposed branch closures was titled "Kiwibank focused on delivering better outcomes for customers."

But rather than doing this, Mr Alford says the bank is pressuring older people into situations where they are likely to interact with scams and unsafe situations.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

SCHOOL RUNNINGS



ON THE RUN: Gisborne Girls' High School students once again got into the competitive and fun side of the school's athletics championships held on the Rectory field yesterday. Above, beating the feet are (from left) Lily Hill, Tessa Lapointe, Lily Arnold, Jayha Egan, Jodi Kirkpatrick, Sophie Petro, Sophie Lapointe. Left, all smiles are Mia Blot Mouterde and Zoe Watts, with Stella Kemp chasing them.

Pictures by
Rebecca
Grunwell

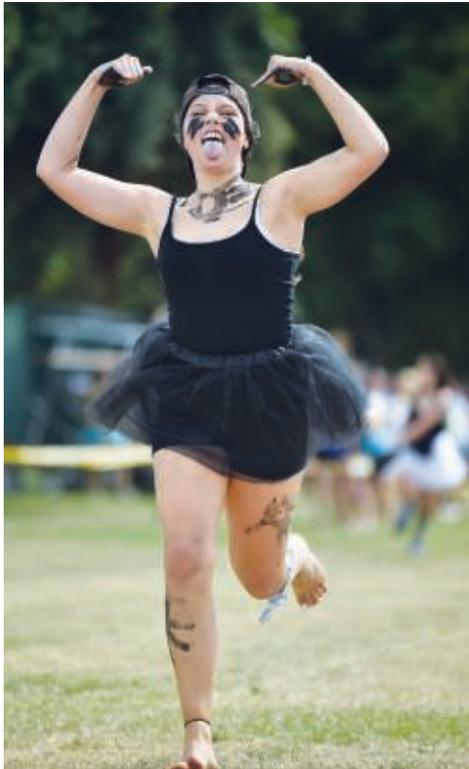


Kayless Boyce



Bobbi-Atawhai
Crawford

GREEN MACHINE: Trinity Ormsby-Chemis flies down the track.



BLACK SWAN: Maraean Rangihuna-Stender pokes tongues at the camera.



TRASH-ION STATEMENT: They're unlikely to make the cover of Vogue and don't expect the "rubbish bag" look to become the next big trend in streetwear but it certainly caught the eye at Gisborne Girls' High's athletics day. From left are Tui Ruifrok, Gianna Whaitiri, bag-free Giana-Lee Moore, Scarlett Wyllie, Minnie Jackson and Riley Ingoo.

LOOKING AHEAD



weekender
ON TOUR WITH CORY

TOMORROW

FOCUS ON THE LAND

- A reminder from the GDC about those farm and horticulture environment plans — and the May 1 deadline.
- About 450 head presented for sale at today's Matawhero sheep sale — prices and comment tomorrow.
- The shearing fraternity prepare for the 'Golden Shears' next week.

TOMORROW

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Border workers to get vaccines from tomorrow

by Alice Angeloni

BORDER WORKERS and their whanau will be offered a vaccination against Covid-19 this week, with the first jabs in Tairāwhiti set to take place tomorrow.
Hauora Tairāwhiti chief executive

Jim Green said 300 people will be eligible for the vaccination at this stage, and delivery would roll out over the course of the week.
It begins two days earlier than the previously reported date of March 1.
“We are starting on Saturday to make it as easy as possible for



border workers and the people they live with to attend their vaccination

appointment,” Mr Green said.
The first shipment of Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccines was scheduled to arrive in Gisborne yesterday and would be thawed.
“We have five days to use the thawed vaccines so starting as soon as possible makes sense.”

Border workers in Tairāwhiti work at the port.
Those eligible to be vaccinated will receive a phone call to organise an appointment for them and their household.
Vaccinators will also be offered the vaccine over the course of the week.

Fairness of proposal questioned

New off-peak tariff

Network adjusting to changes in demand

FROM PAGE 1

“With all the scams and stuff going around the people who are not computer literate are going to be at even more risk of the dangers online.

“They (the bank) would effectively be creating an issue where inexperienced users would be forced online unaware of many of the scams and hackers on the internet.

“Is that fair?”

The bank says it has partnered with Stepping UP and DORA, both digital training providers, to teach people about using online banking.

However, the team from Tairāwhiti Technology Trust say if there is going to be a transition to online banking it needs to be gradual rather than a clean cut that leaves many severed from financial society.

East Coast Labour MP Kiri Allan says the proposal is gutting.

“It is disappointing whenever a bank says they are thinking of pulling out of a region, removing an essential service,” she said.

“The reality is in a place like ours there are problems with digital connectivity for those with difficult socio-economic circumstances.”

Ms Allan said she would be making her voice heard by the bank and advocating for the branch to stay open.

MOST households can expect a small drop in their power bills this year.

But high users will see small rises after lines company Eastland Network announced its new pricing.

Eastland Network also revealed it is offering Time of Use tariffs for all residential customers with a communicating smart meter, which can save them money if they shift more of their power usage to off-peak times.

The company says from April 1 the majority of its residential customers (72 percent) across Tairāwhiti and Wairoa will notice a small reduction to distribution prices on their power bill.

However, 15,000 customers on the low fixed charge domestic tariff, who use less than 8000kWh a year, would see on average a 2.8 percent decrease.

The 5000 customers on the standard domestic tariff (high power users of over 8000kWh a year) would see an average increase of 4.5 percent.

Transpower’s transmission prices remain almost the same, with a 2 percent decrease for 20,000 residential customers and small businesses, and no change for everyone else.

After four years of planning, Eastland Network would roll out a new Time of Use tariff structure, said general manager Jarred Moroney.

“We have long focused on ensuring simple pricing structures and stable distribution prices, providing a secure power supply for the region at a

reasonable cost,” he said.

“Our pricing is regulated and we review it annually. The Electricity Authority requires that all electricity networks across the country ensure distribution charges are as cost-reflective as possible.

“Like many other networks, we are now introducing a Time of Use (ToU) tariff. ToU better reflects the costs of electricity transmission and distribution, as high electricity places demand on the network during peak times.”

To take advantage of the ToU tariff, customers need to have a communicating smart meter and choose a suitable plan from their retailer.

Residential customers who don’t have a communicating smart meter will not be disadvantaged.

Eastland Network has set a default tariff that reflects a standard energy consumption profile.

Mr Moroney said while the region’s electricity usage continued to remain steady, Eastland Network must plan for the future.

“As customers change how and when they use electricity, interest in renewable energy like solar PV grows and the uptake of electric vehicles increases, we have to be ready to meet this demand.

“The new Time of Use tariff is one example of the future-focused strategy we’re working on. It gives customers

choice in how and when they use their power, and provides a lower tariff when this is off peak.

“If people are interested in moving to a Time of Use tariff, they should check with their retailer. They need to have a smart meter that can communicate consumption data at regular intervals, and choose a plan that passes our ToU pricing through.”

Along with developing its new long-term pricing strategy, Eastland Network has also completely updated its asset management plan — which identifies the most effective ways to allocate spending on asset maintenance and upgrades — and has further improved the network’s asset inspection regime.

Prices are strictly regulated and must comply with the Commerce Commission’s Default Price-Quality Path Determination requirements.

On average, Eastland Network’s line charges make up around 30-40 percent of the total cost on an electricity bill, although this does vary depending on different retailer offers.

Lines charges are a combination of transmission charges, which are passed on from Transpower, and distribution charges.

Eastland Network bills these line charges directly to energy retailers, and it incorporates these into each customer’s power bill.

The remaining costs are determined by the retailers.

Quarry upgrade to manage sediment

by Matai O’Connor

SEDIMENT discharges from the Fulton Hogan Motu Quarry into the Motu River are being investigated by the Gisborne District Council.

The Federation of Fresh Water Anglers posted a photo on their Facebook page showing sediment discharges going into the river on February 16.

The post read “Fulton Hogan Quarry breaking the law with no sediment control on their quarry on the Motu River”.

It claimed the Gisborne District Council was turning a blind eye, “or being paid to look the other way, despite repeated requests for action!”

The post said the information had been received from a member.

“We are aware of the

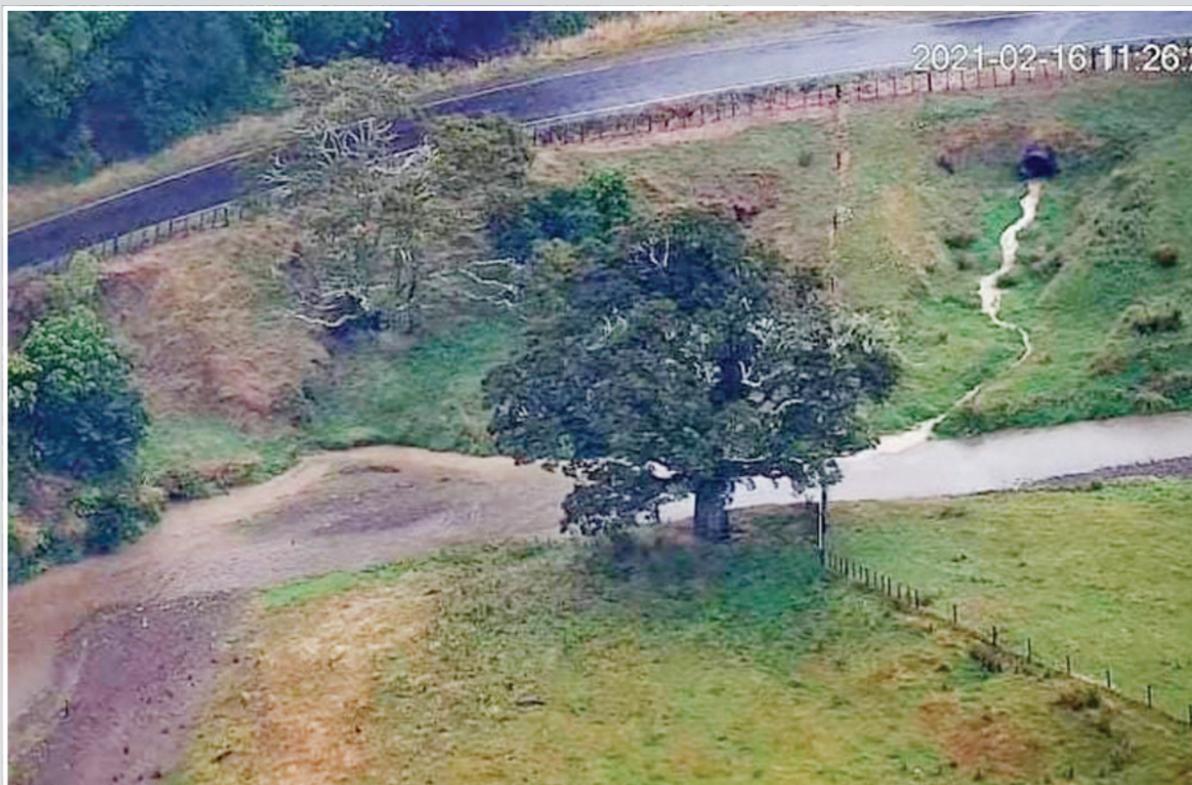
complaints,” said GDC compliance monitoring and enforcement manager Gary McKenzie. “It is currently under investigation.”

Fulton Hogan East Coast regional manager Andrew Harvey said that after heavy rain in October, it had been identified that existing sediment controls at the Motu Quarry were not fully effective under such conditions.

“Significant engineering work to upgrade controls has been under way since November, with completion expected mid-March.

“We are communicating with Gisborne District Council closely and regularly as part of this work.

“These upgraded controls are also being independently verified as appropriate, to ensure they are effective,” Mr Harvey said.



WORK TO DO: Sediment (right, from pipe) from the Motu Quarry being discharged into the Motu River on February 16. Fulton Hogan says work is being done to fix this. Picture supplied

FAMILY NOTICES

Deaths

Deaths

HEPBURN, Leona Anne. — On 25th February 2021, at Gisborne Hospital. Beloved wife of Bill. Beloved mother and mother-in-law of Heather and Martin, Graham and Jane, Peter and Liz, Barbara and Adrian, and Andrew. Much-loved Nana of Sarah, Christopher, Ethan, Thomas, Joshua, Samuel, Sophie, Mia, Tessa, Estella, Rosanna, and Otis. Loved Nana-Nana to Mason and Tayla.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Cancer Society would be appreciated and may be sent C/- PO Box 708, Gisborne 4040.

Leona's funeral service will be held at Evans Chapel, Ormond Road, at 10.30am on Monday 1st March.

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

Deaths

SPARROW, Dennis Frederick. — On 24th February 2021, peacefully at Leighton House, Gisborne.

Cherished husband of Dorothy for almost 60 years. Loved father of Stephen and Dagmar, JoAnne and Gary, and Gail and Greg. Adored Poppa of John, Emma, Korbyn, Thomas, Phillip, Peter, Flynn and Tulson. Brother to Ron and the late Nancy.

The funeral service will be held at Evans Chapel, Ormond Road, at 1pm on Saturday 27th February, followed by private cremation.

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

TOMBLESON, Walter Graham. — Passed away 23 February 2021, at Summerset Heritage Park, Ellerslie, aged 92 years. Dearly loved husband of Jill. Loved father and father-in-law of Carolyn and Hugh, and John and Anna. Much loved grandfather of Mark, Brent, Scott, Grace and Holly. Great-grandfather of Archie, Finn and Mila. Heartfelt thank you to the Summerset Hospital Care staff and Mercy Hospice.

In Memoriam

LEVI LEACH

15 years ago today.

Forever in our hearts you'll stay.

Craig, Chrissy, Tayla, Kyah and Nevaeh Hollis

In Memoriam



Our Star In Heaven
Levi Sean Leach



We are sending a dove to Heaven with a parcel on its wings. Be careful when you open it, it's full of beautiful things.

Inside are a million kisses wrapped up in a million hugs, to say how much we miss you and to send you all our love.

We hold you close within our hearts, and there you will remain, to walk with us throughout our lives, until we meet again. Miss you always.

Mum, Dad, Sanny, Dan, Taj, Zayd and Valen



Horouta Waka Hoe digging in for Cancer Society

PADDLE 4 Life is the new Cancer Society fundraiser where you don't have to walk.

Horouta Waka Hoe are running their inaugural Paddle for Life tomorrow between 6am and 6pm with all funds going to Gisborne-East Coast Cancer Society.

Paddlers can choose any two one-hour sessions.

Non-members can also participate by registering on the club's Facebook page, or simply by turning up tomorrow.

"I'm sure they won't be turned down from the opportunity to paddle in support of the cause," said club president Walton Walker.

The fundraiser has been organised by Paikea Masters Men (40-49 years) who are waka ama paddlers of Horouta Waka Hoe.

The mother-in-law of one paddler recently died of cancer while others have had close family members and other whanau who have been victims of cancer.

"The group also see waka ama as a great activity that promotes healthy life styles and choices among men of this age group and older, rather than an activity focusing on competitive waka ama," Mr Walker said.

"The banner Paddle 4 Life is appropriate now in light of the Cancer Society's Walk for Life but



PADDLING FOR LIFE: Horouta Waka Hoe invite all interested paddlers, including non-club members, to support their inaugural Paddle for Life Cancer Society fundraiser running from 6am to 6pm tomorrow.

paddling/waka ama has relevance for the rest of the life of these paddlers.

"Waka ama is a great life choice and it is something they want to promote."

Mr Walker said he was sure tomorrow's Paddle 4 Life would not be the last.

"Cancer is a scourge of our people and for any help to eradicate it, count us in."

The fundraiser is a multiple team event with a cost of \$20 per person.

Most paddling will be done on

six-person waka (W6) and six waka will be on the river at any one time.

"Some of the experienced paddlers will use a one-man waka (W1), said Mr Walker.

"There might even be a W12 waka.

"I'm sure every paddler will get an opportunity to paddle tomorrow."

Horouta Waka Hoe are enjoying great times, having won the national club most points trophy 10 of the 11 times it has been contested, including the last eight in a row. Members are aged from

five to 70.

Club members are coaching 16 secondary school teams, both girls and boys, for the national championships in Rotorua in March.

The Masters section of the club is strong with four W6 teams at this year's nationals.

Mr Walker said that reflected a lifestyle choice.

"It's addictive though and a lot of the time the line between lifestyle choice and competitiveness becomes blurred."

Gang arrests in Wairoa

Crackdown part of police commitment to reducing harm

POLICE have made 15 gang-related arrests in Wairoa in the past six weeks as they work to quell recent gang conflicts in the town and surrounding area.

Wairoa staff, supported by officers from Gisborne, Napier and Hastings have had a concentrated focus on the issue that has plagued the town.

The increased focus has seen both Mongrel Mob and Black Power gang members taken into custody.

"Five men were charged with offences in relation to recent incidents including violence, firearms and drugs charges," said acting Eastern District crime manager Detective Inspector Brent Greville.

"A further 10 were arrested on warrants to arrest.

"Twelve search warrants have been executed as part

'The operation aims to target and disrupt violent offenders, prevent crime and victimisation, and engage with our communities'

— Inspector Sam Aberahama

of this ongoing operation targeting organised crime, including one in Napier where three pistols and a set of ballistic armour were seized."

Det Insp Greville said police wanted to send a clear message that such criminal activity would not be tolerated.

"It causes immeasurable harm in our communities — harm that we are committed to reducing.

"Eastern Police will continue to target gangs and anyone else who involve themselves in organised crime and the illegal possession of firearms," he said.

"Along with directly focusing on this type of offending we will continue to have dialogue with gang and community leaders in an ongoing effort to prevent future violence."

Det Insp Greville said the focus that police have taken on the gang issues in Wairoa was in line with the Police Commissioner's announcement of the nationally co-ordinated operation, Operation Tauwhiro.

"That operation is focused on preventing harm and enforcement in our communities."

Tairāwhiti area commander

Inspector Sam Aberahama said police throughout Tairāwhiti will continue to target gangs and anyone else who involves themselves in organised crime and the illegal possession of firearms.

"Operation Tauwhiro will see this work continue and increase.

"The operation aims to target and disrupt violent offenders, prevent crime and victimisation, and engage with our communities," Insp Aberahama said.

"All front-line staff in Eastern District will contribute towards the operation as part of their day-to-day duties.

"Our specialist work groups will also have a significant contribution, including our intelligence and investigations staff, and our prevention and community engagement teams."

Coastguard called

THE Lion Foundation Coastguard boat was called in by police yesterday about 11am, after a small runabout with one person on board broke down off Young Nicks Head.

"The 15-foot fibreglass runabout was reported to be in trouble about seven nautical miles out from Eastland Port," a Coastguard spokesman said.

"Another boat that happened to be nearby began a tow but the conditions got a bit heavy for them, and that's when police called for us," he said.

A larger boat in the vicinity took over the tow and that proved successful so police stood down the Coastguard boat. The runabout and its occupant were towed safely back to port.

Acknowledging importance of 'vital' truck drivers

by Andrew Ashton

POLICE throughout the country, including Gisborne, are among those actively participating in Truck Driver Appreciation Week.

"We are really pleased to take part in this long-running, positive initiative that recognises the trucking industry for the valuable contribution made to New Zealand's economy," said Inspector Mike Brooklands, the national manager of NZ Police's commercial vehicle safety team (CVST).

"When we engage with truck drivers it's normally to ensure they

and their trucks are safe to operate on our roads.

"This week we are reminding truck drivers of their safety responsibilities but also acknowledging the important role they play.

"Road safety is a critical health and safety at work issue so by focusing on the safety of commercial vehicles (driver and truck) we are achieving safer roads for all road users.

"As a Road to Zero partner we want a New Zealand where no one is killed or seriously injured in road crashes.

Road to Zero is a road safety strategy aimed at reducing deaths

and serious injuries on New Zealand's roads, cycleways and footpaths by 40 per cent by 2030.

"Trucking companies have a duty of responsibility to ensure their vehicles are safe and not put their drivers and other road users at risk," said Insp Brooklands.

"Truck drivers also have a responsibility themselves to check that the trucks and trailers are safe to operate by holding the correct RUC-COF and registration, and ensure loads comply with the permitted gross vehicle weight allowed and other load regulations.

"And, of course, they must have

the appropriate class of driver's licence and the correct endorsements for dangerous goods carriage."

While trucks are not involved in significantly more crashes per kilometre than other vehicles, truck crashes are more likely to be fatal (accounting for over 20 per cent of road deaths).

CVST staff have been at CVST/ weigh pit sites identified within 15 Truck Driver Appreciation Week locations.

Before giving out an appreciation gift bag, CVST staff conduct breath-screening tests, check logbooks and do level 3 inspections.

Truck Driver Appreciation Week is an initiative led by NZ Truck and Driver and supported by trucking industry partners Road Transport Association, My Trucking, National Road Carriers, Eastland Wood Council (EWC), Tairāwhiti Road Transport and police.

"Truck drivers are vital to our industry, as they are for most of the industries in Tairāwhiti," EWC chairman Daniel Williams said.

"Recognising the awesome mahi (work) they are doing and continuously improving the safe methods in which they operate remain our priorities."



SLOW DOWN FOR WORKERS: Stormwater pipes across Rutene Road are being upgraded from Nos 125 to 126 next to the kindergarten. The work began yesterday and continues today. A one-way traffic system is in place between Harris and Maki streets. Alternative routes are available either through Hinaki Street by turning to Harris Street (coming from town) or Hinaki Street (coming from Kaiti/Wainui); or Wainui Road (SH35) by turning to either Harris Street or Maki Street.

Pictures by Liam Clayton

Not guilty verdict in rape trial

A MAN accused of sexual offending against his 16-year-old niece has been acquitted by a jury in Gisborne District Court.

The jury deliberated for four and a half hours before returning not guilty verdicts on all 10 charges — one of sexual violation by rape and nine of indecent assault — to Judge Warren Cathcart.

The accused, who is in his 30s, cannot be named due to automatic suppression that applies for complainants in sexual cases.

His niece alleged the offending happened over five months in 2018 while she was in the care of her aunt and uncle.

The complainant said the indecencies began soon after she began living with the couple, happened almost daily and often while she was showering or bathing. (The representative charges applied to those allegations.)

She was able to recall two specific incidents due to other events at the time. Those incidents bookended the start and end of the alleged offending.

The rape allegedly happened

during the last incident, while her aunt was absent and the complainant had been grounded with her phone confiscated — punishments issued by her aunt and uncle after she ran off to meet a man she met online and had to be located by police.

The defence position, advanced by counsel Leighvi Maynard, was that the complainant made up the allegations so she could get free of her living situation with its strict rules.

In his closing address, Mr Maynard pointed to the vague nature of the allegations and the complainant's inability to recall details.

