

The Gisborne Herald

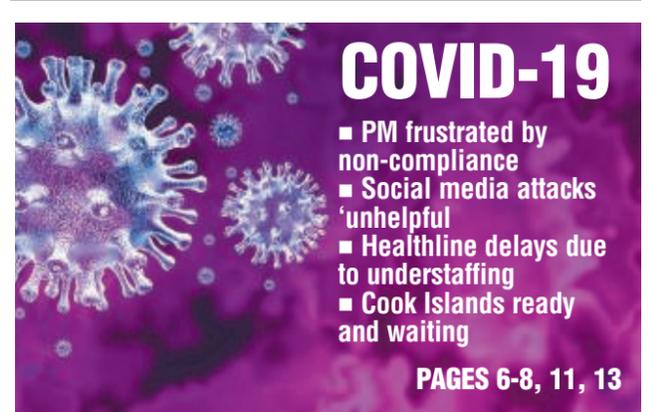
TE NUPEPA O TE TAIRAWHITI

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27-28, 2021

HOME-DELIVERED \$1.90, RETAIL \$2.70



UNDER WAY: Border worker and health protection officer Cyrena Bennett receives the first of two required doses of the Covid-19 vaccine from trained vaccinator Roimata Brown. The Government's vaccine roll-out of border workers and those who live with them started in Auckland earlier this week, and in Gisborne this morning. Picture supplied



Vaccine roll-out begins

'Getting vaccinated will be one of the biggest contributions that we can all make to the safety of ourselves, our whanau and the wider community'

TODAY is a big day for Tairawhiti. THE national Covid-19 vaccination programme started in Gisborne this morning with the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine being administered to border workers.

The local roll-out of the vaccine "signals an important milestone on a journey to protect our community from the virus," says Covid-19 vaccinator Roimata Brown.

"I'm proud to be helping our community stay safe, especially as we have some very vulnerable whanau here in Tairawhiti.

"It's a good feeling knowing that you're contributing to the safety of our people.

"Our team of public health nurses have trained for this and we're excited to get started."

Border workers and the people they live with are categorised as Tier 1 — the first group to be vaccinated.

The workers are first in line because of their regular contact with people from overseas.

"Our team of local vaccinators will also be vaccinated over the next week," said Ms Brown.

High risk front-line health, fire and emergency services workers, who are at the highest risk of exposure to Covid-19, will follow as the next group to be vaccinated.

According to the roll-out sequencing developed by the Ministry of Health, aged-care workers and residents, those with underlying health conditions, kaumatua and older people will also be prioritised.

"Getting vaccinated will be one of the biggest contributions that we can all make to the safety of ourselves, our whanau and the wider community," says Hauora Tairawhiti

chief executive Jim Green.

"Tairawhiti is one of the most vulnerable communities in Aotearoa.

"We can all help to eliminate that vulnerability by stepping up when the vaccine is made available to us.

"Working with our iwi health partners and leaders will be an important part of this roll-out to ensure our community can make an informed choice about the vaccine."

The vaccination programme starts in Gisborne two days earlier than previously reported to make it as easy as possible for border workers and the people they live with.

About 300 people are eligible for the vaccine at this stage and delivery will roll out over the course of the week.

The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is approximately 95 percent effective after two doses.

The swift production of the vaccine comes as the result of international collaboration and dedication by pharmaceutical companies worldwide to find an effective and safe vaccine against the virus.

At the same time, the vaccine has met all the appropriate standards and checks, and is approved for use by Medsafe — the country's pharmaceutical regulator.

For official information about the Covid-19 vaccine and vaccination roll-out plan in Aotearoa, visit [covid19.govt.nz](https://www.covid19.govt.nz)

A STORY in yesterday's paper stated "border workers and their whanau" will be offered a vaccination against Covid-19. This should have said border workers "and the people they live with" will be eligible. The article also said the vaccine arrived on Thursday. It arrived yesterday.



THE GRAPE ESCAPE: The district's grape growers have breathed a sigh of relief in the wake of the heavy rain earlier this month when it comes to potential crop damage. "We've seen some grape splitting in some blocks but that band of wet weather does not seem to have affected us unduly," said Gisborne Winegrowers chairman Mark Thompson, pictured (at right) with Gisvin general manager Hamish Jackson at a Bushmere Road vineyard. "We have come through that wet weather relatively unscathed." The harvest rolls along with a peak expected over the next three weeks. "Some growers are about half to three-quarters of the way through their harvests already."



Pictures by Liam Clayton

Fire leaves family homeless

by Sophie Rishworth

ON Monday night, a mother of four left her London Street home and popped down to Pak'nSave Supermarket to get dinner.

Members of her whanau were lying on their beds watching movies.

When she returned 20 minutes later, the entire upstairs flat where she lived with her family was ablaze.

At home were her teenage children — aged, 17, 14 and 13 — her six-year-old, her step-dad and an eight-year-old child visiting at the time.

All managed to get out of the burning house with only the clothes they had on.

"When they were running out, the floor was that hot they couldn't stand on it," said the mother, who wanted to be identified only as Ms Hohipa.

"The outside of the house was on fire and smoke was pouring out of the downstairs flat. They got outside and they just ran.

"Then the whole house blew up in flames."

Ms Hohipa said her step-dad was first to hear a smoke alarm, and got everybody



out of the flat the family had lived in for six years.

Her six-year-old was still a bit shocked about the ordeal but her three teenagers seemed all right.

The family have had to move into her father's house — a three-bedroom home that now has 12 people living in it.

An uncle in Mahia has let them stay in

his house over the weekend while he is away.

"It will give this household a break from us for couple of days," Ms Hohipa said.

After that it is back to cramped living conditions.

Her family urgently need a new place to live.

Ms Hohipa said whanau had dropped

DESTROYED BY FIRE: A mother, her four children and her step-dad were living in an upstairs flat of this London Street block of units severely damaged by fire on Monday night. They are innocent victims of the blaze, which started in a ground-floor flat, and urgently require somewhere to live.

Picture by Rebecca Grunwell

off clothes for them.

"Someone dropped us off a mutton, too. That was cool . . . we have had chops and roast since Monday."

But until they have somewhere to live they cannot accept donated items such as furniture.

No emergency accommodation is available in Gisborne and Ms Hohipa said she was told the waiting list was "very long".

"People have been putting my name forward but the houses are already rented out. All I can do is keep applying."

Work and Income gave them \$200 for some bedding and linen but told Ms Hohipa until the police report about the fire came through they could not help with anything else.

Police told The Herald the fire started in a bedroom in one of the ground floor units.

It was accidental but the cause was linked to a tenant growing hydroponic cannabis in his bedroom. Police have since charged the man.

Ms Hohipa and her family lost everything in the fire. She said it was hard to ask for help but the family needed a roof over their heads.

LOOKING AHEAD



ALL THE LATEST NEWS, INCLUDING:

- The housing affordability rate continues to rise in Gisborne.
- Mayor encouraging all Gisborne households to have a water tank.
- A gastronomical experience of local delicacies and more . . . that's the Essence of Tairāwhiti festival.
- A new EIT course will prepare people for a career in the forestry industry.

MONDAY

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Reprieve granted for drug, driving offences

AN Auckland man who admitted possessing ecstasy to supply at the 2019 Rhythm and Vines festival has been discharged without conviction for that and other unrelated offending.

Judge Neil Dawson said Thomas Hamid Hussona, 20, was only being granted the reprieve by a narrow margin and only because a conviction might affect his chances of getting his commercial skipper's licence.

Hussona was sentenced in Auckland District Court on February 17.

His case was transferred there last September from Gisborne District Court, despite opposition from police and The Gisborne Herald — both citing high public interest locally in matters to do with R&V.

The Herald also cited past difficulty in getting sentencing notes for another similar case transferred out of town.

Hussona's lawyer Emma Priest gave a personal assurance her client's sentencing notes would be provided in a timely way.

The notes were recently received by The Herald after several follow-up inquiries to a formal application.

Hussona was up for sentence on charges to which he previously pleaded guilty — possession for supply of ecstasy (a Class B drug) and possession of cannabis seeds (Class C), arising out of his offending in Gisborne on December 29, 2019; and dangerous driving, driving while suspended and failing to give police details, arising out of two incidents on the Coromandel Peninsula in mid-2020.

Security staff who searched Hussona's vehicle when he arrived at the R&V concert venue found a gram of loose cannabis head material (a charge relating to that was earlier withdrawn), loose cannabis seeds, five "point" bags containing three capsules of ecstasy, one point bag containing one capsule of ecstasy, and one gram of ecstasy in powder form.

Also found were 50 empty, unused point bags and 17 empty capsules. At about 1.30am on April 18 of last

year, Hussona, whose licence had been suspended between April 1 and April 30, 2020, was driving at speed along a residential street in Hahei when he lost control of his vehicle at a T-intersection.

The vehicle crashed into an embankment and flipped on to its roof. It was extensively damaged.

Police were called but when they arrived the vehicle was gone and there was no one around.

Officers followed scrape marks on the road to a local address where they found the vehicle but no people.

Hussona was there several days later when police returned but denied being the driver.

He was served with a notice of defence of the identity of the driver but failed to supply the necessary details within the required timeframe.

On May 20, last year, Hussona was driving near Cook's Beach on a narrow residential road, zoned 50 kilometres

an hour. Two vehicles were travelling towards him, a runner was on the side of the road and another person was walking a dog.

Hussona was seen travelling at about 70kmh around a bend on the road, before being clocked at 126kmh.

Police pursued him but he would not stop. When he eventually did, he locked his vehicle door, then fled into bush behind a nearby property.

He was located and admitted driving while disqualified.

Judge Dawson granted Hussona a discharge without conviction on all but the dangerous driving and driving while suspended charges.

On those charges, the judge imposed mandatory six-month disqualifications to be served concurrently.

Considering the application, the judge said Hussona behaved badly but his rehabilitation needs had to be taken into account.

The gravity of the offending was low to medium.

Hussona's culpability amounted to his "youthful stupidity" and failure to consider the consequences of his behaviour.

There were no aggravating factors the court needed to take into account, the judge said.

Hussona was 19 and 20 at the times of the offending, pleaded guilty early and expressed remorse. He was previously of good character, had done a Community Alcohol and Drugs (CADS) Right Track course, and 200 hours voluntary work.

A fall from grace, embarrassment and the inability for international travel were usual consequences of conviction and not something he would take into account, the judge said.

But he accepted, albeit by a narrow margin, Hussona's ability to obtain a commercial skipper's certificate could be put at risk if convicted and that consequence would be out of proportion to the gravity of the offending.

The judge said he was particularly persuaded by his personal view Hussona would be unlikely to appear in court again.

"Mr Hussona, there is nothing good ever waiting for you in court," Judge Dawson said.

"Do not come back here again."

Hussona's culpability amounted to his 'youthful stupidity' and failure to consider the consequences of his behaviour.

Project creates safer traffic zones for MKids

MANGAPAPA School is a safer place for students and whanau following the completion of a major safety improvement project, Gisborne District Council says.

The project is part of a wider school prioritisation programme funded by the council and Waka Kotahi/NZ Transport Agency.

It involved the construction of a new crossing, improved parking areas, road signage, line marking and footpaths on Rua Street.

Mangapapa principal Paul Sadler says the project has created safer traffic infrastructure for the school community.

"Along with our new school carpark, there are now different zones for parents and whanau to utilise when dropping off and picking up."

"With 500 MKids (Mangapapa kids) and approximately 350 families, it's essential to have the infrastructure in place to disperse traffic, particularly

at 3pm. Our new crossing is visually and practically impressive, creating a strong connection between the new carpark and school site," he said.

"The school is grateful for the support and flexibility of the council, as they had prioritised Mangapapa School for this work back in 2018 but allowed us to postpone the road safety project until our new carpark had been completed."

The \$226,000 project was delivered by contractors Civil Assist and Downer and took about eight weeks to complete.

Council road safety educator Lauriel Chase said any areas where children got dropped off and picked up must be safe zones.

"We're thrilled the council can support our school communities by making their roads safer and we know this latest project at Mangapapa School will have a big impact by easing congestion and keeping traffic flowing safely at peak times."



JOB WELL DONE: A \$226,000 project featuring the construction of a new crossing, improved parking areas, road signage line marking and footpaths at Mangapapa School has been finished. Outside the school are, back row (from left): Sataraka Pesaleli (Downer operator), Kate Reynolds (Downer stakeholder and communications manager), Hammy Al-Jammal (Downer contract manager), Paul Sadler (Mangapapa School principal), Lauriel Chase (district council road safety educator), Luca Barone (project manager, Civil Assist) and Jennie Brown (Mangapapa Kindergarten kaiako). Front: Chris Brooking (Downer operator), Helena Te Runa (Downer traffic management), Mangapapa School students Hunter Jean Louis, Jayda Jean Louis and Mason Jean Louis, Mangapapa Kindergarten's Eli Theobald and Harry Hughes, and Danny Tuhou (Downer foreman). Picture by Liam Clayton

Countdown customers asked to respect parks for disabled

PEOPLE have been warned not to take up disabled parking spots at Countdown supermarket if they do not have a permit.

Construction of the new supermarket had restricted parking availability, but the disabled car parks were there for a reason, said store manager Jess Stubbs.

"We do monitor the carpark as we can, but we really need customers to do the right thing and keep disabled

car parks available for people who really need them," she said.

"We know the construction of the new store has been tough on our customers, particularly with the disruptions to the car parking, and we're very sorry for this inconvenience and thank everyone for their patience."

"We're aiming to have more than 100 car parks available when we open in June and will have about

200 car parks once the old store is demolished and the remainder of the carpark is completed.

"These car parks are there for a reason," Ms Stubbs said. "If customers do see cars parked in the disabled parks without a permit, they are welcome to let us know."

"We're really excited to be bringing a new Countdown store to Gisborne which will replace the current tired store," she said.

Bus service reduced

AN absence of tourists has been blamed for a reduction in bus services here.

From March 8, InterCity will operate four services a week instead of daily services in each direction between Gisborne and Napier.

Sam Peate, from NZ Coachlines, said InterCity services along the East Coast route were popular with visitors to the region.

But with the ongoing closure of borders to international tourists, passenger numbers had

been severely impacted.

"As a result we have had to reduce our frequency to ensure the viability of this route and communities it services," said Mr Peate.

From March 8, services between Wairoa and Napier, and Wairoa and Gisborne will operate four days a week — Monday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday.

"The daily InterCity services between Gisborne, Rotorua and Auckland continue to operate as normal."

FAMILY NOTICES

Deaths

In Memoriam

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.

SOLOMANN, Richard David. — On 23rd February 2021. Dearly loved husband of Annette. Cherished father of Mark and Sam, Amanda and Mark, Andrew and Amanda, Janine and Gareth. Much loved Pop of Abigail and Sebastian; Xavier, Isaac and Isabelle; Lucy, Joshua and Benjamin. Richard's funeral service will be held at Evans Chapel, Ormond Road, at 11am on Tuesday 2nd March, followed by interment at Taruheru Lawn Cemetery.

KOBE LORRAINE KELLIE WHAITIRI-WHITE
We are sending a butterfly to Heaven, with a parcel on its wings. Be careful when you open it, it's full of beautiful things. Inside are butterfly kisses wrapped up in butterfly 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 watch over us throughout our lives until we meet again.
P.S. See you at the wedding.
Love You, Mum

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

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

Unveilings

Unveilings

MARY-JANE WHITE
SATURDAY, March 6th, 2021 - 11am - at Taruheru Cemetery
Resting in Paradise
Nau Mai Haere Mai

TUHURA
The Whanau of Rongotangatake Tuhura who passed away on the 28th August 2018, welcome you to join us in remembering and paying tribute to Rongo.
A service and the unveiling of his headstone will be held at 11am at Hiruharama Marae and Huria Urupa on Saturday the 6th March.



Bereavements

FROM THE WHANAU OF JOHN ANTHONY CHEMIS

We extend our deep appreciation and gratefully thank whanau, friends, colleagues, past-students, neighbours, nga minita, for your kind support and comfort which came in many generous and thoughtful ways. Thank you to those who came to our home, who attended the service, and who travelled from afar to be with us. You all helped us at a most difficult time to have a beautiful tangi for John that acknowledged and celebrated his life in "true John fashion" with love and laughter. It will always be remembered by us.

Thank you Tolaga Bay Area School and Uawa whanau, Te Kura o Ritana, REAP Aotearoa, Tairawhiti REAP, Te Kura - Correspondence School, Hospice Tairawhiti, mo to manaaki me to tautoko.

Ka nui te mihi me te aroha ki a koutou katoa.

John - e aroha ana, e miharo ana matou, ki ta matou pou i nga wa katoa.

Maraea, Hamana, Whaimotu, nga mokopuna, and extended Craft and Chemis whanau

He is survived by his loving wife Ema Tuhura (nee Rickard), 5 tamariki and their whanau.



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CUDDELCOT WELCOMED AT GISBORNE HOSPITAL: A cuddlecot that allows grieving parents and whanau to spend extra time with their baby who has passed away was presented to Gisborne Hospital staff this week. Pictured are Hauora Tairawhiti staff (from left) Taina Ngarimu (Maori advisory), Mere Wawatai (kahui pakeke), Nicki Dever (women, children and youth services group manager), Ildi Merlini (midwife educator and acting midwife manager) with Annie Meredith (end of life Doula), and Olwyn and Graeme Black — the grandparents of baby Ollie who died 10 years ago.
Picture by Liam Clayton

A 'thoughtful gift' to help grieving parents

Cuddlecot allows whanau more time with baby who has passed

A FUNDRAISING campaign will help grieving parents of newborns who have passed away by providing the region's first "cuddlecot".

End of life doula (trained support person) and funeral celebrant Annie Meredith launched a Givealittle campaign to fund a cuddlecot for Gisborne Hospital after working with Gisborne couple Rae and Andrew Black, who lost their infant Ollie 10 years ago — just two days after he was born.

A cuddlecot allows whanau to spend time with their pepi (baby) and is used across the world in hospitals when babies die.

Several are in use in hospitals around New Zealand including Whakatane Hospital, Hutt Hospital and in Christchurch.

The cuddlecot pad provides a cooling system that fits inside the bassinet and allows parents to have more time with their baby. It can be used in the maternity ward after a baby dies, with the option of whanau also being able to take their baby home and use the cuddlecot for three to five days.

"They cost around \$5000. Ollie's page raised \$6500, so we have a start of \$1500 to fund a second one," Annie said.

"There is also equipment like a cooling blanket and cooling plate available for adults,

so the community may look at ways of bringing these into Tairawhiti to have even more options at the time of death.

"It is my hope there will be an organisation or individuals that will hear of this first cot being gifted here and see the value in

this resource, and be willing to fund the second cot to be gifted for up the Coast.

"Ollie's life, though short, was significant. His parents Rae and Andrew have appreciated all the kind donations to this important resource in recognition of Ollie and know the value of allowing parents to have time with their baby after death."

A cuddlecot is manufactured and imported from England and costs nearly \$5000, shipping inclusive.

"On behalf of Ollie's family and his parents Rae and Andrew, they thank all who gave to this cause," a family statement said.

Hauora Tairawhiti chief executive Jim Green welcomed the arrival of the cuddlecot, saying it was "such a thoughtful gift for our community".

"It will ease the burden of families/whanau at such a sad time.

"Thank you so much for being the organiser of this, and to each and every person who has contributed."

'What Anzac Day means to me'

Student speech contest winner to speak at dawn service

A SCHOOL student has the chance to speak at this year's Anzac Day dawn service if they win a RSA speech contest.

Gisborne RSA president Paul Bayly says a growing number of young Kiwis were attending Anzac Day dawn services and RSA members wanted to know why.

Any Gisborne or East Coast student aged between 12 and 15 is eligible to compose a speech of three minutes length on the subject What Anzac Day Means to Me.

The winner will present their speech at this year's dawn service at the

Cenotaph and earn a cash prize of \$500. There are also prizes for runner-up, \$200, and third place, \$150.

Mr Bayly said dawn service speeches in Gisborne featured young adults up until the late 1990s and the RSA was keen to return to the format.

"More young New Zealanders are attending the dawn service so we are confident of a good number of entries," he said. "So many know of their relatives who served in World War 1 or World War 2."

Mr Bayly is looking forward to commemorating Anzac Day this year. They missed out on Anzac Day

public commemorations last year because of the national Covid-19 lockdown. Many people instead marked it with virtual services.

Some districts have gone two years without a traditional Anzac Day service because police requested services not be held after the Christchurch mass shooting in March 2019.

"Fortunately, Gisborne police allowed us to proceed," said Mr Bayly.

Entries for the competition, sponsored by M.E. Jukes and Son Carriers, can be emailed to info@gisbornersa.co.nz.

Entries close on April 12 at 5pm.

Dung beetle seminar

FIND out how dung beetles can help increase on-farm production and improve stream health at an educational seminar on Wednesday (March 3) from 6.30pm at the Tairawhiti Environment Centre.

Dr Shaun Forgie of Dung Beetle Innovations NZ will share information about dung beetles.

Dung beetles offer the only on-pasture, self-sustaining solution to reducing surface run-off of contaminants, and improve water quality, soil health and pasture productivity.

Services provided by dung beetles exist the world over except for in New Zealand.

Proponents for dung beetles say New Zealand imported livestock, minus the dung beetle "clean-up crew", and ever since has paid the price with a loss off its soils, poor water quality and unsustainable farming practices.

However, there is the opportunity to balance the ecological frameworks that support livestock farming in New Zealand.

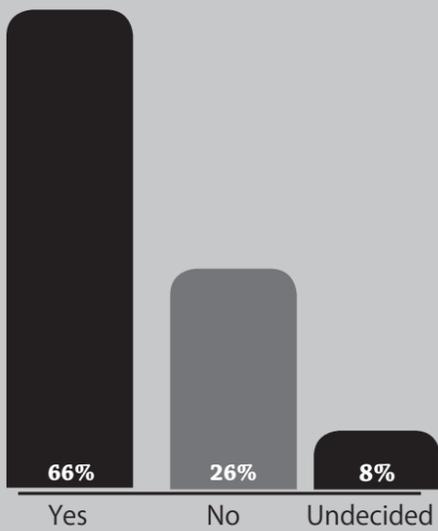
Dr Forgie will talk about the key benefits of dung beetles and how their addition to fencing and riparian planting will be a game-changer for long-term sustainable farming.

The impact of drenches on dung-feeding fauna will also be touched on.

ON THE WEB

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

Do you support the plans for development of Gisborne's port??



Yes: 167; No: 66; Undecided 21; Total: 254

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

Would you change banks if your bank closed its local branch?

Online polls are not scientific and reflect the opinions of only those internet users who have chosen to participate. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding

VOTE ONLINE: www.gisborneherald.co.nz

ON THE STREET

“How do you feel about Kiwibank proposing to close its Gisborne branch?”



SHYANNE APPLEBY:
“I feel sorry for the people who bank with them.”



PATRICK COOKE:
“We bank online so we'll be fine but a lot of people don't trust going online with their money.”



