RESIDENTS of houses near the port are enduring noise, vibration and dust conditions one person has compared to an earthquake and an acoustics specialist says is harmful to neighbours.

Concerns raised by the community prompted district health board Hauora Tairawhiti to commission the Environmental Noise Analysis and Advice Service (ENAAS) to review the situation.

The independent review picked major holes in the framework set up to regulate noise from the port’s activities, saying it deviated from “best practice” seen at other ports and was based on a resource management plan riddled with “inadequacies, errors and outdated information”.

Residents, who have lived in Kaiti long before the port crept closer with the 2015 build of the upper log yard on the corner of Crawford and Rakaiatane roads, say the noise, dust and vibrations are disturbing. Allyson Burrows has lived in the same house on Parau Street for 37 years, dating back to when the freezing works was in operation.

“It was nowhere near as noisy as today’s logging operations at the port, she said. “You’re lying awake at 2 or 3 in the morning and you’ve got banging, crashing and thumping and you’re thinking ‘is that an earthquake’?” Ms Burrows said.

Gisborne District Council is the noise control regulator and is responsible for ensuring the port is meeting its resource consents and the rules laid out in the Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan.

In the independent review released in July, acoustics noise specialist Dr Stephen Chiles said the sound and vibrations from forestry logs being shifted around in the upper logging yard were harming neighbouring residents.

Effects of the noisy log yard on the adjacent residential area could include sleep disturbance, annoyance and even cardiovascular disease, he said.

Five houses near the port were bought by the port and resold with covenants that discourage future owners from complaining about the noise, vibration and dust.

The owner of the port, Eastland Group, says the covenants do not prevent owners from making complaints, but are a “useful tool” that ensures new residents are aware of the nearby port, which must still operate within its resource consents and the district plan.

Eastland Group chief operating officer Andrew Gaddum said the company was constantly striving to find the appropriate balance between port operations to serve the region’s economy and being a good neighbour.

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SAFER LOADING

The first two of three huge new ISO log loading cranes to be used at Eastland Port arrived in Gisborne yesterday from Germany. The two cranes are pictured on board the freighter BBC Everest.

Picture by Liam Clayton

READY FOR WORK: Two mobile port cranes for loading log cargo at Eastland Port have arrived on site.

Port logistics company ISO expects to have both in operation by the end of the month.

The Mount Maunganui-headquartered company will bring a third crane to the port later this month to join the pair that arrived by ship from Germany where they were built by the Liebherr company.

ISO has operated the world-leading cranes at Mount Maunganui since August 2020.

They make for safer and more efficient handling of cargo, ISO chief executive Paul Cameron said.

The new mobile cranes will help transform our operation at Eastland Port, removing our people from high-risk areas on the wharf and enabling cargo to flow more efficiently through the increasingly pressured supply chain.

“We are upskilling and training staff we move out of high-risk areas into other machinery-based roles within the business. ISO chief operating officer Andrew Davies said he had seen significant improvements in safety and productivity at the Mount since the cranes were introduced.

“There has been a 75 percent reduction in the number of accidents and we expect to see similar results in Gisborne.”

The cranes load directly from trailers on the wharf into the ship’s hold, instead of using the ship’s on-board cranes.

“They allow us to handle all types of cargo for a wider range of vessels. This increases handling cycles, lift capacity and vessel turn-around times, which means a better result for our customers, our business and the port.”

Eastland Port infrastructure manager Marty Bayley said it was fantastic to see ISO’s commitment to improving safety and cargo flow throughout the forestry supply chain, “as well as providing an improved service for our customers”.

“The three cranes will be in operation by the end of the month.”

Each crane weighs 465 tonnes, has a 51-metre maximum lifting height, a 54m outreach and can lift 2,000 tonnes.

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Review highlights ‘significant’ issue

FROM PAGE 1

However, Dr Chiles said while there was some benefit to using a “significant” in the definition of “significant issue” to forewarn prospective residents of the ongoing port activities and call on Gisborne residents felt their concerns were not being addressed, he said.

“Any effective approach might have been for the port company to acoustically treat the houses before selling them, but it is understood that did not occur,” Dr Chiles said.

The port’s chief operating officer Andrew Gaddum said the company was constantly striving to improve the “health” of its port and to ensure the community’s health — especially when port activities had intensified since the properties were bought.

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Coastal farms most affected

by Murray Robertson

It was mostly business as usual for the region's farmers in the wake of the rain event last week — and there was a silver lining to the clouds for some.

For farmers in western areas where crops such as sugar beet were growing without worrying about feed and water, the rain was a welcome break.