Her evidence was also concerning inconsistent with other evidence, which ruled out any opportunity for the man to commit in particular, the "bookend" offences, Mr Maynard said.

Crown prosecutor Michael Blaschke made much of the accused's police evidential interview, saying he was minimising or lying, Mr Maynard said. But his client was telling the truth when he said nothing sexual ever happened. His candid

comment about times he went into the bathroom while the girl was showering only enhanced his credibility.

Defence witnesses revealed the man had told them he was concerned about being alone with the complainant and said they had observed some physical behaviour by her towards him.

Mr Blaschke had seized on that as proof something sexual must have happened — that the man was somehow publicly trying to dispel suspicion. But it was a leap to suggest such things, Mr Maynard said.

The jury could see from his interview the accused was not someone with the level of guile or foresight to try to remedy a situation in that way.

His client had no previous convictions, had been happily married for years, was employed and leading a productive life.

If this man had suddenly become a predatory, depraved, paedophile, would he not have taken every opportunity to be alone with his niece?

Instead, he was talking to others about his concerns and when the prime opportunity

arose for him to be alone with his niece (while his wife was in hospital), he arranged to be elsewhere, Mr Maynard said.

In his closing address, Mr Blaschke said the accused's omissions in his police interview were telling.

He did not tell police he was concerned about being alone with his niece or that she had troubled him with physical behaviour. He simply denied anything sexual happened.

He said he innocently took his niece a towel while she was showering. But he had no good reason to do that. His wife said in her evidence, the towels were kept in the bathroom, Mr Blaschke said.

Defence witnesses were aware ahead of the trial of the complainant's central allegations, particularly the "bookend" ones. They bent their evidence to effectively remove any opportunity for the offending. But it was just a smokescreen, Mr Blaschke said.

The overall evidence showed there were opportunities for the offending. There were times the pair were alone together

and there was no lock on the bathroom door.

Mr Blaschke rejected the complainant fabricated the allegations.

She only disclosed them at a pre-arranged appointment with a trusted counsellor for other matters, and only when asked as a matter of course if she felt safe at home.

It resulted in her immediate removal from her aunt and uncle's, so if that was her goal, there was no need for her to take the allegations further. She would not have done so without just cause.

It was true her police interview was "no novel" and she shut down when asked about the rape. But that was consistent with a teenager disclosing a recent, traumatic incident in a credible, visceral way, Mr Blaschke said.

Her account of the offending being regular and escalating was consistent with the way this type of sexually offending typically progressed.

The rapid deterioration of her behaviour was also consistent with the effect of such offending, Mr Blaschke said.

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The Gisborne Herald
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Study hints at ways to get around job fears

by Jamie Morton, NZ Herald

WELLINGTON — Health advocates might best reach those Kiwis still unsure about getting the Covid-19 vaccine through their favoured avenue for information — social media.

A new analysis also suggests those against receiving a shot might be swayed through friends, family members or local community leaders.

New Zealand has just launched its largest-ever vaccination campaign, backed by a major awareness and education effort to encourage uptake.

Director General of Health Dr Ashley Bloomfield has indicated a vaccination target of 70 percent of the population, which experts say would be at the lower end of the threshold to achieve herd immunity against the virus.

In his study, Massey University communications lecturer Dr Jagadish Thaker drew on more than 1000 survey responses collected last year.

The data showed about a third of Kiwis were either “hesitant” over (24 percent) or opposed to (12 percent) vaccinations — in line with more recent government surveys.

Those sitting on the fence were more likely to be 18- to 25-year-olds or 36- to 45-year-olds, and to have low to moderate levels of education and lower incomes.

They were also slightly more likely to be female and were more likely to be Maori than other ethnicities.

Nearly 80 percent of them indicated

being “neutral” over getting the vaccine — and were more likely to have high trust in social media as a source of information, but less likely to trust mass media, scientists, and family and friends.

Thaker noted that, with Covid-19 specifically, they were more likely to rely on social media for a source — and less likely to believe false information on their timelines was fake.

“Rather than . . . mass media, health experts might be more effective (with) social media-based campaigns.”

“Sceptics” had a demographic profile similar to “hesitant” people, but were more likely to be of a more advanced age — or 46 years and older.

About 99 percent of them said “no” to getting the vaccine. Like the vaccine-hesitant, they had

less trust in media and scientists — yet they also had little trust in social media, instead relying on family and friends for information. “We have suggested more localised campaigns, using opinion leaders in their communities, rather than mass media or expert-driven ones.”

Those most enthusiastic about the vaccines, around 36 percent of respondents, were more likely to be older, highly educated and have higher incomes, with more trust in science and the media than social media or family and friends.

Those in general support of being vaccinated — about 28 percent — were typically aged 18 to 45, with some tertiary education, and had middle to high incomes.

Dr Ashley Bloomfield has indicated a vaccination target of 70 percent of the population, which experts say would be at the lower end of the threshold to achieve herd immunity.



ACTION NEEDED: Housing Minister Megan Woods has defended Kainga Ora's \$750 million housing purchase after National accused the Government of shutting first-home buyers out of the market. NZ Herald picture

Kiwis ‘shut out’ of home ownership

Govt grilled over \$750m house-buying bill

by Jason Walls, NZ Herald

WELLINGTON — National is accusing the Government of locking first-home buyers out of the market by purchasing \$750 million worth of houses from the private sector.

But Housing Minister Megan Woods has defended her housing agency's actions, saying the spending was only needed to plug the state housing gap left by the previous National government.

Woods was grilled on the topic by National's housing spokeswoman Nicola Willis in Question Time yesterday. She revealed that Kainga Ora had spent \$750m over the last three and

a half years on buying property across the country, to turn into state homes.

Willis got the information through a written question, which showed 1053 homes that the Government agency bought from the private market.

The response to her question points out that 1053 are part of the 6131 public houses the Government has delivered.

The majority of those 1053 homes — more than 660 — were in Auckland but there are houses from across the country on the list.

Willis said this has locked first-home buyers out of the market.

“There's no way struggling Kiwis who are trying to buy their first home can

outbid Kainga Ora. Changing the label on whether a house is state-owned or not does nothing except change who misses out,” she said.

Meanwhile, she said New Zealand's state housing waiting list was “spiralling out of control”.

The state house waiting list has increased from 6182 in December 2017, to 22,409 in November 2020, Woods confirmed yesterday.

The timeframe over which the housing agency was buying the homes starts in 2017/18, so some of them could have been bought while National was in government. But Woods said in the House that there had been a steady decline

in the number of buy-ins that Kainga Ora has been doing. “This was an agency that had to re-equip itself to actually build houses rather than sell them off, as had been happening under the previous government.”

The figures come after Woods revealed the Government's Progressive Home Ownership scheme had housed just 12 families since it was announced in 2019.

The programme, which cost \$400m, was launched as part of the “reset” of the failed KiwiBuild programme.

Woods said between 1500 and 4000 families would get their own home through the scheme.

There's no way struggling Kiwis who are trying to buy their first home can outbid Kainga Ora

—Nicola Willis

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Pressure mounts to prioritise South Aucklanders

BRIEFS

AUCKLAND — Political pressure is increasing on the Government to prioritise vaccinating South Aucklanders against Covid-19.

It is currently grappling with the latest outbreak of Covid-19 and was the centre of the August cluster last year.

Doctors and community health workers call South Auckland the front line in the fight to keep the virus out and say that understandably makes many locals very anxious.

Manukau ward councillor Efeso Collins said the vaccine would help ease that feeling.

“We have seen the outbreaks happen in South Auckland so it would make sense for the community to be offered the vaccine as a group of priority persons,” Collins said.

Auckland Mayor Phil Goff said decisions on how the vaccine would be distributed when it rolled out nationwide should be left to officials, but he expected it would be judged on risk.

“Because we are the gateway and because we have the highest number of quarantine facilities and we have had the highest number of Alert Level 3 restrictions, that does put the region at greater risk. I would expect the health authorities to take that into account,” he said.

Covid-19 Response Minister Chris Hipkins has not ruled out prioritising vaccine roll-out for the South Auckland community.

“It’s quite possible that South Auckland will be one of the earlier geographical areas that we focus in on but, again, we have got a little bit more work to do before we get to that point.”

Over the next two to three weeks,



ON THE FRONT LINE: As South Auckland deals with the latest Covid-19 cluster, pressure is building on the Government to prioritise vaccinating the community.

NZ Herald picture

border workers and their families will be vaccinated.

Health workers who are at risk of catching Covid-19 are next in line, with the wider public roll-out expected to take place in the second half of the year.

Hipkins pointed out that some living in South Auckland would already have been vaccinated by then.

“The airport is in South Auckland and a lot of the people who are working in those jobs live in South Auckland and so they and their families are going to be very highly represented,” he said.

But National Party health spokesperson Shane Reti said that should not stop the Government giving priority to all South

Aucklanders.

“It is good that border workers are going to be vaccinated. It is a fact that a majority will be Maori and Pasifika and they will go home into their community and they and their families will be safe but they are a small proportion.

Ranking regions for the vaccination makes sense, Reti said.

“I think those areas that are at high deprivation index should be the areas that are preferentially vaccinated, regardless of your ethnicity, solely on the basis that over-crowding increases the risk of transmission and these are the over-crowded areas — that’s South Auckland.” — RNZ

Baby critical after crash

AUCKLAND — A baby was airlifted to hospital in a critical condition after a car crashed through a fence near Kaiaua.

Emergency services were called to the scene on East Coast Rd, near Whakatiwai, north of Kaiaua, about 9pm yesterday.

Fire and Emergency northern shift manager Colin Underdown said a vehicle had crashed through a fence, injuring two people.

Neither patient was trapped.

The Auckland Westpac Rescue Helicopter was also called to the scene and then transported a baby in a critical condition to Auckland Hospital.

The baby’s mother was also understood to be injured. — NZ Herald

Home goes up in flames

NEW PLYMOUTH — The occupants of a New Plymouth house managed to escape unscathed after their home went up in a fiery ball of flames.

Central Fire and Emergency shift manager Carlos Dempsey said five fire crews were sent to the Resolution Place house at 6.15am today.

On arrival, firefighters found the house in flames.

The fire had been put out by 8.30am, but crews were still dampening down hot spots.

Neighbour Kayla Bridger was woken by the noise at first, thinking it was somebody breaking into their property.

Bridger’s mother, Lyn, captured the blaze on video, which included a massive explosion.

She said they were worried for surrounding houses at one point and whether there was anyone trapped inside.

“We weren’t too scared as we had another neighbour’s house on our fence line burn down in November so it was more like ‘oh no, not again’.

“The boom was a bit of a shock.” — NZ Herald

‘I feel like I’m doing my part’

First Covid-19 vaccinations get under way in Waikato

HAMILTON — Covid-19 vaccinations have begun in Waikato, starting with the vaccinators themselves.

Aotearoa’s vaccine roll-out got officially under way last week in Auckland, with about 100 vaccinators receiving their first Pfizer jab.

Yesterday afternoon, 28 people received the first of their two doses of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine at a dedicated centre in Hamilton.

The region will begin immunising its border workers at managed isolation (MIQ) facilities from today.

The first stage of the vaccine roll-out prioritises border workers and the managed isolation and quarantine

workforce, and their household contacts.

Public health nurse Dawn Tamati was first in line to get the vaccine.

She said it was a critical step in the fight against the virus and protecting the community.

“I feel quite privileged to be the first one to get the vaccine. I truly believe in immunisations. They are so important and I feel like I’m doing my part. Immunisations are about keeping our whanau, our hapu, our iwi and our communities well, and I feel like I’m doing that today.”

Leanne Smith, who administered the first injection, said it was “quite an honour” to do it.

“It’s been such a wait for something that we have all wanted and to actually start vaccinating is exciting. I felt humbled to be asked to be the first in Waikato to give the vaccine.”

She said the arrival of the vaccine was a significant milestone for the country and the region.

“We are making history and it is something our whanau will talk about for many, many generations.”

Ikimoke Tamaki-Takarei manages cultural intervention for the region’s MIQ facilities and also received his first dose yesterday.

He said it was important for border workers to be the first line of protection

for the community.

“As part of border control for Covid-19, it is our responsibility to keep our families safe.

“We go home to our families every night. I return home to my new mokopuna, so it’s my responsibility to keep her safe, to keep my children safe, and my immediate family safe,” he said.

“A lot of our vulnerable whanau and our kaumatua suffer from some sort of respiratory illness, so we have to be able to protect them by getting a vaccine.”

Waikato District Health Board said household contacts of MIQ workers would receive their jab by appointment at the dedicated centre. — RNZ

MITRE 10

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\$5 entry per person. All proceeds raised will be donated to Alzheimers Gisborne/Tairawhiti for use in the local community.



INVESTIGATION UNDER WAY: There was a heavy police presence at Avis Ave in the Auckland suburb of Papatoetoe late into the evening.
NZ Herald picture

Health services warn against misinformation

AUCKLAND — Misinformation circulating online is causing some parents and caregivers to confuse regular rheumatic fever swabs for Covid-19 tests.

The National Hauora Coalition (NHC) and Counties Manukau Health issued a statement warning the community of the misinformation spreading on social media.

The misinformation implies that schools are testing children for Covid without parental consent and then removing children from school who test positive without notification.

This is not true, the statement explained.

“The misinformation appears to be directed at the Mana Kidz programme which provides an equitable rheumatic fever prevention programme.”

The service provides throat swabs to tamariki to detect Streptococcal infections, which if left untreated can lead to rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease which can be fatal.

“These throat swabs have reportedly been mistaken by some parents for a Covid-19 test.”

“NHC and Counties Manukau Health emphatically state that no children involved in our Mana Kidz programme are being swabbed for Covid-19 or being removed from school.”

Caregivers must give their written consent to have a child seen in the school-based Mana Kidz programme, the organisations said.

“Rheumatic fever inequitably affects Maori and Pacific children in New Zealand. School-based throat swabbing services, such as the Mana Kidz programme, are a key element of rheumatic fever prevention interventions.” — NZ Herald

Man dies after standoff

Gunman told to drop weapon seconds before shots fired

by Elizabeth Binning, NZ Herald

AUCKLAND — A Papatoetoe resident says he heard police yelling at a gunman to put his weapon down, moments before two shots rang out and he dropped to the ground.

The gunman, who police say had earlier shot at a neighbour’s house, was critically injured and taken to hospital last night fighting for his life.

This morning Counties Manukau District Commander Superintendent Jill Rogers confirmed the man had died from his injuries.

Police were called to an Avis Avenue property at 5.46pm after a shot was fired through the window of a neighbouring house. No one in the house was injured.

Police, including members of the armed offenders squad and the Eagle helicopter, responded and cordons were put in place.

Rogers said that nearly two-and-a-half hours later, a man emerged from a house with a gun and was shot by police.

A local resident told The New Zealand Herald he heard shots being fired. “I went outside and police (were) yelling, ‘put the gun down’, and then two shots went off.” A NewstalkZB listener said he heard

three gunshots. He saw an ambulance arrive and later leave the property.

A large number of residents were stuck outside of the cordon and unable to access their homes throughout the armed incident.

It is understood some people were being let back in late last night.

Rogers said a cordon would remain in place overnight and a scene examination would begin today.

A critical incident investigation into the shooting was now under way and the Independent Police Conduct Authority would be notified.



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37445-02

Drug testing at Otago O-Week out in the open

DUNEDIN — For the first time at the University of Otago's O-Week, drug checking is out of a legal grey area and out in the open.

Know Your Stuff NZ volunteers began three days of testing samples of illegal recreational drugs in the front room of the Otago University Students' Association's Clubs and Socs building, in Albany Street, yesterday.

The drug-checking service has worked behind the scenes in previous years at OWeek, and has since 2019 been promoted by the OUSA.

But temporary legislation was only passed late

last year to give legal certainty to drug-checking organisations such as Know Your Stuff NZ.

OUSA chief executive Debbie Downs said she hoped the association had played a role in normalising drug checking for MDMA and other drugs among young people.

Once she had understood the prevalence of recreational MDMA-like drugs such as molly, or ecstasy, among student-aged people, she had decided that an anti-drug campaign would be fruitless.

The best role for the OUSA was to try to

reduce drug harm, Downs said.

"It's a very, very different world from 20, 25 years ago when it might have been at a party somewhere," she said.

"As older adults, as parents, sometimes we forget that.

"It's as common as having a beer."

Know Your Stuff NZ Dunedin regional and South Island manager Finn Boyle said it was difficult to say whether there had been an increased uptake of testing since the temporary legislation was passed in December, but testing

results this summer had been concerning.

More than two-thirds of the presumed MDMA tested this month in Dunedin was a potentially dangerous substitute.

Only about 30 percent of drugs presumed to be MDMA in Dunedin were MDMA.

More often than not the drugs were a substitute drug, typically from the cathinone family.

And nearly half of the supposed MDMA tested was the new, and potentially dangerous, drug eutylone. — Otago Daily Times

Offending brushed under the carpet

Top boys' school admits failure in historic handling of sex abuse

by Anna Leask, NZ Herald

CHRISTCHURCH — Inappropriate sexual behaviour by a teacher with a "group" of students at an exclusive Christchurch boys' school was "brushed under the carpet" and not passed on to police.

The teacher was dismissed and it later emerged he had earlier sexually abused a number of boys in Australia — and used "unqualified" references to get his job at Christ's College in the 1980s.

Now, more than 30 years on, the prestigious school has spoken out about the "regrettable" decision not to take action, saying there "is no question" the welfare of students would come before "its own reputational interests" if a similar situation arose now.

And it has vowed to refer any new complaint about the sex offender to police immediately.

In February 2013 Lindsay William Hutchinson was found guilty by a Perth jury of repeatedly sexually abusing a teenage student in the 1980s.

Hutchinson, then 63, was convicted of 12 charges including unlawful and indecent assault and indecent dealing with a child.

He pleaded guilty to an additional three charges involving touching the victim between 1984 and 1985.

He was sentenced to 12 years in prison and must serve 10 years.

He is eligible for parole in 2023.

In the 1990s he was convicted of molesting a male student in Adelaide.

The New Zealand Herald can reveal that between his offending in Perth and Adelaide he was employed as a music teacher at Christ's College.

College spokesman and Board of Governors chair Hugh Lindo spoke to The Herald about Hutchinson — and the lack of action against him.

He confirmed Hutchinson was employed for 18 months from 1985 to 1987.

Lindo said Hutchinson used "unqualified references" from Christ Church Grammar School in Perth and the Anglican Diocese in Perth to get the job.

"He was dismissed when (Christ's College) became aware



LACK OF ACTION: Christ's College in Christchurch has vowed to handle complaints of sexual abuse better following revelations a teacher behaved inappropriately and police were not called.

NZ Herald picture

of inappropriate behaviour of a sexual nature by him involving a group of boys who were involved in rowing," said Lindo.

"College did conduct an investigation and took legal advice.

"The outcome of the investigation in conjunction with that legal advice was that there was insufficient evidence to involve the police.

"With the benefit of hindsight, Hutchinson's behaviour should have been reported to the police — and the police left to determine if there was sufficient evidence or not."

Lindo revealed that the school was contacted by police in 1997 and passed on all information about Hutchinson.

"Following contact by the Australian Police who were then investigating allegations against Hutchinson at that time, College provided the information that it had about Hutchinson to the New Zealand Police and a statement was given by the headmaster at the time Hutchinson was employed and dismissed," he said.

Since then, no further complaints have been received by the school about Hutchinson to date.

"If an Old Boy came forward with a complaint against Hutchinson then we would refer it to the police, apologise and offer the survivor support," said Lindo.

When Hutchinson left Christ's College he was not given any references.

The Herald was contacted about Hutchinson after a former Christ's College student James Goodwin told the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care that he was sexually assaulted by older students as part of a

"hauling" tradition.

The Commission heard that teachers were aware of the abusive culture when Goodwin was a boarder in 1970 — but did nothing to stop it.

Lindo said as a result of Goodwin's testimony, he and current Executive Principal Garth Wynne wrote to all former students they had contact details for.

Coincidentally, before his role in Christchurch, Wynne was the headmaster at the same school in Perth where Hutchinson offended. He was not working at that school when Hutchinson was employed there.

Lindo said as a result of that message, a number of people had come forward and mentioned Hutchinson, although no new allegations have been levelled.

"We received a number of responses to that communication that referred to Hutchinson," Lindo said.

"The feeling expressed by those Old Boys was that the matter had been brushed under the carpet.

"It is true that the boys at College at the time were asked not to discuss Hutchinson's departure outside the school."

He conceded that Christ's College did not properly handle the situation with Hutchinson when it arose.

"There is no question that if the same circumstances arose now the police would be contacted immediately and that College would place the interests of the affected boys and their families ahead of its own reputational interests," he said.

"Regrettably, we cannot change now how the College decided to deal with Hutchinson at that time.



Harbour Bridge reaches its limits

by Sophie Trigger, NZ Herald

AUCKLAND — Auckland's ageing Harbour Bridge can't take any more strengthening and traffic will need to be restricted in order to maintain its "structural integrity".

Waka Kotahi says the bridge has previously been strengthened several times but it is not possible to do it again due to the weight of the steel that would need to be added.

Instead, "active traffic management" will need to be introduced.

It is costing millions of dollars a day as traffic is diverted because of strong winds on the bridge or roading needing to be fixed, Auckland's Chamber of Commerce chief executive Michael Barnett told Newstalk ZB this morning.

"For Auckland, we seem to wait until there's a problem and look to fix it instead of being strategic and looking ahead, knowing we are growing at 50,000 people a year, knowing we have to do the infrastructure and just talking about it instead of doing something," he said.

A November briefing paper to Transport Minister Michael Wood warned the "loading restrictions" would be needed within the next 20 years — but Waka Kotahi general transport service manager Brett Gliddon hints it may actually be much sooner.

Gliddon said active management of traffic on the bridge would not be needed within the next 12 to 18 months but did not elaborate further on a timeframe.

Regardless of the timeframe, talk of restrictions has renewed calls for an alternative harbour crossing to be prioritised to prevent the city from coming to a standstill in the future.

The revelations came at the annual review of Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency at a parliamentary select committee yesterday.

After a question from National MP Christopher

Luxon, Gliddon said it was no longer possible to strengthen the bridge, which is crossed by 170,000 vehicles on weekdays.

"We believe we have strengthened it as much as we possibly can and we can't add more steel into it... it's counter-productive."

He said maintaining the "structural integrity of the bridge" could involve restricting heavy vehicles, limiting the lanes they could use, the number of heavy vehicles on the bridge at one time, or the time of day they cross.

Road Transport Forum chief executive Nick Leggett said the fact remediation work was no longer an option was concerning given the lack of alternative options and there needed to be urgent plans for another crossing.

"Auckland is a key arterial route through our biggest city and our biggest economy.