MEG HILLS:
“I'm disappointed with it. It's extremely helpful to be able to go into the bank and have a person to talk to if you have any issues.”



GAIL BOYNTON:
“They must have forgotten about all the older people who use the bank.”



LAWRENCE BOYNTON:
“A lot of the people making the decisions act like they're never going to get old.”



KEKIA PARATA:
“Disappointed they're closing. I think they should stay open.”



JOHN MALLEN:
“Any bank closing is a bad thing. We're beginning to lose the personal touch and I don't think a lot of elderly people trust being online only.”



LOIS HAULTI:
“Sad for our older whanau who normally use the banks. It probably wouldn't affect my partner who banks with them except for depositing cash for business.”



CHRISTINE:
“That's no good. I've been living in Australia for years and I've always kept my Kiwibank account.”



ALISTER JOHNSTONE:
“They're discriminating against older people. A lot of the people in our age bracket don't know how to use that technology.”

Proposed port plan finds support with most

AN overwhelming 65 percent of Herald poll respondents support the announced plan for the development of Gisborne's port.

The poll attracted 254 responses with 65.76 percent (167) supporting the development, 25.98 percent opposing (66) and 8.27 percent (21) were undecided.

Most supporters like the envisaged economic benefits, making comments such as:

- “An upgraded port is vital for this region.”
- “Our port is way too small. We need to allow more and bigger ships to enter the port.”
- “Anything that brings people willingly to work in this sad community is worth supporting.”

But even supporters of the development expressed reservations.

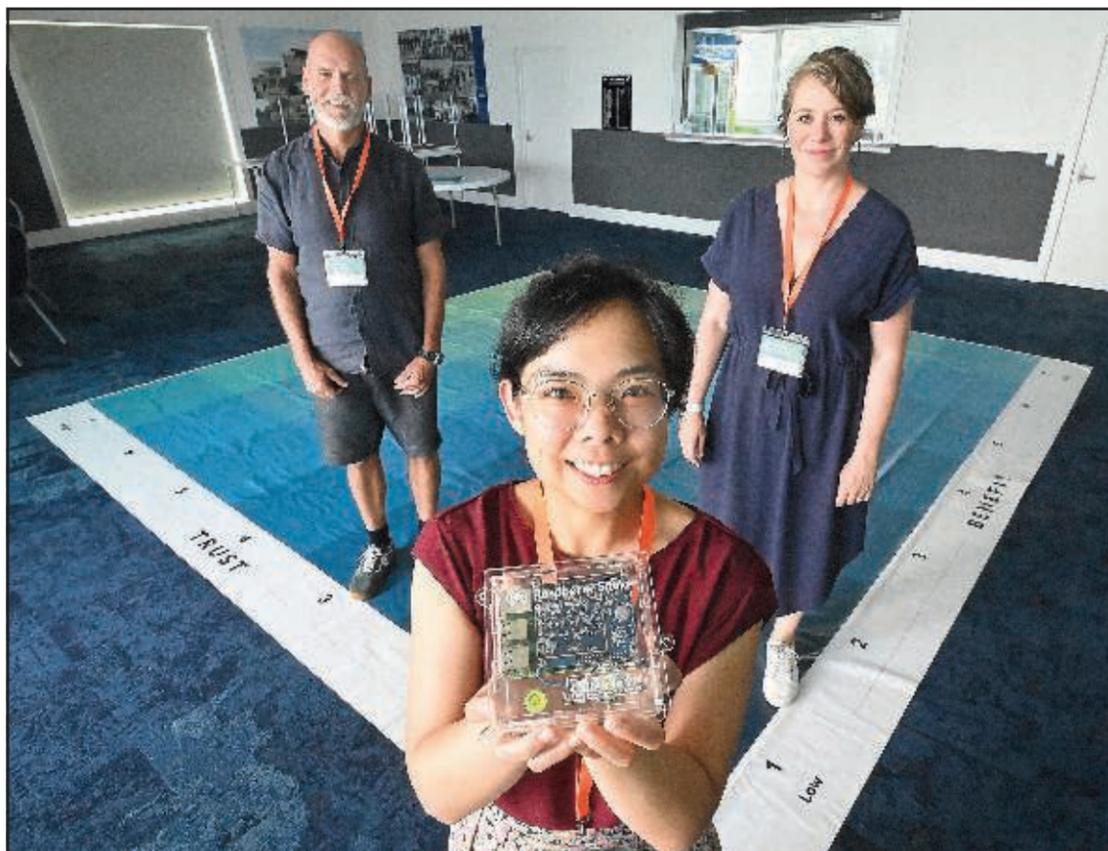
- “Where is the labour coming from to support 3000 jobs?”
- “But the port must initiate and drive heavy traffic access to the port.”
- “What effects will there be on the nearby reefs and channels at Kaiti Beach.”

Opposing comments included:

- “They cannot get 30 or so workers for horticulture, how on earth are they going to get 3000 (for the port)?”
- “Open up the rail line first, then see if the port development is needed.”
- “They said they wanted to keep cultural and environmental factors in mind. Well, too late for that. You stole the land, you blew up the rock, you continue to do so. All for economic gain. You are definitely anti-rail, making sure you can't use rail at the port. So dumb.”

SENSING: Dr Marion Tan from Massey University's Joint Centre for Disaster Research with one of the low-cost ground-motion sensors that could form part of an earthquake early warning system. Also pictured are Massey University Associate Professors Tim Parkin and Anna Brown, who assisted Dr Tan with a workshop at Waikanae Surf Lifesaving Club to assess interest in community engagement for such a system.

Picture by Liam Clayton



Local 'citizen scientists' keen on quake project

by Andrew Ashton

A WORKSHOP aimed at gauging Tairāwhiti residents' willingness to help out in a “citizen science” approach to a potential earthquake warning system has been hailed a success.

Researchers are conducting a project, co-funded by the Earthquake Commission (EQC) and Massey University, to source low-cost seismometers and work with communities to see if they would be willing to be part of a research project aiming to trial an earthquake early

warning sensor network.

Speaking after Thursday night's workshop at Waikanae Surf Life Saving Club, Dr Marion Tan from Massey University's Joint Centre for Disaster Research said the night went well.

“We had 18 participants in total for the workshop.”

“The workshop is part of a research project that is studying the feasibility of a community-engaged earthquake early warning (EEW) system that uses low-cost ground motion detection sensors.”

“The workshop is designed to

unpick participants' thoughts on their expectations, needs and concerns regarding EEW for Aotearoa New Zealand.

“One of the key things for me is that the participants have a good awareness of tsunami risks for Gisborne.”

“There is support for earthquake early warning but for it to be useful for the community here, the participants highlighted that it needs to be tied with tsunami warning.”

Further workshops are being held across New Zealand.

WARNING: Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has expressed her frustration over the latest Covid-19 cases heading out to work rather than staying at home and isolating as part of the Papatoetoe High School group and has reminded all New Zealanders to do the right thing.

NZ Herald picture



Ardern 'frustrated' over non-compliant contacts

by Jason Walls, NZ Herald

WELLINGTON — Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern is not hiding her frustration about the latest Covid-19 community case going to work when they should have been isolating at home.

Despite the fact that person — a family member of one of the Covid-19-positive Papatoetoe High School students — was told to stay home and isolate, they went to work at KFC Botany on Monday.

Asked if the person should have been at home at the time, Ardern said: "Yes, they should have".

"They were always told that they were not meant to be operating in an Alert Level 2 environment," she said of the new case.

"They were still required to stay at home and be tested."

When she learned that person, who the Ministry of Health is calling case L, had been at work, Ardern said she was, "like everyone, frustrated".

"We want people to do the right thing because that's what keeps everyone safe."

Despite this, she is warning against a "mass pile-on" of the person in question, as that might create an environment where people are too afraid to get tested.

She is asking for everyone who may have come into contact with the new case to "do the right thing" and isolate.

And if they don't, she is sounding a warning: "There is a section 70 order".

That order means a medical officer of health can oblige people to isolate.

"We have some legal footing for that . . . and there are repercussions," Ardern said.

She does not want it to come to this, but wants people to "do the right thing" and self-isolate if they meet the new isolation criteria.

"That is how the rest of the country is able to stay at Alert Level 1 with all their freedoms."

The new community case went to work at the Botany Downs KFC between 3.30pm on Monday, February 22 and 12.30am on Tuesday, February 23.

Some 11 KFC staff, who were at work at the same time as the new community case, are considered "close-plus" contacts.

That means they have to get a Covid-19 test and isolate for 14 days along with everyone in their household.

Any members of the public who were in the KFC between 3.30pm on Monday and 12.30am on Tuesday are considered close

'Time to show compassion'

AUCKLAND — An Auckland National Party MP says it is "unhelpful" and "counterproductive" for people on social media to point fingers at the family caught up in the latest Covid-19 community outbreak.

Health officials have discovered that two — now positive — cases of one family went to work and visited a vape store when they were supposed to be isolating at home.

The family also hosted a private home viewing. Botany MP Christopher Luxon said would-be critics should focus their efforts on keeping the virus at bay.

"We don't know the full facts of the situation, it is the Government and health officials that will be aware of all of those."

"At this point what we should be doing

is showing some compassion and some understanding, what we can focus on is what we can do and how we choose to respond to that."

Papatoetoe High School principal Vaughan Couillaud agrees saying the family at the centre of Auckland's latest Covid-19 cluster needs to be left alone to recover.

He is also urging people to be more compassionate.

"Until you know somebody's story, until you've walked in their shoes, you should not be so quick to judge."

"Those people making negative comments on social media need to stop because these people didn't get sick on purpose, this is not a deliberate effort by them to disadvantage everybody or be inconvenient." — RNZ

contacts and should isolate at home for 14 days and get a test.

And anyone who went through the KFC drive-thru during the same period should now be isolating at home until they return a negative test on day 5.

As the potential exposure was on Tuesday, day 5 is today. People are advised to get a test and remain in isolation until they have a confirmed negative result.

Ardern said the isolation measures went further than the usual practice.

"And that's for the very reason because that leaves the rest of the country able to stay at Alert Level 1."

A spokesperson for KFC said the Botany site had been operating under Alert Level 2.5 conditions during the times in question.

"As soon as we were notified, the store immediately closed for a deep clean and all staff that worked during this time have been asked to self-isolate and get tested."

The Covid-19-infected KFC worker is part of the now 12-strong Valentine's Day cluster.

They are a household contact of Case I, the Papatoetoe High School student who tested positive for the virus earlier this week, Case J, who had been at work at Kmart in Botany, and Case K, an infant sibling.

Case I was the first to test positive on Tuesday — the day after yesterday's case

went to work at KFC.

But advice from officials has been for all household contacts of all Papatoetoe High School students to remain at home until they had received a negative Covid-19 result — hence Ardern's frustration.

The family was yet to be tested as of Monday, February 22.

Despite this, Ardern remains confident the cluster is contained.

"This is a situation where we know the source of the cases (and) we know where there may have been contact with others," she said.

But she said contact tracing and "people's compliance" was crucial.

Meanwhile, health officials have broadened their net in the search for "close-plus" contacts at the Botany Kmart where case J worked.

This person was at work before advice was given for all household contacts of any Papatoetoe student to stay isolated.

There are now 32 close-plus members of staff — more than doubled from Thursday, when the number was 15.

All those people had been contacted and were self-isolating, the Ministry of Health said.

So far, 24 test results from the group had come back negative.

The Ministry of Health has been contacted by 1742 people who have reported being at the store at the times of interest.

BRIEFS

Shooting in Northcote

AUCKLAND — A person has been shot in an incident in Northcote, Auckland.

A person showed up at North Shore Hospital with a gunshot injury after 7pm last evening, a police spokesman said.

Police received multiple calls from members of the public in Northcote, saying they heard "multiple gun shots".

The person is currently in a stable condition and police are making inquiries on the circumstances of the shooting.

The shooting took place near Cadness Street and armed police have set up a cordon around Cadness Reserve, a park behind the Northcote Library.

A resident nearby told a photographer at the scene that she was in her apartment when she heard one loud bang.

She then came out on to the footpath to have a look and saw lots of people gathered in the park.

Police arrived shortly after and began questioning witnesses, she said.

Armed police were still standing guard in the neighbouring streets while the police Eagle helicopter was circling overhead. — NZ Herald

Child killed in crash

ROTORUA — A child has died in a crash overnight in Rerewhakaaitu.

Police have confirmed one person has died in the crash on State Highway 38.

Emergency services were called to a report of a vehicle that rolled on SH38 between Brett and Rerewhakaaitu roads at around 10pm, police said in a statement.

A child died at the scene. Four other people had a range of injuries and were taken to hospital.

The Serious Crash Unit attended and examined the scene.

An investigation into the cause of the crash is ongoing.

A spokeswoman for St John Ambulance said five patients were transported to Rotorua Hospital, all in a moderate condition. — RDP

Shot man was Aus deportee

AUCKLAND — The man shot dead by police during a standoff in Papatoetoe on Thursday night had been deported from Australia.

Police have identified him as Tangaru-Noere Turia, 34, who died in hospital after being critically wounded.

It emerged last night that Turia had been removed from Australia as a "501" deportee in 2017. The law allows for people convicted or suspected of crimes to be kicked out of the country.

He faced active criminal charges but police have not revealed them.

Superintendent Jill Rogers said police were called out at 5.47pm on Thursday after Turia fired at a neighbour's window on Avis Avenue.

The armed offenders squad and the Eagle helicopter responded and cordons were set up as police negotiated with Turia for hours.

Police said negotiations failed to resolve the situation and at about 8.24pm, Turia emerged unexpectedly from his house armed with a shotgun before he was shot three times. Rogers said Turia was repeatedly asked to drop the firearm but refused to do so.

It was the second fatal police shooting in the suburb in recent years. Hitesh Lal died last April after brandishing a machete, attacking houses and threatening locals.

"I've never seen anything like it," a resident near the intersection said. "The street was full of cop cars. New Zealand never used to be like this."

Another resident said he heard two or three shots at about 8.30pm and an ambulance went to Avis Avenue. "It was scary . . . as soon as the shots happened, the helicopter came in really close and was flying low around the houses."

It still wasn't clear why Turia shot at a neighbour's house. Rogers said police would have tried non-lethal force if possible but opened fire to ensure their safety and the community's.

She said the use of lethal force was a "worst-case scenario" for police.

The man's family and police involved were being supported. "We now have a family who have lost a loved one and we will do what we can to ensure they are well supported, along with Victim Support."

A critical-incident investigation was under way and the Independent Police Conduct Authority was notified.

"It's very scary, but unfortunately these things have been happening more frequently over the past couple of years," Otara-Papatoetoe local board chairman Lotu Fuli said. — NZ Herald

Minimising wastage

Health workers receive early vaccinations

by Elizabeth Binning, NZ Herald

AUCKLAND — Hundreds of medical staff received Covid jabs yesterday — a month earlier than they had been expecting — in order to use up expiring vaccinations.

The health workers, including doctors and nurses and many staff wearing Counties Manukau District Health Board uniforms, flocked to Waipuna Hotel yesterday after a surprise email on Thursday night advising they could now be vaccinated.

“We were expecting it at the end of March,” one excited doctor who works for a private clinic told The New Zealand Herald.

“It came through in an email last night. It came as a surprise really.”

The GP said getting the vaccination earlier than expected was great news as he felt it was a case of ‘the sooner the better’ for front-line health workers.

New Zealand’s border and MIQ workers are meant to be the first people vaccinated but the Ministry of Health said they can’t all be freed up at once so healthcare workers have now been offered the jabs to make sure they are not wasted.

A spokesman said one of the logistical challenges of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine was once a dose reaches above -70 degrees it only has five days before it expires, even when it’s kept in a fridge.

“The vaccine is a precious commodity and its special properties present challenges different from our usual vaccines,” he said.

“Our goal is to make our vaccination process as efficient as possible to ensure the best use of the vaccine available.”



WORKERS ON STANDBY: Health workers queued at Waipuna Hotel in Panmure yesterday to receive their early Covid-19 vaccinations. NZ Herald picture

In Auckland that means when a batch of vaccine is a day away from expiry, employers at MIQ, the airport and ports are asked if any of their workforce can be made available to get their jab within the next 24 hours, in addition to the scheduled vaccinations that day.

The immunisation team also asks the local DHBs for a standby list of front-line healthcare workers — including hospital staff, primary care, and community testing centre workforce — who can be individually invited to fill any remaining vaccination appointments at short notice.

“This approach enables Auckland DHB to keep appointment slots open for border and MIQ workers as long as possible but to also minimise any potential wastage of the vaccine.”

In Christchurch the immunisation team has a standby list of people within the MIF or Port facility who can be called in at short notice.

In Wellington the teams are addressing the same issue by over-booking for the vaccine appointments and the DHB is also looking at generating a standby appointment system.

Understaffing leads to long wait times

AUCKLAND — A lack of staff and a series of technical problems plagued Healthline on Tuesday night, meaning about 60 people had to wait more than six hours on the phone, a review has found.

Last night Aucklander Lisa-Marie told RNZ’s Checkpoint she had to wait almost eight hours on the phone to Healthline on Tuesday night so she could find out if her kids could still leave the school.

She had, for just six minutes, visited Kmart in Botany last Saturday. On Tuesday, it was announced a Covid-19 infected person had worked a shift there at that time, so Lisa-Marie did the right thing and called Healthline.

Her call was not answered until about 5.40am the next day, and her phone showed a call time of seven hours, 44 minutes.

Her experience elicited an apology last night from associate health minister Ayesha Verrall, who said it was not acceptable, and would be followed up.

Now, after a review ordered by the minister, the ministry has told RNZ that although 36 people were rostered on to work, it is not clear if they were all working and there were just five staff in the Auckland contact centre.

They were dealing with huge call volumes after the announcement of a new community case linked to Papatoetoe High School. Most of that day they had had average wait times of under a minute but that jumped to 36 minutes.

Healthline answered 3744 calls on Wednesday — most of which came between 7am and 11am and had an average wait time of 56 minutes.

The ministry said Healthline had since increased the number of staff they have rostered on by eight times and call wait times should be under 20 minutes. — RNZ

PM to get jab before public roll-out

by Claire Trevett, NZ Herald

WELLINGTON — PM Jacinda Ardern says she will get vaccinated before the roll-out to the public in the middle of the year, which could allow her to travel overseas again.

Some other countries leaders — including Australia’s PM Scott Morrison — were among the first to get vaccines, saying it was important to show the public they were confident in the safety of the vaccine.

But Ardern said it was important that New Zealand’s limited initial stock went to those who needed it most: the workers at the border and in managed-isolation facilities.

However, she told the Weekend Herald that she would not wait until the middle of the year, when the wider public roll-out begins.

“It didn’t feel right to me to be in that (first) cohort, but that doesn’t mean I’m going to wait until the middle of the year either.”

“I haven’t quite decided when it will be. There’s a balance for me, and being among the first didn’t feel right.”

Going ahead of the public roll-out would help set an example — Ardern has said scepticism and concern about the vaccine is one of the biggest challenges for the roll-out.

However, a vaccine will potentially allow Ardern to travel overseas again in the near future, and try to reinvigorate trade talks.

Her last trip was to Australia a year ago — where she found out New Zealand had its first case.

Ardern said the first trips would be trade-related, trying to get more momentum in negotiations with the EU and the United Kingdom, as well as the US where new President Joe Biden presented opportunities for New Zealand.

Ardern said the change in administration was another reason to go.

She had not considered whether to try to get to Glasgow in November for the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference — COP26.

The timing and order of any trips would depend on how easy it was to travel. However, global leaders are working on a “vaccine

passport” to try to open up travel again.

Last week, Covid-19 Response Minister Chris Hipkins said some Cabinet ministers would also get earlier vaccines, such as those whose portfolios related to Covid-19 such as Customs and Health.

The rollout will expand from MIQ and border workers to those in the health sector and vulnerable groups, such as the elderly, before the public starts getting vaccines around the middle of the year. It is expected to take a year after that to complete the roll-out — and it is likely annual vaccinations will be needed after that.



Jacinda Ardern

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Cook Islands ready for the green light

‘Hotels and resorts will be looking forward to getting business back to some sort of normality’

— Fletcher Melvin

by Amelia Wade, NZ Herald

WELLINGTON — Overseas holidays to the Cook Islands could be back as soon as next month.

Travel agents are already selling packages for the April school holidays. Once there is Government sign-off, Kiwis will be able to travel to the Cooks and back without so much as a Covid test.

But travel across the Tasman appears to be much further off. Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern is warning Kiwis to expect a quarantine-free arrangement to be turned “on and off”.

Flights to the Cook Islands are also expected to take time to ramp up, meaning Kiwi travellers could be locked in fierce competition to get their hands on a ticket to a tropical holiday.

Cook Islands private sector taskforce chairman Fletcher Melvin said work on meeting the New Zealand Government’s requirements for a travel corridor was in its final stages.

One condition is for the country to have a Covid test-processing centre because it would take too long to send samples to New Zealand.

Construction on the lab is set to be completed by the end of March and a technician is due to arrive soon.

“It’s the final thing New Zealand wanted us to put in place,” Melvin said.

“And then we will have done everything possible, so then it’s up to New Zealand to give us the go-ahead.”

Another requirement is to have a contact-tracing app. The Cook Islands has one under development, which is compatible with New Zealand’s Covid Tracer app.

Melvin said the last of the Cook Islands’ government subsidies would run out in June so businesses were desperate to lure Kiwi tourists back to the islands.

“We’re really excited and itching to get this done. We have been trying to get it for some time and certainly all the hotels and resorts will be looking forward to getting business back to some sort of normality.”

House of Travel and Flight Centre are already offering holidays to Rarotonga, including packages for the school holidays which start on April 17.

The Government would not confirm when two-way quarantine-free travel would resume, just that it would happen when “conditions allow” and protocols were in place.

Passengers from the Cook Islands have been able to travel to New Zealand quarantine-free since the end of January but the Government is concerned about the risk of travellers taking Covid there.

Travel Agents Association NZ president Brent Thomas said he expected huge interest from Kiwis hankering for the chance to travel overseas and redeem their Air New Zealand credits, along with those with family in the islands.



TRAVEL BUBBLE ON THE WAY: Cook Islanders are eagerly awaiting the New Zealand Government’s permission to allow tourists to return. NZ Herald picture

But don’t expect flights to be cheap at first.

It would take time for airlines to ramp up flight schedules, with cheaper prices only coming once multiple carriers begin flying the route, Thomas said.

“It is a game of competition and the more you have flying, the better it is for the New Zealand consumer,”

he said.

Previously, Jetstar, Virgin and Air NZ flew from New Zealand to the Cook Islands, but all would now have to assess the current economic viability.

One of the financial limitations was a lack of cargo on return flights out of the islands, Thomas said.

Limited tourism capacity in the Cook Islands — a popular but small

market that previously accounted for about 3 percent of outbound travel from New Zealand — could also limit the number of Kiwis able to fly there, he said.

Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch international airports all said they were ready and waiting for safe-zone travel to be given the green light.