“What a crazy end to the week,” said Mr Foran, regional president Toby Williams said.

“Our farm at Pouawa had more than 330mm of rain from Wednesday to yesterday Sunday.”

This week’s improved forecast was a “welcome relief” in terms of hill country farming in our region, most of the damage has occurred from Tolasaga Bay back through to the Waikato area, Ms Williams said.

“Rainfall is quite high but what from what I have heard breached no banked their banks in the manner they did in the Queen’s Birthday floods three years ago.

“This sort of storm is not as unusual this year. It is a little bit unusual and we were fortunate with the timing and good forecasts from Coromandel MetService, which meant minimal stock losses.

“We had almost July’s well- planted farm for erosion control, 200ha of thousands of willows and poplars planted over the past 50-plus years, Mr Williams said.

“For the most part it’s business as usual for hill country farmers up the Coast.”

“Most properties had silting, and the loss of loam but there were no loss of low-lying fences. I had a report from one farm that the ground movement was worse than or at least equal to Bola Line in 1998.”

“Personally speaking, we were hit on our property with a couple of massive slips and a few sinkholes and decent chunks of our terraces.

“We are lucky it’s a well-planted farm for erosion control, but it’s been a tough year for all farmers,” he said.

“This has limited silting and we’re waiting for the river to continue to run,” Mr Williams said.

“Rains are due this weekend.”

Bevan GOES THE DISTANCE

Voyage of recovery after quad bike accident

by Jack Malcolm

FOR Gisborne man Bevan Vendt, the 2021 Swim the Distance challenge was more than about completing the distance.

Bevan’s life was turned upside down at the start of this year in a quad bike accident in Gisborne. He spent almost three months at the Auckland Bone Injuries Rehabilitation Specialists unit in Wellington.

On returning home and having done some swimming through Paradox Gisbourn Tairawhiti as part of his rehabilitation, he decided to take on the 45.5km Swim the Distance challenge, which means minimal stock losses.

“This has limited silting and we’re waiting for the river to continue to run,” Mr Williams said.

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“This has limited silting and we’re waiting for the river to continue to run,” Mr Williams said.

“While that process occurs,” said a spokesperson, “the process will take between six and 12 months, and a number of procedures” to determine if he could proceed with the timing and good forecasts from Coromandel MetService, which meant minimal stock losses.

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“It also tells the story that the rain has been limited to coastal areas and just not too far out inland,” he said.

“In terms of damage on the hills, there were varied reports.

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Understanding the benefits of exotics

by Avneesh Vincent

A WORKSHOP on timber plus carbon farming is encouraging farmers to understand more about the science of growing exotics for better land-use opportunities and increased profits.

Mr Neilson and Mike King, a forestry consultant company based in Rotorua and founded by Dennis Neilson in 1993.

“Our experience has been that planting exotics is usually seen in a bad light and we want to change that,” Mr Neilson said.

The workshop was held to give farmers a better understanding of the changing legislation, regulation and the economics of staying in farming.

It included a visit to a farm in Whangara that has successfully implemented the model of planting as guided by the consultant company. Mr Neilson said the farm owner, Pat Lane, and his son Mike had earlier approached him and another forestry consultant as they were interested in looking at opportunities to develop sheep farming.

“When we showed them that you can improve your farm by planting trees such as pine and gain timber plus carbon benefits, it was a no brainer.

The farmers who had come for the visit were shown the portion of the farm that was planted with pine trees.

“This field day is more about showing these farmers the opportunities and benefits when you plant pine trees. It is a great investment option for families,” Mr Lane said.

It was all about having a healthy mix of exotics and natives, he said.

“As you can see there are a lot of natives starting to regenerate in the valley.”

“It was when the Lanes consulted with Mr Neilson and Mike King, a forestry consultant from InteRipe, that they realised the exotic planting process was not as destructive as it once was.

“Mike mapped out our entire farm on Google Earth and picked up the places that were unplanted and those that were and made several spreadsheets. The figures spoke for themselves. He showed us the returns and it was hard to say no,” he said.

With the emergence of the carbon economy and the price of carbon, farmers have been given serious choices to make, Mr King said.

“The Lanes had a look at their scenario and decided after consultation that the

smarter thing to do would be to take the rogest part of their country land — which is typical in lot of places on the East coast — and prestige timber plus carbon farming,” he said.

Mr King said while the primary reason to have an exotic forest was to get timber, the economics of waiting 30 years to make any profit from selling it made it "unattractive".

“Most of the landowners were of an age that if they waited 30 years they wouldn’t see the fruit of it. But with the carbon credit process providing an annual cash flow coupled with timber production, it is a win-win situation and hence called timber plus carbon farming,” he said.