"We don't accept that there isn't a budget for this, and there needs to be priority given. Any sort of build needs to start in the next two or three years."

AA spokesman Barney Irvine said the briefing paper highlighted how vulnerable the bridge was and emphasised "the importance of the whole discussion around an additional harbour crossing".

The bridge was last upgraded in 2010, during which approximately 900 tonnes of steel was bolted onto the clip-ons to extend the bridge's life for between 20 and 40 years.

Luxon said he was frustrated that the bridge was nearing the end of its useful life without plans in place for another harbour crossing.

"There's no future-proofing or commitment to a tunnel, or second crossing yet. We don't know if it's going to be a tunnel or a bridge or anything at this point.

"We have got a world-class city and in that city, a guy drives his truck into a bridge and everyone's out of action and inconvenienced for two weeks."

'Very upset and let down'

Businesses angry at 'knee-jerk' cancellation of art deco festival

NAPIER — Businesses in Napier say they are angry, upset and out of pocket after the city's art deco festival was cancelled due to last week's Covid-19 scare.

Some say it was a knee-jerk reaction by organisers.

The loss of the festival did not stop some people in Napier dressing up in 1930s attire and dancing in the streets at the weekend.

Some independent events still went ahead.

But the determination to party in the sun could not completely mask the disappointment — especially from businesses.

Louise Cuthbert runs Napier Cultural Hikoi Walking Tours and had some lined up for people attending the festival.

But when she heard it was cancelled, she was shocked.

"I'm feeling very upset and let down basically by the art deco festival," she told RNZ.

She says after all the challenges of 2020, the festival was a beacon of financial hope.

"We were very let down because it is a part of our cash flow, I don't have any cash flow and that's what this week is really stressful about."

She also struggled to find out how many people booked a tour through the art deco platform.

"I kept trying the next day to actually get some email from them to say what bookings had actually happened, so I knew roughly how many people were trying to come on our tour so basically



DISAPPOINTED: Trolley Derby at Tennyson Street, Napier during the Art Deco Festival some years back. The cancellation of the art deco festival due to the Covid-19 scare is quite upsetting and stressful. NZ Herald file picture

the communication was very awkward, very rude and very weird."

The Napier Repertory Players were putting on a play about the history of the earthquake for art deco weekend, but had to cancel.

Again, it was their busiest time of the year.

Repertory president Glenn Cook said the Art Deco Trust communicated well with him, but still thought it was called off too soon.

"I think it was made relatively early, and I would've like to have seen if they could have waited until the next morning basically . . . we had sort of an

announcement come out that things had progressed and things were under control in Auckland and it certainly would have made a big difference."

But Art Deco Trust chairperson Barbara Arnott stood by the decision. She said the trust had no choice.

"It was unavoidable, our position was untenable. We'd already cancelled Wednesday and Thursday and a five day festival . . . the logistics are massive. We had to start setting up on the Monday to actually manage the festival for the whole time."

She says most understood the decision. "Only one or two actually sent us an

email to say that they thought that we should have waited. By far the majority said 'we understand it's a difficult decision, we understand the logistics of putting on a five day festival and we understand you would've had to have called a halt to it at a certain stage.'"

In an email leaked to RNZ and sent to event partners, festival director Greg Howie acknowledged partners had been contacted by the media asking questions about the festival.

"Of course it is completely up to you whether you chose to respond or not. However, please be aware you are under no obligation to," he wrote.

Barbara Arnott told RNZ why this was done.

"A sponsor sent us an email to say they had been contacted by the media and they didn't want to talk to the media. That sort of rang a little alert. We value our sponsors and our associated sponsors too and we didn't want to put them under any pressure, so I think Greg sent out an email just saying no pressure, you can talk to them if you want to but there's no obligation to."

There were also rumours in the community that Hawke's Bay Airport was pushing to cancel the festival but its chief executive Stuart Ainslie told RNZ that was "just ridiculous".

"Hawke's Bay Airport was saddened that the festival was cancelled, but continues to support Art Deco Trust and everything it contributes to our regional economy and the important advocacy that it provides for art deco heritage," he said. — RNZ

Robertson's RBNZ policy change goes too far: economist

WELLINGTON — Independent economist Cameron Bagrie says the Government has "gone too far" with its Reserve Bank policy changes and risks undermining its independence.

Finance Minister Grant Robertson announced yesterday that changes have been made to the Bank's Monetary Policy Committee's remit requiring it to take into account government policy relating to more sustainable house prices, while working towards its objectives.

Bagrie says he is not opposed to house prices being considered in the remit but the inclusion of the term "government policy" was a concern.

House prices used to be a consideration in the remit, Bagrie said.

"Why didn't they just reinsert that?" he asked. "What they've reinserted is a phrase that risks encroaching on the independence of the Reserve Bank."

But Robertson rejected suggestions that the changes politicised the remit.

"It doesn't, because the point of the remit is to give the Reserve Bank an opportunity to understand the Government's policy," he said.

Any actual impact on house prices would depend "entirely on the way the Reserve Bank makes their decision in the future".

Yesterday's announcement follows a letter Robertson wrote to RBNZ Governor Adrian Orr in November suggesting a change to the rules to take heed of the impact of any monetary policy on house prices.

The Reserve Bank already considers risks around residential housing debt when it assesses the nation's financial stability.

A direction has been issued (under section 68B of the Reserve Bank Act) to the Reserve Bank requiring it to have regard to government policy on housing in relation to its financial policy functions.

The remit now says the RBNZ will need to "assess the effect of its monetary policy decisions on the Government's policy set out in subclause 3".

Subclause 3 says: "The Government's policy is to support more sustainable house prices, including by dampening investor demand for existing housing stock, which would improve affordability for first-home buyers." Orr said the RBNZ welcomed the new direction.

"The minister's direction is in tune with our recent advice to the Government in which we detailed the many influences on house prices, including the actions of the Reserve Bank," Orr said.

He said the adjustments would increase the focus on understanding and communicating the impact of the Bank's decisions on house price sustainability.

The Reserve Bank's objectives and mandate remain the same, which is to maintain price stability, support full employment and promote a sound and stable financial system.

"It's a fine line," said Bagrie. "You've only got to look at the result. Financial conditions have tightened in the past 24 hours, which is not in the spirit of what the Reserve Bank was trying to achieve."

The Kiwi dollar rose around one third of a US cent to 74.55 cents, its highest level since August 2017.

Bond yields and swap rates also rose. On Tuesday, the Reserve Bank left the official

Economist Cameron Bagrie says requiring the Reserve Bank to take government policy into account is a risk to its independence.

SHAREMARKET YESTERDAY

WELLINGTON — A double-digit decline in a2 Milk's first-half net profit helped tip the sharemarket into correction territory after a moderate day's trading, but the overriding influence on prices was the upward march of bond yields.

The S&P/NZX-50 index finished at 12,140.66, down 141.76 points or 1.15 percent, and down 10.5 percent from the market's peak in early January. There were 83 falls and 67 gains while the total amount of stock traded came to \$198 million.

"I guess you could call it a correction but the key thing is rising bond yields," Salt Funds managing director Matt Goodson said.

"With 10-year yields up at 1.83 percent, the

yield-sensitive stocks and growth stocks have been under a bit of pressure," he said.

The market's decline was against the background of a generally strong reporting season in New Zealand and Australia.

Alternative dairy company a2 Milk dropped \$1.79 or 16 percent to \$9.34 after reporting a 35 percent decline in net profit to \$120m and lowering its earnings guidance for the year to June, due to Covid-19 disruption of the daigou trade into China.

"The result for the six months was largely expected, but the guidance for the rest of the year has put it under the gun," Goodson said.

"With the retail daigou trading pretty much dead thanks to Covid-19, it should not come as a

shock, but it does not necessarily mean that the business model its kaput," he said.

"For now we are just going to have to take it on trust that they can bottom this out, and that they will not have a big inventory overhang."

"It's still a very large, profitable business, but the outlook was nothing like what the market expected," Goodson said.

Shares in Synlait Milk — a2 Milk's sole supplier of infant formula — dropped by 21c or 4.9 percent to \$4.07.

The Warehouse rallied by 16c or 4.9 percent to \$3.40 after upgrading its earnings guidance.

The retail chain now expects its net profit to hit \$110m in the first half to January 31, up from a previous guidance of \$90m, and compared with a first half 2020 result of \$46.2m.

Manuka honey company Comvita dropped by

12c or 3.6 percent to \$3.20, despite reporting a returning to profit in the first half to \$3.5m.

Out-of-favour Fisher & Paykel Healthcare continued its slide, falling 74c or 2.5 percent to \$28.76.

Fletcher Building, a clear beneficiary of the return to cyclical stocks, rallied by 11c to \$6.51.

Carpet maker Cavalier rallied by 8.5c or 26 percent to 41c after reporting net profit of \$4.3m, up \$5.5m on the prior year, with a \$3m improvement in underlying business performance and a \$2.5m net gain on the sale and leaseback of the Auckland property.

Restaurant Brands lost 4c to \$12.01 after reporting a steady annual net profit of \$30.9m.

Power company Genesis gained 6c to \$3.48 after reporting a sharp lift in net profit to \$53m.

— NZ Herald

EDITORIAL

Climate report an outline for bankruptcy

Targets achievable, action necessary

Our columnist today is not the only one questioning the Climate Change Commission's claim that the "transformational and lasting change across society and the economy" it is calling for would cost less than 1 percent of annual GDP.

A coalition of over a dozen business and industry groups wrote to the commission's chairman Rodd Carr last week calling for the "release of crucial modelling data", and National MPs challenged the commission on this issue yesterday.

But your editor digresses, as today's column mostly bypasses real-world debate — with the quote marks around "warming" a pointer.

To say our emissions are low on a global scale ignores the fact we will be acting along with the rest of the world, and that our emissions are high on a per-capita basis . . . principally because methane emitted by livestock on our farms accounts for 35 percent of New Zealand's greenhouse gas emissions. Through enteric fermentation in their digestion process, ruminant animals convert carbon in grass into this much more powerful (but shorter-lived) greenhouse gas. Their urine also produces a potent long-lived gas, nitrous oxide.

New Zealand could store enough energy to be 100 percent renewable, that's why a pumped hydro scheme is being investigated; or gas-fired peaking stations could be used until other storage options are available. Heavy-duty electric trucks will soon shift from demonstration vehicles to commercial production.

Most farmers would support such moves, as removing transport emissions dials back the reduction in livestock emissions we need to meet our climate commitments.

Regarding soils in forests, Scion's Dr Michelle Harnett says they are in good health, including the healthy range for acidity, and generally better than soils used for farming or growing food. However, the commission actually warns that relying too much on carbon offsets from forestry would delay action and lead to higher cumulative emissions.

On agriculture, the commission says methane reduction targets can be met purely through existing farm management practices and the (proven) use of selective breeding for low-emissions sheep; and there is scope to overachieve through new technologies like methane vaccines or inhibitors or selective breeding for low-emissions cattle.

It also should be pointed out that the commission's cost estimates do not take account of the costs of not acting, in terms of worse climate change impacts and greater reliance on carbon offsets.

by Laura Henderson

PEOPLE talk about their concern for future generations but as one of the future generation most likely to be affected by a "warming" planet, the current political response concerns me more.

The recently-released report from the government-sponsored Climate Change Commission would be laughable if the implications weren't so severe and serious. Applauded by Labour and the Greens as achievable, feasible and a great step forward, it outlines how to bankrupt New Zealand environmentally, socially and economically within a decade or two at most.

The fact our Government supports it shows utter contempt for hard-working New Zealanders, their lack of reality with the working-class base who voted them in, and their utter ignorance and lack of understanding of basic science, social structure and economics.

New Zealand contributes just 0.2 percent of all global emissions. This goal to be "carbon neutral" or "zero emissions" is all for 0.2 percent! That is minuscule and would not be noticed anywhere. Ever.



The Government is woefully ignorant about giving credit to emissions already stored on farms in grass, wool and native plantings and ignores animals do not produce more carbon than they uptake; it is a natural cycle. They ignore harvested pine trees are burned in China after one use as concrete boxing, thus releasing all their "stored" carbon dioxide.

This report reeks of feel-good, virtue signalling yet still leaves other countries to do the dirty work. Has anyone looked at the conditions of cobalt or lithium mines to get the minerals to make the electric vehicle batteries? What about the child slave labour to mine it? New Zealand cannot produce or store enough electricity through wind, hydro or solar for everything — cars, trucks, trains, houses, businesses etc — to be 100 percent electric. We lack the capacity by miles, and heavy-duty electric trucks have yet to be invented.

The encouragement of pine forestry would see most of New Zealand's farms covered in trees, either native or pine. Natives have a poor survival success rate and the seldom-reported side effect of pines is their destruction of the soil as needles are acidic, so soil acidity increases over time.

While we may have relatively few farmers, a large percentage of the national workforce is tied up in farming directly or indirectly. The mass

unemployment that would result from virtually no farming leaves tens of thousands unemployed as fencers and shearers are out of work, as are hay contractors, rural trucking firms, rural farm suppliers, freezing workers rural doctors/nurses/teachers, vets, fertiliser companies, farm consultants, various government departments.

Yet the Government's plans would see them all out of work and in the cities. Cities which already face one of the largest housing shortages ever seen, and already have high unemployment.

The commission assured New Zealanders that many people who would lose their jobs would be highly trained to take new jobs. As what? Fencers building a fence around Parliament to block out the starving, angry masses? Shearers shearing the people who are so blind they just follow like sheep? Diesel mechanics doing what? Farmers growing what? What would our GDP consist of?

You can't have that level of unemployment and sustain it through the dole as the number of unemployed would be greater than the number employed. Social collapse would be inevitable as people leave homes of generations seeking whatever they can find in cities.

Wake up to what the real costs are because the poorest and middle working class are always hardest hit. The future generation depends on it. ■ See today's editorial

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, ONLINE COMMENTS

Workshop very informative

I wish to commend and thank the team from Massey University who led the Gisborne interactive workshop regarding "An Earthquake Early Warning System for Aotearoa NZ" last night.

It provided an opportunity for those attending to focus on issues which may (or may not) be incorporated in such a system, the data which could be collected and the way it

could be used to advantage the majority of the population. Much thought had obviously gone into the aims and objectives of this study, and the ability of the individual facilitators meant participants were happy to share their thoughts and knowledge.

Thank you team — a job well done.

MARGARET GRAHAM

Shows value of SLS clubs

Thank you for your coverage regarding the ocean rescues which occurred at Makorori and Kaiti beaches this past week. These two events are great examples that highlight the value surf lifesaving clubs add to Gisborne and the wider region.

Surf lifesaving is not just training athletes to compete at carnivals. Surf lifesaving is not limited to patrolling and protecting our beaches between the flags on weekends. These are an important part of what a surf lifesaving club provides, but there is so much more what they provide.

Surf lifesaving offers its members the skills and the confidence to observe, access, and react to first

aid/rescue situations on both land and water. These skills can be used at any time or at any place in our community or anywhere else in the world.

This is a very important reason why surf lifesaving clubs are an important asset to their communities.

Well done to Jess, Kelly, and Jay for their actions. Thank you to the sponsors and all others who support and assist in the operation of surf lifesaving clubs from Hicks Bay to Midway. These clubs always appreciate any contributions or support from our community. Thank you.

ANDREW PUTNAM, Chair, Riversun Wainui Surf Club

A great article and photos

Re: Hindmarsh impresses in Te Araroa trial, Feb 24 story. Well done Donna Halley —

LOU

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.

Still none the wiser . . .

Well Andrew, your response (February 25) is no more than the rhetoric you have previously expounded. It goes no way towards addressing the questions I've asked. One would have thought you would have responded with: the stevedoring company has stated this project will create 50 new positions; forestry have reliably said 1500; horticulture 1000; shopkeepers 25; tour guides 11 . . . the list has to go a long way and be a few years in the making to achieve what you are promoting.

Seriously, the port has paid for a couple of reports, which normally concur with the commissioner's view.

"Calculating the indirect jobs and benefits of a major initiative like this is always a challenge, but what's clear is that there will be significant new jobs and regional benefits from the project." "The long-term picture is that, by 2028 . . ." Calculating, challenging and long term, at least seven years.

These are your words by which you arrive at the figure of 3000 new jobs. Mostly indirectly.

Additional forestry harvest? Growth in wood product exports? And the horticulture sector. All these sectors will grow over a seven-year period anyway without a second berth, but again you generalise — give us the specifics.

I cannot agree with your reasoning that coastal vessels don't call into Eastland Port because of lack of infrastructure. The port has handled containers previously. Even in recent times, kiwifruit vessels discharged containers and, after packing, loaded them back on board. As I stated, there is only one container ship plying the NZ coast currently. Has the port approached Pacifica? They could berth tomorrow. Other overseas vessels carrying containers couldn't, along with a few other ports, berth here because of their size and the amount of cargo required.

One would have thought that on an issue as important and supposedly beneficial as you purport, all the facts and figures would have been to the fore.

DEIN FERRIS

What's under a boat's stern?

Re: Making 'bombs' a safe, fun activity — Feb 24 column.

Health and education project? Well I'll start the ball rolling with an open question to councillor Meredith and the Harbour Master: What does a boat have under its

stern that spins and provides forward and reverse functions, and can and would be a major hazard to swimmers in a confined inner port area? A no-brainer really . . .

KEN OVENDEN



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BATTLING TWO FOREST FIRES:

A forest fire broke out in a rural area north of Tokyo on Thursday, near another blaze burning for a fourth day. One man suffered burns and was hospitalised, and firefighters have been deployed, said Hitomi Hirokami, an official at Kiryu in Gunma prefecture, about 100 kilometres northwest of Tokyo. News footage showed smoke billowing upward from the hills. Another fire has been raging in nearby Ashikaga in Tochigi prefecture, where 207 households have been asked to evacuate, said spokesman Minoru Takayama. Firefighters were working on the ground, while military helicopters were dousing the area. No one has been injured. The two fires are not directly related, but the area has not had much rain lately, causing flames to spread, officials said. An evacuation order for Ashikaga was first issued on Tuesday for about 50 households, underlining how the stricken area was growing. The cause of the fire was unclear, but there's a rest stop for hikers in an area where it's believed to have started. Three evacuation centres were set up with social-distancing measures and disinfectants and everyone is wearing masks, Takayama said.

AP picture

Australia passes law so tech giants pay for news

CANBERRA — Australia's law forcing Google and Facebook to pay for news is ready to take effect, though the laws' architect said it will take time for the digital giants to strike media deals.

The Parliament yesterday passed the final amendments to the so-called News Media Bargaining Code agreed between Treasurer Josh Frydenberg and Facebook chief executive Mark Zuckerberg.

In return for the changes, Facebook agreed to lift a ban on Australians accessing and sharing news.

Rod Sims, the competition regulator who drafted the code, said he was happy that the amended legislation would address the market imbalance between Australian news publishers and the two gateways to the internet. "All signs are good," Sims said.

"The purpose of the code is to address the market power that clearly Google and Facebook have. Google and Facebook need media, but they don't need any particular media company, and that meant media companies couldn't do commercial deals," the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission chair added.

The rest of the law had passed in Parliament earlier, so it can now be implemented. Google has already struck deals with major Australian news businesses in recent weeks including News Corp. and Seven West Media.

Frydenberg said he was pleased to see progress by Google and more recently Facebook in reaching commercial deals with Australian news businesses. But Country Press Australia, which represents 161 regional newspapers across the country, has raised concerns that tiny publications outside large cities might miss out.

Sims said he was not surprised that the platforms would strike deals with the large city businesses first. "I don't see any reason why anybody should doubt that all journalism will benefit," Sims said.

"These things take time. Google and Facebook don't have unlimited resources to go around talking to everybody. I think this has got a long way to play out," he added.

Chris Moos, a lecturer at Oxford University's Business School, said the latest amendments amounted to a "small victory" for Zuckerberg.

Moos said the legislation would likely result in small payouts for most Australian news publishers. But Facebook could again block Australian news if negotiations broke down.

The legislation was designed to curb the outsized bargaining power of Facebook and Google in their negotiations with Australian news providers. The digital giants would not be able to abuse their positions by making take-it-or-leave-it payment offers to news businesses for their journalism. Instead, in the case of a standoff, an arbitration panel would make a binding decision on a winning offer.

Frydenberg and Facebook confirmed that the two sides agreed to amendments to the proposed legislation. The changes would give digital platforms one month's notice before they are formally designated under the code. That would give those involved more time to broker agreements before they are forced to enter binding arbitration arrangements.

Both Google and Facebook are pursuing Australian media deals under their own licensing models, Google News Showcase and Facebook News. But media executives argue such deals would not be possible without the threat of an arbitration panel making final decisions.

Frydenberg said his department will review the code within a year to "ensure it is delivering outcomes that are consistent with government's policy intent." — AP

Gasping for breath

Medical oxygen scarce in Africa, Latin America amid virus

DAKAR, Senegal — A crisis over the supply of medical oxygen for coronavirus patients has struck nations in Africa and Latin America, where warnings went unheeded at the start of the pandemic and doctors say the shortage has led to unnecessary deaths.

It takes about 12 weeks to instal a hospital oxygen plant and even less time to convert industrial oxygen manufacturing systems into a medical-grade network. But in Brazil and Nigeria, as well as in less-populous nations, decisions to fully address inadequate supplies only started being made last month, after hospitals were overwhelmed and patients started to die.

The gap in medical oxygen availability "is one of the defining health equity issues, I think, of our age," said Peter Piot, director of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, who said he survived a severe coronavirus infection thanks to the oxygen he received.

Doctors in Nigeria anxiously monitor traffic as oxygen deliveries move through the gridlocked streets of Lagos. Desperate families of patients around the world sometimes turn to the black market. Governments take action only after hospitals are overwhelmed and the infected die by the dozens.

In Brazil's Amazonas state, a pair of swindlers were caught reselling fire extinguishers painted to look like medical oxygen tanks. In Peru, people camped out in lines to get cylinders for sick relatives.

Only after the lack of oxygen was blamed for the deaths of four people at an Egyptian hospital in January and six people at one hospital in Pakistan in December did governments address the problems.

John Nkengasong, director of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, said medical oxygen is a "huge critical need" across the continent of 1.3 billion people and is a main reason that Covid-19 patients are more likely to die there during surges.

Even before the pandemic, sub-Saharan Africa's 2600 oxygen concentrators and 69 functioning oxygen plants met less than half the need, leading to preventable deaths, especially from pneumonia, said Dr John Adabie Appiah of the World Health Organisation.

The number of concentrators has grown to about 6000, mostly from international donations, but the oxygen produced isn't pure enough for the critically ill. The number of plants that can generate higher concentrations is now at 119.