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IN THE WRONG PLACE: The planned memorial for the Erebus disaster, set to be erected in Dove Myer Robinson Park in Parnell, has been met with strong opposition. Pictures supplied



Maori leader opposes Erebus 'monstrosity'

by Anne Gibson, NZ Herald

AUCKLAND — A prominent Maori leader, opposing the about-to-be-built national Erebus memorial, is vowing to take action to stop it, saying the land has significance for iwi and consultation with tangata whenua was inadequate.

Maori Heritage Council member Dame Rangimarie Naida Glavish (Ngati Whatua) and several kaumatua oppose the memorial in Parnell's Dove-Myer Robinson Park near the former Mataharehare Pa site.

Glavish said communication with local Maori had been unclear, work posed threats to a 180-year-old pohutukawa, views would be blocked and the park had no association with the tragedy.

"I question the validity of the information given to Orakei marae for approval," she said referring to the Ministry for Culture and Heritage Manatu Taonga saying Ngati Whatua Orakei expressed support for the project in 2018.

"We have spoken to kaumatua who live in Okahu Bay and live next to Mataharehare who are not happy with

what will be a huge monstrosity that looks like a flight path in the middle of a park," Glavish said.

In November, Waitemata Local Board granted landowner approval for the \$3.5 million Te Paerangi Ataata — Sky Song and work is expected to begin next week but Glavish said it was not too late to stop it.

"It's never too late. No one is going to tell me that pohutukawa — it's like standing next to an ancestor — is not going to be affected. It will affect branches and they will have to cut some of the roots and what for? A memorial to Erebus that happened how many years ago and Mataharehare has nothing to do with Erebus at all," she said.

"It's the wrong place. I'm not saying it should not be built because families and whanau still remember it but why there? You stand there and that memorial will



Dame Naida Glavish

block the vision of the Waitemata and Rangitoto," she said.

Asked about Glavish's stand, local board chairman Richard Northey said it was up to the ministry when work started: "They have not told us. I doubt it would be as early as Monday".

The ministry said Naylor Love construction would start in the first week of March and run until mid-October.

The ministry acknowledged that the park site was "in the vicinity of two known archaeological sites: Mataharehare Pa on the northern end of Campbells Point, destroyed when the headland was cut down in 1910s/20s and Sir John Logan Campbell's former residence Kilbryde House, demolished in 1924".

A number of iwi have associations with the area, the ministry said.

Paul Baragwanath, independent art and cultural adviser, said work would start on Monday. He backed Glavish's views and said a memorial seat dedicated to his grandfather Owen, was in the park.

An information session is planned on-site tomorrow to show the proposed structure, he said. It will start with a karakia led by Ngati Whatua.

Southland school under fire after claim of blackface

by Abbey Palmer, Otago Daily Times

INVERCARGILL — An Invercargill woman is calling for Southland Boys' High School to change one of its house colours after pupils were seen dressed in blackface and afro wigs at their sports day.

"I was pulling into a park when I saw one of them and thought, 'Oh my gosh'."

"When I got out of the car, I saw about 20 of them painted black, some wearing those black clown wigs that look like afros," the woman, who wanted to remain anonymous, said.

SBHS held its annual sports day event on Thursday. Hundreds of pupils dressed up in their house colours, including Pearce House, which is represented by the colour black.

SBHS board of trustees chair Jan Ormsby yesterday apologised on behalf of the school and said it had a "zero tolerance for racism".

"We sincerely apologise for the harm or offence that has been caused by any students wearing blackfaces on sports day," Ormsby said.

"It is not appropriate, and we consider it to be offensive."

The woman who complained wondered if the pupils understood the significance of their costume choice and how culturally insensitive it was.

"It makes you think about what they're teaching them about our country's history."

She argued while pupils from other house groups also wore body paint, it was not the same as impersonating people of colour.

"There's a loaded history that comes with dressing like that."

When she visited the school's website yesterday, she was "pretty shocked" to find an image from a previous sports day, understood to be from about eight years ago.

Some pupils were wearing flax skirts, while others held sticks and had leopard-print material wrapped around them.

Ormsby said pupils painted their bodies and faces at every sports day.

However, it was 2021, and while the school had a "traditional heart", it was committed to adapting to "the modern world".

The school planned to work with its wider community on appropriate ways to "build the culture" of its houses and have discussions with its young men about racism.

Pupils involved in any "inappropriate behaviour" would be reprimanded and educated to understand the effects of their actions.

Good weather looks set to stick around despite change of season

TOMORROW is the last day of summer, but the temperatures will remain hot after the season ends.

In Auckland and Christchurch there will be a high of 25 degrees today and tomorrow, and Wellington isn't looking too shabby either, with highs in the early 20s over the weekend.

Metservice said the country would wrap up summer with a moist final few days, making nights muggy and warm.

Meteorologist Alwyn Bakker said for most people, moisture meant a reasonable risk of showers in inland areas, particularly in the South Island.

Down south, Dunedin is looking at a warm weekend, sitting at a high of 21 degrees on both days, and the sun is also shining on Queenstown, which is in for highs of 24 degrees over the weekend.

Bakker said there were a couple more good days left for the North Island because of a ridge

of high pressure that has been consistent for the past week and had been keeping away a lot of rain.

"That's gradually starting to break away and move off to the east and is letting more frontal systems come through so there has been some rain for the South Island." — NZ Herald

Waikeria inmates plead not guilty

HAMILTON — Seventeen inmates charged with causing major damage at Waikeria Prison last month have all pleaded not guilty.

The men, who are jointly charged with rioting, burglary using a weapon, and wilfully setting fire to property and endangering life, appeared in the Hamilton District Court yesterday.

A major building at the King Country prison, known as the Top Jail was destroyed by fire after inmates took to the roof and held up the facility for six days.

Sixteen of the men appeared via video link, while one, who required significant security around him, appeared in person.

A small group of supporters made a brief appearance in the public gallery to



support the man who appeared in person.

Most of the men were granted interim name suppression. The ones that can be named are: Peter Te Hau, Taimana Soames and Ian Larkins.

All elected trial by jury and were remanded in custody until early May.

— RNZ



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Police softness claim 'wrong'

'We are doing more to target organised crime than we ever have'

WELLINGTON — Police Commissioner Andrew Coster says attacks on police by National MP Simon Bridges have no factual basis.

Bridges has made several pointed attacks on Coster over gang numbers, policing with consent, and police pursuits.

The debate heated up at Select Committee on Thursday, when Bridges opened with a challenging question to Coster.

"Commissioner, do police still arrest criminals in New Zealand?"

Coster told Morning Report there was "no basis for that narrative".

"We are doing more to target organised crime and criminals than we ever have in the past.

"Last year we seized more firearms, restrained more assets, and laid more charges for dealing, manufacture and importation than . . . in the year before," Coster said.

Last week on Twitter, Bridges described Coster as a "wokester commissioner" whose approach to gang and gun violence was too soft.

Coster said police continued to use existing tactics, but were adding new measures that might be seen as "softer".

"We are doing the same old things we have always done: Search warrants, the use of criminal informants, the things we know make a difference to



NEW MEASURES: Police Commissioner Andrew Coster (inset above) has refuted claims from National MP Simon Bridges (inset below) that the NZ Police no longer arrest criminals. NZ Herald file pictures

get inside the operation of these groups.

"What we are adding to what we have always done is working in communities to try to build resilience to organised crime.

"Where we have an endless supply of young men willing to join these groups, we have to look at that side of it.

"Why is it that gangs can

thrive particularly in some communities and what needs to shift for it to be less like that, so we can have less of this problem in the future?"

Both Bridges and National Party leader Judith Collins have used gang numbers recorded by police to criticise the growth of gangs in New Zealand.

Coster said the gang numbers

the National Party quoted were created for intelligence purposes and were not intended as accurate statistics.

"They are context for our people when they're working, as we know gang association can reflect increased risk that someone might be in possession of a firearm or a weapon. It's useful for that reason and for

investigative purposes but it's not particularly useful as a statistic."

Police often knew when people joined gangs, but not when they left them, he said.

Nevertheless, Coster admitted gang numbers were increasing. "We have seen gangs created particularly through the return of offenders from Australia.

"Those new gangs have established in areas where old gangs have existed for some time and that's led to a tension that has played out in the form of increased violence between those groups."

Bridges said police often failed to turn up at scenes where gangs posed a threat.

"What does policing by consent mean . . . when Mongols take over a road and are there, because it seems to me . . . what it actually means is you don't show up," Bridges said.

Coster said it was "completely wrong" to suggest police would not enter scenes of gang conflict.

"We're very actively involved in responding to gang violence — that's why we have launched Operation Tauwhiro, which has, at its heart, the disruption and focus on groups that are using that violence."

In the next two years, 400 extra staff would be brought into the police unit tackling organised crime, Coster said.

— RNZ

Costly Christchurch quake

CHRISTCHURCH — The Canterbury earthquakes are by far the most costly insurance events in New Zealand history.

The Reserve Bank has released a report which says property insurance claims in the disasters cost about \$38 billion.

The paper shows a mix of sources have funded earthquake claims. Existing reinsurance has funded the largest proportion at 72 percent.

Ten insurers required post-event funding, provided through a combination of after-the-event reinsurance and additional capital.

The report said there was greater assurance for funding of future disasters as the Reserve Bank required insurers to have "reinsurance and capital" to

cover claims of a one-in-a-1000-year earthquake.

"The 2010-11 Canterbury earthquakes are by far the most costly insurance event in New Zealand's history and remain one of the most significant globally."

The report found the experience provided lessons for dealing with future catastrophic events.

"While there are additional funding sources for catastrophic events besides reinsurance, these are generally

constrained and not always effective.

"For large and unique catastrophic events, it is difficult to accurately estimate expected claims costs and the uncertainty in those costs, and these difficulties can persist for several years."

There was greater assurance for funding of future disasters as the Reserve Bank required insurers to have "reinsurance and capital" to cover claims of a one-in-a-1000-year earthquake.

Swimming ban lifted from lake

TUTIRA — The permanent swimming ban for Lake Tutira has been lifted.

Hawke's Bay Regional Council water quality scientist Andy Hicks said improvements in land management among other factors have contributed to improved water quality to the point where people can swim in the lake.

"While the permanent ban on swimming has lifted, we do advise that people check the health of the lake before they go for a swim.

"There is still the risk of algal blooms or faecal contamination in the future, particularly after rainfall. What has changed is our ability to put out real-time warnings." — NZ Herald

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LOCALS HELPING LOCALS FOR 25 YEARS

Real estate agents under fire for not repaying wage subsidies

AUCKLAND — Real estate agents are under fire for failing to repay millions of dollars in wage subsidies, despite record property prices and a booming market.

Checkpoint can reveal more than \$13 million was paid out to the real estate industry. Auckland-based Barfoot and Thompson received \$4 million alone.

As Covid-19 slammed into New Zealand's economy, many feared the housing market would tank. Alert Level 4 lockdown cancelled property viewings and most sales ground to a halt, with agents and their colleagues accessing the wage subsidy to get by.

Those costs reached more than \$13 million for

various businesses.

Many suffered significant financial loss, Real Estate Institute chief executive Bindi Norwell said. "This was available for businesses across New Zealand if they could provide evidence they had suffered financial loss."

Some of the biggest claims in the real estate industry were from the biggest players — Barfoot and Thompson receiving more than \$4 million for 600 employees.

Property Brokers Limited received \$1.9 million, Bayleys Real Estate got \$1.4 million, and Eves Realty received nearly \$560,000.

However, many real estate agents are self-employed and earn commission, so exactly how

each payout has worked is different.

"There's no one-size-fits-all, so it will depend on how their structures work, whether they have a franchise, a head office, a branch, whether they had salaried individuals versus agents who are commission-based," Norwell said.

"It depends on so many factors."

While many of those employees met the wage subsidy criteria of a predicted or experienced 30 percent drop in revenue, the fears about a tanking housing market never eventuated.

In fact, house sales are hotter than they've been in years. In September 2020 there were more houses sold than in the previous 42 months. In January 2021, house prices were up 12.8 percent

on a year earlier — the highest annual growth rate since March 2017.

"Given the benefit of the doubt, when they applied for the subsidy in the beginning perhaps they anticipated their incomes were going to drop dramatically," University of Auckland business ethics expert Professor Tim Dare told Checkpoint.

Professor Dare said the wage subsidy scheme had to be rolled out with a certain level of trust in order to get support to people quickly.

"So it's particularly disappointing that having been given an opportunity to act appropriately, to show themselves to be trustworthy, some industries have basically, bluntly I think, been greedy." — RNZ

CONTINUOUS DISCLOSURE

Good results season fails to buoy NZ market, dry summer worries energy sector

by Tamsyn Parker, NZ Herald

AUCKLAND — The reporting season has produced a better than expected set of results from many companies, yet the NZX50 index has continued to slide.

The index is hovering around correction territory — classified as a 10 percent fall — while other markets around the world remain strong.

Stephen Bennie, of Castle Point Funds, said there were two parts to the story when it came to the index fall.

One part is stock-specific declines, while the other is the overall theme of inflation, making New Zealand's dividend-heavy market appear much less attractive to overseas investors.

Bennie said about 2.5 percentage points of the index fall was attributable to the energy companies — Meridian, Contact, Mercury and Genesis — which make up a large part of the index.

"Meridian is down 20 percent, Contact 14 percent and Mercury and Genesis both 10 percent. That is a lot for the index to cope with."

The reason for the falls was that global clean energy exchange traded funds, which had been strong buyers of Mercury and Contact shares in the last month, have more recently been selling.

Outside of the energy companies, Fisher & Paykel Healthcare has also weighed the index down. After a strong run last year, buoyed by huge demand for its products through the Covid outbreak, the stock has fallen of late as vaccine roll-outs point to what is hopefully the beginning of the end for the pandemic.

Bennie said Auckland International Airport's result last week had also put a downer on the index.

"Reporting season has been pretty good for most companies, apart from the tourism companies."

Investors have been disappointed by the fact that a transtasman bubble no longer seems likely to happen in the first half of this year.

Inflation pressure

The second major issue hanging over the New Zealand sharemarket is the expectation of rising inflation, thanks to the huge amount of stimulus that has been pumped into economies around the world.



SLIDING INDEX: The New Zealand sharemarket has fallen out of favour with overseas investors amid concerns around rising inflation. NZ Herald file picture

Last year low interest rates saw overseas investors pile into New Zealand companies which pay high dividends.

Bennie said overseas investors typically owned about 25 to 35 percent of New Zealand shares but that had risen to more than 50 percent.

But now there are experts pointing to inflation ahead, New Zealand's dividend-paying shares are looking comparatively less attractive.

"The market is having a bit of a pivot." Bennie said that meant the New Zealand market's tailwind had effectively gone, leaving it becalmed.

"We have been left a bit high and dry." Whether the slump will continue is not easily predicted. Bennie said there had been similar scenarios before over the past 30 years, where economists predicted high inflation but it had never eventuated. "But there is certainly renewed expectation."

Inflation-proofing

Sam Dickie, New Zealand equities manager at Fisher Funds, said the market was super focused on nascent inflation.

"The market is pricing in inflation expectations for the next five years at the

highest level since 2013. Five minutes ago it feels like we were in a deflationary recession and now we are pricing inflation at the highest in eight years."

He said the rise in interest rates "means our market is underperforming sharply".

Dickie said that meant Fisher Funds was looking for companies with pricing power — the ability to lift prices in line with or more than inflation, to maintain or improve their margins.

He said Xero was a good example of that. "If you look at the last three or four years globally, they have increased their prices by around three times as much as local inflation."

Another one was Vista Group, which had CPI increases built into many of its contracts.

"It is those sort of companies we are looking for in this environment."

He said staying away from the dividend-heavy New Zealand market was also a way to protect against inflation.

Dry horrors

Genesis Energy chief executive Marc England says the electricity generators are facing a challenging energy crunch this year.

"We have got a shortage of water in the lakes; we are in the lower quartile for hydro levels this time of year based on historical averages. It is particularly dry in the South Island. We have got a declining gas infrastructure, declining production from fields across New Zealand and we are facing into that and have high wholesale prices as a result."

But he says it is times like this where Genesis steps up with the Huntly power station to help fill the gap.

"But we are keeping a watchful eye on it. I think things are looking drier than what we would like for the sector and that brings with it a number of risks and opportunities and we will manage through them as best we can."

Huntly conundrum

Climate change means New Zealand is likely to continue having drier summers, so Huntly may have to be called on to fill the gap, but running the station goes counter to Government plans to make New Zealand carbon neutral.

Genesis is working on alternatives to the coal-fired station. Its Waipipi wind farm in south Taranaki will be up to full capacity next month and a second phase will bring a further 1350GWh of renewable electricity to the market by 2024.

England said it was really positive that there was enough potential in New Zealand to supply more renewable power into the system.

"But we are also arguing, we will get up to about 93, 95 percent renewable in the next few years in New Zealand but we don't really have a solution for that dry-year risk and it provides that backup."

"So we believe, as probably the lowest cost and most economically simple way to ensure a stable electricity system, and enable other sectors to decarbonise with electricity, which ultimately is New Zealand's biggest opportunity in the near term. We are going to keep making that case."

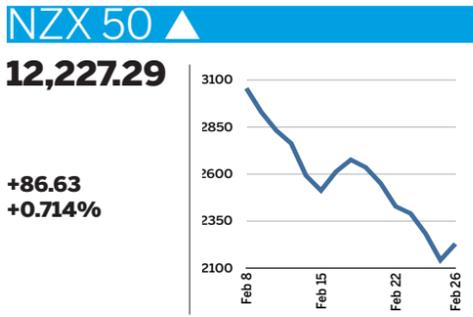
In the meantime, England says Genesis has signed up to removing at least 1.2 million tonnes of annual carbon emissions over the next five years as part of its commitment to the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) international benchmark of limiting global warming to below 1.5C by 2025.

SHAREMARKET YESTERDAY	
<p>WELLINGTON — End-of-the-month portfolio rebalancing drove the New Zealand sharemarket higher after spending most of the day in negative territory.</p> <p>The S&P/NZX50 index finished up 0.7 percent, at 12,227.29, after being down by about 1 percent earlier in the session. Turnover came to 104.5m shares worth \$397.8m, with 35 rises and 114 falls.</p> <p>Interest rates were the key driver for most of the day, with the high proportion of dividend-paying yield stocks bearing the brunt of selling.</p> <p>Mark Lister, head of private wealth research</p>	<p>at Craigs Investment Partners, said a late buying surge, driven by portfolio rebalancing, had taken the market into the black.</p> <p>Lister, noting the local market has fallen further than most, said bargain hunting could also have been a factor. The S&P/NZX50 had fallen 6.9 percent over the month of February — its worst month since 2009, aside from its 13 percent plunge last March as the border closed and the country went into lockdown.</p> <p>Lister said investors had been spooked by the speed of interest rate rises, even though they were still very low by past standards.</p>
<p>A2 Milk staged a rebound, gaining 35c or 3.75 percent to \$9.69 after a sharp selloff after its half-year result on Thursday.</p> <p>Tourism Holdings, which has been hit hard by Covid-19 border closures, gained 6c or 2.7 percent to \$2.25.</p> <p>"For a company that is under all sorts of pressure, it has actually done a great job working its way through it, as has the Port of Tauranga, with all the supply chain issues around the world," Lister said.</p> <p>Lister said the market's soft month did not "marry up" with the company reporting season, "which has actually been pretty good".</p> <p>Contact finished the day well off its lows at \$6.84, down 3c, but off January's peak of \$10.75.</p>	<p>Meridian recovered by 14c or 2.5 percent to \$5.70, but was still a far cry from the month's high of \$9.40.</p> <p>Agribusiness stock Scales Group fell by 10c or 3 percent to \$4.60 after reporting a steady profit for the 2020 year but warning the current year's earnings could come under downward pressure. F&P Healthcare rebounded — gaining 49c or 1.7 percent to \$29.25.</p> <p>Fonterra units eased 1c to \$5.02 but at current levels the stock is at its highest point since September 2018.</p> <p>The units have been the second highest performing stock in the year to date, gaining 14 percent, after Skellerup which has gained 17 percent. — NZ Herald</p>

SHAREMARKET

WEEKLY ROUND-UP

MONDAY-TO-FRIDAY OFFICIAL MARKET STATISTICS



TOP 10 TURNOVER	
Share name	Shares
PushpayHld	34,905,500
Sky Network	20,135,500
AuckAirport	14,858,600
Spark NZ	14,538,600
Meridian Energy	14,057,800
Contact Energy	12,878,700
a2 Milk	12,289,700
Air NZ	11,689,000
New Talisman	10,433,800
	10,075,000

TOP 10 VALUE	
Share name	Dollars (000)
Fishr&Paykl Health	156,896,300
a2 Milk	121,980,800
AuckAirport	106,672,700
Contact Energy	88,859,900
Meridian Energy	79,119,700
Spark NZ	67,764,900
PushpayHld	58,143,900
Infratil	42,032,800
Fletcher Building	41,767,500
Ryman Health	35,504,800

BIGGEST 10 RISES	
Share name	Percentage
Vista Group	13.3333
AuckAirport	11.8519
AMP	8.2759
PGG Wrightson	6.9277
Skellerup	5.4762
Fonterra	5.4622
SKYCITYEnt	5.1903
Solution Dynam	4.918
Fonterra Shrhlds Unts	4.8017
Gentrack Grp	4.6358

BIGGEST 10 FALLS	
Share name	Percentage
Metro Perf Glass	14.6067
Third Age Health	14.4444
Plexure	13.4021
a2 Milk	13.2498
Fishr&Paykl Health	11.2291
NZ Refining Co	9.8039
ikeGPS Grp	9.434
AFT Pharm	8.0786
Smartpay	7.8125
Foley Wines	7.50