As the landowners were conservative thinkers, they were sceptical of the change.

Part of our journey is to educate landowners that they shouldn’t stop farming and grow trees. It is about utilising the land and farming it well to get better production per hectare, taking tougher country and allowing the trees to do the work for you.” Mr King said.

Besides the need for change there was a need to remove misconceptions about planting pines.

“People have been hugely misled by myths regarding forestry. Theories such as exotic poison the land, ruin the water and the trees fall over, is problematic. Just read the science behind it,” he said.

While he believed in planting the right tree in the right place, it could be misunderstood.

If you plant native species on one hectare, after 50 years it would have sequestered 320 tonnes of carbon. But if the same hectare was planted with pine forests along with the benefit of the timber later, it would have sequestered somewhere between 1400 and 1700 tonnes of carbon dioxide.

Although the exotics were better in carbon sequestration, it would be wrong to say that natives should not be utilised as such forestry has its own uses, Mr King said.

Council Land Management officer Kerry Hudson said while most of the planting has been of exotics over the years, there has been a push towards natives recently.

Unlike the exotics, native forestry was difficult and slow to grow and required more pest control measures. The ability of exotics such as pines to grow quickly helped erosion control as well as carbon sequestration.

However, Mr Hudson said that growing natives was a better option when it came to land that has "eroded badly".

It was "advantageous" to have native plants that were not being harvested, they are there for the long term.

“It is more about planting the right tree in the right place, which includes taking the soil as a factor," he said.

Mr Neilson said the Gisborne workshop was their fourth workshop so far, with the first being in Dannevirke followed by Masterton and Napier.

“I have been doing forestry for about 50 years and with these workshops I want to put a little bit back into the community."

ATTRACTIVE OFFER: Mike Lane, right, said it was hard to say no to the prospect of timber plus carbon farming after learning of the benefits.

GOOD FOR INSULATION: From left, Dennis Neilson (DANA Limited independent consultant), Bryan McKinley (Eastern Forestry operations manager), Mike King (Enterprise Consultants) and Mike Lane at the farm visit for the workshop on timber plus carbon farming.

Pictures by Lian Clayton

Forestry sector continues to attract youth

MORE young New Zealanders are making forestry and wood-processing their future with seven talented applicants joining the Ngā Karahipi Uru Rākau — Forestry Scholarship programme, including one from this district.

Phoebe Naske from Gisborne joins six other successful applicants from across the country.

“It is fantastic to see young people embarking on their forestry career,” said Debbie Ward, director business and communications, Te Uru Rākau — NZ Forest Service.

“The growth in the sector means more opportunities for highly skilled people due to research, innovation and increased mechanisation.”

“The scholarship programme offers students a pathway to higher-level study, where they gain the skills, expertise, and capabilities which the forestry and wood-processing sector needs now and into the future.

The scholarship programme, now in its fourth year, aims to grow the capability of the forestry and wood-processing workforce, and increase the number of students who identify as female or Māori descent, encouraging greater diversity in the industry.”

To date, 25 students have graduated since the scholarship was established. Three of these former students — Andreina Baulch, Chanson Wainui and Matthew Warner — are now working in the forestry and wood-processing sector.

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All staff at small school refusing vaccine by deadline by John Gerritsen, RNZ

TAUMARUAI — A small King Country school expects all of its staff to be banned from its classrooms due to their refusal to receive a Covid-19 vaccine mandate. The school currently has three teachers, three support staff and a relief teacher and none were vaccinated.

She said none of her staff intended to get vaccinated by Monday, November 15, so the school would not be able to work on Tuesday. Gillard said none of the school’s board of trustees was vaccinated either.

She said she was not opposed to getting the vaccination herself, but as the only fully registered teacher she had not been able to take time off to get her shot.

Gillot said even if she was vaccinated, she could not open the school on her own and the school would have to revert to remote or online learning from Tuesday.

She said she doubted anything would persuade her staff to get the vaccination and she wanted the ministry to advise the vaccine mandate and instead require weekly testing.

The Central King Country Principals’ Association estimated about a third of the staff in the region’s 16 schools were refusing the Covid vaccination. Association chairperson Maria Gillard said a support group had tried to work with those who did not want to be vaccinated, or we have to find an alternative but we don’t know what the alternative is.”

She said schools in the area had a lot of trouble hiring teachers at the best of times and they were very worried about replacing staff who refused to be fully vaccinated before the start of next year.

Gillard said a support group had tried to work with those who did not want to be vaccinated, but convincing them to change their minds was tough.