OXYGEN SHORTAGE: A man carries his empty oxygen tank to be filled after arriving at the head of the line, in the Villa El Salvador neighbourhood of Lima. Shortage of oxygen in Africa and Latin America is contributing to a rising death rate in the country.

AP picture



Yet without formal requests from Governments, nearly \$20 billion in World Bank coronavirus funds for the world's poorest countries remains unspent so far, the organisation told The Associated Press.

Nigeria was "struggling to find oxygen to manage cases" in January, said Chikwe Ihekweazu, head of its Centre for Disease Control.

A main hospital in Lagos, a city of 14.3 million, saw its January virus cases increase fivefold, with 75 medical workers infected in the first six weeks of 2021. Only then did President Muhammadu Buhari release \$17 million to set up 38 more oxygen plants and another \$670,000 to repair plants at five hospitals.

Some oxygen suppliers have dramatically raised prices, according to a doctor at the Lagos University Teaching Hospital who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not allowed to talk to reporters. That has driven up the cost of a cylinder by 10 times, to \$260 — more than the average monthly wage — and a critically ill patient could need up to four cylinders a day.

Money and influence don't always help. Femi Odekunle, a Nigerian academic and close ally of the president, went without adequate oxygen for nearly 12 days at the Abuja University Teaching Hospital until two state governors and Ministry of Health officials intervened. He died anyway, and relatives and friends blame the oxygen shortage, the Premium Times newspaper reported. The hospital attributed his death to his severe infection.

In Malawi, the president promised funding for protective gear for medical workers and the immediate purchase of 1,000 oxygen cylinders.

Corruption was blamed for defects in a new oxygen plant at a hospital in Uganda's capital of Kampala, the Daily Monitor newspaper reported. Workers had to rely on rusty oxygen cylinders blamed for the deaths of at least two patients.

"While top health officials basked in the oxygen of good publicity, patients were literally choking to death," the newspaper said.

Leith Greenslade of the Every Breath Counts Coalition, which advocates for wider access to medical oxygen, said the looming shortages were apparent last spring. "Very little was done. Now you have a second wave, not just in Africa but in Latin America and Asia, and the oxygen shortages are becoming at crisis levels," she said.

The World Bank has set aside \$50 billion for the world's poorest countries alone during the pandemic, and \$30.8 billion has been allocated, including \$80 million for oxygen-related upgrades.

"We make money available for countries, but it's countries', governments who have to make a decision about how much they spend and what they spend it on," said Dr. Mickey Chopra, who helps with the World Bank's global medical logistics response.

A global task force focusing on oxygen was formally announced on Thursday and will include the World Health Organisation and World Bank, among others. Already, \$90 million was identified in immediate oxygen funding needs for 20 developing countries, including Nigeria and Malawi. Oxygen shortages remain critical in Peru.

In all, health experts estimate that 500,000 patients in developing countries currently need 1.1 million oxygen cylinders a day. — AP



Mount Etna eruption lights up night skies

ROME — Mount Etna, the volcano that towers over eastern Sicily, evokes superlatives. It is Europe's most active volcano and also the continent's largest.

And the fiery, noisy show of power it puts on for days or weeks, even years every so often, is always super spectacular. Fortunately, Etna's latest eruption captivating the world's attention has caused neither injuries nor evacuation. But each time it roars back into dramatic action, it wows onlookers and awes geologists who spend their careers monitoring its every quiver, rumble and belch.

WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW?

On February 16, Etna erupted, sending up high fountains of lava, which rolled down the mountain's eastern slope toward the uninhabited Bove Valley, which is five kilometres wide and eight kilometres long. The volcano has belched out ash and lava stones that showered the southern side.

The activity has been continuing since, in bursts more or less intense. The flaming lava lights up the night sky in shocking hues of orange and red. There's no telling how long this round of exciting activity will last, say volcanologists who work at the Etna Observatory run by the National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology.

While public fascination began with the first dramatic images this month, the explosive activity began in September 2019, becoming much stronger two months ago. The current activity principally involves the south-east crater, which was created in 1971 from a series of fractures.

HARD TO MISS

Etna towers 3350 metres above sea level and is 35 kilometres in diameter, although the volcanic activity has changed the mountain's height over time.

Occasionally, the airport at Catania, eastern Sicily's largest city, has to close down for hours or days, when ash in the air makes flying in the area dangerous. Early in this recent spell of eruptive activity, the airport closed briefly.

But for pilots and passengers flying to and from Catania at night when the volcano is calmer, a glimpse of fiery red in the dark sky makes for an exciting sight.

LIVING WITH A VOLCANO

With Etna's lava flows largely contained to its uninhabited slopes, life goes on in towns and villages elsewhere on the mountain. Sometimes, like in recent days, lava stones rain down on streets, bounce off cars and rattle roofs.

But many residents generally find that a small inconvenience when weighed against the benefits the volcano brings. Lava flows have left fertile farmland. Apple and citrus trees flourish. Etna red and whites are some of Sicily's most popular wines, from grapes grown on the volcanic slopes.

Tourism rakes in revenues. Hikers and backpackers enjoy views of the oft-puffing mountain and the sparkling Ionian Sea below. For skiers who want uncrowded slopes, Etna's a favourite.

IT CAN BE DEADLY

Inspiring ancient Greek legends, Etna has had scores of known eruptions in its history. An eruption in 396 B.C. has been credited with keeping the army of Carthage at bay.

In 1669, in what has been considered the volcano's worst known eruption, lava buried a swath of Catania, about 23 kilometres away and devastated dozens of villages. An eruption in 1928 cut off a rail route circling the mountain's base.

More recently, in 1983, dynamite was used to divert lava threatening inhabited areas. In 1992, the army built an earthen wall to contain the lava, flowing from Etna for months, from hitting Zafferana Etnea, a village of a few thousand people. At one point, the smoking lava stopped two kilometres from the edge of town.

Over the last century, a hiccup in geological time, low-energy explosive eruptions and lava flows, both fed from the summit and side vents, have characterised Etna. — AP



SPECTACULAR SHOW: Flames and smoke billowing from a crater, as seen from the southern side of the Mt Etna volcano, tower over the city of Pedara, Sicily. Inset, lava and smoke are belched from a crater as seen from the north-east side of the Mt Etna volcano near Milo, Sicily. Europe's most active volcano has been steadily erupting since last week, belching smoke, ash, and fountains of red-hot lava. AP pictures

Hindu festival draws crowds of bathers to rivers

PRAYAGRAJ, India — Millions of people have joined a 45-day Hindu bathing festival in the northern Indian city of Prayagraj, where devotees take a dip at Sangam, the sacred confluence of several rivers. There, they bathe on certain days considered to be auspicious in the belief that they will be cleansed of all sins.

Rows and rows of colourful tents, in which the devotees stay, line the sprawling festival site. Millions of Hindus travel every year to the event, called Magh Mela, where pilgrims offer prayers and enter the holy waters where the Ganga, Yamuna and mythical Saraswati rivers meet.

In Hinduism, this period is called Kalpvash and the devotees who choose to stay for the entire time are known as Kalpvashis. They give up their daily routine and instead camp at the site, living on frugal meals and performing rituals.

Virender Kumar Shukla, a Kalpvashi devotee, is attending for the fifth time. He said he hopes by offering prayers to "find a place in heaven" and earn "a better rebirth."

Authorities took months to build what looks like a temporary tented city on the river banks. Police patrol the site and floating bridges were built to help people get from one side of the river to the other. Boats ferry pilgrims from the bank of the Yamuna to the Sangam, where they bathe in the holy water and offer their prayers.

The festival is being held even though Covid-19 cases in some parts of the country are rising after months of steady decline. India has confirmed 11 million cases and over 150,000 deaths. Health officials have told local media that they have tested tens of thousands of pilgrims for the virus since the festival began on January 14. It is set to end tomorrow. — AP

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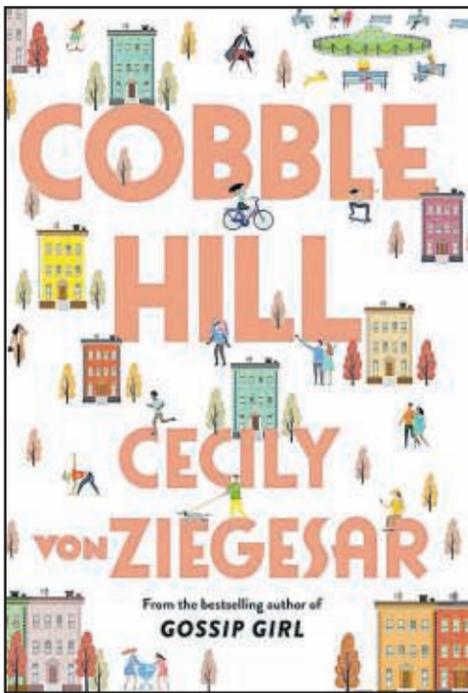
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Delightful look at connected lives

COBBLE HILL
by Cecily Von Ziegesar
published by Orion Publishing

With *Cobble Hill*, acclaimed *Gossip Girl* author Cecily Von Ziegesar has brought readers a brand new — and fascinating — cast of characters. The book follows the lives of four families who all live near one another in a wealthy Brooklyn neighbourhood.

Tupper is an inventor with an eclectic artist wife who is always disappearing and reappearing as she creates pieces of performance art around New York.

Mandy, the wife of an ex-rock star, fakes having multiple sclerosis to take a break from her life. Her husband, Stuart, finds himself falling for his son's school nurse, Peaches, who finds herself falling right back while also managing problems in the life of her teenage son, Liam.

Then there is Roy Clarke, a famous author desperately seeking inspiration for his next book, and his wife Wendy, who uprooted her family from England to New York to find herself in a job she loathes.

Throughout the book, the lives of these families collide and entwine in unexpected ways. The story delves deep into the minds of each character, providing a dynamism that makes it impossible not to become invested in what happens to each one. It's an intriguing examination of a wide variety of psyches and personas.

Cobble Hill is not the scandalous Upper East Side melodrama of Von Zeigesar's past. It's a story aimed at adults and is much calmer than what you may expect from the writer who brought you *Blair Waldorf*.

This, however, is not a weakness. Von Ziegesar's writing style is engaging, light, and fun, and the story is a delight to read.

— Molly Sprayregen, AP

An ode to the strength of mothers

THE FOUR WINDS
by Kristin Hannah
published by Pan Macmillan

It is 1921 in Texas, and 25-year-old Elsa Wolcott is considered by her own parents to be an ugly, unmarriageable spinster.

Elsa's family is wealthy, but she is horribly unhappy. She dreams of a life where she is loved and where she also feels brave.

One day, Elsa becomes entangled with a young man named Rafe, who she is forced to marry when he gets her pregnant and her parents disown her. They build a comfortable life and family together on Rafe's family farm. But then the Great Depression hits, and so does the Dust Bowl.

The family is broke and miserable, and it falls to Elsa to fend for her two children. It breaks Elsa's heart to abandon the land she loves, but as the dust storms worsen, she knows the family must leave.

They travel to California in search of a better life, but once they arrive, they find even more

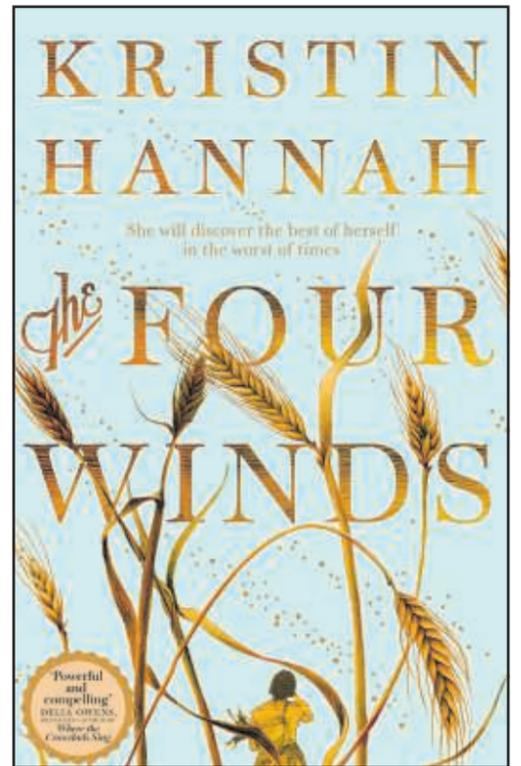
hardship, even more poverty. Through it all, Elsa refuses to stop fighting for her family — no matter what.

The Four Winds by Kristin Hannah is a captivating, heartbreaking tale of a family who will do anything for each other — and everything to survive.

The strength of Hannah's prose brings the characters to life in a way that will make you unable to tear yourself away from them. You will celebrate their triumphs, mourn their tragedies, and commend their bravery.

Through it all, it is easy to feel Hannah's desire to honour those who lived and fought through this devastating time in history. *The Four Winds* is also an ode to the strength and ferocity of mothers, and a declaration that sometimes love is the only thing that holds us together.

Above all else, *The Four Winds* is merely a really good story, one that hits you in all the right places and will keep surprising you until the end. — Molly Sprayregen, AP



Vivid portrait of mental illness

THE MORBIDS
by Ewa Ramsey
published by Allen & Unwin

Two years ago Caitlin was a normal twenty-something-year-old with a great job and dreams of seeing the world. Now, Caitlin is convinced she is going to die.

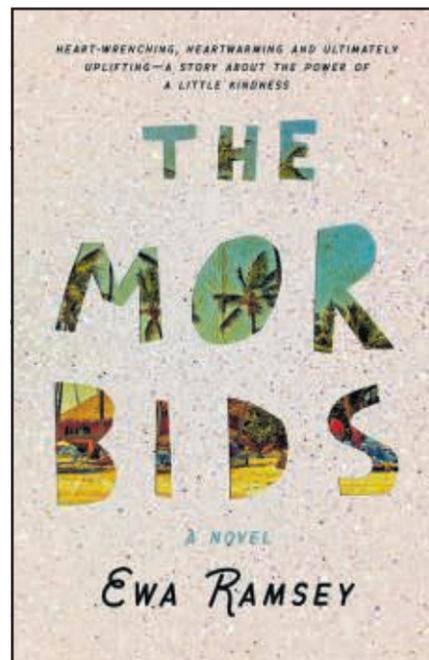
We're not talking in 60 years time. Caitlin is expecting to go within days, weeks, maybe months.

The Morbids by Ewa Ramsey is a deep dive into Caitlin's life; her daily struggles as a waitress, how she walks everywhere, and, more importantly, why she walks everywhere and can't get a full night's sleep.

The novel embodies the chaos that goes on in Caitlin's head and Ramsey adds to that with every third or so chapter being from the past, enabling the reader to understand what happened to make Caitlin act the way she does.

The titular "Morbids" are a support group for people who fear an untimely demise. Caitlin attends meetings every Tuesday as a result of a fatal car accident where she walked away unscathed, but laden with guilt that she should have lost her life rather than someone else.

Since the accident, Caitlin has distanced herself from those closest



to her, including her family and best friend Lina. When Lina announces she is getting married in Bali, Caitlin struggles with the idea that she will have to travel in a "flying piece of tin" to a country known for unsafe practices. But it shouldn't matter — she doesn't expect to be around long

enough to attend the wedding.

Unlike so many others, Lina hasn't given up on Caitlin. She sticks around when it gets tough, as opposed to Caitlin's parents who have put their daughter in the too-hard basket and go about their lives pretending that nothing is wrong. Although Lina may be the only one who understands Caitlin's suffering, Caitlin distances herself from her out of fear that she will become a burden.

Even the prospect of a new relationship with handsome Dr Tom is not enough to shake her out of the negative spiral, which she barrels down head first.

While *The Morbids* is about tough topics, it's not all doom and gloom. Ramsey incorporates the lighter aspects of life, including friendships and romantic relationships and how much of a solid foundation they can provide to someone who is barely hanging on by a thread.

The novel is a hopeful story of love, friendship and self-discovery and takes the reader on a journey as a woman, who appears to have nothing left in her life, overcomes some of life's greatest obstacles. It showcases the myriad of ways that kindness can change an outcome.

The Morbids is an incredible debut from Ramsey and I can't wait to read more. — TP

When success masks a secret

THIS IS NOT HOW IT ENDS
by Jehan Casinader
published by HarperCollins

It is said, "stories have the power to heal" and the book *This Is Not How It Ends — How Rewriting Your Story Can Save Your Life* could be the best example of how stories can help you get out of a severely depressed situation.

The back cover of the book reads, "An award-winning journalist . . ." and that's what caught my eye and I purchased the book without giving it a second thought.

The thing that jumped into my mind was, "I am sure I will be able to relate something from this book to my own life and profession". And I wasn't wrong. This book is a complete revelation to me.

Jehan Casinader has written an honest, forthright and factual account of his struggles with depression. It's not just challenging but uncomfortable at times to be a journalist. As a reporter, Casinader faced different tragic situations and moments of triumph, horror and happiness, along with dealing with his own life-engulfing depression.

Although Casinader doesn't gloss over any of his struggles, he doesn't dwell in endless depths of despair. The novel is intertwined with poignant moments of his journalism journey, which makes for a very good read.

His retelling of the Pike River explosion shook me, as did his coverage of the Auckland Zoo where he talks about the lions' suffering and the zookeepers having to bid goodbye. "Their

first hug was their last one."

This story took me back to those days when I was into reporting for an Indian national daily.

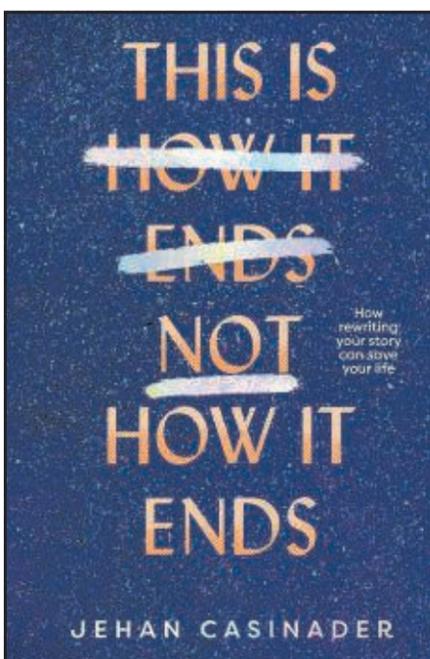
The book teaches you the lesson that "it ain't over till it's over" and makes you look at life differently and see there's always room for change.

Towards the end of the book, Casinader provides a Story Guide, a section which briefly summarises how you can involve yourself in writing.

Take a blank piece of paper and a pen and start making notes. Come back to your notes at a later stage and there will surely be a story.

It is one of those books I loved to read and would highly recommend . . . for everyone can write a different story.

— Preeti Maheshwari



Matamata races at Matamata Saturday

Selections
Race 1: VIRTUOSO LAD, RUSALKA, SAGUNTO
Race 2: TAR AND CEMENT, INTELLIGENT PATCH, TAVIDORA
Race 3: INTELLIGENT PATCH, A PROPER LADY, VASQUEZ
Race 4: ON THE BUBBLES, SWORD OF STATE, WESTERN SPRINGS

Race 5: BRAHMA SUNSET, JAKKALBOMB, HARBOURSIDE
Race 6: COVENTINA BAY, LOIRE, CONCERT HALL
Race 7: BONNY LASS, BELDARRA, FONSALETTE
Race 8: VERNANME, GO NICHOLAS, YATIMA
Race 9: AMANO, PEERLESS WARRIOR, KIWIANNA

1 Valachi Downs 12.15
\$22,500, rating 65 benchmark*, 1600m
1 34802 Sagunto (15) 60 65 S McKay
2 27044 Virtuoso Lad (12) 59.5 64 R Elliot

10 49396 It's Doable (14) 56.5 62 A Goindasamy (a1)
11 69942 Masque (9) 56.5 58 J Fawcett
12 08210 Wasp (11) 56 61 T Yanagida (a1)

2 gavelhouse.com 12.45
\$22,500, maat, 1400m
1 09315 I'm Capable (2) 58 63 T Newman (a2)
2 32281 Intelligent Patch (8) 58 63

3 Westbury Waikato 1.20
\$22,500, rating 65 benchmark*, 1200m
1 73650 Castani (6) 60 65 K Asano (a1)
2 32281 Intelligent Patch (12) 59 63

Jetbet 2 TAB Doubles 2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 Trebles 1-2-3, 4-5-6, 7-8-9 Quaddies 2-3-4-5, 6-7-8-9 Place6 4-9

8 3126s Highlighter (5) 57 63 T Yanagida (a1)
9 08594 Mannie's Power (1) 57 63 W Pinn (a2)
10 01084 Champagne Dancer (8) 57 63

4 Waikato Stud Slipper (G3) 1.55
\$70,000, group 3 2yo c&g sw, 1200m
1 111 On The Bubbles (8) 56.5 80 J Parkes
2 131 Sword Of State (2) 56.5 71 T Harris

5 Rich Hill Stud 2.30
\$27,500, rating 74 benchmark, 1400m
1 6617s Long Jack (5) 60 74 T Harris
2 32610 Katie Perrie (6) 59.5 77 T Newman (a2)

6 Lisa Chittick Plate 3.05
\$35,000, f&m sw+p, 1400m
1 21121 Concert Hall (13) 58 104 V Colgan
2 03290 Kiwi Ida (3) 58 102 K Asano (a1)

7 Matamata Breeder Stks (G2) 3.40
\$100,000, group 2 2yof sw, 1200m
1 52 Fonzalette (10) 56.5 70 D Johnson
2 7411 Mozzarella (11) 56.5 68 S Collett

8 Matamata Vet Serv. Kaimai Stks 4.15
\$50,000, open handicap, 2000m
1 72191 Vernanme (7) 60 97 T Harris
2 31637 Camino Rocco (10) 59.5 96 S Collett

9 New World Matamata 4.55
\$27,500, rating 74 benchmark, 2000m
1 28242 Amano (6) 60 74 W Pinn (a2)
2 43887 Dance Card (8) 58 74 L Innes

Otaki Maori races at Otaki Saturday

Selections
Race 1: SUMMER PASSAGE, STUMPY, MEHRTENS
Race 2: KICK START, THE LOST BOYS, LINCOLN'S KRUIZ
Race 3: BRITISH ROYALTY, THE PANTHER, PATCH PRINCE
Race 4: HOLD THE PRESS, ACE ROYALE, CARLINGFORD BAY

Race 5: AQUILA STAR, QUIZ KID, SPRINGSTEEN
Race 6: TAVATTACK, IRISH ODDS, HE'S A DOOZY
Race 7: AVANTAGE, CALLSIGN MAV, TRAVELLING LIGHT
Race 8: CREDIT MANAGER, FATHER LENIHAN, WATCH THIS SPACE