NZX 10	
12,092.71	
+95.36 +0.795%	

MIDCAP	
34,180.44	
+229.40 +0.676%	

SMALLCAP	
83,002.41	
-1,870.36 -2.204%	

NZX All	
13,317.27	
+82.00 +0.62%	

New Zealand

	Last Price	Weekly Move	52-week High	52-week Low	NTA	Dividend CPS	Yld%	P/E Ratio
A-C	.00	-	.00	.00	.00	-	-	-
Accordant Group Ltd	1.40	-0.01	1.84	.91	-0.36	.14	-	9.46
AFT Pharm	4.21	-0.37	5.65	3.09	-0.01	.03	-	105.42
Air NZ	1.59	+0.07	2.30	.80	.97	-	-	-
AlliedFarms	.52	-0.01	.82	.42	.37	.05	3.21	9.91
AMP	1.57	+0.12	2.10	1.14	1.13	.05	6.87	28.59
ANZ	28.08	-0.39	29.00	14.50	21.67	1.36	2.56	20.58
ArborGen	.17	-0.01	.19	.12	.13	.01	-	13.01
Argosy	1.49	-	1.60	.74	1.41	.05	4.65	29.16
Arvida	1.70	-0.11	1.86	.88	1.32	.07	3.18	23.35
Asset Plus Ltd	.34	-0.00	.60	.29	.51	-0.03	5.06	-
AuckAirport	7.55	+0.80	8.25	4.26	4.53	.05	-	141.15
Auckland Real Estate Trust	.79	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Aus Found	7.59	-0.05	8.27	4.90	7.14	.15	3.41	48.5
Bankers Inv	20.95	-0.60	22.05	14.10	20.80	.91	2.02	22.88
Barramundi	.98	+0.02	1.00	.44	.80	.15	5.70	6.48
BLIS Tech	.06	-	.09	.04	.00	.00	-	37.69
Briscoe Corp	5.38	-0.37	5.91	2.35	1.07	.28	3.87	19.19
Burger King	.40	-0.00	.61	.24	.16	.00	-	67.88
Cannasouth	.53	-0.03	1.48	.35	.11	-0.03	-	-
Carbon Fund	1.38	+0.01	1.56	.90	1.35	-0.15	-	-
Cavalier Corp	.38	+0.01	.44	.16	.40	-0.23	-	-
CDL Inv	1.05	-0.03	1.09	.66	.92	.10	4.63	9.76
Chatham Rock	.14	+0.02	.25	.08	.16	-0.01	-	-
Chorus	7.89	-0.16	9.39	5.54	1.41	.10	4.22	76.93
City of Lond Inv	7.04	-	8.22	5.65	6.86	-1.07	5.31	-
Colonial Motor	8.80	-0.30	9.14	4.98	6.96	.81	5.05	10.85
Comvita	3.25	+0.01	4.63	1.54	2.43	.10	-	30.27
Contact Energy	6.84	-0.27	11.16	4.54	2.89	.20	7.12	34.15
Cooks Glob Fds	.04	-0.00	.06	.03	.00	-0.00	-	-
D-F	14.40	-0.36	15.82	6.39	4.14	.72	1.64	19.81
Delegat Group	28.45	-0.65	30.00	18.42	-0.79	1.13	2.99	25.03
EBOS Group	1.06	+0.02	1.20	.58	.17	.11	1.89	9.58
Enprise Group	4.20	-0.02	5.47	1.80	.62	.03	-	133.9
EROAD Ltd	1.28	-0.05	1.50	.40	.06	.05	-	23.64
EvolveEdu	29.25	-3.70	37.89	21.10	1.87	.68	1.50	42.92
Fisher&Paykl Health	6.46	+0.02	6.70	3.05	3.00	-0.19	1.86	-
Fletcher Building	1.85	+0.15	2.13	1.35	1.78	.10	2.25	17.98
Fonterra	5.02	+0.26	5.05	3.41	2.77	.42	1.00	11.8
Fonterra Shrhlds Unts	5.02	+0.23	5.05	3.41	3.82	-	1.00	-
Fonterra & Colonial	14.90	-0.27	15.68	10.10	16.11	2.39	1.53	6.23
Freightways	10.60	-0.26	11.20	4.50	-0.88	.24	1.97	43.01
G-L	.06	-0.00	.12	.05	.03	.00	-	67.18
General Capital Ltd	3.49	-0.05	4.00	1.99	1.45	.08	6.45	40.48
GenesisEgy	1.58	+0.07	2.10	.76	-0.01	-0.32	-	-
Gentrack Grp	.08	-0.00	1.02	.00	-0.01	-	-	-
GEO	.51	-	.57	.34	.34	.06	5.39	7.46
GFNZ Grp Ltd Ord	.07	+0.00	.14	.04	-0.67	-0.11	-	-
Good Spirits Ltd	2.20	+0.02	2.52	1.84	1.82	.15	3.16	14.26
Goodman Prop Tst	1.05	+0.01	1.26	.99	-0.03	.10	-	9.8
Green Cross Health	7.21	-0.56	7.85	1.80	1.45	.46	7.51	15.48
Hallenstein Glasson	2.25	-0.10	3.75	2.25	.76	-	-	-
Heartony Corp Limited	1.89	-	1.96	.89	1.12	.13	1.84	14.41
Hortland Grp Holding	6.45	-0.26	7.29	5.55	6.06	-0.70	7.05	-
Hendrsn Far East	.96	-0.10	1.23	.48	.16	-0.06	-	-
ikeGAS Grp	7.36	+0.08	7.90	3.00	3.27	.31	2.92	23.49
Infratil	2.17	-0.04	2.29	1.35	1.93	.33	4.07	6.46
Investore	7.40	-0.23	8.75	4.99	7.52	.37	3.44	19.82
JPMorg GlobGrth	.90	-0.04	1.11	.36	.03	.03	3.40	25.53
Just Life Group	1.28	-0.02	2.19	.48	.14	.01	-	76.18
Kathmandu	1.89	-0.04	2.13	1.05	1.83	.28	7.17	6.6
Kingfish	1.19	-0.02	1.49	.74	1.29	-0.10	2.56	-
M-O	65.80	-2.31	70.00	24.00	7.02	1.71	1.35	38.3
Mainfreight	1.31	-	1.32	.69	1.18	.23	6.29	5.67
Marlin Global	6.30	-0.25	6.65	5.34	3.36	.15	3.53	39.82
Marsden Mari	.61	+0.01	.61	.17	.05	.00	-	985.01
MarWineEst	.07	-0.00	.16	.06	.01	-	-	-
Me Today	6.05	-0.35	7.60	3.59	2.65	.18	3.63	32.45
Mercury NZ	5.70	-0.10	9.94	3.61	1.87	.08	4.38	68.9
Meridian Energy	.38	-0.06	.46	.15	.13	-0.42	-	-
MHM Automation Limited	.67	-0.02	.75	.15	-0.01	.01	-	51.06
Michael Hill	.74	+0.01	.82	.23	.45	.04	2.08	15.72
Millennm&Copthrn	2.25	+0.04	2.47	1.72	4.70	.43	4.63	5.16
Moa Ord Shrs	.16	-0.03	.26	.09	.16	-0.02	-	-
Napier Port	3.43	+0.05	3.90	2.51	1.73	.11	2.02	31.15
New Talisman	.00	-0.00	.00	.00	.00	-0.00	-	-
NZ Automotive	1.30	-	1.30	1.30	-	-	-	-
NZ King Salmn	1.44	-0.09	2.04	1.29	1.04	-0.05	1.93	-
NZ Oil & Gas	.46	-0.01	.75	.43	.61	-0.20	-	-
NZ Refining Co	.46	-0.05	1.22	.45	1.74	-0.63	-	-
NZ Rural Land Company	1.13	-0.02	1.31	1.10	1.20	-	-	-
NZME Ltd	.83	-0.06	.93	.17	-0.09	.07	-	11.22
NZX Limited	1.93	-0.09	2.19	.92	-0.01	.06	4.39	30.42
OceaniaHlth	1.45	-0.05	1.60	.38	1.02	-0.00	1.72	-
P-S	1.04	+0.03	1.26	.06	.04	-0.02	-	-
Pacific Edge	.27	-0.01	.70	.26	.01	-0.01	-	-
PaySauce	3.55	+0.23	3.65	1.55	2.03	.17	3.52	20.42
PGG Wrightson	.84	-0.13	1.59	.37	.04	-0.03	-	-
Plexure								

	Last Price	Weekly Move	52-week High	52-week Low	NTA	Dividend CPS	Yld%	P/E Ratio
PLP Fund	1.06	+0.00	1.15	1.02	1.05	.08	6.66	12.94
Port of Tauranga	7.62	+0.23	8.14	4.90	1.71	.13	2.26	56.87
Precinct Prop	1.63	+0.03	1.95	1.44	1.53	.11	4.27	14.33
Prop For Ind	2.85	-0.03	3.01	1.60	2.20	.22	3.41	12.55
PushpayHld	1.71	-0.02	2.42	.59	-0.03	.03	-	54.18
QEX	.28	-	.87	.19	.13	-0.09	-	-
Radiu	1.01	-0.03	1.82	1.00	-	-	.57	-
Rakon	.89	-0.05	.96	.15	.40	.03	-	28.01
RestaurantBrands	12.24	+0.15	13.05	6.47	-0.26	.24	-	49.36
Rua Bio	.48	-0.03	.75	.48	.18	-	-	-
Ryman Health	14.65	-0.40	16.02	6.61	4.81	.57	1.47	25.36
Sanford	4.42	-0.09	7.38	4.30	1.24	.23	1.57	18.42
Scales Corp	4.60	-0.15	5.35	3.30	2.33	1.14	5.74	31.04
Scott Tech	2.11	-0.07	2.41	.81	.20	-0.22	-	-
Seeka Kiwifruit	4.87	-0.02	4.94	3.40	5.20	.47	6.27	10.33
Serko Ltd	5.73	+0.10	5.95	.87	.34	-0.20	-	-
Skellerup	4.43	+0.23	4.58	1.37	.65	.18	3.51	23.68
Sky Network	.16	-0.01	.30	.10	.05	-0.09	-	-
SKYCITYEnt	3.04	+0.15	3.36	1.14	1.20	-0.01	4.57	-
Smartpay	.88	-0.07	1.11	.24	-0.07	-0.06	-	-
Smartsh APAC	2.22	-0.08	2.36	1.65	2.26	-0.06	1.07	-
Smartshr ASX Units	2.81	-0.05	2.94	2.49	2.89	-	1.06	-
Smartshr AU 20	4.02	-0.09	4.22	2.65	4.13	-0.51	3.15	-
Smartshr AU Div	1.58	-0.03	1.69	1.05	1.61	-0.37	5.38	-
Smartshr AU Fin	7.02	-0.06	7.26	4.17	7.15	-0.67	2.05	-
Smartshr AU Mid	8.14	-0.31	8.74	4.32	8.36	-0.38	1.26	-
Smartshr AU Prp	1.38	+0.00	1.67	.91	1.39	-0.47	3.16	-
Smartshr AU Res	5.84	+0.15	6.02	3.23	5.95	-0.23	3.47	-
Smartshr Auto	4.13	-0.17	4.49	2.35	4.12	-0.33	-	-
Smartshr Emr	1.46	-0.08	1.58	1.02	1.47	-0.08	.84	-
Smartshr Emr Equ	2.45	-0.10	2.65	1.73	2.45	-0.27	-	-
Smartshr EU	1.68	-0.03	1.78	1.24	1.71	-0.07	.34	-
Smartshr EU Equ	2.40	-0.06	2.52	1.87	2.41	-0.30	-	-
Smartshr Glo Agr	1.32	-0.01	1.40	1.29	1.32	.00	2.03	210.64
Smartshr Glo Bond	3.32	-0.04	3.38	3.04	3.32	.06	1.65	50.62
Smartshr Glo Equ	2.33	-0.05	2.44	1.72	2.33	-0.20	-	-
Smartshr Health	3.44	-0.19						

Covid-19 and 'loose' societies

by Gwynne Dyer



TO those who obsessively followed the Covid websites over the past 11 months, one thing demanded an explanation above all: why were the worst death rates-per-million in the richest, most developed countries, and in the United States and the United Kingdom most of all?

Bits of the answer were obvious. Covid-19 selectively kills the elderly, and poor countries with high birth rates have a very low proportion of elderly people. There's also the issue of under-counting, which you would expect to be worse in countries with poor or no public health service.

But even compared to other rich countries with the same age profile, the UK and the US performed terribly in "deaths per million". The United States has had 1555 Covid deaths per million people, while Canada has had 573 deaths per million. As for the United Kingdom, it has had 1781 deaths per million — whereas Germany has had only 824. In fact, the US and the UK together account for four-fifths of all Covid deaths in the 10 worst-performing countries.

So what is going on here? Is speaking English bad for your health? Three-quarters of Canadians speak English, so probably not. Does God punish countries that elect lying, narcissistic populists as leaders? Perhaps, but I'd prefer a more evidence-based answer, and we may have one.

Michele Gelfand, a cultural psychologist at the University of Maryland, might have the key that unlocks the puzzle. At the very least, she has great timing.

In her 2018 book *Rule Makers, Rule Breakers: How Tight and Loose Cultures Wire Our World*, Gelfand proposed that some national cultures embrace discipline while others glorify rule-breaking. That may sound like your usual social-scientist-desperate-for-a-fresh-angle re-framing national stereotypes as statistical fact, but she may be on to something about Covid death rates.

Her latest research was published in *Lancet Planetary Health*, a leading epidemiological journal, late last month. Using her categories of "tight" societies (willing to abide strictly by social norms, eg Singapore, Japan, China, Austria) versus "loose" ones (more permissive about rule-breaking, eg the US, the UK, Israel, Italy), she compared Covid case rates and death rates.

The results were quite striking. The "loose" cultures on average had five times the infection rate of the "tight" ones, and eight times the death rate. If you compare the most libertarian with the most conformist, say the United States vs Japan, then the contrast is astounding: about 25 times as many American cases and deaths per million.

What conclusions can we draw from this? Well, it suggests that the role of individual leaders like Donald Trump and Boris Johnson in shaping disastrous national Covid outcomes was probably not decisive. The outcomes would probably have been pretty bad even if less irresponsible leaders had been in charge.

Second, as Gelfand points out, the human cost countries pay for being "loose" in times of crisis may be compensated by the advantages they gain in creativity and innovation in better times.

But there is something wrong with Gelfand's explanation for why countries become or remain "tight" or "loose". She argues that "communities with histories of chronic threat — whether natural disasters, infectious diseases, famines or invasions — develop stricter rules that ensure order and cohesion." That would make sense, but history says it's really not that simple.

How did Israel — the Holocaust, six wars in the past 75 years, most of the population descended from refugees — end up among the carefree, permissive countries? And by the way, it doesn't have a very high death rate (614 per million).

Shouldn't the Eastern European countries (world wars, civil wars, foreign occupation, waves of refugees) be among the "tightest" societies in the world? Yet seven of the 15 countries with the highest death rates in the world are among the former Communist countries of Eastern Europe.

There's probably a lot more hard-wiring involved in determining where a culture ends up in terms of "tight" or "loose". And by the way, we would all love to know: why did the United States Navy pay for this research?

Huge changes needed urgently

by Bob Hughes



I AM pleased with the increase in articles here calling for urgent climate action. Last Saturday's editorial reinforced the local issue, "Why climate change needs to be the 'lens over everything' our council does".

Ewan McGregor the same day in the Weekender hit on agriculture, forestry and both national and global aspects of the issue, with his piece titled "Far-reaching changes essential".

In last Friday's paper there was my "Awesome responsibility" piece with a full-page article on a new United Nations report on the facing page. Its subtitle was "Huge changes in society needed to keep nature, Earth OK".

Former UN climate chief Christiana Figueres said, "Time has totally run out."

From activist UK Green MP Rupert Read's Facebook post: "If human-induced climate change were as bad as all that, then we'd be doing something truly serious about it already . . . right? If the situation were as alarming as Extinction Rebellion and Greta Thunberg make out, then surely governments would act? . . ."

Can it be that we are on the verge of committing human civilisation to oblivion?"

In truth, it really is as bad as all that. This is an emergency, we are on that verge . . . of oblivion. And hardly anyone seems to want to know.

These snippets from the aforementioned pieces back me up —

- Your editorial's positive line: ". . . fostering global co-operation in this effort to hold back the warming that imperils much of the life on our planet."

- Ewan's need for "a change of behaviour and sacrifices to slow things down".

- My column, David Attenborough's words: ". . . awesome responsibility in our hands . . . for our future and that of all other living creatures with whom we share the Earth". Since then he has said: "No matter what we do now, it's too late to avoid climate change."

- The UN report: "We are close to the point of no return."

While on the heavy stuff, I reiterate my concerns over the rate of extinctions and species decline — and add more dire news, that humans and domesticated livestock now account for 96 percent of mammal biomass. It's similar for birds: the biomass of poultry is about three times higher than that of wild birds.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said: "For too long, we have been waging a senseless and suicidal war on nature . . . Governments are still paying more to exploit nature than to protect it . . . some 4 to 6 trillion dollars a year on subsidies that damage the environment."

Yet to the same governments, pleas go out to "hold back the warming that imperils the planet". Despite years of disappointment at the lack of meaningful response, I do remain hopeful.

I understand the way systems work and why governments have not imposed the strict measures needed to halt global warming. Because of this, we will not prevent catastrophic climate change events.

A few months back I copped this: "I'm not dying yet from global climate change . . . everybody is happy around us. Gloom and Doom is not what we look for, Bob."

For that chap and others, I do my research, my gloom (pessimism) is realism. The "happy around us" (optimism) is head-in-the-sand ignorance. My "pessimism" is willingness to acknowledge and accept the truth that others prefer to hide from.

To conclude on the original theme, that climate change needs to be the lens over everything — here, nationally and globally. The support is here. We must do all we possibly can.

Real cause of wool industry's collapse

by Alain Jorion



THE "Championing Wool Industry" article with Sandra Faulkner in *From the Land* this week was very informative.

She blames the huge decline on plastics and artificial fibres used for carpets and clothes, which are never as good to wear year-round — wet, rainy days or sunny. She says, "We are producers of a fabulous fibre that has kept humans healthy, warm and safe for thousands of years and yet we keep backing plastic products."

Former Fair Go presenter Kevin Milne used to promote wool but sadly he later promoted plastics. I argued at the time that he was two-faced.

Here is what really happened and why world prices collapsed. It was probably before Sandra's time and was kept secret. Now that the NZ Wool Board has ended, it is time to let the public know what really happened.

I know because I was the auction buyer for a French company that had 40,000 workers in one mill alone in Amedee Prouvost, near the Belgium boarder. The company had additional mills all over the world such as in Wagga Wagga,

Australia, Port Elizabeth in South Africa, Jamestown in the Carolinas as well as in places like China and Japan. We bought about a quarter of a million bales a year in New Zealand and I travelled up and down the country most weeks of the year, bidding and valuing wool for 40 years.

The Soviet Union bought massive amounts of our wool. It was called type 128C, mostly scoured of shears, good colour, short oddments, blended and so on. They bought thousands of tonnes almost daily for home insulation; Siberia especially can be mighty cold in winter.

When the Soviet Union broke up in 1991, they stopped taking wool. In making deals with exporters their representatives had insisted that payments go into bank accounts all over the world. When this dodgy accounting disappeared along with the huge demand, the consequences were unhealthy.

As the wool market went down, stock takers bought up — expecting a rise in the market sooner or later. It didn't happen. The NZ Wool Board started bidding more, and was buying up almost the whole clip at places like Invercargill which was 100 percent crossbred wool.

The wool board had government financial support to continue, as everybody was in the dark about what

was really happening. Wool stores carrying wool board stock were bursting at the seams.

Other wool producers like Australia did the same, but for coarse wools of course. The wool board decided to ship its wool to Russia in big volumes. Russia didn't want it, so the wool board reshipped it back to New Zealand. What a massive loss. Hardly anybody knew that, but we were fully informed by then. Our company started to close down but kept its other ventures running. They own a chunk of Air France and Iveco Trucks, and make artificial limbs. It's called diversification.

I didn't get the sack but they pleaded for me to move to Christchurch, as wool auctions kept going there, as they do today.

We were still buying for Cavalier Carpets when I left and merino wool was getting top prices with Japan's Marubeni Iida and in Italy. Some of the wool we bought was actually for the Pope, for making him beautiful cloaks.

I had found a good lady from Gisborne so made my home here instead — and that was the best move of all. We bought a house at Makorori at the right price on the first day I was here.

So I hope Sandra Faulkner appreciates this, as she loves wool like I do.

People misled on rail reality . . .

by Merv Goodley



IT'S coming up to nine years since the Gisborne to Wairoa rail link closed due to blowouts and gatehouses totally wrecked. I haven't been up the line for over three years so can't report on other damage that has happened, suffice to say the whole line is unstable — especially near the coast.

From September 2020 until now I have collected more than 20 cuttings from *The Gisborne Herald* to go with the other 100 since 2012. Same old, same old: restore rail, repair rail, survey after survey, 10,000 signatures on a petition (where are they now?) A few people have written to *The Herald* 10-15 times over the nine years. Ninety-nine percent haven't got a clue how bad things are. The line needs a total rebuild in many places.

I feel sorry for May Ruby who has written to the editor five times since September 16, 2020 calling for action on rail.

May, you are being totally misled by the Rail Action Group, in my opinion; same goes for Mayor Rehette Stoltz and a few councillors.

On September 9, 2017 Terry Hickling, a Nuhaka farmer wrote a piece headlined: "Sorry, rail is

dead in the water." The rail runs through his farm. He is dead right on that section of line from Kopuawhara to Wairoa.

June 6, 2020 Business and Economic Research Ltd (BERL) says they stand by their study saying it will cost \$36 million to repair the line.

I have said \$150m-\$200m to get the line up and running. Greg Millar of KiwiRail says \$150m.

My guesstimate is it would take four years to get the line open. If the line was to open — which in my opinion it never will — it would take 100 trucks off the road per week, for a cost of let's say \$150m.

The \$150m would be better spent getting the road repaired and a lot more passing lanes put in from Gisborne to Napier.

As I have written, spend \$150-\$200m on the line only to have it slip away again.

I have suggested a few times for groups to come over and check the line out from south of Black's Beach to Waikokopu and Opoutama. Try Geoff Main's railbikes from Opoutama to Nuhaka, you will see there is a good chance the rail and road may slip into the sea. My prediction: 2024-2025 700 trucks travelling through Nuhaka five days a week.

The Provincial Growth Fund invested \$6.2m to open the Napier to Wairoa rail link, and I believe it cost way more than that.

The line is hardly being used. Why? People are blaming the former National government for not reopening the Gisborne-Wairoa link. Maybe they are the only ones with commonsense . . . but in saying that, the other parties have gone real quiet on this issue.

I have suggested before that Mayor Stoltz and Gisborne District Council call a public meeting and try to settle this nine-year saga.

I could bring two other speakers and let the Gisborne public know the real damage and what it will take to rebuild the line. Maybe if the editor could feature the photo printed on June 15, 2019 on page 2 of *The Weekender*, then print the findings and cost to rebuild the Tikiwhata blowout. Would this be in the BERL report?

Again, my opinion, but for the \$600,000 BERL report to say it would cost \$36m, compared to \$150 million-plus, is a joke.

Wouldn't it be neat to see the vintage steam engine Wa165 climb to Beach Loop and return?

If a meeting was to be held, could there be a big screen to show all the damage? Feel free to charge \$10 admission, to go to the Gisborne Cancer Society.

A question for Mayor Stoltz: Are we going to keep writing to the editor for another nine years, or will your council call a public meeting to settle things and move on?

EDITORIAL

Addressing housing issues now, or later

Gisborne District Council plans around housing development over the next 10 to 30 years are going to be an area to watch for thoughtful through to frustrated submissions when consultation on the 2021-2031 Long-Term Plan gets under way on March 15 — as indicated by the challenge to staff laid down by two councillors, reported last Saturday, before the draft 30-year infrastructure strategy was adopted.

The strategy discusses the development of 400-800 sections at the Taruheru Block, west of the city, but only commits to funding decisions (pencilled in at \$18m) for the infrastructure needed to support its development in 2024.

“The assumption is that over the next three years, most new houses will be infill or brownfield developments in the existing urban area, and the balance rural-lifestyle development. Significant development at Taruheru and other greenfield sites cannot proceed until new infrastructure is in place.”