1 Aquashield Roofing 12.27
\$32,500, open handicap, 1200m
1 s5162 Spring Heat (2) 62 102 S O'Malley (a3)
2 9s120 Summer Passage (5) 56.5 87 O Bosson

6 82624 Mehrtens (7) 54 76 L Allpress
7 1s627 Grand Mayson (1) 54 75 L Allpress

2 Riverstone Cafe 1.02
\$22,500, rating 65 benchmark*, 1200m
1 00s48 Arturo (4) 60 65 O Bosson
2 s7912 Kick Start (1) 60 65 S O'Malley (a3)

3 Scaff On Demand 1.37
\$10,000, maiden, 1100m
1 4s240 Patch Prince (12) 58.5 53 L Allpress
2 s9073 Que Pret (10) 58.5 51 C Johnson

Jetbet 4 TAB Doubles 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 Trebles 2-3-4, 6-7-8 Quaddies 1-2-3-4, 5-6-7-8 Place6 3-8

7 Twitch (2) 58 45 H Schofer (a2)
8 British Royalty (8) 56 47 S J Macnab
9 9005 Fizzy Moon (11) 56 47 D Bradley

4 Thorough Bred Exchange 2.12
\$27,500, rating 74 benchmark, 1300m
1 s1181 Ace Royale (2) 61 76 H Schofer (a2)
2 36927 Equinox (1) 61 76 O Bosson

5 Vets On Riverbank 2.47
\$25,000, 3&4yo set weight, 2100m
1 0s151 Springsteen (2) 58.5 76 L Allpress
2 33191 Quiz Kid (11) 58.5 72 H Schofer (a2)

4 31574 Platinum Spirit (7) 58.5 64 S O'Malley (a3)
5 0621 Imperial Park (6) 58.5 63 D Hirini
6 52343 Hit The Road Jack (4) 58.5 54 J Riddell

6 Horowhenua Shelter Trimmers 3.23
\$22,500, rating 65 benchmark*, 1400m
1 s0015 Tavattack (11) 59.5 64 H Schofer (a2)
2 71 Tobias (5) 58.5 63 S O'Malley (a3)

7 Phillip McDonald Memorial 3.29
\$10,000, 3yo+ r45-r70 special handicap stand, 2400m
1 05600 Jake (Fr) 1 M Jones
2 8410 Radioactive Jaffa (Fr) 2 C Thornley

7 El Cheapo Cars Wfa Classic (G1) 3.58
\$200,000, group 1 wfa, 1600m
1 13212 Callsign Mav (2) 59 105 J Riddell
2 54630 Deerfield (6) 59 97 S O'Malley (a)

8 Cavallo Farm & Chris Rutten 4.35
\$27,500, rating 74 benchmark, 1600m
1 96430 Watch This Space (11) 63 80 S O'Malley (a3)
2 43523 Father Lenihan (2) 62 78 H Schofer (a2)

9 Great Southern Timber 4.43
\$9000, 3yo+ r40-r54. mobile, 2400m
1 0415 Didjaseemshadow (Fr) 1 T Chmiel
2 146 Chal Patch (Fr) 2 K Barron

Ashburton harness at Ashburton Saturday

Selections
Race 1: RANDOM JUDE, KD HAWK, GALWAY GIRL
Race 2: ADDO CARR, WATCHING OUR COIN, DON'T QUOTE ME
Race 3: PASSION AND POWER, BETTER'S TART, MOSAIC ART

1 Woodlands Stud Trot 12.05
\$8000, non-winners 3yo+ stand, 2400m
1 Muzz (Fr) 1 T Williams
2 00s07 Dreamsinthe Mist (Fr) 2 G Ward

9 Love Rose (Fr) 9 J Dunn
10 00225 Samantha's Moon (Fr) U1 R May

2 Newlands Auto Electrical 12.35
\$8000, non-winners 3yo+ . mobile, 2400m
1 0646 Addo Carr (Fr) 1 T Chmiel
2 794s0 Fine By Me (Fr) 2 R Holmes

3 Nevele R Fillies Series Ht 3 1.10
\$14,000, up-r70 w/c. mobile, 1609m
1 60018 Passion And Power (Fr) 1 J Dunn
2 2115 Better's Tart (Fr) 2 S McNally

Jetbet 7 TAB Doubles 2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 Trebles 1-2-3, 4-5-6, 7-8-9 Quaddies 2-3-4-5, 6-7-8-9 Place6 4-9

4 Fulton Hagan Trot 1.45
\$9000, 4yo+ r40-r54. mobile, 2400m
1 19200 Steel Dust (Fr) 1 T McMillan
2 28250 Prince Ranier (Fr) 2 T Williams

5 Sheep Milk NZ Sapling Stks (G3) 2.18
\$25,000, group 3 2yo. mobile, 1609m
1 45 Get Kraken (Fr) 1 K Barron
2 12 Executive Banner (Fr) 2 J Dunn

6 Vipal Hambletonian Classic 2.53
\$25,000, 3yo. mobile, 1609m
1 115Ps Leaf Stride (Fr) 1 R May
2 98167 Royal Pride (Fr) 2 R Holmes

3 12s13 Love N The Port (Fr) 3 M Williamson
4 1s611 Five Wise Men (Fr) 4 J Dunn
5 46s13 Alluring Tyron (Fr) 5 G Smith

7 Phillip McDonald Memorial 3.29
\$10,000, 3yo+ r45-r70 special handicap stand, 2400m
1 05600 Jake (Fr) 1 M Jones
2 8410 Radioactive Jaffa (Fr) 2 C Thornley

8 Morgan Fencing Trot 4.04
\$10,000, 4yo+ r70. mobile, 1609m
1 40069 Michelle (Fr) 1 W Higgs
2 29471 Majestic Chick (Fr) 2 R Holmes

9 Great Southern Timber 4.43
\$9000, 3yo+ r40-r54. mobile, 2400m
1 0415 Didjaseemshadow (Fr) 1 T Chmiel
2 146 Chal Patch (Fr) 2 K Barron

New South Wales races at Randwick Saturday

Selections
Race 1: WATER DOVE, MR MAGICAL, QADIRA STAR
Race 2: SHAQUERO, CAPTIVANT, HILAL
Race 3: FOUR MOVES AHEAD, MALLORY, SHE'S ALL CLASS
Race 4: GREYWORM, CRIADERAS, TRUMBULL

1 TAB Highway Handicap 3.15
\$75,000, 3yo & up Class 2, 1000m
1 8442s Leo cdw (8) 59 92 J Bowman
2 274s2 Mr Magical dwb (10) 58.5 93 T Marquand

11 4313s Military Bay db (5) 55.5 89 J Innes Jnr
12 216s2 Married d (14) 55 95 Ms M Weir (a3)

2 Precise Air Skyline Stakes 3.50
\$200,000, 2yo C&Gs SW Group 2, 1200m
1 1s721 Shaquero td (1) 55.5 100 J Bowman
2 14s Captivant thb (2) 55.5 85 T Marquand

3 Drinkwise Sweet Embrace Stks 4.25
\$200,000, 2yo Fillies SW Group 2, 1200m
1 313 She's All Class w (14) 55.5 95 J Mc Donald
2 2s4 Nice For What (6) 55.5 87 J Bowman

Jetbet 11 TAB doubles 1-2, 4-5, 8-9 Trebles 3-4-5, 7-8-9 Quaddie 2-3-4-5, 6-7-8-9 Place6 4-9

11 6s3 Testimonial (13) 55.5 87 T Marquand
12 46 Centro Storico (4) 55.5 83 R Dolan
13 9s2 Emerald Bay bh (11) 55.5 89 T Clark

4 Quayclean Liverpool City Cup 5.05
\$160,000, 3yo & up Quality Group 3, 1300m
1 2s7s4 Greyworm twbn (8) 59 100 T Berry
2 6s19s Trumbull tw (11) 58 96 J Mc Donald

5 Guy Walter Proven T'bred Stks 5.45
\$200,000, 4yo & up Mares SW+P Group 2, 1400m
1 Funstar SCRATCHED
2 Greysful Glamour SCRATCHED

6 TAB Chipping Norton Stks 6.25
\$600,000, WFA Group 1, 1600m
1 10s22 Kolding tcdw (2) 59 91 J Bowman
2 2605s Avilius tcdw (7) 59 85 N Rawiller

7 Cellarbrations Surround Stks 7.05
\$500,000, 3yo Fillies SW Group 1, 1400m
1 4113s Montefilia tdwb (11) 56 91 J Bowman
2 5s233 Away Game twb (14) 56 92 G Boss

8 Heineken Handicap 7.40
\$125,000, 3yo & up Benchmark 88, 2000m
1 50216 Soldier Of Love twbn (8) 60 96 J Parr
2 13s89 Yonkers wn (7) 57.5 95 J Bowman

9 ACY Securities 8.15
\$125,000, 3yo & up Benchmark 88, 1200m
1 s4391 Poetic Charmer tcdwn (5) 60 94 T Sherry (a2)
2 97006 Into The Abyss twb (11) 57.5 90 J Innes Jnr

10 21s31 Great House dw (13) 53 98 T Berry
11 s4856 Lamu w (3) 53 86 J Ford
12 11354 Dame Kiri w (6) 52 100 Ms R King

Captain Tom provides Collett with milestone

AUCKLAND — Pukekohe trainer Richard Collett marked a century of wins on his home track when promising three-year-old Captain Tom saluted in the Mount Shop 1200 maiden under jockey Andrew Calder yesterday.

The son of Showcasing had previously been first past the post at Te Rapa earlier in the month but was relegated from first to third after causing interference over the concluding stages.

Named after Captain Sir Tom Moore, the British WW2 veteran who raised millions for

health service workers on the front line of the battle against Covid-19, the gelding was a comfortable length-and-a-half winner on Thursday, with first-starter Side Hustle running home well for second.

"It is quite satisfying to get the 100th win on my home track, particularly with a promising home bred and raced by Matt Goodson and Di Perron, who have been great supporters," Collett said.

"The way things unfolded at Te Rapa was a

bit unfortunate. He was a touch slow to clear the gates that day and Andrew gave him a bit of a squeeze. He got running and it wasn't the intention to ride him in front. He got totally lost and he hadn't raced left-handed before.

"He is learning and he has got a lot of ability. Things are starting to fall into place. He was shin sore in the spring after he won a trial in September.

"He is going to be competing for black-type at some stage but it is just a matter of when he is

ready to do it. There is a race on the first day of the Auckland Carnival in eight days' time, but we will just see how he comes through this."

Collett, who has a property nearby the Pukekohe track, said the course was a fabulous place to train.

"With the natural centralisation of racing, Pukekohe is a logical region that could be used more as a training facility. The club needs to come to the party and build barns and help young trainers out." — NZ Racing Desk

Victoria races at Flemington Saturday Jetbet 12 TAB doubles 1-2, 4-5, 8-9 Trebles 3-4-5, 7-8-9 Quaddie 2-3-4-5, 6-7-8-9 Place6 4-9

Selections

- Race 1: EXTASSY, DECENT RAINE, KALLOS
- Race 2: STARS OF CARRUM, MOSH MUSIC, SKYMAX
- Race 3: I AM SUPERMAN, THE HARROVIAN, BAM'S ON FIRE
- Race 4: DEFIANT DANCER, LAVERROD, GROUNDSWELL
- Race 5: FABERGINO, HEY DOC, INDIAN PACIFIC
- Race 6: STAR OF THE SEAS, FIFTY STARS, BEST OF DAYS
- Race 7: AYSAR, OLE KIRK, ZOU DANCER
- Race 8: WRITTEN MISS, JOVALITY, DIAMONDS INTHE SKY
- Race 9: CHAILLOT, AFFAIR TO REMEMBER, SNAPDANCER

1 Very Special Kids Plate 2.20

\$140,000, 2yo SW+P Listed, 1000m

- 1 44 Kallos h (4) 57 100 D Oliver
- 2 59s Gummy Bear (5) 57 76 T Nugent (a)
- 3 Dollar Chaser (9) 57 86 L Nolen
- 4 28 Decent Raine (1) 55 94 J Allen
- 5 1 Tycoon Humma d (8) 55 96 J Mott
- 6 2 To The Moon Alice (2) 55 97 Ms J Kah
- 7 6s Zanzibar Gem h (6) 55 93 D Lane
- 8 4 Wanaroo (7) 55 92 C Williams
- 9 Extassy h (3) 55 87 D Stackhouse

2 Roy Higgins Quality 2.55

\$140,000, Quality Listed, 2600m

- 1 8s8s5 Nelson w (3) 60 100 D Lane
- 2 76517 Mosh Music tbn (6) 59 97 M Zahra
- 3 s0141 Skymax (4) 58 98 K Mc Evoy
- 4 47182 Sin To Win tw (2) 57.5 94 D Stackhouse

3 The TAB Shaftesbury Avenue Hcp 3.30

\$160,000, Group 3, 1400m

- 1 1107s I Am Superman d (10) 59 89 K Mc Evoy
- 2 11111 The Harrovian dw (3) 59 95 B Stewart
- 3 96351 Platoon dw (6) 57 99 B Parnham
- 4 s1147 Sansom cwn (9) 56 5 96 B Allen
- 5 130s6 Bam's On Fire dw (4) 56 100 Ms J Kah
- 6 110s9 Sierra Sue cdw (2) 54 98 M Walker
- 7 34243 Morvada d (8) 54 97 D Lane
- 8 61174 Never Again cdwn (5) 54 93 J McNeil
- 9 70s67 Rich Itch cw (7) 54 93 C Williams
- 10 73625 Holbien cdwh (1) 54 97 W Pike

4 World Horse Racing 4.05

\$125,000, Benchmark 90, 1200m

- 1 75913 Mystko dn (5) 60 91 L Riordan (a2)
- 2 4116s Groundswell dbhn (8) 59 5 93 D Lane
- 3 19353 Laverrod d (14) 59 94 D Oliver
- 4 1s113 Defiant Dancer cw (1) 58 5 97 C Rawiller (a3)
- 5 s1238 Hi Stranger wn (10) 57 5 91 W Pike
- 6 224s2 Subedar (11) 55 5 100 Ms J Kah
- 7 04461 I'm Telling Ya tcd (12) 54 5 90 J McNeil
- 8 6s827 Marcel From Madrid dw (2) 54 5 97 D Bates
- 9 — Zakat SCRATCHED
- 10 759s2 Street Icon d (6) 54 90 M Dee
- 11 009s0 Mystery Love dw (13) 54 91 C Williams

5 ATA/Bob Hoysted Hcp 4.45

\$140,000, Listed, 1000m

- 1 8415s Hey Doc tw (5) 63 90 L Currie
- 2 20114 Fabergino cd (11) 59 5 96 M Poy
- 3 s3277 Prezado cdwh (3) 56 5 88 Ms J Kah
- 4 13915 Indian Pacific dwb (8) 55 5 95 B Parnham
- 5 s8s46 Bons Away dw (10) 55 86 T Nugent (a)
- 6 22210 Usmanov dw (4) 55 94 D Oliver
- 7 6046s Humma Humma dwn (9) 54 87 D Stackhouse
- 8 8s111 All Banter dw (6) 54 100 C Williams
- 9 53564 Fine Dane dwn (2) 54 89 W Pike
- 10 s125s Muntaseera d (12) 54 85 J McNeil
- 11 6s324 Lashes w (1) 54 87 K Mc Evoy
- 12 14s25 Propelle dwhn (7) 54 89 D Lane

6 Darley Blamey Stakes 5.25

\$200,000, 3yo & up SW+P Group 2, 1600m

- 1 352s7 Fifty Stars tw (10) 59 91 J Allen
- 2 4108s Mirage Dancer (2) 58 86 M Dee
- 3 02119 Neufbosch w (1) 58 88 B Parnham
- 4 111s5 Irish Flame tdwn (4) 58 88 M Walker
- 5 09221 Best Of Days cdwh (9) 57 94 D Oliver
- 6 01722 Mystic Journey cdwh (7) 56 91 L Currie
- 7 095s4 Star Of The Seas dw (8) 56 98 D Lane
- 8 — Funstar SCRATCHED
- 9 688s8 Mahamedeis tdwn (5) 55 88 J Mott

7 Kennedy Australian Guineas 6.05

\$1,000,000, 3yo SW Group 1, 1600m

- 1 11s38 Ole Kirk tdn (15) 57 94 K Mc Evoy
- 2 60s31 Tagalao t (10) 57 100 L Currie
- 3 22s22 Aysar w (2) 57 98 D Lane
- 4 714s4 Cherry Tortoni tw (17) 57 98 W Egan
- 5 27335 Dom To Shoot (7) 57 92 W Pike
- 6 457s0 Lunar Fox tw (6) 57 84 M Dee
- 7 230s8 Grandslam (16) 57 88 J Allen
- 8 310s1 Poland th (1) 57 96 C Williams
- 9 1126 Beltoro t (3) 57 90 J Hill
- 10 615s0 Embolism dh (14) 57 85 D Oliver
- 11 1132 It'sourtime w (12) 57 92 B Allen
- 12 133s4 Jet Propulsion (11) 57 91 J McNeil
- 13 140s7 Cambourne (9) 57 88 M Zahra
- 14 256s1 Ironedge w (5) 57 89 M Walker
- 15 3110 Here To Shock (4) 57 88 L Nolen
- 16 s1411 Zou Dancer tw (8) 55 100 Ms J Kah

8 Inglis Dash 6.45

\$500,000, 3yo SW+P, 1100m

- 1 s507s Larimer Street n (9) 58 5 87 M Zahra
- 2 21s47 The Bopper dw (14) 58 5 96 Ms J Kah
- 3 s1111 Rocketing By dw (1) 58 100 K Mc Evoy
- 4 16113 Allebone tdb (11) 58 91 C Williams
- 5 44126 Japery cw (4) 58 100 W Egan
- 6 324s5 Bella Niopina dw (15) 57 5 92 A Pike

Queensland races at Sunshine Coast Saturday Jetbet 14 TAB doubles 1-2, 4-5, 8-9 Trebles 3-4-5, 7-8-9 Quaddie 2-3-4-5, 6-7-8-9 Place6 4-9

Selections

- Race 1: WOLF MOON, BONAPARTE, REDSTONE
- Race 2: MAKEDON, STEINBRENNER, QUOTANT
- Race 3: SWEET DOLLY, GLORIOUS RUBY, SHALUNA
- Race 4: COCHRANE, HAMLET VON SNITZEL, I'VE BEEN THERE
- Race 5: SIMPLY FLY, INCERTO, AZZAREACH
- Race 6: CHIVARGO, AIR SPIRIT, JE SUIS BELLE
- Race 7: RUN FOR GLORY, KING KLAUS, DOCTOR ZOUS
- Race 8: LIGULATE, STAR OF MICHELIN, SOFIE'S GOLD CLASS
- Race 9: BARNEY'S LAW, SCOTTISH MIST, RED DOULTON

1 Tattersall's Arcade Plate 3.23

\$55,000, Class 3 SW, 1600m

- 1 4s141 Bonaparte twbn (3) 59 97 S Tomlinson (a3)
- 2 32021 Rebel Rock cw (7) 59 92 M Rodd
- 3 15272 Redstone twbn (12) 56 5 100 Ms S Thornton
- 4 — Makedon SCRATCHED
- 5 27343 Smart Meteor (4) 57 5 91 J Huxtable (a1.5)
- 6 16324 Standing Ovation cwn (5) 57 93 S Cormack
- 7 s0396 Word For Word w (9) 57 99 L R Dittman
- 8 1s41 Wolf Moon tbn (12) 56 5 100 J Orman
- 9 s07s7 Graphite Express (6) 56 86 M Cahill
- 10 65224 Mossniki d (2) 56 94 B Thompson
- 11 — Rocquette SCRATCHED
- 12 617s6 Zamzara w (1) 55 5 84 T Marshall
- 13 24221 Trust In Aloha wh (8) 53 84 L Tarrant

2 Legacy Handicap 3.58

\$75,000, Benchmark 75, 1800m

- 1 s4018 Guise cdw (10) 58 100 L R Dittman
- 2 98332 Meteor Light w (9) 57 5 91 R Maloney
- 3 66213 Zigallene tdwb (6) 57 5 91 Ms R Palmer
- 4 8s663 Scratches dh (1) 57 89 M Rodd
- 5 09055 Lucky Jackson tw (11) 56 5 90 J Byrne
- 6 78131 Miss Penfold dw (8) 56 5 98 B El-Issa
- 7 05141 Steinbrenner tw (3) 55 5 96 B Thompson
- 8 15162 Makedon twbn (2) 55 94 J Orman
- 9 41472 Quotant cdwn (4) 54 88 L V Cassidy
- 10 17424 Epicurious wh (5) 54 88 Ms L Kilner (a3)
- 11 60552 Blue Comet tw (7) 54 91 L Tarrant

3 Tatt's Weddings Jewel Prel. Plate 4.37

\$125,000, 2yo Fillies SW, 1000m

- 1 211 Glorious Ruby t (9) 56 5 100 Ms L Kilner (a)
- 2 11 Sweet Dolly d (10) 56 5 97 Justin P Stanley
- 3 L233s Alert And Ready (5) 56 5 92 A Mallyon
- 4 0s1 Le Rubis w (4) 56 5 95 M Rodd
- 5 28s Vienna Empress h (3) 56 5 83 L Tarrant
- 6 44s Shaluna (7) 56 5 86 B Thompson
- 7 5 Baristasista (1) 56 5 83 Ms S Thornton
- 8 4 Damiani (8) 56 5 81 J Orman
- 9 Cookies 'n' Cream (6) 56 5 83 A Spinks
- 10 17424 Epicurious wh (5) 54 88 L V Cassidy

4 Tatt's Events Jewel Prel. Plate 5.17

\$125,000, 2yo C&Gs SW, 1000m

- 1 5211s Sherwood Prince dn (1) 56 5 87 Ms T Brooker
- 2 27 Cochran (2) 56 5 100 R Maloney
- 3 2 Gemelon Bolt (10) 56 5 100 M Rodd
- 4 2s I've Bean There h (14) 56 5 99 J Orman
- 5 28s Mishani Operator (7) 56 5 82 J Byrne

6 Hamlet Von Snitzel h (15) 56.5 99

- 1 1s7 Better Off w (8) 56 5 91 T Marshall
- 2 3 Red Wave b (9) 56 5 88 B Thompson
- 3 Beaux Rumble (4) 56 5 87 A Mallyon
- 4 Military Gambler (11) 56 5 87 B El-Issa
- 5 Millward (5) 56 5 89 J Huxtable (a)
- 6 — Collyer's Spirit SCRATCHED
- 7 — Electric Spirit SCRATCHED
- 8 Kamarcher h (3) 56 5 87 R Fradd
- 9 Tikka Ready (6) 56 5 87 M R Du Plessis

5 Travis Schultz Jewel Prel. 5.57

\$125,000, 3yo Quality, 1000m

- 1 112s8 Kisukano cwn (8) 61 89 M R Du Plessis
- 2 41128 Mishani Miss cdw (1) 58 100 M Rodd
- 3 1211s Mass Destruction c (9) 55 5 90 R Maloney
- 4 2343s Tumbler Ridge b (6) 55 5 90 B Thompson
- 5 81s11 Simply Fly cwn (10) 55 97 Ms S Thornton
- 6 6123s Miss Lot Won h (12) 54 85 J Byrne
- 7 106s2 Queen Sweeper wh (7) 54 90 L Tarrant
- 8 1316s Rollinwiththeflow cdwh (3) 54 89 B El-Issa
- 9 5s212 Azzareach cwn (11) 54 90 B El-Issa
- 10 s2513 Zingalong cwh (4) 54 96 Ms T Harrison
- 11 11 Incerto cwn (5) 54 93 S Tomlinson (a)
- 12 114 Iolite chn (2) 54 91 Ms T Brooker

6 Winning Edge 6.37

\$75,000, Benchmark 80, 1000m

- 1 17s50 Tullio cw (9) 60 92 Ms L Kilner (a3)
- 2 23s81 Howwonderfullifeis cdw (2) 59 97 R Maloney
- 3 25s56 Wimpa cdwn (8) 58 5 91 Ms M Wishart (a3)
- 4 — King Klaus SCRATCHED
- 5 34112 Katy's Daughter tc (6) 57 5 92

7 IPG Marketing Solutions Hcp 7.13

\$75,000, Open, 1200m

- 1 6136s Junction d (4) 59 84 B El-Issa
- 2 24942 Phantom Falcon dn (5) 57 91 Ms T Harrison
- 3 3663s The Avenger d (9) 57 81 Ms T Brooker
- 4 1111s Run For Glory tdw (11) 56 5 91 J Byrne
- 5 s5633 Doctor Zous cdwh (2) 56 97 M Rodd
- 6 18405 Epic Joy tcdwn (7) 56 93 J Huxtable (a1.5)
- 7 21s0s Gem Of Scotland dwb (3) 55 5 100 J Orman
- 8 s1281 King Klaus tw (1) 54 93 L Tarrant
- 9 1710s Canapes tdw (8) 54 89 Ms W Peel (a3)
- 10 4068s Metson tdwn (6) 54 85 B Thompson
- 11 15615 Perfect Aim cdw (10) 54 86 Ms K Cowan (a3)

8 Tattersall's Member's Cup 7.50

\$125,000, Quality Listed, 1600m

- 1 518s6 Alward (6) 59 91 L R Dittman
- 2 21811 Ligulate dw (11) 58 5 97 A Mallyon
- 3 15652 Matowi dwn (10) 54 5 100 J Byrne

4 496s0 Sir Barnabus cdw (7) 54 89

- 5 1s083 Sofie's Gold Class tcdwn (9) 54 99 Ms S Thornton
- 6 0s304 Victory Eight tcdwhn (1) 54 95 M Cahill
- 7 17201 Star Of Michelin cdwh (4) 54 97 L V Cassidy
- 8 s3711 Dissolution dh (8) 54 92 S Tomlinson (a)
- 9 43169 Plitvice cdw (5) 54 91 M R Du Plessis
- 10 18258 Willo Titto tw (12) 54 91 B Thompson
- 11 82211 Hail Manhattan tdwn (2) 54 92 J Bayliss
- 12 — Captivator SCRATCHED
- 13 88733 Wapiti cwh (3) 54 100 A Thompson (a)
- 14 88733 Wapiti cwh (3) 54 100 R Fradd

9 Garth Hughes Memorial 8.28

\$75,000, Benchmark 75, 1400m

- 1 38808 Bold Warrior dw (1) 61 5 89 Ms L Kilner (a3)
- 2 66s41 Dio D'oro dwn (14) 60 91 J Orman
- 3 222s1 Bering Sea twbn (13) 59 5 96 R Maloney
- 4 1815s Top Me Up Again cdw (8) 59 5 89 S Tomlinson (a3)
- 5 58243 Captivator dw (3) 59 89 A Thompson (a2)
- 6 91182 Barney's Law dw (6) 58 94 B El-Issa
- 7 s524s Seat Of Power dn (12) 58 86 T Marshall
- 8 283s2 Red Doulton cwh (9) 57 5 90 Ms T Brooker
- 9 32316 Samurai d (2) 57 5 90 L V Cassidy
- 10 236s0 Slow Hands w (16) 57 5 81 Ms S Thornton
- 11 76587 Jay Jay D'ar wn (7) 57 94 L R Dittman
- 12 — Bonaparte SCRATCHED
- 13 13s66 Errinigh Spring tdw (4) 56 93 R Maloney
- 14 36s51 Lunar Light cw (15) 55 5 99 M Rodd
- 15 — Royal-Sheen SCRATCHED
- 16 2s341 Scottish Mist dw (5) 55 5 100 B Thompson

South Australia races at Murray Bridge Saturday Jetbet 15 TAB doubles 1-2, 4-5, 8-9 Trebles 3-4-5, 7-8-9 Quaddie 2-3-4-5, 6-7-8-9 Place6 4-9

Selections

- Race 1: STASIA, KUNGKA MARU, SELF SUFFICIENT
- Race 2: POINT BLAZE, STRUCK BY, BIARCHI
- Race 3: SECOND SLIP, BLOW TORCH, TEQUILA TIME
- Race 4: BRIBERY, OUTLAWS REVENGE, BOTTOM LINE
- Race 5: RENEGADE, EXALTED TRAVELLER, JESTER HALO
- Race 6: SCORCHED EARTH, HANABI, PRINCESS RAFFLES
- Race 7: HE'S A BALTER, ELOPE TO VEGAS, CALL ME DEXTER
- Race 8: TIBETAN, OURKHANI, RIDGEWOOD DRIVE
- Race 9: PUISSANCE DUSOLEIL, WORSFOLD, GOOD GIRL BELLA

1 Beston Pure Foods Plate 3.06

\$37,250, 3yo & up Maiden SW, 1000m

- 1 Em Bryan (14) 58 89 Ms S So (a3)
- 2 Friendly Ghost (8) 57 90 D Tooteall Snr
- 3 5 Hard Ransom (7) 57 95 Ms K Crowther
- 4 224s Jonquest (17) 57 98 J Holder
- 5 Kong (3) 57 89 J Toeroek
- 6 26s43 Self Sufficient (15) 57 100 K H Zechner
- 7 2 Throwaparty (6) 57 97 Ms S Metcalfe (a3)
- 8 25s5 Scarlet River (4) 56 86 Ms C Jones
- 9 25 A Bit Racey (5) 55 96 Jacob Opperman (a3)
- 10 2 Divenire b (1) 55 95 P Gatt
- 11 72 Kungka Maru (12) 55 97 D Tourneur
- 12 8s Saint Olga (11) 55 83 S Fawke
- 13 7 Stasia (10) 55 98 Ms J Eaton (a1.5)

14 4 Turfitt (13) 55 93

- EMERGENCIES:
- 15 — Vodoo One SCRATCHED
- 16 Pts Zakheera (16) 55 82 B Vorster
- 17 8s00s Yulong Hero (2) 57 95 T Pannell

2 Wicks Estate Wines Hcp 3.41

\$52,250, 3yo, 1400m

- 1 456s5 Crown Mint b (5) 60 93 J Toeroek
- 2 81321 Struck By (6) 60 95 P Gatt
- 3 33s12 Another Award tw (3) 59 100 J Holder
- 4 13644 Ultimate Victory tw (1) 57 5 92 D Tourneur
- 5 2117s Biarchi t (2) 57 80 Ms K Crowther
- 6 4s342 Point Blaze (7) 55 87 Ms J Eaton (a1.5)
- 7 06139 Baibandhai (4) 54 5 84 J Maund
- 8 63845 Enlist w (8) 54 5 89 Ms A Jordsjo

3 Spry Civil Construction 4.16

\$52,250, Benchmark 86, 1200m

- 1 27022 Tequila Time d (3) 59 5 96 J Holder
- 2 642s4 Blow Torch tdw (1) 57 5 100 B Vorster
- 3 4752s Aiguillette dw (2) 57 93 Ms K Crowther
- 4 31s11 Second Slip cdw (8) 57 99 T Pannell
- 5 125s6 Alsivior cdw (4) 56 96 P Gatt
- 6 341s5 Oh Mo dw (7) 56 96 D Tourneur
- 7 1640s Turf Man tw (5) 54 89 Ms A Jordsjo
- 8 2798s Eurogem w (6) 54 83 Ms S Metcalfe (a3)

4 Adelaide Event Catering 4.56

\$42,250, 3yo Benchmark 62, 1200m

- 1 311 Outlaws Revenge cw (4) 62 100 Jacob Opperman (a3)
- 2 1 Great Diviner (9) 60 90 T Pannell
- 3 123s Bottom Line cb (6) 59 5 86 J Toeroek
- 4 s1544 Impossible Action (1) 59 5 86 P Gatt

5 13214 Baraconi (5) 58.5 94

- Ms J Eaton (a1.5)
- 6 12s94 Cool Magnum w (10) 57 5 90 S Fawke
- 7 50s46 Bribery (3) 57 97 B Vorster
- 8 57517 Scotch On The Rock tw (7) 57 85 R Hurdle
- 9 s768s Ichibansan (8) 56 85 Ms C Jones
- 10 37s31 Showyourmotor (2) 56 84 Ms K Crowther

5 Total Workforce Solutions 5.36

\$52,250, Benchmark 82, 1400m

- 1 077s7 Live And Free (8) 61 92 Ms K Crowther
- 2 s19s4 Sky Punch cdw (11) 61 99 Ms J Eaton (a1.5)
- 3 9069s Balf's Choice dw (2) 59 97 Jacob Opperman (a3)
- 4 13711 Giggion dw (6) 58 100 Ms C Lions
- 5 21281 Renegade cd (7) 56 5 96 B Vorster
- 6 44356 Jester Halo d (10) 55 96 D Tourneur
- 7 56072 Arrow Lane w (1) 54 92 S Fawke
- 8 30313 Ex

NOTICE BOARD

Entertainment

ODEON 5
Phone 867 3339

BOSS LEVEL (R16)
FRI, SAT 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm. SUN 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.20pm
SUPERNOVA (M)
FRI, SAT, SUN 11.10am, 1.15pm, 6pm
THE LITTLE THINGS (M)
FRI, SAT 11am, 1.05pm, 3.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm. SUN 11am, 1.05pm, 3.40pm, 5.50pm
NEVER TOO LATE (M)
FRI, SAT, SUN 11.10am, 3.30pm, 6pm
SYNCHRONIC (R13)
FRI, SAT 8.15pm
HIGH GROUND (R16)
FRI, SAT 11.10am, 1.15pm, 8.15pm
SUN 11.10am, 1.15pm
THE MARKSMAN (R13)
FRI, SAT 1.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm
SUN 1.40pm, 6.10pm
PROMISING YOUNG WOMAN (R18)
TUE 8.15pm
THE DRY (M)
DAILY 3.30pm
THE CROODS: A NEW AGE (PG) FRI, SAT, SUN 11am, 3.45pm
ADVANCED SHOW!!
COUSINS (PG)
WED 8.30pm
BOOK ONLINE NOW!
www.odeongisborne.co.nz
Times may vary subject to late changes

Work Wanted

AS AP Tree Work. Removal, chipping & stump grinding. Ph 0274 485 188.

MESSY GARDEN??

"Let us do it for you." Ph 027 659 2915.

PAINTER/plasterer. Exp, free quote. Kevin 0275 140 814.

TREE removals, tree trimming, greenwaste removed, 027 466 8201.

Situations Vacant

INTERESTED in driving a taxi? Ph 0278 450 742.

Situations Vacant



KITCHEN HAND
We are looking for an energetic, reliable person to join our team at The Vines Restaurant.
Hours are Wednesday to Sunday, 10am to 4pm.
Duties include some food preparation, dishes and cleaning.
Can be a busy position, and an integral part of the kitchen system.
For more information please call or email:
Melissa Murphy
027 322 5036
thevines@xtra.co.nz

Entertainment

LOVE MUSIC?

ARE YOU OVER 60?
A new club for you starts soon.
Ph 027 420 6957

Meetings

HAUITI MARAE
Section 240 of Te Ture Whenua Maori Act 1993

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE

Following a judicial conference held at the Māori Land Court on 2 December 2020, a hui will be held at Hauti Marae which will be facilitated by Mr Aidan Warren on **Sunday 7 March 2021, 10am to:**

- address the provisions and interpretations contained in Section 240 of Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993

All beneficiaries of Hauti Marae are invited to attend.

An alternate venue for this meeting will be advised if it becomes necessary.

For information regarding this hui, please contact Elizabeth Santos at the Maori Land Court on 06 867 1701 or elizabeth.santos@justice.govt.nz

Situations Vacant

NEIL ANDERSON DECORATING

We are seeking an experienced painter to join our established team.
Applicant must have at least 3 years' experience in interior and exterior painting.
Call or message 027 683 3332 for more details

Situations Vacant

NZFRUITS

We have vacancies on all 3 shifts:
5.30am - 2.30pm
3pm - 12am
6.30am - 5pm
To start next week around 3rd of March.
Fixed Term March till end of June.
\$22.10 per hour (living wage) paid.
Email: admincompliance@nzfruits.co.nz
Or call in between 8am-4.30pm to complete application form at
NZ Fruits Ltd
265 Lytton Road
Gisborne
Ph 06 869 2135

Public Notices

BRY810 1996 TOYOTA ALTEEZA
If the account for the above vehicle has not been settled (including storage) by Friday the 19th of March, the vehicle will be sold to recover costs.
Contact Pit Stop Gisborne on 06 867 9342

HOME & LEISURE

Firewood

BUY now, 2m3 Pine \$150, 4m3 \$280, 6m3 \$420, 8m3 \$550. Manuka, 2m3 \$300, 4m3 \$580. 862 8876. www.macsfirewood.co.nz

GUM, Manuka, Macrocapa, Old man pine. www.thefirewoodguy.nz

MANUKA GOLD WOODSTOCK 2yrs

dry. 027 455 3722.

Fruit and Produce

EATING GRAPES

READY now. 154 Tucker Road. Open 8.30am-5.30pm, 7 days.

GOLDEN QUEEN PEACHES

now available. Hurry while they last. Teesdale Orchard, Back Ormond Rd. Open 7 days. Eftpos available.

NASHI AND PLUMS

BRUCE Estate Orchard www.nashigisborne.com for directions and info.

TEESDALE ORCHARD

NOW open. Peaches, plums, apples, pears, grapes, tomatoes, sweetcorn, butternut squash pumpkins, pea hay, and much more. Back Ormond Rd, Open 7 days. Eftpos available.

Situations Vacant



ENTRY LEVEL CHEF/COOK

We have an opportunity for either an experienced Chef/Cook or someone who is thinking of a career in hospitality, to come and join our team at the Rivers.
The position is in the salad, dessert and larder section. Hours of work are flexible and we are happy to provide full training and support. The position will however include some evening and weekend work.
To find out more please call or email:
Melissa Murphy
027 322 5036
Therivers2009@xtra.co.nz



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Ranger Community - Wairoa

- Do you have ability for building and maintaining collaborative relationships?
- Are you keen to engage others in supporting conservation and kaitiakitanga? Are you passionate about working with tangata wahenua and the wider community?

He angitūtanga: About the role

The Department of Conservation is seeking applicants for the position of Ranger, Treaty and Community based in Wairoa. The position will be focused on supporting and working with our pre and post settlement treaty partners and their kahui to achieve our joint conservation outcomes. The role will also support engaging the Wairoa and wider rural community in conservation.

This is an exciting opportunity to become part of a strong, hardworking team and support growing conservation in the East Coast District alongside our Treaty partners and communities.

He kōrero mōu: What we are looking for

Core components of this role include the following:

- Relationship management with pre and post-Treaty Settlements and supporting whānau, hapū and iwi
- Administration support and coordination for Treaty Partnerships
- Confidence in working in te ao maori environment
- Managing relationships with a wide range of stakeholders
- Supporting our team within the treaty relationship space
- Managing relationships with a wide range of stakeholders
- Developing and implementing high quality engagement and outreach initiatives, inspiring our communities to participate in conservation

The ideal applicant:

- Be a creative and 'outside the box' thinker, able to develop engaging and relevant content and partnerships to connect to diverse audiences
- Be adept at learning Departmental policy and processes making it relevant to our local context
- Have experience with multimedia channels - social media, radio, paper, interpretation and develop content to each medium
- Have experience with event management and education delivery
- Be passionate about working with whānau, hapū and iwi and an understanding of te ao Māori me onā tikanga
- Ability to seek support not only internally but thru established networks
- Demonstrate an ability to relate and connect with our diverse community
- Build positive working relationships across a broad range of public and private sector businesses and groups
- Able to work independently and in a team environment
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Hold a current full New Zealand driver's licence
- Ability to converse in Te Reo me ona tikanga an advantage
- A relevant tertiary qualification will be an advantage

Ngā āhuatanga kei a mātou: What's in it for you?

A fantastic supportive and collaborative working environment. Being the multiple award winner of the most attractive employer in the public sector (and second overall) with an average turnover beyond 10 years, we know people generally really enjoy working with us! We highly value the new expertise and fresh perspectives brought into the organisation. This is your chance to contribute to our culture of continuous improvement.

Please apply online via the DOC careers centre with a CV and cover letter demonstrating how you meet the requirements above and the competencies outlined in the role description.

For enquiries please contact Trudi Ngawhare, tngawhare@doc.govt.nz, or telephone (027) 539 6259, quoting vacancy 400/05134.

Applications close at 5pm Monday, 8 March 2021.

DOC is committed to a diverse workforce that represents the communities we serve, and to creating an inclusive workplace culture. We offer a range of flexible working options depending on the needs of the role and its work context.

For more information about the Department visit doc.govt.nz

Garage Sales

288 RUTENE Rd, 8am Sat. All sorts.

15 MACDONALD St, Sat 27th, 7am start, house clearout.

Readers Bargains

60" LG TV & surround sound, \$300. Ph 867 3606.

ALCATEL dark grey flip phone, bought this year for \$99, sell \$60. Receipt incl. Ph 867 4303 evenings.

DOUBLE bed, very good cond, base, mattress, headboard, \$300 ono. Ph 863 2170

GOLF trundler, 10 golf clubs, good cond, \$140. Iona school blazer, brown, size 14, \$20. Ph 021 049 7148.

IWALKER & vibration exercise machines, excell cond \$500. Ph 0278 432 376.

NUTRI Ninja 2-in-1 baking set, unused, blender used, with manuals, \$70 ono. Breville microwave, large, \$30; Zip cordless kettle + 2 bases, \$25. Bedside drawers, 4 tier, white, \$15. Genuine enquiries only. Ph 863 1976.

ROTARY hoe, cultivator, Masport, old model, hardly used, recently serviced, not used since, \$495. Ph 027 647 3531.

WARDROBE, Vintage, 2dr, \$70. Vintage china, Staffordshire, Queen Anne, Willow, cups, saucers, plates, starting from \$5. China beer tankard, unused, Guardian of the Forest, \$50, has collectors tag. Ph 867 1723.

WHEELCHAIR, Freiheit, as new, suitable for an adult, \$300. Ph 867 8121, 0279 240 718.

MOTORING & MARINE

Cars for Sale

2015 Toyota GT86 2dr coupe. Manual, low km, \$27,500. Ph 022 020 6848.

PROPERTY

Wanted to Rent

RELOCATED for new jobs, now we need a new home! Mature couple & well-behaved cat. Prefer 2+ bdrms & garaging. Long-term renters with excell refs. Ph 021 134 8180.

AT YOUR SERVICE

Adult Entertainment

ASIAN lady, professional massage, good service, in/out calls. Ph 022 473 2904.

Health and Therapy

MASSAGE 4 ACTIVE MEN VERY experienced, skilled masseur, full body, 1½ hour sensual sessions, hands only. Friendly, trustworthy service (specialising in the bi-curious). Good rates. Enjoy your body more. Adam, 021 176 2672.