Pat Seymour said this was a “cop out” when they were all well aware of the housing issues.

The strategy reports an estimated shortage of 400 houses, and the prediction this will increase at current building rates, along with a growing population expected to add 600 more over the next 30 years.

Shannon Dowsing pushed for the strategy to include other areas for potential development, such as Wainui Road. Community lifelines director David Wilson said there was potential for 1200 more houses on Wainui Rd but that would require interested developers, a plan change, hearing and for reticulation issues to be resolved.

It’s an intriguing picture, intensive housing from Kaiti to the Okitu Bridge. Recall also that the council said three years ago it would revisit reticulation for Wainui in 2028.

Wilson placed the biggest question mark over why the council isn’t committing to infrastructure extensions for the Taruheru Block sooner, when he said they were working with lead developers who were pushing forward with subdivision plans there.

It sounds like they could be pushing against an immovable wall for three years. Isn’t the risk that they revert to yet more rural lifestyle blocks in this area before then, and the most obvious urban extension opportunity for the city is lost?

Note also that a three-year wait lines up with the time the council has said it will take to update the Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan; it has also said that prioritising elements of this major piece of work is a topic for consultation.

Depends on metric used

Re: Targets achievable, action necessary — February 26 editorial.
New Zealand’s livestock emissions only make up the stated 35 percent of the total through the chosen metric of comparison, the GWP 100. Professor Miles Allen of Oxford University has described it as not fit for purpose. This is before we even consider the margin of error estimate in the Greenhouse Gas Inventory that the 35 percent has a margin of error of plus or minus 55 percent. How can anyone come up with credible policy in the light of this?

It is not the emissions that matter in curtailing global warming, but what warming any emissions may cause. Professor Allen’s research has come up with the GWP* metric. This shows that we only need to reduce livestock emissions by 10

percent to be warming neutral. Yet the Climate Commission has not even considered this.
It is time we saw some scientific integrity in this discussion, not IPCC politics.

Also, in talking about electric vehicles we need to remember that the components of electric batteries are rare and many of the known resources are in pristine areas. What is the environmental impact of mining these? Google “Planet of the Humans” to find an interesting documentary to learn more. Further, trucks travel long distances in a day. How big a battery will they need to save multiple stops of several hours a piece? How many tonnes will that battery weigh? How big (or small) will their payload be?

NEIL HENDERSON

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, ONLINE COMMENTS

No aesthetic consideration in garbage bin placement

It’s great to have clearly marked, bilingual waste disposal bins available in Turanga/Gisborne. The reduction in the amount of off takeaway containers and bottles dropped on the ground for others to pick up is pleasing and obvious! But why oh why have the bins been positioned to attract so much attention as to obstruct the beautiful views from places frequently visited by locals and tourists alike?

On the beach at the end of

Grey Street, they are front and centre when people come all day to check the surf action, admire the Cut, Waikanae, and Te Kuri a Paua, and eat their takeaways.

On Titirangi/Kaiti Hill they are set to one side, yes, but still obstruct the view shed of our most magnificent panoramic view in town.

Could they please be placed to the side, clearly visible but not in the view sheds?

PAULA RENOUF

Acknowledge Mother Truth

In the name of the Father, the Mother, the Son and of the Holy Spirit (connecting).

Acknowledge the Mother, pay homage to the Mother, the “Mother Truth”. For she is the most compassionate, the most sympathetic, the most intrinsic, and the most loving of God’s four gifts, four pillars — the four powers, the greatest gift.

Intrinsic: (The female element, inseparable.) Part and big parcel to God’s total creation. God confirmed and held back the Mother, the “Mother Truth” (Book of Daniel). Now close the words, seal the Book of Daniel until the time of uplifting, and go your way Daniel.

For God to uphold his tranquility and mantle of peace he has four

pillars. Acknowledge the Mother, “The Mother Truth”, place her in her rightful position between the Father and the Son — thus having in the name of the Father, the Mother Truth, the Son and of the Holy Spirit. (connecting the four pillars — the four powers, connecting).

You needn’t have to follow the many of us. The more of us who acknowledge the “Mother Truth”, the betterment towards unity, peace and harmony, rapturousness and joyfulness and true love everlasting.

May the Father, the Mother, the Son and the Holy Spirit guide you and bless you this day and always. Be with the flow . . . float with the flow. Aroha . . . wairua.

TAPENE (STEVE) WATENE

Within what area is that?

Re: ‘We’re not letting it go’, February 25 story.

Open letter to GDC, could you please define your

interpretation of “within the area” and “opposing group”. Thanks.

KEN OVENDEN

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.

District needs bread on tables, not pie in the sky

Having questioned the claim of a huge rise in local population and workforce over the past year, I will now label the port expansion as similar pie in the sky.

Recently The Gisborne Herald reported the population had risen 4900 and the workforce by 4600 in the year up to December — despite Covid-19’s impact.

Nothing of the sort happened in reality, although typically no one will admit the figures were plain wrong.

Now we have more figures — council says it is expecting a rise in population of 6000 in the next 30 years.

Then we have the port company claiming millions of dollars of benefits for the district and 3000 new jobs with its planned \$140 million port upgrade.

I do not see that enlarging the two existing berths is going to make much difference

— especially in competition with other ports that have bigger pockets and facilities capable of handling far more ships.

Like Dein Ferris, I would like to see hard evidence for these claims — not the guesses of the consultants that produce these reports.

I wonder about issues such as debt and risk, and who is carrying it. There is no mention of any negative aspects, such as the impact on roads and other infrastructure such as housing, let alone the impact on local lifestyle and any extra unmentioned costs ratepayers will have to carry.

By the way, why does Port Eastland need to spend money on rebuilding the slipway? It has not been used for years.

Pie in the sky is inedible — what this district needs is real bread on the table.

ROGER HANDFORD

Make case, it can be won

Re: ‘A kick in the guts’: Anger at proposed closure of city’s Kiwibank branch, February 26 story.

Here is a good test for Kiri. If she is strong enough she will have this argument heard. If it is heard, it can be won. Come on Gizzy.

ANTHONY REGINALD GRAY, Tauranga (but heading home soon)

I gave up banking at Kiwibank as I didn’t have any more cheques to deposit. Having no cheque accounts is hard on the disabled and elderly who don’t own computers and want to pay the lawn boy or gardener. Cheques go back to the Crusaders, as they were paid as an IOU. Other countries still have cheque accounts, so why did New Zealand cancel them?

LIZ PALLANT

Stolen car very noticeable

To the lowlifes who came into my house and stole my car keys and then stole my car while I was in hospital.

I hope your grandmother or great-grandmother never has to go through what I have

been through.

At 88 I don’t need this. My car is a silver Holden Astra, with the personalised plate GISBIN.

It’s very noticeable.

MAGGIE

More thanks A great show

Surf City Rod and Custom Club would like to thank the following who were inadvertently left out of our public notice thank you in The Gisborne Herald: Bruce Johnson and Makaraka Meats. Thank you both for your donations which helped make our 50th Anniversary rod run the success it was.

SIMON CORNWELL Secretary, Surf City Rod and Custom Club

My husband and I watched the spectacular Moscow circus show on Wednesday night. My oh my! Performers were amazing. Biggest, loudest and happiest applause I have ever heard from the crowd. Great venue, presentation/performance were very professional. Gorgeous MC. Men on the motorbike! Wow! You guys rocked Gizzy! Must have taken them years of experience and dedication. Great entertainment.

ISABEL NESHAUSEN



DIPLOMATS' DIFFICULT JOURNEY TO GET HOME:

A group of Russian diplomats and their family members returned to Russia from North Korea on a hand-pushed rail trolley on Thursday because the coronavirus pandemic has halted all passenger traffic between the countries, Russia's Foreign Ministry said in a Facebook post. "Since the borders have been closed for over a year and passenger traffic has been halted," staff members of the Russian Embassy in North Korea and their family members embarked on "a long and difficult journey to get home," the ministry said. The group of eight people took a 32-hour train ride, followed by two hours on a bus. They then boarded a rail trolley and pushed themselves for about a kilometre across the border into Russia. The ministry posted photos showing embassy employees with their children and suitcases on a trolley. A video showed two people pushing the trolley across a railway bridge. Russia's Interfax news agency reported on Friday morning that the group later took a flight to Moscow from the far-eastern city of Vladivostok. North Korea has claimed to be coronavirus-free, and sealed its borders and halted passenger traffic with other countries. AP picture



'We know what we hit'

Biden's first airstrike in Syria targets Iran-backed militias

BAGHDAD — A US airstrike in Syria targeted facilities belonging to a powerful Iranian-backed Iraqi armed group, killing one fighter and wounding several others, an Iraqi militia official said on Friday, signalling the first military action undertaken by US President Joe Biden.

The Pentagon said the strikes were retaliation for a rocket attack in Iraq earlier this month that killed one civilian contractor and wounded a US service member and other coalition troops.

The Iraqi militia official told The Associated Press that the strikes against the Kataeb Hezbollah, or Hezbollah Brigades, hit an area along the border between the Syrian site of Boukamal facing Qaim on the Iraqi side. He spoke on condition of anonymity. Syria war monitoring groups said the strikes hit trucks moving weapons to a base for Iranian-backed militias in Boukamal.

"I'm confident in the target that we went after, we know what we hit," Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin told reporters flying with him from California to Washington, shortly after the airstrikes which were carried out on Thursday evening.

The Biden administration in its first weeks has emphasised its intent to put more focus on the challenges posed by China, even as Mideast threats persist. Biden's decision to attack in Syria did not appear to signal an intention to widen US military involvement in the region but rather to demonstrate a will to defend US troops in Iraq and send a message to Iran.

The US has in the past targeted facilities in Syria belonging to Kataeb Hezbollah, which it has blamed for numerous attacks targeting US personnel and interests in Iraq. The Iraqi Kataeb is separate from the Lebanese Hezbollah movement.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based group that monitors the war in Syria, said the strikes targeted a shipment of weapons that were being taken by trucks entering Syrian territories from Iraq. The group said 22 fighters from the Popular Mobilisation Forces, an Iraqi umbrella group of mostly Shiite paramilitaries that includes Kataeb Hezbollah, were killed. The report could not be independently verified.

In a statement, the group confirmed one of its fighters was killed and said it reserved the right to retaliate, without elaborating. Kataeb Hezbollah, like other Iranian-backed factions, maintains fighters in Syria to both fight against the Islamic State group and assist Syrian

President Bashar Assad's forces in that country's civil war.

Defence Secretary Austin said he was "confident" the US had hit back at the "the same Shia militants that conducted the strikes," referring to a February 15 rocket attack in northern Iraq that killed one civilian contractor and wounded a US service member and other coalition personnel.

Austin said he had recommended the action to President Biden.

"We said a number of times that we will respond on our timeline," Austin said. "We wanted to be sure of the connectivity and we wanted to be sure that we had the right targets."

Earlier, Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said the US action was a "proportionate military response" taken together with diplomatic measures, including consultation with coalition partners.

“This aggression is a negative indication of the policies of the new American administration, which is supposed to adhere to international legitimacy, not to the law of the jungle”

— Syria's foreign ministry

"The operation sends an unambiguous message: President Biden will act to protect American and coalition personnel," Kirby said.

Kirby said the US airstrikes "destroyed multiple facilities at a border control point used by a number of Iranian-backed militant groups," including Kataeb Hezbollah and Kataeb Sayyid al-Shuhada.

Further details were not immediately available.

Mary Ellen O'Connell, a professor at Notre Dame Law School, criticised the US attack as a violation of international law. "The United Nations Charter makes absolutely clear that the use of military force on the territory of a foreign sovereign state is lawful only in response to an armed attack on the defending state for which the target state is responsible," she said. "None of those elements is met in the Syria strike."

Syria condemned the US strike calling it "a cowardly and systematic American aggression," warning that the attack will lead to consequences.

"This aggression is a negative indication of the policies of the new American administration, which is supposed to adhere to international

legitimacy, not to the law of the jungle," a statement by Syria's foreign ministry said.

Biden administration officials condemned the February 15 rocket attack near the city of Irbil in Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdish-run region, but as recently as this week officials indicated they had not determined for certain who carried it out.

Officials have noted that in the past, Iranian-backed Shiite militia groups have been responsible for numerous rocket attacks that targeted US personnel or facilities in Iraq.

Kirby had said on Tuesday that Iraq is in charge of investigating the February 15 attack. He added that US officials were not then able to give a "certain attribution as to who was behind these attacks."

A little-known Shiite militant group calling itself Saraya Alwiya al-Dam, Arabic for Guardians of Blood Brigade, claimed responsibility for the February 15 attack. A week later, a rocket attack in Baghdad's Green Zone appeared to target the US Embassy compound, but no one was hurt.

Iran this week said it has no links to the Guardians of Blood Brigade. Iran-backed groups have splintered significantly since the US-directed strike that killed Iranian General Qassem Soleimani and Iraqi militia leader Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis in Baghdad more than a year ago. Both were key in commanding and controlling a wide array of Iran-backed groups operating in Iraq.

Since their deaths, the militias have become increasingly unruly. Some analysts argue the armed groups have splintered as a tactic to claim attacks under different names to mask their involvement. The frequency of attacks by Shiite militia groups against US targets in Iraq diminished late last year ahead of Biden's inauguration.

The US under the previous Trump administration blamed Iran-backed groups for carrying out multiple attacks in Iraq. Trump had said the death of a US contractor would be a red line and provoke US escalation in Iraq.

The December 2019 killing of a US civilian contractor in a rocket attack in Kirkuk sparked a tit-for-tat fight on Iraqi soil that culminated in the US killing of Iranian commander Soleimani and brought Iraq to the brink of a proxy war.

US forces have been significantly reduced in Iraq to 2500 personnel and no longer partake in combat missions with Iraqi forces in ongoing operations against the Islamic State group. — AP

Attack targets slain Afghan journalist's family, three relatives killed

KABUL, Afghanistan — Three family members of an assassinated journalist in western Afghanistan have been killed by gunmen, local officials said on Friday, amid a rising wave of attacks targeting journalists and civil society actors.

Ghor provincial council member Hamidullah Mutaheed said that at least five others were wounded in the attack late on Thursday.

The gunmen stormed the family home of Afghan journalist and activist Bismillah Adil Aimaq, who was shot dead in an unclaimed attack nearby Ghor on January 1.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack on Aimaq's family. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid quickly rejected the involvement of the militant group in the gun assault.

The Islamic State group, blamed for a series of attacks on a range of targets in Afghanistan in recent months, claimed it had killed another Afghan journalist earlier in December.

Two assailants opened fire and killed TV anchorwoman Malala Maiwand as she left her house in eastern Nangarhar province. Her driver was also killed.

The deadly campaign against journalists and civil society activists comes as the Afghan government and Taliban representatives are struggling to hash out a peace deal in Doha.

The majority of the attacks remain unclaimed and have pushed Afghan journalists toward self-censorship, immigration, or quitting their jobs.

Earlier this week, unknown gunmen shot and killed Khalil Narmgo, former head of a journalists association in the northern Baghlan province.

A United Nations report released last week says that at least 11 human rights defenders and media workers were killed in targeted attacks in Afghanistan between September and the end of January 2021.

An official in the Afghanistan Interior Ministry, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said the five wounded in Thursday's attack in Ghor were all children.

Ghor provincial Governor Noor Ahmad Kohnaward, while not providing any details to back up his claim, blamed the Taliban for the gun attack.

The Afghan media advocacy organisation Nai said in a statement on Friday that the Government should investigate the wave of attacks on journalists. — AP

ABOARD THE OPEN ARMS:

Migrants and refugees from different African nationalities wait for assistance aboard an overcrowded wooden boat, as aid workers of the Spanish NGO Open Arms approach them in the Mediterranean Sea, international waters, at 200 kilometres off the Libyan coast. AP picture



Migrants evade Libyan coastguard to reach Europe

BARCELONA, Spain — The February storm is unforgiving, violently shaking the humanitarian rescuers' vessel as they try to revive a faulty engine and save African migrants drifting in the Mediterranean Sea after fleeing Libya on unseaworthy boats.

Not only must they brave 70 kmh winds and 4-metre waves, but also win the race against the Libyan coastguard, which has been trained and equipped by Europe to keep migrants away from its shores.

In recent days, the Libyans had already thwarted eight rescue attempts by the Open Arms, a Spanish NGO vessel, harassing and threatening its crew in the international waters of the central Mediterranean where 160 people have died so far this year.

The latest tragedy took place on February 20, when a rubber boat carrying 120 people started taking in water and waited for hours until a commercial ship in the area arrived to help.

Forty-one people drowned, including three children and four women, said the UN's migration agency, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM).

Those who are saved at sea are not necessarily safe. According to IOM, from January 1 to February 22 nearly 3600 people, including dozens of women and children, have been intercepted and forcibly returned to Libya.

There, they are placed in squalid detention centres and are subject to abuse, torture, extortion and rape.

About 2530 people have made it to Europe

after departing Libya so far this year.

Among them is 3-month-old Moise, whose chubby cheeks barely stood out from underneath the oversized lifejacket that rescuers strapped on him as they transferred the baby and his Cameroonian mother to safety aboard the Open Arms rescue ship.

A day later, rescuers plucked 5-year-old Timi from a rubber dinghy under the intimidating gaze of the Libyan coastguard a few metres away.

Together with her mother, she had embarked on the risky route to Europe through the Libyan desert six months ago to flee female genital mutilation in their native Ivory Coast, where the practice affects 55 percent of young girls, according to UNICEF.

Despite nausea and vomiting caused by the

rough seas, the prospects of a safer future in Europe, together with warm blankets, helped Timi fall asleep on the overcrowded deck of the Open Arms ship.

It would take another three days of stormy navigation for the 146 people rescued by the group on its 80th mission in the central Mediterranean to reach a safe harbour in Sicily.

But before they can even begin the challenging process of starting a new life on European soil, they must board yet another ship and undergo a 14-day quarantine, a preventive measure imposed by the Italian government to curb the spread of Covid-19 during the pandemic.

Until then, they can still only dream of a better life. — AP

'Red alert for our planet'

Carbon-cutting pledges by countries nowhere near enough: UN

NEW YORK — The newest pledges by countries to cut greenhouse gas emissions are falling far short of what's needed to limit global warming to what the Paris climate accord seeks, a new United Nations report finds.

So the UN's climate chief is telling nations to go back and try harder.

Most countries — especially top carbon polluters China, United States and India — missed the Dec. 31 deadline for submitting official emission-cutting targets for November's climate negotiations in Scotland. Friday's report provides an incomplete snapshot of the world's efforts: The world's pledges so far are only enough to reduce global carbon dioxide emissions to less than 1 percent below 2010 levels by 2030.

The world has to cut carbon pollution 45 percent below 2010 levels to achieve the more stringent official Paris goal of limiting future warming to another half a degree (0.3 degrees Celsius) from now, UN officials said.

"We are very, very far from where we need to be," UN climate chief Patricia Espinosa said. "What we need to put on the

table is much more radical and much more transformative than we have been doing until now."

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called the report "a red alert for our planet."

UN officials applauded the more than 120 nations, including the US and China, that have made longer-term goals of net-zero carbon emissions by mid-century. But those same nations must translate long-term talk into the immediate action "that people and the planet so desperately need," Guterres said.

Instead of limiting the world to only 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) of warming since pre-industrial times — the more stringent of two Paris accord goals — the data shows that the world "is headed to close to 3 degrees Celsius and a global catastrophe if this is not curtailed quickly," said Bill Hare, director of Climate Analytics, a private group that tracks countries' emissions targets.

The 2015 Paris climate agreement had nations submit voluntary targets for how much heat-trapping gases they would spew by 2025 and update them every five years.

With the big pandemic-delayed



FAR AWAY FROM GOAL: The morning sun is seen through a blanket of smog on the outskirts of New Delhi, India. A UN report released on Friday finds the countries of the world are not promising to do enough carbon-cutting to keep global warming from hitting dangerous levels. AP picture

climate negotiations in Glasgow set for later this year, nations are supposed to submit updated and tougher goals for 2030. The US, the second biggest carbon polluter behind China, promises its goal will be announced before a special Earth Day summit in April.

Fewer than half of the world's countries, accounting for 30 percent of the world's carbon

emissions, submitted targets by the deadline. Only seven of the top 15 carbon polluting nations had done so.

At least 10 countries that submitted goals last year did not provide tougher goals, Hare said. And because of changes to emissions in its base year calculations, Brazil essentially weakened its target from its 2015 version, said Taryn Fransen, a

senior fellow at the think tank World Resources Institute.

Espinosa said even countries that already gave targets need to go back and do better because "we are simply out of time."

Her predecessor and prime engineer of the Paris agreement, Christiana Figueres, said she thinks the US, China and Japan can change the picture when they announce their goals: "I have high hopes they will deliver."

After dramatic decreases in carbon pollution in early 2020 because of the pandemic lockdown, initial data shows that near end-of-the-year emissions were back up to 2019 levels, pushed by China's industrial production, said Corinne LeQuere, who tracks emissions at the University of East Anglia.

The world adopted the more stringent 1.5 degree Celsius temperature goal in 2015 at the urging of small island nations, which fear being swamped by climate-related sea rise if temperatures pass that mark.

"We are flirting dangerously" with the warming limit, said Ambassador Aubrey Webson of Antigua and Barbuda, chairman of the Alliance of Small Island States. — AP

Fingers crossed Golden Shears goes ahead

by Doug Laing, Shearing Sports NZ

ORGANISERS of the 61st Golden Shears in Masterton next week are reminding competitors of the advantages of getting entries in this week, despite uncertainty created by the coronavirus crisis.

Those who enter now will incur a late fee of 50 percent, and president Sam Saunders said late entries risk missing the cut for the March 4-6 championships in Masterton's War Memorial Stadium.

The Golden Shears have been held there each year since the inception in 1961.

He reiterated that whether on-time or late, competitors won't be risking losing their money if Covid-19 alert levels are stepped-up and force what would be the Golden Shears' first cancellation.

"We won't be able to run at Alert Level 2 or greater," Mr Saunders said.

"If we have to cancel everyone will be refunded. If people have paid their entries and something happens we would pay them back."

"We wouldn't want to see anyone out of pocket — not our sheep suppliers, our sponsors or the competitors," he said.

Mr Saunders said he believes some competitors have been waiting to see what unfolds with the virus.

"Nobody knows.

"We just keep our fingers crossed, but I



SHEARING LEGENDS: Golden Shears champions Rowland Smith (above) and Joel Henare (left) in the celebration mode that has become a regular feature of Golden Shears over recent years. They are expected back in Masterton to defend their titles next week.

Pictures by Pete Nikolaison

think it will go ahead."

Last year the 60th celebration of Golden Shears took place amid rapidly-growing fears of the arrival of Covid-19 in New Zealand, and the 2019-2020 season survived just one more week before the March lockdown was imposed.

Golden Shears entries peaked at about

580 shearers around the second World Championships in 1980, when sheep numbers were nearing the 1982 peak of 70 million.

With the ovine population now hovering around 27 million, competitor numbers have declined over the years, but the more than 300 shearers,

woolhandlers, and pressers each year help the championships retain the image of being the holy grail of shearing sports worldwide.