Focus On The Land

Farming news and local profiles. Wednesdays and Saturdays in your Gisborne Herald



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WKLY *\$63.20

Popular 1500cc automatic, airbags, rook racks, tints

BONUS \$500 FUEL VOUCHER

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WKLY *\$69.22

2 litre auto, alloys, tints, very sporty little hatch, great looking vehicle

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WKLY *\$56.18

1.8 litre auto, 7 seater, great value motoring

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WKLY *\$69.22

Super cheap to run, 1500cc, Hybrid auto, 5 door

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WKLY *\$67.67

2.5 litre, 4WD, very popular SUV, great value

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WKLY *\$56.39

2 litre, auto, great looking, family size 7 seater wagon

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FRIDAY—SATURDAY'S TELEVISION GUIDE

TVNZ 1 © TVNZ 2021

5pm The Chase *TV*
6pm 1 News At 6pm *TV*
7pm Seven Sharp *TV*
7.30 The Repair Shop *PG TV*
8.30 FINAL Big Fat Gypsy Weddings *PG TV*
 A look at the prejudice that exists against the travelling community in Britain.
9.30 Schitt's Creek *MLC TV*
10.25 1 News Tonight *TV*
10.55 Between Two Worlds *MC TV* After being relentlessly badgered by Phillip to get him the name of his donor, Sandra works with Cate in some mysterious game to manipulate him.
11.55 Blindspot *MV TV*
 A blast from Rich's past sends the FBI team after a deadly terrorist plot.
SATURDAY
12.55 Te Karere *TV*
1.20 Infomercials
6am Te Karere *TV*
6.30 Country Calendar *TV*
 Five children help run their family sheep and beef farm, as well as helping their mother embark on a new venture producing honey.
7am FINAL Following Twain *TV*
 With Oscar Kightley *TV*
7.30 Infomercials
8.30 Religious Programming
9am Eat, Shop, Save *TV*
9.30 Tagata Pasifika
10am John And Lisa's Weekend Kitchen *TV*
11am Cash Trapped *TV*
Noon Cowboy Builders *TV*
1pm The Living Room *TV*
2pm Impossible Builds *TV*
 Bill and Sukie Barber want to build a kit home which suits their sustainable lifestyle in the picturesque Scottish Borders but weather delays and mismatching foundations wreak havoc with their plans.
3pm Love Your Home And Garden *TV*
 Alan Titchmarsh and his expert team visit wheelchair-users Nina and Steve and their two children.
4pm Tom Kerridge BBQ's *PG TV*
4.30 Jamie's Quick And Easy Food *TV*
5pm The Chase *TV*

BRAVO

5.25 Face Off *TV*
6.30 Million Dollar Listing *TV*
7.30 MOVIE My Best Friend's Wedding *PG TV* 1997 Romance. When a woman's best friend tells her he has met a woman, and they are getting married in four days, she realises she loves him and wants him for herself.
9.40 Deadly Cults *M TV*
10.40 Snapped *M TV*
11.35 An Unexpected Killer *16 TV*
SATURDAY
12.25 Infomercials
6am Infomercials *TV*
10am Don't Be Tardy *PG TV*
10.30 Making A Model With Yolanda Hadid *PG TV*
11.25 Making A Model With Yolanda Hadid *PG TV*
12.20 Glam Masters *PG TV*
1.15 Glam Masters *PG TV*
2.15 MOVIE Couples Retreat *PG TV* 2009 Comedy.
4.35 Hoarders *PG TV*
5.30 Listing Impossible *PG TV*

TVNZ 2 © TVNZ 2021

5pm The Simpsons *PG TV*
5.30 The Big Bang Theory *PG TV*
6pm Neighbours *TV*
6.30 Home And Away *PG TV*
7pm Shortland Street *PG TV*
7.30 8 Out Of 10 Cats Does Countdown *ML*
8.35 MOVIE The Matrix Revolutions *MV TV* 2003 Sci-fi Action. Neo is trapped between the Matrix and the Source as the machines threaten to crush Zion, but the real threat is Smith. Keanu Reeves, Laurence Fishburne, Carrie-Anne Moss, Hugo Weaving.
11.05 Have You Been Paying Attention? *M TV*
SATURDAY
12.10 First Dates New Zealand *PG TV*
1.10 Paranormal Caught On Camera *M TV*
1.55 Shortland Street *PG TV*
2.25 Infomercials
3.25 2 Overnight
4.15 The Middle *TV*
4.35 Neighbours *TV*
5am Brain Busters *TV*
6am The Wiggles' World *TV*
6.20 Tinpo *TV*
6.30 The Remarkable Mr King *TV*
6.50 Love Monster *TV*
7am Zak Storm *TV*
7.20 The Amazing World Of Gumball *TV*
7.45 Dragon Ball Super *PG TV*
8.10 Bakugan: Battle Planet *TV*
8.35 Pokemon Journeys: The Series *TV*
9am Ninjago *TV*
9.10 Pickle And Peanut *TV*
9.35 The Simpsons *PG TV*
10.20 My Wife And Kids *TV*
10.50 Fear Factor *PG TV*
11.45 The Amazing Race Australia *PGL TV*
1.20 God Friended Me *TV*
2.15 The Bachelorette New Zealand Omnibus *PGL TV*
5.20 MOVIE Doctor Dolittle 2 *TV* 2001 Family. Eddie Murphy, Kirsten Wilson.

CHOICE

5.30 Mysteries At The Museum *PGC*
6.30 Wheeler Dealers
7.30 Salvage Hunters
8.30 Location, Location, Location
9.30 Escape To The Chateau: DIY
10.30 Wheeler Dealers
11.30 Mysteries At The Museum *PGC*
SATURDAY
12.30 James Martin's Great British Adventure
1.30 My Floating Home
2am The Day The Rock Star Died *PGC*
2.30 The Day The Rock Star Died *PGC*
3am Extreme Everest With Ant Middleton
4am Location, Location, Location
5am Mysteries At The Museum *PGC*
6am Hugh's Three Hungry Boys
6.30 Discovering
7.30 Extreme Everest With Ant Middleton
8.30 Mysteries At The Museum *PGC*
9.30 Escape To The Chateau: DIY
10.30 James Martin's Great British Adventure
11.30 Wheeler Dealers
12.30 Salvage Hunters
1.30 Location, Location, Location
2.30 Aussie Lobster Men *PG*
3.30 Love Nature: How Do Animals Do That
4.30 Gino's Italian Escape
5pm Luke Nguyen's Railway Vietnam
5.30 Posh Pawn

THREE

5pm Millionaire Hot Seat *TV*
6pm NewsHub Live At 6pm
7pm The Project
7.30 MOVIE XXx *MV TV* 2002 Action. An extreme-sports athlete becomes a new breed of secret agent when he is recruited by the government for a special mission. Vin Diesel, Samuel L Jackson, Marton Csokas.
10pm NewsHub Live
10.30 The Citizen's Handbook *PG TV*
 A comedy series that tackles New Zealand history and issues.
10.55 Millionaire Hot Seat *TV*
11.50 Infomercials
SATURDAY
6am Charles Stanley *TV*
6.30 Infomercials *TV*
9.30 Newshub Nation
10.30 Hotels By Design *TV*
 Which design hotels from around New Zealand and Australia will make it through to the final?
11am My Sri Lanka With Peter Kuruvita *TV*
 Peter explores Sri Lankan tea country, cooking a pork curry and tiger prawns on the way.
11.30 NEW Love For Sail *PG TV*
12.30 Stove Tots *PG TV*
 Rivalries run deep when two former competitors come face-to-face for a rematch.
1.25 MasterChef UK *TV*
2pm Namibia: Sanctuary Of Giants *TV*
3.05 Unplugged Nation *PG TV*
4pm Grand Designs: The Street *TV*
5pm Holey Moley Australia *PG TV*

PRIME

5pm Everybody Loves Raymond *PG TV*
 Unable to deal with Ally's outbursts, Ray and Debra take a child parenting class.
5.30 Prime News
6pm Pawn Stars *PG*
6.30 Shipping Wars *PGL TV*
7pm The Crowd Goes Wild
7.30 Pawn Stars *PG*
 Rick checks out some items signed by Grizzly Adams actor Dan Haggerty.
8pm Border Security *PGC TV*
8.30 World's Wildest Weather *PGC TV*
 Montana's position on the Rocky Mountain Front makes it prone to heavy hailstorms.
9.30 Raw *PGV*
 The latest WWE action.
10.30 Football: A-League *(HLS)*
11.35 The Late Show With Stephen Colbert *PG*
SATURDAY
12.35 The Crowd Goes Wild *TV*
1.05 Closedown
6am Butterbean's Café *TV*
6.25 Top Wing *TV*
6.50 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles *TV*
7.15 The Powerpuff Girls *TV*
7.40 Henry Danger *TV*
8.05 Game Shakers *TV*
8.30 Batman: The Animated Series *PGVC TV*
9am Samurai Jack *PGV TV*
10am SmackDown *PGV TV*
11am Raw *PGV TV*
Noon Ice Road Truckers *PGL TV*
1pm Yorkshire Airport *TV*
1.30 Which Car *PG TV*
2pm Whose Line Is It Anyway? *PGC TV*
3pm Pawn Stars *PG TV*
4pm Hot Bench *TV*
5pm The Loggers *PG TV*
5.30 Prime News

MAORI TV

5pm Pipi Ma
5.05 Takaro Tribe *TV*
5.20 Waiata Mai *TV*
5.30 Tamariki Haka
5.40 Potae Pai
5.50 ZooMoo *TV*
6pm Cube
6.10 Huritua *TV*
6.20 Paia *TV*
6.30 Te Ao Marama
7.30 Moosemeat And Marmalade *TV*
8pm Tangaroa With Pio *TV*
8.30 MOVIE Last Chance Harvey *PG* 2009 Drama. In London for his daughter's wedding, a rumpled man finds his romantic spirits lifted by a new woman in his life. Dustin Hoffman, Emma Thompson.
10.15 Te Ao Marama
11.15 Closedown
SATURDAY
6.30 Waiata Mai *TV*
6.40 Kia Mau *TV*
6.50 Potae Pai *TV*
7am Taki Atu Taki Mai
7.10 Tamariki Haka *TV*
7.20 Pukoro *TV*
7.50 Polyfest Kapa Haka 2019 *TV*
8.20 Purakau *TV*
8.30 Pukana 2020 *TV*
9.30 Korero Mai *TV*
Noon Sidewalk Karaoke *TV*
1pm Junior National Touch Championship 2019 *TV*
2pm Poitukohu Nga Kura Tuarua 2016 *TV*
3pm National Touch Championship 2019 *TV*
4pm Game Of Bros *PG* (Starting Today) *TV*
4.30 Haka Life *TV*
5pm Haka Life *TV*
5.30 Nga Tangata Taumata Rau Aotearoa *TV*



Big Fat Gypsy Weddings 8.30pm on TVNZ 1



The Matrix Revolutions 8.35pm on TVNZ 2



xxX 7.30pm on Three

RNZ NATIONAL

5pm Checkpoint
 News and current affairs programme.
6.30 Trending Now
 Programme highlighting the RNZ stories people are sharing online.
7.06 Nights With Bryan Crump.
 Entertainment and information.
10pm News At Ten A roundup of today's news and sport.
10.15 Lately With Karyn Hay.
11.04 The Mixtape
SATURDAY
12.04 All Night Programme
6.08 Storytime
7.08 Country Life
8.10 Saturday Morning With Kim Hill.
12.12 Music 101
5pm The World At Five
5.10 Focus On Politics
5.30 Tagata O Te Moana

SKY SPORT 1

6.30 LIVE Super Rugby Aotearoa
 Highlanders v Crusaders.
9.40 LIVE Super Rugby Australia
 Reds v Rebels.
SATURDAY
12am Super Rugby Aotearoa (RPL)
 Highlanders v Crusaders.
2am Super Rugby Australia (RPL)
 Reds v Rebels.
4am Crusaders Greatest Games (RPL) 1999 Super 12: Bulls v Crusaders.
6am Super Rugby Aotearoa (HLS)
6.25 LIVE Guinness Pro14
 Benetton v Connacht.
8.40 LIVE Gallagher Premiership
 Sale v Exeter.
11am Super Rugby Australia (HLS)
 Reds v Rebels.
11.30 Super Rugby Aotearoa (RPL)
 Highlanders v Crusaders.
1.30 Super Rugby Australia (RPL)
 Reds v Rebels.
3.30 Super Rugby Aotearoa (HLS)
 Highlanders v Crusaders.
3.55 LIVE Japan Top League
 Brave Lupus v Kubota Spears.

SKY 5

5pm Wheel Of Fortune
5.30 Pawn Stars *PG*
6pm Highway Thru Hell *PG*
7pm The Force MC
7.30 Ice Road Truckers *PG*
8.30 Highway Thru Hell *PG*
 Tension between Jamie and Adam reaches boiling point as they struggle to flip a B-train on a narrow icy road.
9.30 Pawn Stars *PG*
10pm Pawn Stars *PG*
10.30 The Force MC
11.20 Criminal Minds *16VS*
SATURDAY
12.05 Ax Men *ML*
12.55 Wheel Of Fortune
1.15 Jeopardy!
1.35 The Force MC
2am Highway Thru Hell *PG*
2.50 Pawn Stars *PG*
3.15 Pawn Stars *PG*
3.40 The Force MC
4.30 Pawn Stars *PG*
4.50 Highway Thru Hell *PG*
5.35 The Simpsons *PG*
6am Mountain Men *PG*
7am Ice Road Truckers *PG*
8am Truck Night In America *PGL*
9am The Simpsons *PG*
9.30 Mountain Men *PG*
10.30 Highway Thru Hell *PG*
11.30 Pawn Stars *PG*
12.30 Ronnie's Redneck Roadtrip *MVL*
1pm NXT *PGV*
2pm SmackDown *MVC*
4.05 Ax Men *ML*
4.50 The Force MC
5.15 Ice Road Truckers *PG*

PAY TV

MOVIES PREMIERE

6.35 X-Men: Dark Phoenix *MVLC* 2019 Action. Sophie Turner, James McAvoy.
8.30 Burden *16VLC* 2018 Drama. When a museum celebrating the Ku Klux Klan opens in his town, Reverend Kennedy attempts to prevent long-simmering racial tensions from boiling over. Forest Whitaker, Usher Raymond.
10.30 1917 *16VLC* 2019 Drama. Dean-Charles Chapman, George MacKay.
SATURDAY
12.25 The Legend Of Baron To'a *16VLC* 2019 Comedy. Uli Latukefu, Nathaniel Lees.
2.08 The Good Liar *16VLC* 2019 Drama. Ian McKellen, Helen Mirren.
3.54 Papillon *16VL* 2019 Drama. Charlie Hunnam, Rami Malek.
6.02 X-Men: Dark Phoenix *MVLC* 2019 Action. Sophie Turner, James McAvoy.
7.53 Burden *16VLC* 2018 Drama.
9.47 1917 *16VLC* 2019 Drama.
11.42 The Legend Of Baron To'a *16VLC* 2019 Comedy.
1.24 The Best Of Enemies *MC* 2019 Drama.
3.33 The Informer *16VLC* 2019 Action.
5.22 Annabelle Comes Home *16C* 2019 Horror.

DISCOVERY

5.40 Aussie Salvage Squad *PG*
6.35 Demolition Down *Under PG*
7.30 Aussie Gold Hunters *PG*
8.30 Outback Opal Hunters *PG*
9.25 Aussie Lobster Men *PG*
10.15 What On Earth? *PG*
11.05 Naked And Afraid *PG*
11.55 How It's Made *PG*
SATURDAY
12.20 How Do They Do It? *PG*
12.45 Ripley's Believe It Or Not! *PG*
1.35 Deadliest Catch *PG*
2.25 Bering Sea Gold *PG*
3.15 Gold Rush: White Water *PG*
4.05 Unexplained And Unexplored *PG*
4.55 Naked And Afraid *PG*
5.45 Deadliest Catch *PG*
6.35 How It's Made *PG*
7.05 How It's Made *M*
7.30 Outback Opal Hunters *PG*
8.20 Aussie Salvage Squad *PG*
9.10 Aussie Salvage Squad *PG*
10am Aussie Salvage Squad *PG*
10.50 Aussie Salvage Squad *PG*
11.40 Aussie Salvage Squad *PG*
12.30 Barnwood Builders *PG*
1.20 100 Days Wild *PG*
2.10 Homestead Rescue *PG*
3pm Outback Opal Hunters *PG*
3.50 Outback Opal Hunters *PG*
4.45 Outback Opal Hunters *PG*
5.40 Outback Opal Hunters *PG*

Kings blow away Breakers in NBL Cup

BASKETBALL by Darren Snowdon, AAP

MELBOURNE — The Sydney Kings heaped more misery on the struggling New Zealand Breakers after cruising to a 96-78 victory in the NBL Cup last night.

The Breakers entered the contest at John Cain Arena with one win from their opening six matches but hopes of a morale-boosting victory were dashed following a disastrous second-quarter collapse.

A promising start gave New Zealand a 13-point lead but the Kings outscored them 26-6 in the second quarter to complete a 23-point turnaround and lead by 10 at halftime.

With young guns Jordan Hunter and Dejan Vasiljevic leading the charge,

the Kings maintained their edge in the second half to celebrate guard Shaun Bruce's 200th NBL game in fine style.

Hunter made all nine of his shot attempts on the way to a career-high 24 points while Vasiljevic (20 points, 10 rebounds) registered his first NBL double-double.

"Against Perth, we gave up 113 points which is something we don't want to be doing," coach Adam Forde said after the Kings grabbed their second win of the NBL Cup and improved their overall record to 5-5.

"For the most part defensively, even when other aspects of our game plan were not as clean as we wanted them to be, we could always come back and get some stops."

With Lamar Patterson sidelined for four to six weeks with a knee strain, Corey Webster took charge of the Breakers' offence to lead the team with 24 points while his brother Tai added 18.

But the nature of their capitulation resulted in coach Dan Shamir choosing to avoid commenting on their promising start to the match in his post-match press conference.

"It's a little bit embarrassing for me to talk about the first quarter since it was another game where we're not competitive," Shamir said after New Zealand slumped to their fourth loss in a row.

"It does show that we have some good basketball in us. It gets tougher and tougher with every day like that but it

only means that each and everyone needs to step it up and keep fighting."

New Zealand opened the match with a 12-2 spurt and Corey Webster closed the first quarter with 13 points to establish a 30-20 advantage for the Breakers.

But the momentum shifted as Sydney's defence locked in during the second period, setting up a 10-0 start, and the Kings pulled away courtesy of Hunter's efficient scoring under the basket and Vasiljevic's rebounding and long-range shooting.

New Zealand found more avenues to the basket in the second half but the Kings still managed to extend their lead to 68-55 after three quarters and Casper Ware added 10 points in the final term to finish with 19 for the game.



JUBILATION: Arsenal's players celebrate at the end of the Europa League round-of-32 second-leg football match against Benfica at Georgios Karaiskakis stadium, in Piraeus port, near Athens, today. Arsenal won 3-2 to qualify for the round of 16. AP picture

SPORTS BRIEFS

England crushed in two days

AHMEDABAD — Axar Patel claimed an 11-wicket match haul as India beat England by 10 wickets inside two days in the day-night third cricket test, dashing the tourists' hopes of making the final of the inaugural World Test Championship (WTC) in June.

On a viciously turning track, England were shot out for 81 in their second innings on Thursday, their lowest total against India, who had suffered their own first-innings collapse on a chaotic day at the Narendra Modi Stadium.

Chasing 49 for victory in the spin-dominated, low-scoring contest, India raced to the target without losing a wicket to go 2-1 up in the four-test series.

The hosts now need a draw in the final test, also in Ahmedabad, from March 4, to reach the WTC final. — AAP

Meeting off, features postponed

GISBORNE Speedway Club called off its planned meeting for tomorrow night due to the unavailability of sufficient numbers of vehicles.

The club had intended to run the saloon cars "champion of champions" and the Walsh Family Memorial for production saloons.

"Both have been postponed and we will run those events at our next meeting on March 13," club president Clyde McGrory said.

"We've lost vehicles to all over the show for this weekend.

"Some are going to Hawke's Bay, and others to Hamilton, Rotorua and Kihikihi," he said.

"To be positive we look forward to our next meeting on the 13th, and we have been promised plenty of drivers and cars for that night.

"It's better to run one successful and exciting meeting than one where we don't have the numbers to make the racing properly entertaining."

Early medals at Oceans

GOLD and silver medals to Waikanae and Midway young guns Chloe Kapene and Ella Sutton highlighted Gisborne results on Day 1 yesterday of the Oceans '21 junior surf lifesaving championships.

More than 800 young athletes aged 11 to 14, including more than 40 from Gisborne, began four days of exciting competition at Mt Maunganui.

Kapene, from Kaiaponi Farms Waikanae, won the gold medal in the under-14 girls' run-swim-run final.

Sutton, from Dawson Building Midway, took the silver medal in the under-13 girls run-swim-run event.

They were the only Gisborne podium finishers on the first day of competition but a stack of others made finals and competed well.

The district will be well represented in the board finals across the age groups after strong showings yesterday in the heats, quarterfinals and semifinals.

The other good finishes produced yesterday by the Gisborne contingent included a fifth placing to Midway's Gabrielle Searle in the u12 run-swim-run, Riversun Wainui's Quinn Lockwood was 10th in the boys' u13 run-swim-run and his clubmate Max Phillips ninth in the u14 event.

Midway's Emily Petro was sixth in the girls' u13 run-swim-run.

There were other strong performances from the likes of Midway's Sam Gaddum, Yahni Brown, Georgia Roberts, Jacqueline Kennedy and Harry Hayward.

Felix Sparks gave it everything for Waikanae, as did the likes of Charlie Keepa, Else Pauwels and Mako Fukushima-Hall for Wainui.

Leicester crash out of Europa League

FOOTBALL

LONDON — English clubs experienced mixed fortunes in the Europa League with Arsenal and Manchester United progressing to the last 16, but Leicester City have crashed out of the competition.

Lacklustre City suffered a tame defeat to Slavia Prague today, with Lukas Provod and Abdallah Sima striking in the second half to settle the last-32 tie 2-0 on the night and on aggregate.

United eased into the next round after a 0-0 home draw with Real Sociedad for a 4-0 aggregate win against the Spanish side.

With one eye on Sunday's Premier League clash against Chelsea, United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer started striker Marcus Rashford and defender Harry Maguire on the bench.

Sociedad missed a 13th-minute penalty as Mikel Oyarzabal blazed his spot-kick

wide before a lethargic United came to life and Bruno Fernandes rattled the crossbar with a swerving shot from 15 metres.

Earlier, Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang struck a late winner as Arsenal dug deep to beat Benfica 3-2 on the night and 4-3 on aggregate to advance.

When a dreadful mistake by Dani Ceballos just past the hour mark allowed Rafa Silva to put Benfica 2-1 ahead in Athens it meant Arsenal required two goals to avoid a disappointing exit.

But Kieran Tierney's goal gave Arsenal hope and Aubameyang, who had put the English side ahead in the first half, was in the right place to head home in the 86th minute.

There was still a nervous moment in stoppage time as Benfica hit the woodwork but Arsenal hung on to complete a notable win in Athens.

Elsewhere, Socceroo Milos Daganek's Red Star Belgrade went out to AC Milan who advanced on away goals from a 3-3 aggregate after a 1-1 in Milan.

Franck Kessie put Milan ahead with an early penalty, and Ben levelled for fighting Red Star who had Marko Gobeljic dismissed.

Roma beat Braga 3-1 to progress 5-1 on aggregate while Germany's Hoffenheim were shocked 2-0 by Norwegian minnows Molde, who advanced 5-3 on aggregate.

PSV beat Olympiacos 2-1 but the Greek giants advanced 5-4 on aggregate.

Napoli lost 3-2 on aggregate against Granada despite a 2-1 home win; Villarreal also advanced for Spain 2-1 on the night and 4-2 overall against Red Bull Salzburg; just as Ajax against Lille; and Steven Gerrard's Rangers clobbered Antwerp 5-2 on the night to go through 9-5 overall. — AAP

Man City targeting quadruple says Silva

FOOTBALL by Andy Hampson, PA

MANCHESTER — Bernardo Silva has targeted a clean sweep as Manchester City continue their relentless march towards glory in four competitions.

The Portuguese scored one and set up another as City chalked up their 19th successive win in all competitions by beating Borussia Monchengladbach 2-0 in the first leg of their Champions League

last-16 tie yesterday.

City, who are 10 points clear at the top of the Premier League, through to the Carabao Cup final and involved in the FA Cup quarterfinals, are now unbeaten in 26 matches stretching back to November.

City became the first club to win the English domestic treble two years ago and Silva hopes they can surpass even that achievement this year and add the

Champions League for a quadruple.

"Of course, we are going to try (to win the Champions League)," Silva, 26, said.

"We know we have good momentum, but this is just the last 16. We are going to try to do well in the second leg to go through to the quarterfinals.

"Then we have the Premier League, the FA Cup, the Carabao Cup. It is going to be a tough season but we are going to try to win them all."

Counting down to season finale

CRICKET by Jack Malcolm

SENIOR cricketers hoping for a strong end to the season are only two weeks away from the DJ Barry Cup semifinals.

Bollywood Stars High School Old Boys and Galaxy World Gisborne Boys' High School meet tomorrow in a top-of-the-table clash, while Coastal Concrete OBR will look to bounce back from last Saturday's loss to Boys' High when they take on Horouta.

HSOB haven't hit sustained top form since the Christmas break. They have been getting the results they need, but haven't been able to crack the problem of a strong GBHS side.

The old students have the talent and depth to push any team to the edge, but haven't been able to put together a full team performance and dominate their opponents.

Their top order is one of the strongest on paper in the competition, but cricket is a game where being in form is make or break.

Their second placing on the leaderboard indicates their potential, even though they are still seeking a complete performance.

HSOB captain Carl Shaw says they expect a tight game, and are looking forward to the challenge of a GBHS side in great form.

"Anyone in our team has the ability to pull out a match-winning performance," he said.

"We just need to have the grit to take on the challenge ourselves and not leave it to the next guy."

GBHS have been the team to beat since they lost the Doleman Cup final. They haven't lost a game since.



IN FORM: Graham Sharp is a key player for Gisborne Boys' High School.

File picture by Paul Rickard

Graham Sharp continued his run of fine form last weekend and is the key wicket for HSOB this week. If he gets started at the crease, he's hard to dismiss. With power, timing and placement, Sharp punishes every bad ball.

GBHS coach Mal Trowell said his team had trained well this week and had confidence in their bowling attack.

"They have been great all season. Matthew (Foster) and Josiah (Turner) have been at the front of this for us."

After a middle-order slump last week, Trowell is hoping for a big improvement in the batting.

"There's plenty of talent, but we've struggled to get the application required."

"If our men give a good account of themselves I will be happy. We're looking to maintain our spot at the top of the table."

OBR have been struggling to field a full team in recent weeks. Through no fault of their own, the team have had players unavailable at short notice, which has left them undermanned.

Despite not fielding a playing 11, they have shown their class by making their recent games extremely competitive.

The team have a great combination of extremely powerful hitters, such as Nick Greeks and Kieran Venema, and a dangerous bowling attack.

If they field a full team this weekend they will be confident, having shown to themselves that even with nine players they can push opponents into uncomfortable waters.

OBR stalwart Ian Loffler said fielding a full team tomorrow would be key to their chances of success, particularly in restricting runs in the field.

"I have no doubt if we had the full squad that we had at the start of the season, we'd be cleaning up the competition," he said.

OBR had suffered from the absence of key players Dane Thompson and Jimmy Holden but the rest of the team had shown the "fight-hard attitude" of the club to step up in their absence, Loffler said.

He has stepped aside as captain to give the next generation of players the opportunity to lead the team, and said Nick Greeks had shown a "knack" for the skipper's role.

"Nick has really stepped up and captained the team well. He has that good personality that motivates the boys."

Horouta are destined for a win, or so it seems. Since they made some changes for the DJ Barry Cup, it seems that not only their results but also their spirits have lifted.

With Parminder Kulaar and Ben Brick in good form, they have the stability at the top of the order that they were missing. That has reduced the pressure on the middle order — who had previously been coming out early — to score a lot of runs.

Horouta seem like a different team to the outfit that started the season and would struggle to make 100 in their innings. They have the opportunity in the last weeks of the competition to earn another win in their campaign this season, which will only help as they look towards 2021/22.

Horouta captain David Situ said the team were in high spirits going into this weekend on the back of three good performances in a row.

"I think we've found a few players who, given the time, can be really good players. We just need to develop them."

He said being able to post scores that they could defend had raised the morale of the team substantially.

"The team have more hope as we start fielding. We're not just waiting for them to get the runs."

Horouta haven't been able to bring together their full side, with work schedules that made several key players unavailable at once, but Situ believes they have the depth to give any team in the competition a run for their money.

He says their recent form has given them the belief that they can win games, which has raised the energy level and enthusiasm in the side.

Horouta's Hopes on line tomorrow

SIMON SHUKER'S CODE-CRACKER Extra 1145

EACH number in our Code-Cracker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. For example, today 26 represents W, so fill in W every time the figure 26 appears. You have one letter in the control grid to start you off. Enter it in the appropriate squares in the main grid and solve the starter word. Fill in other squares in the main and control grids with the found letters and look for the next word. Follow the word trail through the puzzle to its completion. Visit www.codecracker.co.nz

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

CRICKET by Ben O'Brien-Leaf

TOMORROW is D-Day for Horouta's Hope Cup campaign.

With the Senior B club cricket final only four weeks away, the Mel Knight-led Horouta and Ollie Needham's High School Old Boys' Presidents — teams three and four — both have 18 points with the Presidents leading The Waka by 0.255 on net run-rate. A third straight win against Horouta tomorrow and a third straight win over fifth-placed Champion College next weekend would book HSOB a spot in the 2 v 3 semifinal, to take on two-time defending champions Ngatapa.

If Siteworx Horouta fall to the Bollywood HSOB Presidents tomorrow, they will have to topple unbeaten competition leaders Rawhiti Legal Old Boys' Rugby (36pts) twice in two weeks — on the second occasion, in a 1 v 4 semi — to pull off the biggest upset in Hope Cup history.

"For us, tomorrow's the biggest game of the season," said Knight, whose daughter, NZ under 19 representative Kayley, her Northern Districts u19 teammate Grace Levy and Piumal Madasanka will lead Horouta's pace attack.

"We also want to be positive in our batting and build partnerships, but beyond that, for everyone in the team to contribute something in the game and enjoy themselves."

An off-spinner, Knight senior and left-arm orthodox spinner Clarence Campbell could also play a big role in the clash on Harry Barker Reserve ground four. HSOB 'keeper-captain Needham and Matt Jefferd are capable players of spin but the side's great strength lies in its seamers. Jefferd took 3-24 off four overs in the teams' first meeting on November 14 and Nick Armour 4-32 from six in Round 8, but on neither occasion was speedster Jason Lines in the HSOB line-up. He is playing tomorrow, and Needham is banking on his quicks to fire.

"Our bowlers, led by Jason and supported by Kyle Jean-Louis, Yegan Lanka and Anil Kumar, could be hard for Horouta to keep out if they are on song. For Horouta, Kayley will provide a stern test with her ability to hit good areas; their good spinners will test our footwork and batmanship.

"Batting well against this excellent attack will be a focus to get our guys in form, and prepare ourselves for the finals."

OBR v Ngatapa will be more than a work-out. While both teams have already qualified for the semi-finals in three weeks, the Civil Project Solutions Ngatapa Green Caps (27pts) are a better match for the Craig Christophers-led OBR than their previous meetings suggest. First time

around, OBR's margin of victory was 31 runs (having bundled the Caps out for 96) and in the second, by six wickets after 'keeper Thom Berry crunched 82 from 76 balls with 11 boundaries.

Berry made an unbeaten half century in what was a wake-up call for the best team in Senior B cricket two weeks ago: they pipped HSOB by two runs. The standard of play across the grade has undoubtedly improved — HSOB began the season in horrific fashion on an artificial pitch at Nelson Park, bowled out by Ngatapa for 43 — and the Patutahi-based club have the experience and skills to test OBR to the full tomorrow.

They bowled superbly last Saturday, and while Will Faulks (4-8 in five overs), Ryan West (3-6 off four) and Grant Walsh (2-6 from 5.2 overs) are most unlikely to do to OBR what they did to Champion in Round 12, their attack has depth and variety. Big left-arm medium-pacers Faulks and George Reynolds (OBR) are among their respective clubs' greatest assets, but Christophers realises too that — with both outfits already assured of a semi-final berth — OBR can and should spread opportunities with both bat and ball around: "This game gives us a chance to give guys a go, allow them to build confidence, continue to build team spirit."

CAMPION College want a fourth win for the season — Gisborne Boys' High School, just one.

And though they have Ngatapa on HBR3 next Saturday, the all-schoolboy derby tomorrow will have that fact as its point of interest, with both Champion and the GBHS second 11 looking to reward Challenge Cup cricketers with selection based on performance, attitude and loyalty.

Second 11 captain Dylan Foster (Life Guards, 38 not-out), Noah Torrance-Cribb (42), Bekko Page (36), their Blues and Royals skipper Kelan Bryant (22) and Daniel Watts (32, The Admiralty) all made runs on Wednesday and Bryant scored a very good 55 against Horouta last weekend.

Campion captain Liam Spring will be the most experienced player on HBR2 tomorrow. Spring and his fellow Year 13 Luke Hurlstone line up as the two old heads in a capable Champion crew whose Y10s, Hamish Swann and Rhys Grogan chief among them, are providing leadership by example to the college's junior arm.

Left-arm orthodox spinner Riker Rolls, GBHS' hero with the ball (2-33 v Horouta) on debut, is out injured but left-hander Jarrod Ormiston returns to the side. Both teams have young players keen to make their mark. The college beat GBHS by 48 runs in the first meeting in Round 13 and Boys' High defaulted to Champion on December 19 — the scene is set.

Guptill sends a message to doubters

CRICKET by Dylan Cleaver, NZ Herald

NEW ZEALAND scored a lot of runs in their second T20I against Australia yesterday. Their total very nearly wasn't enough.

With Australia needing 15 off the last over chasing 220 to win and the destructive Marcus Stoinis and Daniel Sams at the crease, Jimmy Neesham had both dismissed, caught on the boundary, as the visitors came within five runs of pulling off a ridiculous win.

In front of a sold-out, near-delirious and well-lubricated crowd of students and locals alike, Stoinis launched a six off the fourth ball leaving himself nine off two. The next one was in the slot but he just missed his mark, with Tim Southee settling under the skier to send the crowd home happy regardless of what happened off the final ball.

How it got to that point is tricky to describe without moving into the realm of the surreal.

Cruising to victory with Australia 113-6 after 13 overs, New Zealand's attack suffered a collective meltdown as Stoinis and Sams started in top gear and moved quickly to overdrive.

We've seen a version of this movie four years ago, when Stoinis took Australia from 67-6 in an ODI at Eden Park to 280 all out chasing 289 with a staggering 146 not out.

He was close to the main act again yesterday, but bowed to another big-hitting batsman with a point to prove.

Yes, Martin Guptill is back.

The 34-year-old opener used the occasion of the first T20I to be hosted at Dunedin's University Oval to announce that he's far from a spent force in the most dynamic form of the game.

Guptill scored 97 from just 50 balls in leading his team to 219.

In doing so he struck eight sixes, taking him to

132 in T20Is, passing India's Rohit Sharma (127).

He was just inches from bringing up his third T20I century, being caught on the long-off boundary when attempting his ninth six.

After a lean summer that extended to his form for Auckland in the Super Smash, Guptill had seen his stock on the T20 circuit fall.

He came into this match with perhaps as much pressure on his white-ball status as there ever has been. What he delivered was a wide-open window to his immense talent.

The first ball from Sams was overpitched and punched through the covers for four. Nothing too special about that except it was exactly the sort of ball – right in the Guptill wheelhouse – that he skewed straight into the hands of gully at Hagley Oval.

Instead, this wee spark lit a fuse that ignited a series of lofted check-drives that nobody plays with such restrained power as Guptill. Once he got a few of those away he extended the arms, akin to a golfer at the range going from hitting a bunch of punched wedges to pulling out the driver from the bag.

He reached 50 – his first at T20I level for 16 months – when New Zealand had 59 in total.

By then he had lost opening partner Tim Seifert but captain Kane Williamson was the perfect foil, feeding his partner the strike before calling on an eclectic range of shots himself as their partnership – already the most prolific historically for New Zealand in this format – passed 100.

It was finally ended at 131 in just 11.3 overs of work.

"It was nice to get a few runs but it was nicer to get another win and go 2-0 up," Guptill said. "Things haven't quite gone my way lately but it was nice to spend a bit of time in the middle."

Williamson was in vintage form himself, mixing three sixes and two fours into a fine 53 from 35 balls



HE'S BACK: New Zealand's Martin Guptill in action during the second T20 international against Australia, at University Oval, Dunedin, yesterday.

Picture by Photosport via AP

as imposing as it sounds given the oval's postage-stamp-size boundaries.

Matthew Wade looked as if he was in the mood before slicing Tim Southee to mid-off. That put pressure on the out-of-form Aaron Finch to deliver. Unlike Guptill he couldn't deliver, holing out off Ish Sodhi after a painstaking 12.

Josh Philippe (45 from 32) was in good touch, but Australia should have rolled over when in the space of four Mitchell Santner balls he took three wickets, including Ashton Agar and Mitchell Marsh for golden ducks.

Enter Sams to join Stoinis.

When the spotlight is put on the Black Caps' near collapse, it will first fall on Kyle Jamieson.

The man with the \$3 million IPL contract bowled as if he had the weight of world expectations on his shoulders, conceding 56 from his four overs and letting a ball go under his hands for four at third man.

His entrée into international cricket has been spectacular, but T20 is a format he is, on the evidence of his first season, some way from mastering.

Close behind him will be Tim Southee, or perhaps the leadership team. He was brilliant again at the top of the innings, but how much evidence is required before his inability to stem the tide in the death overs becomes established fact?

His 1-7 off two overs became 1-47 off four.

The two skippers preferred to look at the quality of the men wielding the sticks, which is fair enough.

"It was great extraordinary hitting; Gup in the first innings as well," Finch said.

"It was an incredible partnership (between Stoinis and Sams) and on these sorts of grounds you have to be on your game because things can change so quickly," Williamson said.

Extraordinary. Incredible.

Sums up the match really.

before being deceived by Adam Zampa.

Neesham only enhanced his reputation as a pinch hitter, being promoted to No.4 and smashing half a dozen sixes – three off the first three balls he faced – on his way to 45 off 16 balls.

He was the critical factor in New Zealand setting Australia an imposing target of 220, a figure not

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WEATHER FOR TOMORROW

26 Feb, 2021

NZ SITUATION

New Zealand sits between a high to the east and a low to the west, bringing northeasterly winds across the country. The high remains to the east, while the low weakens before getting replaced by a frontal system late on Monday.

GISBORNE SUN PROTECTION ALERT

9:40 AM – 4:55 PM PROTECTION REQUIRED
Even on cloudy days
Data provided by NIWA

GISBORNE CITY

| TOMORROW | SUNDAY | MONDAY |
|---|--|---|
| morning min 13 max 23 Morning cloud, then fine breaks from afternoon. Light winds. | morning min 13 max 23 Often cloudy. One or two showers possible. Southeasterlies. | morning min 13 max 22 Partly cloudy. One or two showers possible. SE, dying out. |

GISBORNE REGION

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| Morning cloud, then fine breaks from afternoon. A possible afternoon shower in the ranges. Easterlies. | Often cloudy. A few showers, mainly inland toward the Raukumara Range. Easterlies. | Partly cloudy. A few showers, mainly in the north. Northeasterlies. |
|--|--|---|

TUESDAY

Occasional rain. Northeasterlies.

MIDNIGHT TONIGHT

NOON TOMORROW

NZ TOMORROW

| | | |
|------------------|---------|----|
| Auckland | fine | 25 |
| Hamilton | fine | 27 |
| Tauranga | fine | 24 |
| Rotorua | fine | 23 |
| Taupo | fine | 24 |
| Napier | fine | 23 |
| New Plymouth | fine | 23 |
| Palmerston North | fine | 26 |
| Wellington | fine | 22 |
| Christchurch | fine | 24 |
| Queenstown | fine | 24 |
| Dunedin | showers | 21 |

GISBORNE READINGS

Taken at the Airport, for the 24 hours to 9am, Friday 26 Feb 2021

| SUNSHINE hours | |
|----------------------|-------|
| On Thursday, 25 Feb | 9.7 |
| To date for February | 205.1 |
| Average for February | 199.0 |
| To date this year | 501.1 |
| To date last year | 521.1 |

| WIND km/h | |
|------------------------|------|
| Max gust on Thu 25 Feb | E 28 |

| RAINFALL mm | |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| 24 hours to 9am, Fri 26 Feb | 0.0 |
| To date for February | 68.2 |
| Average for February | 74.0 |
| To date this year | 116.0 |
| To date last year | 61.6 |

| EVAPOTRANSPIRATION mm | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Daily average for past week | 5.1 |

| TEMPERATURE °C | |
|----------------|------|
| Maximum | 26.2 |
| Minimum | 11.2 |
| Grass minimum | 7.6 |

| BAROMETRIC PRESSURE | |
|------------------------|--------|
| At 9am 26 Feb (hPa) | 1023.4 |
| At 9am 26 Feb (inches) | 30.22 |

WORLD TOMORROW

| | | |
|--------------|---------|-------|
| Adelaide | fine | 13 28 |
| Amsterdam | cloudy | 1 10 |
| Bangkok | fine | 24 34 |
| Beijing | cloudy | -3 13 |
| Berlin | cloudy | 3 8 |
| Brisbane | fine | 23 31 |
| Buenos Aires | cloudy | 21 30 |
| Cairo | fine | 9 23 |
| Canberra | cloudy | 12 27 |
| Cape Town | fine | 18 32 |
| Delhi | fog | 15 34 |
| Frankfurt | fine | 2 11 |
| Geneva | fine | 4 11 |
| Hong Kong | fine | 17 23 |
| London | fine | -1 11 |
| Los Angeles | fine | 9 23 |
| Melbourne | fine | 11 21 |
| Moscow | rain | 1 3 |
| New York | rain | 4 9 |
| Paris | fine | 3 11 |
| Perth | fine | 17 31 |
| Singapore | fine | 24 34 |
| Stockholm | fine | 0 6 |
| Suva | thunder | 25 30 |
| Sydney | showers | 19 26 |
| Tokyo | cloudy | 3 9 |
| Toronto | rain | -1 6 |

TODAY IN HISTORY

1770 – A storm blew Captain Cook's Endeavour off course while sailing off the South Otago coast. "At 5 o'clock the wind fixed at west-south-west and soon blowed so hard as to put us past our topsails and to split the fore sail all to pieces: after getting another to the yard we continued standing southward"

For the latest weather info including Weather Warnings visit metSERVICE.co.nz

GISBORNE TIDE MOVEMENT

| Saturday Feb 27 | | Sunday Feb 28 | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| am 3 | 6 9 noon 3 6 9 pm | am 3 | 6 9 noon 3 6 9 pm |
| Hicks Bay | H 7:27am 7:47pm L 1:06am 1:38pm | Hicks Bay | H 8:15am 8:36pm L 1:56am 2:28pm |
| Waipiro Bay | H 7:14am 7:34pm L 12:41am 1:13pm | Waipiro Bay | H 8:02am 8:23pm L 1:31am 2:03pm |
| Tolaga Bay | H 7:02am 7:22pm L 12:29am 1:01pm | Tolaga Bay | H 7:50am 8:11pm L 1:19am 1:51pm |
| Gisborne | H 6:36am 6:58pm L 12:20am 12:48pm | Gisborne | H 7:25am 7:50pm L 1:10am 1:40pm |
| Wairoa | H 6:13am 6:40pm L 12:01am 12:31pm | Wairoa | H 7:03am 7:31pm L 12:51am 1:22pm |

SUN-MOON-MAORI FISHING GUIDE

© OceanFun Publishing www.ofu.co.nz Maori fishing guide by Bill Hohepa

| | | | |
|----|-----------------------------|----|-----------------------------|
| ☀️ | Rise 6:49 am Set 7:51 pm | ☀️ | Rise 6:50 am Set 7:50 pm |
| 🌑 | Set 6:02 am Rise 8:09 pm | 🌑 | Set 7:14 am Rise 8:41 pm |
| 🐟 | Best at 12:44 am 1:11 pm | 🐟 | Best at 1:37 am 2:02 pm |



North set to win his 100th cap for Wales

PAGE 20



Guptill answers his critics with whirlwind innings

PAGE 23

| | |
|---------------|----|
| Rugby..... | 20 |
| Football..... | 21 |
| Cricket..... | 22 |
| Cricket..... | 23 |

'Best of the Best'

MARTIAL ARTS by Ben O'Brien-Leaf

THIS East Coast cowboy packs a punch.

Kickboxer Sam Parkes — born and raised in Uawa, and proud of it — flashed both fists and feet on Saturday night at the Waihi Events Centre to win the "Best of the Best" contest as New Zealand under-80-kilogram division champion, and \$5000 in prize money.

The 26-year-old self-employed builder, a member since 2014 of Rangataua o Aotearoa (ROA), won this his first invitation tournament against staunch opposition.

The Best of the Best featured the eight highest-ranked competitors in the division nationally, in a win-to-advance format over three three-minute rounds. Parkes won three bouts to become champion.

He beat Johannes Van Duin of

Evolution Muay Thai, Papamoa, on points, then knocked out John Vake (City Kick Boxing of Auckland) with a straight right cross in the first round. Vake, who fought Israel Adesanya in 2013, had an 11-6 professional record in mixed martial arts to 2019.

Parkes's mega-moment came when he beat the tournament favourite, Jesse Morrow-Wilson, of Tihipuke Muay Thai, Hamilton. Parkes's wins against Morrow-Wilson and Van Duin came from unanimous decisions by three judges.

Parkes "blew out the cobwebs" in his first fight and then set to work in earnest with the help of coaches Dan Spears and Taka Mackey. ROA life member Mackey was last year made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit.

Parkes, whose partner and family made the trip to Waihi, has the highest regard for these men.

"In the semifinal, Taka tweaked a few things in my technique," Parkes said. "I won that via knock-out and in the final we faced Jesse Morrow-Wilson, who was in good form, but Dan and Taka out-thought his corner. I executed our game-plan and we won."

Parkes is a Meads Cup-winning Ngati Porou East Coast and former Poverty Bay rugby representative. His father Murray also played halfback for the Bay.

"I see myself as representing everyone from Gizzy to Cape Runaway but most of all Uawa, as that's where I'm from and who I am," Sam Parkes said.

"At first, I fought as pre-season fitness training for rugby but the main influence for me is my hero Jimmy Braithwaite. We used to train in his paddock at Tolaga Bay for three hours at a time. It was a crazy experience but he's had the biggest

impact on my fighting style, which is very aggressive and wild at times.

"I like to make an intense start, land some hard punches in the first round to let an opponent feel my power. I also chop his legs and rip body shots until I land the big right hand that normally knocks people out."

"I want to thank everyone that has supported me along the way, especially our team at ROA who have so much confidence in me, my ability — who see things in me that I don't — and a special mention to the entire Mackey family with whom I have a unique relationship. I owe a lot to Melissa and Natalie, who have invested a lot of time in me behind the scenes to get me ready for fights."

Rangataua o Aotearoa will hold their local fight night, Te Ihi a Tu, at the Showgrounds Park Events Centre on May 15.



SAM PARKES
Picture by Paul Rickard