Farmers urged to submit FEP

GISBORNE District Council is reminding horticultural growers and farmers to submit their Farm Environment Plans (FEP) before the upcoming May 1 deadline.

A FEP outlines the sustainable management of soil, water and nutrient resources on farms and is individually designed to identify and manage environmental risks.

The plans are required under the Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan for growers and farmers to carry out specific activities in the region.

"For some low-risk on-farm activities such as stock crossings, culverts and setbacks, farmers or growers may be able to use their FEP instead of applying for resource consent," says Kerry Hudson, council's integrated catchments manager.

"However, non-compliance with this regulation could trigger the requirement for resource consent for certain activities. Ultimately, getting your FEP sorted now will save time and ensure better environmental management practices."

Council has just approved the

use of the New Zealand Good Agricultural Practice (NZGAP) designed Environmental Management System (EMS) module as an option to complete FEPs through Horticulture NZ.

"Our team has been working with Horticulture NZ to create a streamlined process and we have a new approach for assessing regional FEPs for a fast turnaround," Mr Hudson says.

"We understand this is an incredibly busy time for our horticulture and farming community but now is the time to get this sorted rather than leaving it until the last minute."

FEPs can be emailed to FEP@gdc.govt.nz.

Submitters will get a confirmation email to say the plan has been received and once again when it has been certified against the regional plan.

"Our website outlines the relevant land uses that will require a FEP, along with comprehensive information and workbooks to assist growers and farmers.

For more information, contact the council.



Lambs sell well at Matawhero

by Trevor Brown

THERE were just 560 sheep sold at the weekly Matawhero sheep sale yesterday, and the prime pens were filled mostly with lambs.

The best price there was \$143.50 for a pen of 13 from Reginald Proffit. These lambs were black face, woolly, heavy and carried plenty of condition.

Raroa Station at Tolaga Bay sold the sole pen of 25 prime ewes for \$131 and their second cut of 32 store ewes made \$125.

Mangahanea Farms Ltd at Ruatoria topped the store male lambs, receiving \$105 for a pen of 33.

Prices have eased on the prime sheep, but remain steady on the store sheep.

Best prices — Prime lambs: Reginald Proffit, 13, \$143.50; P.E Garth, 16, \$135, 3, \$115; W.J and E.M Higgins, 2, \$117; Raroa Station, 7, \$116; A.L and J.M Proudfoot and Greaves, 7, \$109.

Store male lambs: Mangahanea Farms Ltd, 33, \$105, 37, \$90, 23, \$69, 2, \$50, 10,



SOLID SALE: Mangahanea Farms topped the store male lambs at the weekly sale, receiving \$105 for this pen.

Picture by Trevor Brown

\$30; M.J and V.T Stevens P/S (Te Wera), 114, \$92; Raroa Station, 32, \$85, 11, \$77, 25, \$40.

Store ewe lambs: Mangahanea Farms Ltd, 15, \$87, 38, \$72, 39, \$60.

Store ewes: A.S and K.M Bush P/S, 10, \$127; Raroa Station, 32, \$125, 4, \$90; G Neilson, 6, \$90.

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CONFRONTATION: Protesters display images of deposed Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi as they take part in a demonstration against the military coup in Yangon, Myanmar on Friday. Security forces fired warning shots and beat truncheons against their shields while moving to disperse more than 1000 anti-coup protesters.

AP picture



Protesters injured as clashes escalate

YANGON, Myanmar — Myanmar security forces cracked down on anti-coup protesters in the country's second-largest city on Friday, injuring at least three people, two of whom were shot in the chest by rubber bullets and another who suffered a wound on his leg.

Protesters had gathered on a wide road outside a park in Mandalay in the early afternoon when security forces arrived and began firing what sounded like gunshots and using flash bang grenades to disperse the crowd.

Bullets, shell casings, and other projectiles were later found by local residents on one of the main streets and shown to journalists.

The victims were all taken to a private clinic for treatment. One of the men who was shot in the chest with a rubber bullet also had a white bandage wrapped around his head. The man with an injured leg was later photographed in a cast that stretched from his foot to his knee.

The confrontations underscore the rising tensions between a growing popular revolt and the generals who toppled the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in a February 1 takeover that shocked the international community and reversed years of slow progress toward democracy.

Also on Friday, a Japanese journalist covering a separate protest in Yangon, the country's largest city, was detained by police and later released, according to

Japan's Kyodo news agency. Yuki Kitazumi could be seen in a video circulating among media as police seized him, with one of the officers briefly putting a truncheon around the journalist's neck.

Earlier in the day, security forces in Yangon fired warning shots and beat truncheons against their shields while moving to disperse more than 1000 anti-coup protesters.

The demonstrators had gathered in front of a popular shopping mall, holding placards and chanting slogans denouncing the February 1 coup even as the security presence increased and a water-cannon truck was brought to the area.

When around 50 riot police moved against the protesters, warning shots could be heard, and at least one demonstrator was held by officers. Security forces chased the protesters off the main road and continued to pursue them in the nearby lanes, as some ducked into houses to hide.

On Thursday, supporters of Myanmar's junta attacked people protesting the military government, using slingshots, iron rods and knives to injure several of them. Photos and videos posted on social media showed groups attacking people in downtown Yangon as police stood by without intervening.

The violence erupted as hundreds marched in support of the coup. They carried banners in English with the slogans "We

Stand With Our Defence Services" and "We Stand With State Administration Council", which is the official name of the junta.

Late on Thursday, police turned out in force in Yangon's Tarmwe neighbourhood where they tried to clear the streets of residents protesting the military's appointment of a new administrator for one ward. Several arrests were made as people scattered in front of riot police who used flash bang grenades to disperse the crowd.

No pro-military rally appeared to be scheduled for Friday.

Suu Kyi has not been seen since the coup. Around 50 of her supporters held a prayer on Friday opposite her home in Yangon. The mansion is where she spent many years under house arrest during previous military governments, and the residence has long had iconic status among her supporters.

"Because of the situation, on this day of the full moon we are sending love to, and reciting Buddha's teachings for Mother Suu, President U Win Myint and all those unlawfully detained," said Hmuu Sitt yan Naing, who joined the prayer group.

It is believed Suu Kyi is currently being detained in the capital Naypyitaw. She is due to face a court on Monday on charges brought against her by the military junta. The charges are widely seen as politically motivated. — AP

Gunmen kidnap more than 300 schoolgirls in northwest Nigeria

LAGOS, Nigeria — Gunmen abducted 317 girls from a boarding school in northwest Nigeria on Friday, police said, the latest in a series of mass kidnappings of students in the West African nation.

Police and the military have begun joint operations to rescue the girls after the attack at the Girls Science Secondary School in Jangebe town, according to a police spokesman in Zamfara state, Mohammed Shehu, who confirmed the number abducted.

One parent, Nasiru Abdullahi, told The Associated Press that his daughters, aged 10 and 13, are among the missing.

"It is disappointing that even though the military have a strong presence near the school they were unable to protect the girls," he said.

"At this stage, we are only hoping on divine intervention."

Resident Musa Mustapha said the gunmen also attacked a nearby military camp and checkpoint, preventing soldiers from interfering while the gunmen spent several hours at the school. It was not immediately clear if there were any casualties.

Several large groups of armed men operate in Zamfara state, described by the government as bandits, and are known to kidnap for money and for the release of their members from jail.

"We are angered and saddened by yet another brutal attack on schoolchildren in Nigeria," said Peter Hawkins, UNICEF representative in the country.

"This is a gross violation of children's rights and a horrific experience for children to go through." He called for their immediate release.

Nigeria has seen several such attacks and kidnappings over the years, notably the mass abduction in April 2014 by jihadist group Boko Haram of 276 girls from the secondary school in Chibok in Borno state. More than a hundred of the girls are still missing.

Friday's attack came less than two weeks after gunmen abducted 42 people, including 27 students, from the Government Science College Kagara in Niger State. The students, teachers and family members are still being held.

In December, 344 students were abducted from the Government Science Secondary School Kankara in Katsina State. They were eventually released.

Anietie Ewang, Nigeria researcher at Human Rights Watch, noted the recent abductions and tweeted that "Strong action is required from the authorities to turn the tide and keep schools safe".

Amnesty International also condemned the "appalling attack", warning in a statement that "the girls abducted are in serious risk of being harmed".

Teachers have been forced to flee to other states for protection, and many children have had to abandon their education amid frequent violent attacks in communities, Amnesty said. — AP

US Navy warships in Middle East hit by Covid outbreaks

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Two US Navy warships operating in the Middle East have been struck by coronavirus outbreaks, authorities said on Friday, with both returning to port in Bahrain.

A dozen troops aboard the USS San Diego, an amphibious transport dock, tested positive for Covid, said Cmdr. Rebecca Rebarich, a spokeswoman for the Bahrain-based 5th Fleet. The guided-missile cruiser USS Philippine Sea also has "confirmed several cases of Covid-19", she said.

"All positive cases have been isolated on board,

and the (ships) remains in a restricted Covid bubble," Rebarich told The Associated Press. "The port visit and medical support have been coordinated with the host nation government and Bahrain Ministry of Health."

The San Diego sails with nearly 600 sailors and Marines aboard, while the Philippine Sea carries some 380 sailors.

The 5th Fleet patrols the waterways of the Middle East. Its vessels often have tense encounters with Iran in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow mouth of the Gulf through which 20 percent of all oil

traded worldwide passes.

The Navy's largest outbreak so far in the pandemic was aboard the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt, which had to be sidelined in Guam for nearly two months last year. More than 1000 sailors tested positive and one died. Eventually all of the 4800 crew members were sent ashore in Guam for weeks of quarantine, in a systematic progression that kept enough sailors on the ship to keep it secure and running.

The failure of the ship's leaders to properly handle the outbreak exploded into one of the biggest military

leadership crises in recent years. The ship's captain, who pleaded for faster action to protect his crew from the rapidly spreading virus, was fired and the one-star admiral on the ship had his promotion delayed.

Earlier this month, three sailors tested positive as the aircraft carrier was conducting operations in the Pacific. The sailors and those exposed to them were isolated, and the Navy said it is "following an aggressive mitigation strategy", including masks, social-distancing, and proper handwashing and hygiene measures. — AP



VIRUS EXPLODES: The guided-missile cruiser USS Philippine Sea leaves Naval Station Mayport in Mayport, Florida. Two US Navy warships operating in the Middle East have been affected by the coronavirus. Picture supplied by US Navy via AP

'Spread quite quickly'

Concern as more intermediate-aged kids vaping in Chch

CHRISTCHURCH — Vaping among primary and intermediate-aged pupils is a growing concern at Canterbury schools.

More than one out of five (22 percent) Canterbury primary and intermediate school staff have reported pupils' vaping as an issue.

Life Education Trust Canterbury, which supports the health and wellbeing of children, held a meeting with teachers from schools across Canterbury to discuss vaping issues on Monday.

The legal age for buying a vape is 18. Staff from Casebrook Intermediate School were at the meeting and its assistant principal Will Stribling said pupils vaping at the school has been an issue.

"We haven't had massive issues with cigarettes ever, but certainly, in the last year or two, vaping has become an issue more prevalent than cigarettes have been in the last 10 (or) 15 years since I've been teaching."

Stribling said about 500 pupils go to the school and only about "three or four" pupils have been caught with vapes in the last year.

However, Stribling said: "The problem is the student will bring it (a vape) in or be at the park after school and four (other pupils) might try it."

Pupils who have been found with vapes have had their parents called in to school to confiscate their vapes, and been informed of the dangers of vaping.

Casebrook is not the only Christchurch school where vaping is a concern.

GROWING CONCERN: More than one out of five (22 percent) Canterbury primary and intermediate school staff have reported pupils' vaping as an issue. File picture



Life Education Trust Canterbury educator Siobhan Cummings said, "Right across the board, we've seen it in pretty much most of the schools we've worked in. Teachers have been noticing or been concerned about it with year 7 and 8 pupils, probably not so much with the younger levels."

"Kids are bringing this impression in that it (vaping) is safe, it's okay, and so, therefore, they think, well, I'll give it a go, without realising the negative sides of it."

"It's spread quite quickly within the last year or so."

Respiratory specialist Dr Stuart Jones said: "Unfortunately, these products are designed to be appealing to young people, with attractive

flavourings and colourful packaging. Young people need to be informed of the long-term health effects on the body."

The owner of Christchurch vape store, Vapeology, Tim Maude said it has strict ID checking policies before people can buy vapes and the youngest person he has seen try to buy one was about 15.

He said it is hard to say how intermediate and primary school pupils are getting access to vapes, but other businesses that sell them, may not be as strict on the rules as his.

The manager of Shosha vape store on Colombo St, who did not want to be named, said no one who looks under 18, without ID, is allowed in his store, even if they are with a parent. — NZ Herald

Police crack down on rough sleepers

CHRISTCHURCH — Two arrests have been made in a crackdown on unruly rough sleepers in Christchurch.

The New Zealand Herald was told a number of rough sleepers on Hereford St were moved on last week — on the eve of the February 22, 2011 earthquake memorial events in the city.

Senior Sergeant Ian Appley confirmed that Hereford St "seems to be a problem area".

But he stressed it was "more of a criminal problem as opposed to a homeless one". He confirmed two men were arrested and will appear at Christchurch District Court at a later date.

Christchurch City Council, police, Christchurch City Mission and the Central City Business Association are working on an education programme around street begging. City councillor Anne Galloway said in January there was "only a handful of genuine homeless people" across the city.

"The people who are in streets begging are, for the majority, hustlers and are often there because they are supporting a drug habit," she said.

Appley says homelessness is a complex issue that continues to come to police attention in the Garden City. But it's no worse, he says, than many other places in New Zealand.

"Many of those dealt with are suffering a wide range of welfare issues and police will seek to use alternative resolutions and referrals to partner agencies to assist with specialist help," Appley says.

"We aim to engage, educate, encourage and learn from all interactions. On occasions we will exhaust all options and have no alternative but to take enforcement action."

Rough sleeping, begging or being homeless, Appley said, are not criminal offences. But police can be called in to deal with public disorder or complaints about antisocial behaviour.

Police are heading down the campaign approach, similar to a Hamilton trial called Your Help May Harm. The campaign aims to help the homeless by guiding them to appropriate services, rather than just giving them money. — NZ Herald

'Love struck psycho' jailed for brutal hammer attack

HAMILTON — A Cambridge farm worker who refused to accept his relationship was over and attacked his ex-girlfriend's new partner with a hammer, has been jailed for more than six years.

Ryan Joseph Wenzlick struggled to accept that his relationship with his former partner, Portia Ashton, had ended after a volatile three years together.

He appeared in the High Court at Hamilton today for sentencing on charges of attempted murder and assault of a woman he was in a family relationship with after the attack in July last year.

Crown prosecutor Jacinda Hamilton said the offending appeared to stem from his inability to accept his relationship was over and his regular use of methamphetamine with Ashton when they were together.

Defence counsel Tom Sutcliffe said his client was genuinely remorseful and wishes he could turn back time for what he'd done, but instead accepted full responsibility and the likely lengthy penalty.

"You can take heart that this will never happen again," he told Justice Tracey Walker.

"There should be no question about that. He does have some work to do and he will fully engage with rehabilitation programmes in the prison."

Court documents show the pair broke up in March 2020 and continued to see each other for some time before Ashton told him she was seeing other people in late July 2020.

Wenzlick began making

frequent unannounced visits to her home and sending "prolific text messages".

Ashton had began seeing Daniel Buckeridge, from Rotorua, and stopped answering Wenzlick's messages.

In various messages in late July, Wenzlick described himself as a "love struck psycho" and how he wanted to reunite with her and her children.

He also made threats about any other men that she might be seeing, writing "I'm going to set an example of what is going to happen to any man that touches the woman I want", and "if you f*** that dude I'm going to have to get rid of him too".

Another one ended with "I will eliminate anyone who gets in my way".

Defence counsel Tom Sutcliffe said his client was genuinely remorseful and wishes he could turn back time for what he'd done, but instead accepted full responsibility and the likely lengthy penalty.

On the afternoon of July 29, Wenzlick, again went to her Cambridge house, but she gave him the fingers and pulled the curtains.

Undeterred, Wenzlick lurked outside the house for a number of hours, sometimes knocking on windows to get attention, and asking Ashton to go outside and talk to him.



ATTEMPTED MURDER: Cambridge farm worker Ryan Wenzlick attacked his former partner's new boyfriend, leaving him with brain damage. NZ Herald picture

He sent a flurry of texts and at one point managed to get inside the house.

Wenzlick saw the victim go to the bathroom. Ashton then felt someone hugging her from the other side of the bed.

She looked down to see Wenzlick next to her between the wall and her bed.

She ignored him, and when the victim returned, she rolled over to hug him and they went to sleep.

Shortly after 5am, Wenzlick sent a photo of himself holding a hammer in her kitchen and wrote, "Might have been on the floor next to you for half the night but next to you is where I want to be".

Soon after he texted: "See you today sometime please. You actually don't know what I've done to be with you. And what I am capable of ... I could have killed him several times over last night while you were

sleeping and you wouldn't have even known until you woke up."

Wenzlick left but returned about 9am and found the pair still in bed.

He then struck Buckeridge with the hammer around the head at least five times, using "considerable force".

Ashton tried to intervene but was inadvertently struck.

The victim suffered a severe brain injury, several skull fractures, bruises and cuts and has since had a bolt inserted into his skull.

He is now at a specialist facility where he is getting intensive occupational, speech, language and physical therapy.

In late September he was finally able to eat textured foods again but he had since been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress and would now likely suffer from seizures, psychiatric abnormalities, cognitive decline, sleep and motor disturbances

and social engagement issues.

Sutcliffe said although his client was 27 years old, he did lack the emotional maturity to deal with such a high-stress situation.

Hamilton asked Justice Walker to take a starting point of 10 to 11 years given the serious aggravating features including the invasion of a home, premeditation and use of a weapon.

Both counsels agreed Wenzlick should get a full 25 percent discount for his early guilty plea.

Justice Walker described the offending as an "out of character event with tragic circumstances" while noting his limited criminal history.

She accepted the trauma from his childhood and growing up in a violent household where he'd witnessed suicide attempts and drug and alcohol abuse.

Despite that, Wenzlick had grown a moral compass in several respects including his work ethic and not hitting women. "None of this excuses your offending, however, this information does give some context as to how this offending came to pass."

However, she described the attack as an "explosively violent and inexcusable act" that came about "through a perverse and pathological jealousy of the object of Ms Ashton's affections".

After taking a starting point of 10 years and six months, she gave him discounts totalling 40 percent for his guilty plea, remorse, upbringing, mental health, potential and motivation to rehabilitate, coming to an end term of six years and four months' jail. — NZ Herald

Waikouaiti harness at Oamaru Sunday

Selections
Race 1: TO RI CAITLIN, SENORITA MARGARITA, GO DAVEY
Race 2: MAJESTIC WHISPER, UNDER AND OVER, BOURBON ON THE ROCKS

9 Sassafras (Fr) 9 A Faulks
10 Royal Stuart (Fr) 10 T McMillan
11 06029 Bourbon On The Rocks (Fr) U1 J Versteeg
12 P834 Majestic Whisper (Fr) U2 M Williamson
13 7s009 Goose Healy (Fr) U3 N Burton

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

4 700s8 Shezdawon (Em2) (Fr) 4
5 76090 Shadow Aveross (Fr) 5 A Mugford (J)
6 50098 Play By Ear (Fr) 6
7 Major Dolmio (Fr) 7 J Dunn
8 30047 Cristiano Buccini (Fr) 8 R May

8 23521 High Flying Harry (Fr) 8 J Dunn
9 15050 Mordecai (Fr) 9 K Tomlinson (J)
10 31943 Perfect Cut (Fr) 21
11 778s0 Lincoln Moment (Fr) 22 S Tomlinson (J)
12 P2090 Yankee Shard (Fr) 23
13 — Not Really Blonde SCRATCHED

8 0216 Hitherroadjack (Fr) 8 B Hope (J)
9 81272 Duke Of Dundee (Fr) 9
10 32901 Makasar Boy (Fr) 21
11 00601 Archman (Fr) 22 K Newman (J)
12 27507 Wolfenstein (Fr) 23 K Tomlinson (J)
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3 52459 Pete's Dash (Fr) 3 C Negus

4 Omalass - Dried Molasses 1.17

\$9000, non-winners 3yo+ f&m. mobile, 2000m
1 — Port Elizabeth SCRATCHED
2 3 Art Cracker (Fr) 1 R Houghton
3 50268 Arizona Doll (Fr) 2 R Close

6 G K Fyfe Ltd Trot 2.07

\$9000, 3yo+ r40-r50,r51 w/c stand, 2000m
1 95695 Danangus Fella (Fr) 1 J Morrison (J)
2 44342 Horse Of Course (Fr) 2 R McIlwrick
3 32170 Line A Love (Fr) 3 J Patterson

8 Waikouaiti Trotters Cup Hcp 3.07

\$14,500, r60+ discretionary handicap stand, 3000m
1 23904 Rebel Kibbybones (Fr) 1 J Hay
2 18661 Kahress (Fr) 2 R Holmes
3 76351 B D Yasothon (Fr) 3 R May

11 Bluff Proteins Ltd Hcp Trot 4.32

\$11,000, r51-r59 discretionary handicap stand, 2000m
1 60737 Alvira Hest (Fr) 1
2 — Emdeegee SCRATCHED
3 — Sage trouble SCRATCHED

2 Edinburg Realty Trot 12.27

\$9000, non-winners 3yo+ stand, 2000m
1 00s Cheeky Monkey (Fr) 1 C McDowell
2 396P4 Son Of Majestic (Fr) 2 J Cox
3 45003 Whangamata (Fr) 3 C Ferguson

5 Harry & Her Pace 1.42

\$9000, non-winners 3yo+ mobile, 2000m
1 s9070 Port Elizabeth (Fr) 1 R Cameron
2 00 Over It (Fr) 2 A Milne
3 82423 Maldito (Fr) 3 M Williamson

7 Butch, Kerry, Bob & Dick 2.32

\$9000, 3yo+ r48-r53. mobile, 2000m
1 85486 Dallas Grimes (Fr) 1 J Hay
2 41181 Jonique (Fr) 2 M Hurrell (J)
3 30826 Krystal Delight (Fr) 3 B Hope (J)

10 Custom Fencing/Ilenocco 4.07

\$9000, 4yo+ r40-r54. jun.d mobile, 2000m
1 07218 Mach O'Melley (Fr) 1 J Campbell (J)
2 89874 Essence Of Easton (Fr) 2 M Hurrell (J)
3 160 Carrera Belle (Fr) 3 S Tomlinson (J)

12 Waikouaiti Auto & Engineering 4.57

\$11,000, r54-r59. mobile, 2000m
1 20176 Hurricane Banner (Fr) 1 E Barron (J)
2 27422 Ultimate Sassenach (Fr) 2 M Hurrell (J)
3 38516 Dodgethebullet (Fr) 3 S Otley

Auckland greys at Manukau Sunday

Selections
Race 1: DIAMOND WARRIOR, NICK'S BLUNDER, FULL OF SECRETS
Race 2: CALF KING, TIDES RISING, COOLIBAH KID

2 Trophies Plus Sprint 1.05

\$1425, C0, 318m
1 44332 Calf King nwtd Phil Green
2 64341 Tides Rising nwtd Thayne Green
3 85647 Xena Poppy nwtd R & L Udy

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

5 Carol's Tab Taipa Tavern 2.20

\$2920, C1/2, 527m
1 26544 Opawa Gonzo 30.86 Glennis Farrell
2 34452 Margaux 30.92 Phil Green
3 52733 Gao Gao 30.53 Glennis Farrell

8 Mt Wellington Tab Stakes 3.17

\$4795, C4/5, 527m
1 33312 Dapper Rapper nwtd Brian Marsh
2 76652 Sakichi 30.35 Peter Ferguson
3 11332 Vacant Box Three n & a

11 Hewlett Electrical Sprint 4.16

\$2095, C2/3, 318m
1 16548 Stay Rich 18.55 M & J Smith
2 65855 Portland Ecklund 18.27 T & L Craik
3 63145 Medusa Who 18.59 M Prangley

1 Follow Auckland GRC On FB 12.40

\$1510, C1, 318m
1 21367 Full Of Secrets 18.87 D R Laing
2 14771 My Mate Speight 18.81 Udy & Cottam

3 Pump & Engineering Serv. 1.30

\$2565, C1, 527m
1 221 Up Your Quota nwtd Phil Green
2 63852 Bigtime Alfie nwtd R & N O'Regan
3 58768 React Respond 30.77 R & L Udy

6 Mps Fencing Sprint 2.41

\$1510, C1, 318m
1 67857 Sir Yens 18.82 K T Herbert
2 47567 Sadowski 18.86 Linda Martin
3 84321 Spring Timmie nwtd R & L Udy

9 Jo's Wholesale & Sports Bar 3.34

\$3385, C3, 527m
1 64177 Opawa Magic 30.66 Glennis Farrell
2 55535 Classic Rapper nwtd Susie Kite
3 81132 Pedro Leo nwtd Peter Ferguson

12 Sportsbowl Function Centre 4.41

\$1745, C2, 318m
1 22135 Noise Maker 18.70 Phil Green
2 55332 Pridelful 18.61 T & L Craik
3 81487 Just Nia 18.67 Marsha Black

New South Wales races at Mudgee Sunday

Selections
Race 1: LAKE TAL, DULCERO, CHEEKY NUGGET
Race 2: AKELA'S CHARM, ROOM NUMBER, HERCULES MO

2 St. George Dragons S'case 3.35

\$30,000, Benchmark 66, 1600m
1 45125 Universal Thief dw (3) 63.94 D Stanley (a4)
2 62484 Velaro d (4) 58.93 J Bowman

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

5 South Sydney Rabbitohs S'case 5.25

\$30,000, Class 1/Maiden SW, 1600m
1 s3662 Aisle Six w (9) 59.80 K Dunbar
2 — Apex SCRATCHED
3 s7436 Rodrick's Secret dw (17) 59.90

6 Southern Cross Turf S'case Hcp 6.05

\$30,000, Class 2, 1200m
1 2114s Activation b (2) 61.95 G Buckley
2 76207 Costas dw (14) 60.93 J Collett
3 96517 Elvezio w (8) 60.96 Ms K Adams

8 Evergreen Turf S'case 7.25

\$30,000, Benchmark 58, 1400m
1 7897s Red Zephyr dw (6) 63.84 D Stanley (a4)
2 95334 Black Sunrise w (14) 60.5.95 A Layt
3 95795 Mandrigma w (15) 60.95 J Bowman

1 Elite Sand & Soil S'case Plate 2.55

\$30,000, Maiden SW, 1400m
1 4 Lake Tal b (12) 59.100 R Hutchings
2 942 Cheeky Nugget (C) 58.5.91 Ms J Presits (a2)
3 06s Riverwatch (5) 58.5.87 C Lever

3 TAB Lawn Party S'case 4.10

\$30,000, Benchmark 66, 1200m
1 1133s One Pound w (11) 61.5.93 R Jones (a)
2 2681s Eva's Deel d (6) 60.5.89 J Innes Jnr
3 18s Numbers Game b (2) 59.99 R Hutchings

4 Dad & Dave's Turf S'case Plate 4.45

\$40,000, Maiden SW, 1200m
1 73042 Arealist b (15) 59.83 C Gallagher
2 360 Raised To The Max h (5) 59.98 J Pracey-Holmes
3 s0220 Unrestricted (3) 59.100 J Bowman

7 Newhawn Pk CDRA Champ. Qual. 6.45

\$150,000, Class 5 SW, 1400m
1 1136s Healing Hands cdw (13) 59.94 N Heywood
2 1117s Reward Seeker dw (10) 59.88 J Pracey-Holmes
3 15211 Coupa w (4) 57.5.91 A Cavallo

9 121s8 Pop Power w (11) 59.88

J Collett
R Dolan
B Mc Dougall
C Gallagher
A Layt
R Jones (a)
C Lever
M A Cahill
A Cavallo
G Buckley
SCRATCHED
J Collett
R Dolan
B Mc Dougall
C Gallagher
J Van Overmeire (a)
Ms K Bell-Pitomac (a)
K Dunbar

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

NOTICE BOARD

Entertainment

ODEON 5

Phone 867 3339

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

Entertainment

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

Meetings

THE TRUSTEES TAHOKA TRUST
 Hereby give notice of the **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Monday 8 March 2021

Tarere Pa
 Pilmers Road
 Makauri, GISBORNE

5pm: Kai
 5.30pm
 Mihimihi/Karakia

1. Apologies
 2. AGM Minutes 28.7.2021
 3. Matters Arising
 4. Chair's Report
 5. Financial Report
- Trustees for each block
 Please note that shareholders in each block must meet separately to select their Trustee representative for the Tahoka Trust

7pm: Karakia
 Whakakapi
 Chair Poua Puia

Meetings



Applications are open to apply for grants from the Hearing Assistance Fund.

Applications close on 9 March 2021.

For an application form and funding criteria visit.

www.sunrise foundation.org.nz
or call Glenda 06 867 7939

Public Notices

THE PROPRIETORS OF HAKURENGA INCORPORATION SCHOLARSHIP

Financial assistance is provided for the shareholder to undertake tertiary education and or diploma qualifications through Polytechnics.

To be eligible for the scholarship the applicant must be a shareholder of the incorporation, a child of a shareholder or grandchild of a shareholder.

Please direct all enquiries for application forms to:

THE SECRETARY Hakurenga Incorporation BDO Gisborne Limited P O Box 169 or 1 Peel Street Gisborne

Phone (06) 869 1400

Fax (06) 867 8533

Applications must be in no later than Friday 30th April 2021.

Public Notices



CLAIMS AGAINST ESTATES PURSUANT TO SECTION 35 OF THE TRUSTEE ACT 1956

Notice is hereby given that all creditors and other persons having claims against any of the estates mentioned below or any property forming part of any such estate are required to send their claims to the undermentioned solicitors on or before 27 March 2021. Notice is hereby given that after such date the Executor and Trustee of each estate proposes to transfer or distribute the assets of the deceased among the parties entitled thereto having regard only to the claim of which the Executor or Trustee then has notice. In such event the Executor or Trustee will not in respect of the property so transferred or distributed be liable to any person of whose claim he did not have notice at the time of such transfer or distribution.

NAME
 Edna May BATES
DATE OF DEATH
 16 December 2020
OCCUPATION
 Married Woman

Edward BIRTWISTLE

29 August 2020

Retired

Mark Ellison

CLAPHAM

6 January 2021

Retired Registered

Surveyor

Irene Elise FENTON

15 December 2020

Retired

Jane Elizabeth HORNE

8 January 2021

Retired Dental Nurse

John Ihaia KINGI

14 December 2020

Retired War Veteran

Ella Maureen

McGOLDRICK

31 December 2020

Retired

Pamela Ann PICKETT

27 December 2020

Widow

Siebolt Cornelis

POSTMA

19 November 2020

Retired

Henry Patrick

SEYMOUR

24 December 2020

Retired

Kinloch SMITH

14 October 2020

Viticulturist

Patricia Mary

STEWART

9 November 2020

Retired

Valerie Elaine

STORY-ANDREWS

11 December 2020

Married Woman

Marjorie Anne

THOMAS

21 January 2021

Retired

Particulars of claims should be sent to:

NOLANS SOLICITORS

P O BOX 1141 GISBORNE

Public Notices

TE AWAPUNI MOANA TRUST
 APPLICATION FOR DONATIONS

PURPOSE
 To describe the Trust's policy in relation to the expenditure of Trust funds towards charitable, community and sporting events. To ensure that donations are made in a consistent manner.

POLICY
 Te Awapuni Moana Trust policy is developed to ensure that requests for grants are dealt with fairly and consistently.

The Trustees will consider an annual donation fund prior to each year's Annual General Meeting. The Trustees will endeavour to distribute up to 30% of the Trust's annual surplus for the year. This distribution will relate to the year following the financial result.

For a copy of the Donation Policy please direct all enquiries to:

BDO Gisborne Ltd PO Box 169 or 1 Peel Street Gisborne mbu@bdo.co.nz Phone (06) 869 1400

Applications closes 31 March 2021.

S Pohatu Chairperson of Te Awapuni Moana Trust

Classifieds Phone 869 0601

Public Notices

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH FAIR
 CHURCH HALL, DERBY STREET
SATURDAY 6th MARCH
9am Start
 Handcrafted items, Posh & Pretty items, Linen, Books, Cakes, Jams and Pickles, Plants and Produce, White Elephant, Raffles, Children's Activities, Sausage Sizzle, Morning Teas

Public Notices

GISBORNE COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS
 Ilminster Intermediate Gym
 Auditions: Saturday 6th March starting 8am
 Adults: \$8 Children: \$2
 Finals: Sunday 7th, 1pm
 Adults: \$15 Children: \$5
GUEST ARTIST: ZANDRIA TAARE
 All welcome

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

TE HAPARA SCHOOL SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES ELECTION

Nominations are open for the election of two parent representatives to the board of trustees.

All eligible voters will receive a nomination form and a notice calling for nominations - you can use this form to nominate yourself or someone in your community.

If you need more nomination forms, contact the school office.

Nominations close at noon on Sunday 4th April 2021. You may provide a signed candidate statement and photograph with your nomination.

The electoral roll is held at the school and can be viewed during normal school hours.

As nominations are received, there will be a list of candidates' names kept at the school until election day, which you can view.

Voting closes at 4pm on Friday 7th May 2021.

Signed Krista White
 Returning Officer

Public Notices

THE PROPRIETORS OF ARAI MATAWAI INCORPORATION

INVITE ALL SHAREHOLDERS TO ATTEND OUR FARM TOUR
 KAIKOURA STATION

SATURDAY, 6 March 2021 Farm Tour

Meeting point will be at BDO Gisborne car park **7:30am**

(Bright Street river end behind the fire station) Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

Morning tea on arrival at Kaikoura Woolshed Brief introduction & presentation
 Tour farm by road stopping at 3 areas.

RSVP
 Number attending for catering & travel purposes.

All RSVPs can be made by calling BDO Gisborne (06) 869 1400 or emailing mbu@bdo.co.nz

RSVP by no later than Wednesday 3 March 2021

Nau mai, haere mai, Na LeRoy Pardoe

WHAREONGAONGA 5 BLOCK TRUST SCHOLARSHIP

Financial assistance is available to undertake tertiary education at a NZQA University or Tertiary Institute.

To be eligible for the scholarship the applicant must be a shareholder of the Trust, a child or grandchild of a shareholder of the Trust.

Please direct all enquiries for application forms to:

THE SECRETARY Whareongaonga 5 Block Trust C/- BDO Gisborne Ltd PO Box 169 or 1 Peel Street Gisborne

Phone (06) 869 1400

Fax (06) 867 8533

Applications must be in no later than Wednesday 31st March 2021.

Situations Vacant

INTERESTED in driving a taxi? Ph 0278 450 742.

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

Work Wanted

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.

WANT a fence fixed, built or altered? Also section clearing. Ph Graeme, 021 659 672.

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

Situations Vacant

SR CONTRACTING
 We have 10 vacancies for graders at our Makaraka factory. Starting from 5 March 2021.

Training provided. 8-10 weeks work. \$22.14 per hour (incl Hol. pay)

Phone Maulik between 9-4pm 022 645 0787

TE KURA KAUPAPA MAORI O HOKURUA KAIKO
WHAREKURA - PANGARAU
 (Ftte 0.5 Part-time, Fixed-Term)
 Timata ā te wāhanga 2 ki te mutunga tau. E whai ake nei i ngā pukenga pangarau mo ngā tau 9 - 12 me tōna mōhio anō ki ngā pepa NCEA. Piri mai kia a mātou mēna ko koe tēnā, e kaingākau ana ki te reo Māori me ōna tikanga ki Te Tairāwhiti.
 Tonoa ki tonoa@horoutawananga.school.nz . Ka kati 5pm, Rāmere 19 Maehe 2021.

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

Gisborne District Council

Meetings

Meetings of the Council and its Committees scheduled for March to be held at the Gisborne District Council.

Thursday 4 March

9am Sustainable Tairāwhiti

Thursday 11 March

9am Wastewater Management

Wednesday 17 March

10am Audit & Risk

Thursday 18 March

9am Council

Meeting agendas and associated reports are available on our website two days before the scheduled meeting. This notice is given under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

www.gdc.govt.nz
 15 Fitzherbert Street
 PO Box 747 Gisborne 4040
 PHONE 06 867 2049
 EAST COAST RESIDENTS 0800 653 800
 EMAIL service@gdc.govt.nz

Frequency Discount

Repeat your line advertisement on consecutive days to take advantage of our frequency discounts
ph 869 0601



Situations Vacant



Health Consumer Service Trust
(www.healthcomplaints.co.nz)

ASSOCIATE REQUIRED

The Trust is an independent, community based service that supports consumers who have a complaint about the health care service they have received.

Applicants need:

- Excellent communication skills.
- A knowledge and empathy for people with health and disability concerns.
- The ability to work independently and within a team.
- The ability to work casual and flexible hours (no more than 20 hours per week).
- Cultural sensitivity.

Closing date for applications is Wednesday, March 10, 2021.

Please send cover letter and CV to lauren@healthcomplaints.co.nz

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

Situations Vacant

PART-TIME GARDENER

A part-time position has become available for a motivated and energetic person to join the team carrying out a gardening role working within newly established perennial gardens in a stunning setting, 25kms South of Gisborne.

The successful applicant must:

- Have people skills and a be good communicator.
- Be prepared to work within a team and be flexible in relation to seasonal duties within the garden.
- Have some knowledge of plants and/or worked in previous jobs with plants.
- Have a high level of integrity, be honest and reliable.
- This part-time role will be 3 days per week with days being flexible.

Applicants must have a current NZ Residency. Accommodation on the property is not available.

Background checks will be carried out.

Applications close Friday, 12th March 2021.

Please send a covering letter with your CV and references to vacancy@nickshead.co.nz

Situations Vacant



Support Worker

Are you looking to make a real difference in your community?

HealthCare NZ are currently looking for passionate Support Workers to assist clients living in their own homes and in the community. The work may involve a variety of tasks including meal preparation, community outings, personal cares (showering, toileting etc) and housework.

What's in it for you:

- » Fully funded pathway to achieve NZQA qualifications
- » Pay equity rates between \$20.50 - \$25.50 per hour
- » Paid mileage between clients

What are we looking for:

- » Attitude - a desire to help and support others
- » A valid driver's licence and your own reliable transport
- » Flexibility with shifts (it would be advantageous if you are available between 7:00-11:00am and for some weekend work)

To discuss, contact Becky on 027 293 6981 or call into the HealthCare NZ offices at 108 Lowe Street, Gisborne. You can also apply via our careers site: www.careers.healthcarenz.co.nz



Situations Vacant

CLINICAL SECRETARY

Are you looking for an opportunity to be part of a healthcare organisation that gives back to its community and provides you with stimulating and challenging work? Then look no further. We have an opportunity for an experienced clinical typist to join in our busy healthcare services. There is one full time permanent position and one fixed term position.

Do you have excellent interpersonal skills?

Do you thrive in a busy, demanding environment? This could be the perfect job for you!

The ideal applicant will possess some of the following attributes:

- Proven keyboard skills demonstrating speed and accuracy with ability to proofread and self-correct.
- Previous experience with clinical typing is desirable.
- Proven ability to work as part of a team.
- A knowledge of the Privacy Act, and the Health Information Privacy Code.
- Proven knowledge of Windows based applications, with a willingness to engage in professional development as processes move online.
- An understanding of the Treaty of Waitangi and cultural awareness.
- Ability to demonstrate a basic understanding of medical terminology.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills.
- Time management and organisation skills, with an ability to effectively prioritise work ensuring attention to detail.
- Applicants must be proficient in Dictaphone typing with a good knowledge of medical terminology.
- You are an experienced, quick and accurate typist.
- You have exceptional spelling and grammar and are passionate about the quality of your work.
- You are able to work well both independently and collaboratively in order to meet timeframes/achieve goals.
- You are positive, keen to learn and have a high attention to detail.

Hauora Tairāwhiti is Gisborne's largest hospital and has recently created a new vision to create a 'healthier Tairāwhiti by working together'. We also uphold our WAKA values so come join our waka and be part of this exciting movement.

To review the job description, please visit our website www.hauratairawhiti.org.nz

For further information about this opportunity, please contact Lynsey Bartlett at Lynsey.Bartlett@tdh.org.nz

Applications close: 5 March 2021.

Apply online www.hauratairawhiti.org.nz



The District Health Board of Gisborne/Tairāwhiti

Situations Vacant



OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School
Gisborne

St. Mary's School is looking for a committed and enthusiastic person to join our team as Office Administrator. We seek a flexible and adaptive person who has previous administration and finance management experience.

40 hours per week: 8am-5pm Monday - Friday (School Term Time Only).

Key jobs will include:

- General administration duties
- Finance management (Xero, Banking, Accounts, Audit preparation)
- Use of Novopay / ED Pay (payroll)
- Web-based Student Management System
- Uniform ordering and sales
- Sickbay
- Pastoral care

The new Office Administrator will be honest, reliable, committed and be able to show initiative whilst managing their own time and workload. He/she will have good interpersonal skills, be able to work and communicate positively with others, like being around children, maintain confidentiality and have a willingness and ability to support the Special Catholic Character of our school.

You must pass a police check to be eligible to work in a school setting.

Start date 22nd March 2021 or by negotiation.

To apply for this position please email or phone the school to request an application pack and job description.

Helen McGuigan (Principal)
principal@saintmarysgis.school.nz
or phone 06 868 8332

Applications close Friday 5th March at 12pm.

Situations Vacant

Student Liaison Advisor x 2

EIT Tairāwhiti is seeking two Student Liaison Advisors to join our Marketing and Liaison Team. The successful candidates will provide advice to current and prospective students regarding programme offerings, promote EIT in the Tairāwhiti community, and provide general support to the marketing team. Based in Gisborne these are permanent full-time roles.

You will also have:

- Experience and/or qualifications in marketing, promotion and/or stakeholder engagement
- Excellent communication and IT skills
- Demonstrated commitment to customer focus and satisfaction and ability to provide high quality, friendly service within deadlines
- High level of interpersonal skills, both face to face and via other mediums (social media, phone etc)
- Initiative and the ability to work independently in promoting EIT to students and the community
- The flexibility to work around promotion and organisation activity as required

The ability to work and contribute positively in a team environment is critical to your success in this role.

Applications close Thursday, 4 March 2021. For a job description and to apply please visit Jobs@EIT on our website.



www.eit.ac.nz

Situations Vacant

NGATAPA SCHOOL BUS DRIVER

Required to drive our 12 seater van approx 15 hours per week - mornings & afternoons.

All enquiries please email office@ngatapa.school.nz

Situations Vacant

FARM GENERAL HAND

Fulltime or part-time. 35 min from Gisborne. Tidy 1 bedroom cottage available.

Please contact Ted on (06) 867 1313

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

Firewood

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.

KUMARA PYO, \$3kg Sat & Sun, 8am-3pm, on Salesyard Rd, just past the Jolly Stockman. Bring your own containers, No Eftpos available. Ph 0274 980 447.

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.

Readers Bargains

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

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

Readers Bargains

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

NEAR new Ps4 & JVC 50", \$650. Ph/text 021 257 3372.

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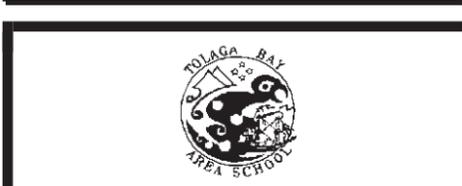
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CHRISTIAN COMMENT

At times it can appear that the world we live in today is a crazy one, and, as has been noted by various observers in the past, "truth is a rare commodity indeed".

As we deal with 'fake news' and 'paralogy' (the building of a consensus whether or not it's related to the truth*) which impact not just what we read, watch and hear in the media but extend to the beliefs which underpin the laws made by our local and national leaders, it is a struggle to accept some of the decisions which can have major effects on our lives.

When the Roman governor Pilate was trying to work out what to do with Jesus who was brought before him by an angry mob, he is reported to have asked: "What is truth?"

All the while looking at the God-Man standing before him, who claimed to be the way, the TRUTH and the life.

Christianity holds that there is absolute truth, which can be relied upon no matter what. The current trend in society today is to believe that there are no moral absolutes and that people should be free to create their own reality. John Key was heard to quote: "Perception is reality". How wrong he was.

One may perceive a thing to be true, e.g. that quicksand has a solid surface, but the reality is that walking on it would lead to a quick demise. In this instance perception is definitely not reality!

To be a true Christian means to believe that Jesus is the Son of God - as He claimed to be - and that how we react to this truth affects our lives on both sides of the grave.

If we chose not to believe Him, would that make His claims any less true?

Belief in Him is then the starting point that leads us into all truth - John 16:23.

When we know the truth, it sets us free - John 8:32 (*James Lindsay, Epoch Times interview Jan 16 2021).

Esther Henderson
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Hoop differential separates top pairs

CROQUET

A SUPERIOR hoop differential won Robyn Chaffey and Dave Newton the Barry Memorial Croquet Club's golf croquet handicap doubles tournament.

Five pairs took part, arranged so that high- and low-handicap players were in pairs together.

The competitive nature of the clubmates was apparent early on in the round robin, with only a couple of hoops proving the difference in results in the first three rounds.

First-round winners were Christine McCullough and Jenny Barns-Graham, and Ross Thomson and Muriel McMillan.

While McCullough and Barns-Graham continued on their winning way in the second round Thomson and McMillan didn't.

Newton and Chaffey lost their second-round game, then went from strength to strength, winning their remaining games.

After a bad start in Round 1, Chris Newton and Maurice Allan looked promising. The won their second and third games but faltered in their last, which pushed them out of the prize money.

The final results were close. Newton and Chaffey and McCullough and Barns-Graham had three wins apiece. However,



DOUBLES WINNERS: Robyn Chaffey and Dave Newton went from strength to strength after a second-round loss to win Barry Memorial Croquet Club's golf croquet doubles tournament.

Newton and Chaffey were declared winners because of their superior hoop differential of 6 to 3.

ROUND 1 of the three-round 2021 Jenny Virtue Twilight Mercantile Golf Croquet Competition was completed at Barry Memorial Croquet Club.

Ball Knockers won relatively easily, with a team score of 63, based on the performance of the top four players in the team.

The players Jacques Van Wyk,

David Stevenson, Gavin Loudon and Hamish Campbell played well all night but some had the benefit of playing in earlier years, which gave them an edge.

The Sunshine Tigers four of Peter Findon, Barbara Baillie, David Kirkpatrick and Graham Atkins were second with a score of 50 and in third place were the Agfirst team of Peter Andrew, Marlene Turei, Pip McCulloch and Tracy Lloyd, with a score of 42.

The MVP (most valuable



LOOKING GOOD: Peter Andrew (Agfirst) shows good technique and Graham Atkins (Sunshine Tigers) ponders his next move in the mercantile golf croquet competition. Pictures supplied

player) on the night was Van Wyk, who ended up with a creditable 17 points. It was the first time he had played, and he showed great skill in running the hoops and defeating his opponents.

Those taking part enjoyed themselves and are looking forward to the next round.

Sunshine Tigers and Agfirst will have more players for the remaining two rounds and are confident they will knock over Ball Knockers. Teams have vacancies for several more players so if anyone is interested in playing the next two Tuesday nights they should email barry4fun.gis@gmail.com.



MEN'S TEAM, back (from left): Steve Goldsbury, Ricky Miller, Paul Harrison, Leighton Shanks, George Vaotuu, Mick Maunder and Jamey Ferris. Front: Ben Elkington, William Murray, Boon McIlroy, July Williams and Ben Brown. Pictures supplied



WOMEN'S TEAM, back (from left): Jasmine Merrick, Bobbie Beattie, Lyn Trueman, Tanya Harrison and Dianne Phillips. Front: Lucy Shanks, Paige Richter, Dayvinia Mills, Sharon Olsen, Anita Vaotuu and Carol Hawes.

Harrison and Shanks shine for GEC team

BOWLS By Crackerjack

GISBORNE-East Coast bowlers Paul Harrison and Leighton Shanks won the men's pairs section of the Octagonal Bowls Tournament on the Kapiti Coast this month.

They won five out of seven games in a tournament that also drew teams from Wairarapa, Manawatu, Whanganui, Hawke's Bay, Wellington, Taranaki and the Kapiti Coast.

Overall, the Gisborne men's team finished fifth with 13 wins, a differential of 133 and 450 points.

The women's team finished sixth with 11.5 wins, a minus-52 differential and 430 points.

The men played at Central Levin Bowling Club and the women, at Paraparaumu Beach Bowling Club.

During the three-day tournament, some terrific bowls, intense competition, and wonderful spectator support were evident.

Bowls Gisborne-East Coast team members were —

Men: Jamey Ferris, Boon McIlroy, Ricky Miller and Paul Harrison (Gisborne Bowling Club); Leighton Shanks, George



TOP PAIR: Paul Harrison (left) and Leighton Shanks played as a pair in the Octagonal Bowls Tournament on the Kapiti Coast this month, and finished first in the men's pairs section. Picture supplied

Vaotuu and William Murray (Kahutia); Mick Maunder and Ben Elkington (Tolaga Bay); and July Williams (Te Karaka). Manager: Steve Goldsbury.

Selector: Ben Brown.

Women: Tanya Harrison, Dayvinia Mills, Dianne Phillips, Carol Hawes and Lyn Trueman (Gisborne); Paige

Richter and Lucy Shanks (Kahutia); Anita Vaotuu (Poverty Bay); Jasmine Merrick (Te Karaka); and Sharon Olsen (Tolaga Bay). Selector/manager: Bobbie Beattie.

One of the most thrilling games was in the singles between Gisborne-East Coast's Jamey Ferris and 20-year-old Wellington bowler Seamus Curtin.

Ferris led 14-8 but Curtin slowly lifted his game and won the game 25-17.

Ferris played some outstanding bowls and beat some seasoned players to finish fourth in the men's singles section of the tournament.

In the men's pairs, Harrison and Leighton Shanks seemed to complement each other's play.

Shanks brought to the tournament his vast experience of indoor bowls, which transferred well to the lawn version of the game.

Experience in indoor bowls also stood Lucy Shanks, Leighton's sister, in good stead for the tournament.

She and Dayvinia Mills made a great pair and finished fourth in the women's pairs.

Well done to all the Gisborne-East Coast men's and women's teams.



AMONG THE MEDALS: Waikanae Surf Life Saving Club member Chloe Kapene, here competing in the board in the Gisborne junior surf lifesaving champs, won gold in the under-14 beach sprint at Oceans '21 yesterday. File picture by Paul Rickard

Second gold for Kapene

SURF LIFESAVING by Murray Robertson

A SECOND gold medal to Waikanae's Chloe Kapene and a first in her first New Zealand "Oceans" junior championships for Midway's Lilla Hain were highlights for Gisborne at Mt Maunganui yesterday.

Kapene added the under-14 beach sprint title to the run-swim-run gold she won on Day 1, Thursday.

Dawson Building Midway speedster Lilla Hain won the gold medal in the under-11 beach sprint.

Georgie Beaufoy, from Kaiapoi Farms Waikanae, won the bronze in the u12 girls' beach sprint.

Surf conditions were testing for the youngsters yesterday, at a metre, but the waves were tipped to get bigger today.

"Competitors from all three clubs handled the surf really well yesterday, and we should see them do that again in the bigger conditions today," a spokesman

for the Gisborne clubs said.

There were some strong performances yesterday in the heats and semifinals of the diamond (board and swim) races.

Ella Sutton, of Midway, won her diamond semifinal to advance to the final of the u13 event as did Kapene, of Waikanae.

Riversun Wainui's Charlie Keepa finished third in her u13 Diamond semi to make the final, along with Midway's Emily Petro,

Austin Fergus, of Midway, qualified for the diamond finals, too, with a third placing in his semifinal in the u14 boys' event.

The u14 board and tube rescue events are on today, along with the beach flags, and the Gisborne contingent, 42 of them, should do well.

The district will be well represented in the board, surf race and diamond finals tomorrow.

Crusaders not at their best but defence tells

RUGBY by Liam Napier, NZME

NEW season, same Crusaders does not quite tell the full story.

The defending champions were far from their polished best in the first match of Super Rugby Aotearoa 2.0 against the Highlanders in Dunedin — and still got the job done, 26-13, with relative ease despite conceding two yellow cards.

The second-half attack was particularly scrappy from the Crusaders, as wayward passing and sloppy handling crept in with fatigue to stifle possession.

But with world-class defence, you don't need to be perfect.

Four tries to two the Crusaders scored, racing out to a 14-0 lead before needing a 72nd-minute try from replacement hooker Brodie McAlister to finish off the Highlanders.

Yet it was defence that set the tone throughout — the way the Crusaders nullified the favoured Highlanders maul epitomising their forward strength.

With their set-piece proficiency, the ruthless Crusaders tight five steamrolled the Highlanders scrum all evening long.

Outside their dominant pack, where Codie Taylor led the way, wings Leicester Fainga'anuku and Sevu Reece were highly prominent. Fainga'anuku used his power off first receiver and swallowed Richie Mo'unga crossfield kicks, while Reece savoured his roaming commission to pop up all over the park and finish one classy second-half try in the corner.

New Zealand derbies were nearly all closely fought in the inaugural SRA season, and if this opening match is any gauge, that theme will continue in 2021.

For now at least, the Crusaders remain standard setters — this their seventh straight victory over the Highlanders.

The Highlanders recovered from the opening onslaught, with 15 penalties and two yellow cards from the Crusaders keeping the contest alive.

The locals were denied a 66th-minute Patelesio Tomkinson try, with the TMO ruling a dubious knock-on at a previous ruck, replays hardly showing a clear and obvious mistake.

Ultimately, though, the Highlanders could not break down the staunch Crusaders defence. They also squandered numerous chances with botched crossfield kicks and their malfunctioning lineout proving costly.

Under the roof, the Highlanders opened the season with a stirring haka, much to the Zoo's delight during O-week, but the Crusaders dominated the first quarter to lead 14-0 inside 18 minutes.

First through defensive line speed, the Crusaders swarmed the Highlanders attack, picking off runners at will, driving them back and reading backdoor plays to perfection.

The Crusaders set piece, thanks to their All Blacks-laden pack, consumed the Highlanders scrum on several occasions, with Joe Moody leading the charge and Sam Whitelock and Scott Barrett delivering second-row power.

Moody was, however, fortunate to escape a yellow card early after lashing out with his open palm to the face of Jack Regan in retaliation for the Highlanders lock holding his jersey.

Once on the front foot, the Crusaders flicked into attack mode. Not with the usual suspects, though, with Whitelock providing the slick short ball to send Taylor bursting through a brilliant line and showing pace to beat the fullback to open the scoring for the season.

From their impeccable set piece,

this time the lineout, the Crusaders effortlessly gave Reece space to work his magic, Bryn Hall snaffling his centring kick to establish a 14-0 lead.

Ill discipline proved the major issue for the Crusaders. Seven infringements — three in a row for offside — were enough for referee Ben O'Keefe to send Ethan Blackadder to the bin, sparking the Highlanders revival.

Shannon Frizell and Marino Mikaele-Tu'u, in combination in the back row, led the way with powerful carries for the Highlanders that brought the impetus for their response.

Mikaele-Tu'u, with speed off the back of the scrum, delivered front-foot ball that allowed Aaron Smith to whip a superb cut-out ball back to the blindside where Frizell waited in the corner.

Mitchell Hunt and Jona Nareki next combined, the latter skipping around Crusaders midfielder Dallas McLeod and put Connor Garden-Bachop in on his debut.

Hunt couldn't knock over the sideline conversions but his strike just after the break reduced the deficit to one point.

Tomkinson's non-try proved the Highlanders' last shot at a bonus point after the Crusaders kicked away.

A late Barrett yellow card will serve as a reminder of the glaring area the Crusaders must improve, but another satisfying southern derby victory is nothing to scoff at in the first match of this campaign.

CRUSADERS 26 (Codie Taylor, Bryn Hall, Sevu Reece, Brodie McAlister tries; Richie Mo'unga 3 con)

HIGHLANDERS 13 (Shannon Frizell, Connor Garden-Bachop tries; Mitchell Hunt pen) HT: 14-10.

Loss must galvanise England says coach

CRICKET by Rory Dollard, PA

AHMEDABAD — England head coach Chris Silverwood wants to see his side use the stinging two-day loss to India to stiffen their resolve.

Silverwood saw his side bowled out twice in less than 80 overs at the crease, mustering a grim total of 193 in their two innings on an Ahmedabad pitch that he holds clear misgivings about.

Like captain Joe Root, he would not be drawn into a direct critique of the extreme spinning conditions but he did make it clear the case was not considered closed for England, who could yet opt to pursue the matter through official

channels.

"We will be talking about certain things behind the scenes. Joe and I have to have a sit-down, have a conversation and see where we go with it," Silverwood said, without elaborating.

"I'm not saying we've just got to accept things, I'm just saying at this moment in time I've not got anything to add."

He was happier to open up about what he hoped his players could take out of their fastest test defeat in 100 years.

Having been taken down by Axar Patel and Ravichandran Ashwin in the last two matches, Silverwood wants his top order to hold the memory tight and use it as motivation.

"You look at the guys we've got in there — your Popes, Crawleys, Sibleys. As tough as it is at the moment, hopefully this will galvanise them," he said.

"When they do get on flat surfaces, better surfaces, it will make them even more hungry and desperate to make sure they get runs.

"When we travel to other countries, such as Australia, hopefully if they get themselves in they'll get greedy and go big. This experience will just harden them towards that."

In the short-term, England have three extra days in the bubble to prepare for chapter two in Ahmedabad.

Spin is likely to be the order of the day

again, but the unknown quantity of the pink ball will at least be removed from the equation with the game taking place in regular daylight hours.

Off-spinner Dom Bess was dropped for Moeen Ali in Chennai and remained on the sidelines on a pitch where Root's part-timer off-breaks scooped up five wickets for eight runs.

"He (Bess) is in contention. He was left out and Mo played in the second test; he was given a break," Silverwood said.

"He was left out of this one because of potential movement we could have got out of the pink ball. All the evidence was that it moved in training, in the middle and the nets."

SPORTS BRIEFS

Festive spirit for athletics

GISBORNE Girls' High School students got into the festive spirit of their athletic sports day on the Rectory field this week.

Students dressed up in house colours and supported each other.

The 100-metre races were popular, with lots of students taking part either competitively or socially.

All field events were competitive, with displays of sporting spirit.

Highlight of the day for many was the class relays, where students surrounded the track and cheered on their classmates.

House chants created an atmosphere of school spirit in what head of sport Arna Majstrovic described as "a successful day for mana wahine" (women of strength).

School athletic champions — Junior: Kaylee Doole Baker. Intermediate: Samara McLeod. Senior: Manaia Beach.

Durant to miss All-Star game

NEW YORK — Kevin Durant will be out through the All-Star break because of a hamstring injury, sidelining the Brooklyn Nets star from a game for which he was chosen to serve as a captain.

The Nets said Friday after a routine follow-up MRI on Durant's left hamstring, it was determined he needed additional recovery time. — AP

Henderson out for a month

LIVERPOOL — Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp remains hopeful that the club captain Jordan Henderson will play again this season despite being ruled out for at least a month after surgery.

The key midfielder, who's been treated for a groin problem, will miss a minimum of five club matches, plus England's World Cup qualifiers against San Marino, Albania and Poland in late March.

"The best-case scenario, I don't know," Klopp said.

"It's not a quick one but we hope there is still a possibility for him to play a few games this season."

Henderson's absence reduces further Klopp's options at centreback as he had been covering that position in the absence of Virgil van Dijk, Joe Gomez, Joel Matip and Fabinho. — PA

Latest weapon a traditional sail

SAILING by Chris Rattue, NZ Herald

TEAM New Zealand have unveiled their latest weapon, a sail that could sink Luna Rossa's America's Cup hopes in light airs.

Experts are surmising the large, traditional style of sail forward of the mast would enable Te Rehutai to keep battling towards the finish line if the wind was so light she could not stay on the foils.

TNZ did not reply when approached for a comment about the latest potential addition to their weaponry.

But bad memories from an abandoned race in San Francisco eight years ago might have stirred their design creativity leading to the displacement sailing addition.

In 2013, Team New Zealand were heading for Cup victory in Race 13 of the final. But the race was abandoned because it exceeded the 40-minute limit, and Oracle Team USA went on to score a miraculous comeback victory from 8-1 down.

Sailing observers have told The New Zealand Herald they wondered what might be in the pipeline, after a crazy Christmas Cup race between Team New Zealand and Ineos Team UK during this regatta.

Team New Zealand were robbed of victory in that race, their massive lead counting for nothing after the boats were stranded in light airs and couldn't satisfy the 45-minute time limit.

World champion sailor Phil Robertson says he wondered at the time what the



NOT-SO-SECRET WEAPON: Team New Zealand have unveiled a sail that could help them in light winds. Picture by Aidan Nicholas

teams might come up with to cover that sort of situation.

"They would have asked 'what could pull us downwind when we can't foil?'" said Robertson, who did not have first-hand knowledge of the new Team New Zealand sail when talking to The New Zealand Herald.

A leading sailing identity confirmed they had seen Team New Zealand on the water with a new full-sized sail.

Another said it appeared to be made of a traditional type of material, rather than the carbon fibre used on the AC75s. It has been seen operating along with the mainsail and jib.

Under the AC75 rules, teams were allowed to use a jib and large Code Zero along with the mainsail.

But the Code Zero, designed for foiling, was abandoned without ever being used in anger because of its very narrow wind range. Nothing stands still in the big-money, high-tech world of America's Cup sailing, however.

The winds tend to lighten on the Waitemata Harbour at this time of year. America's Cup races only go ahead if an average wind speed of 6.5 knots, over five minutes, is reached before the race. Once a race starts it continues no matter how low the wind drops.

Robertson said there would be a lot of logistical issues to overcome in furling and unfurling the new sail — which would be no good upwind — during a race.

But he described its appearance as "interesting".

Race director Iain Murray said he had no knowledge of the new sail but was sure it would meet any rule requirements.

"There are very smart people at Team New Zealand — they won't be wasting their time and money and energy on something they might not be able to use in races," he said.

"If there is any doubt they put it in for confirmation."

AUT Sailing Professor Mark Orams said this was the perfect time for Team New Zealand to unveil the sail with the America's Cup match starting on March 6, giving the Italians little time to match it.

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WEATHER FOR TOMORROW

27 Feb, 2021

NOON TODAY

MIDNIGHT TONIGHT

GISBORNE TIDE MOVEMENT

Sunday Feb 28		Monday Mar 1	
am	pm	am	pm
Hicks Bay	H 8:15am 8:36pm	Hicks Bay	H 9:02am 9:25pm
Waipiro Bay	H 8:02am 8:23pm	Waipiro Bay	H 8:49am 9:12pm
Tolaga Bay	H 7:50am 8:11pm	Tolaga Bay	H 8:37am 9:00pm
Gisborne	H 7:25am 7:50pm	Gisborne	H 8:16am 8:42pm
Wairoa	H 7:03am 7:31pm	Wairoa	H 7:55am 8:23pm

SUN-MOON-MAORI FISHING GUIDE

Sun		Moon	
Rise	6:50 am	Rise	6:51 am
Set	7:50 pm	Set	7:49 pm
Set	7:14 am	Set	8:26 am
Rise	8:41 pm	Rise	9:11 pm

NZ SITUATION

The high pressure system over New Zealand gives way to a series of fronts moving across the country Monday through Wednesday.

NZ TOMORROW

Auckland	fine	25
Hamilton	fine	26
Tauranga	fine	23
Rotorua	fine	23
Taupo	fine	24
Napier	fine	23
New Plymouth	fine	23
Palmerston North	fine	26
Wellington	fine	23
Christchurch	fine	25
Queenstown	fine	24
Dunedin	fine	21

GISBORNE READINGS

Taken at the Airport, for the 17 hours to 5pm, Friday 26 Feb 2021

SUNSHINE hours	10.6
To date for February	206.0
Average for February	199.0
To date this year	502.0
To date last year	521.1
WIND km/h	SE 31
RAINFALL mm	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	5.2
Daily average for past week	5.2
TEMPERATURE °C	23.3
Maximum to 5pm	23.3
Minimum	11.2
Grass minimum	6.6
BAROMETRIC PRESSURE	1020.7
At 5pm 26 Feb (hPa)	1020.7
At 5pm 26 Feb (inches)	30.14

WORLD TOMORROW

Adelaide	fine	16	29
Amsterdam	fine	1	9
Bangkok	fine	25	33
Beijing	rain	2	4
Berlin	cloudy	3	10
Brisbane	fine	23	31
Buenos Aires	cloudy	22	29
Cairo	fine	10	22
Canberra	fine	12	31
Cape Town	fine	20	30
Delhi	fog	13	31
Frankfurt	fine	2	13
Geneva	fine	4	12
Hong Kong	fine	19	23
London	fine	3	11
Los Angeles	fine	9	22
Melbourne	fine	12	28
Moscow	rain	-4	1
New York	rain	4	11
Paris	fine	3	12
Perth	fine	17	30
Singapore	fine	24	34
Stockholm	fine	0	11
Suva	thunder	25	31
Sydney	fine	20	29
Tokyo	fine	1	12
Toronto	showers	-1	6

GISBORNE CITY

TOMORROW	MONDAY	TUESDAY
morning min 13 Cloudy at times. Light winds.	morning min 13 Cloudy periods. Northeasterlies.	morning min 13 Partly cloudy. Northeasterlies.
max 23	max 22	max 25

GISBORNE REGION

Cloudy at times. One or two showers possible. Easterlies.	Cloudy periods. Isolated showers possible, mainly about the ranges. Northeasterlies.	Partly cloudy. Northeasterlies.
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WEDNESDAY

Partly cloudy. Northerlies.

GISBORNE SUN PROTECTION ALERT

9:40 AM - 4:55 PM

PROTECTION REQUIRED

Seek shade, reapply sunscreen
Data provided by NIWA

TODAY IN HISTORY

1993 – Gisborne had its wettest February since 1936 after a total of 232mm of rain fell during the month. Normally, Gisborne can expect 69mm of rain during February. Only 129 hours of bright sunshine were recorded in Gisborne, 72 hours less than average.

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Riders back on the track preparing for nationals

PAGE 28



Gisborne competitors continue to do well at Oceans

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BMX 28
Bowls, croquet .. 29
Cricket, rugby 30
Sailing 31

Grinding for the Auld Mug

SAILING by Jack Malcolm

WHEN Louis Sinclair isn't foiling over the water in the Team New Zealand boat, he likes to spend time at the family home in Wairoa.

Sinclair is an elite "grinder", responsible for providing the human power to move the massive sails into the best position to catch the wind.

It will be his second America's Cup campaign. He was part of the failed Oracle Team USA defence in Bermuda, 2017.

He has also competed in the Volvo Ocean Race.

The feeling of being up on the foils is like nothing else, he says.

"It's definitely a shock. I remember the first time I went on a foil boat. It's amazing how steady and stable it is. It's pretty quiet and three times the speed (of a normal sailboat)."

Sinclair got into competitive sailing while living and working on the Caribbean island of Antigua on a commercial racing boat that offered tours and experiences to tourists. That was before he turned professional.

"The main thing is perseverance to stick with the sailing," he said. "You need to get lucky and have the skill."

He's spent the past two years with the Emirates Team

New Zealand crew training and preparing for the 36th America's Cup.

It's never easy, he says.

"It's a big stint. Two years of work, then it comes down to two weeks of sailing. It's a hard sport to be involved with, all grind and not much 'game time'."

Sinclair's father was from New Zealand and his mother was Antiguan. Half his childhood was spent in New Zealand and the other half in Antigua.

"Antigua and New Zealand are both home," he said.

"I hold them equal in terms of my feeling of home."

As a sailor, Sinclair says he's happy being a grinder. He enjoys the ability to work and stay fit and healthy at the same time.

"We're at the gym twice a day, it's an athlete's role and very physical."

At 29, he believes he's not yet at his physical peak and continues to improve.

"I've been getting better my whole career . . . I'm happy with where I'm at."

The America's Cup gets under way on March 6, with up to 13 races in a first-to-seven-wins format scheduled to conclude on March 15.

Coverage of the event will be live on TVNZ and online through America's Cup social media.



ELITE GRINDER: Team New Zealand grinder Louis Sinclair likes to spend time at the family home in Wairoa when he is not with the crew on America's Cup duty. Emirates Team New Zealand picture

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