The situation that faces Taumarunui is that we only have one reliever in the whole of Ngāti Tai area — and that one won’t be here in a few days. We’re certainly not looking at large numbers of staff leaving, but convincing them to change their minds was tough.

She agreed the situation was making schools staffs a bit tense. New Zealand Principals’ Federation president Perry Rush said King Country schools were not alone.

“We are seeing an increasing number of smaller principals’ associations raise concerns about the absence of staff after the 15th who are not vaccinated. In some instances in small schools that can be very influential in that it can be most of the staff,” he said.

“We’re certainly not looking at large numbers I think in the larger schools. It’s our small rural and remote communities that have the biggest challenges because they do not have the staffing resource to backfill any loss of teachers from the front line.”

Rush said there had been a lot of effort to give school staff high-quality information about the vaccine.

Schools now needed clearer guidance about what to do with staff who refused the vaccination.
Covid-19 case on Waiheke

by Grant Bradley, NZ Herald

AUCKLAND — Waiheke Island has recorded its first local case of Covid-19 just weeks after an Auckland awaiting test results traveled to the island.

In a post to Facebook, the chairperson of Waiheke’s local board, Cath Handley, confirmed a resident has tested positive for Covid-19 at the Ostend Medical Centre.

“Just as we welcome our local shops opening again, and following our second positive wastewater result in the weekend, I am sorry to confirm that we now have our first positive local Covid case, tested at the Ostend Medical Centre,” Handley said. Handley said the positive case was self-isolating at home and is “not ill”.

She urged local residents that it was not a time to worry and health officials would get in contact with the resident’s close contacts.

“It is important to know that public health have been phoning that resident’s contacts and those people have been great at responding and stepping up to get tested,” she said.

On Sunday, the Ministry of Health said Waiheke Island returned unexpected positive wastewater detections of Covid-19. In response to this, the ministry set up a testing station at the Waiheke Medical Centre.

Last month an Aucklander on the mainland who was awaiting test results traveled to the island and tested positive.

Recently Handley said they had written to the Government to formally request a border be put in place, like those at the Chy’s Northland and Waikato boundaries.

She said there were major concerns about what a case would do to the island, which has one supermarket and limited medical services.

“If somebody with Covid-19 were to use one of our ambulances, that takes the ambulance out. The trouble with us is we only have a couple of ambulances, so it really does tax our services,” she said. — NZ Herald

Air NZ imposes new flight rule

Get vaccinated or produce a negative test

Those not fully vaccinated will be able to provide evidence of a negative Covid test within 72 hours before departure — from either community testing or from their doctors. If customers are unable to provide proof before their flight, they can put their fare into credit or get a refund (if they have bought a refundable fare).

“We’re making this change so that we can all travel our beautiful country over summer and fly with a peace of mind that everyone onboard is seated shoulder-to-shoulder against Covid,” said Foran. “We’re doing it to protect vulnerable communities, for those with weakened immune systems or who can’t get vaccinated, for the elderly in our rest homes and our tamariki at home."

The airline has had to balance the risk of depriving unvaccinated passengers the opportunity to travel and the growing need for protection against Covid.

The test requirement means the unvaccinated will still have the opportunity to fly.

Foran said customers will be flying this summer for a number of reasons, and it was the airline’s role to get them there.

“We don’t want to leave anyone behind, which is why we’re giving customers the choice to either be fully vaccinated or present a negative test.”

Crew test positive for virus

by Rowan Quinn, RNZ

AUCKLAND — An Auckland man with Covid-19 spent almost a week in his car because he could not do so safely at home.

About 2000 people with the virus are living at home and those supporting them say the Public Health service is struggling to keep up.

Pasifika Futures supports hundreds of people with Covid-19 living at home and those supporting them say the Public Health service is struggling to keep up.

Chief executive Debbie Sorensen said they helped find the man who had been isolating in his car for six days which was tricky because he had been moving every day.

“What we did then was organise for him to go into accommodation that was safe, where he could stay in one place and be fed and looked after until he was clear,” she said.

His situation was not unique, she said. Many families, particularly Pasifika ones, were in multi-generational homes where it was hard for people to properly self-isolate.

Some were in vans or garages. Sorensen’s team had put dozens of people into motels and hotels because they could not get into MIQ.

The system was becoming overwhelmed with the large number of cases, she said.

“People are being offered MIQ as a backlog of cases, and sometimes when we contact families they are already out of MIQ,” she said.

This past weekend they had 200 referrals for people to contact or support.

“None of the crew have symptoms or have reported a recent illness during the voyage,” a South Port spokeswoman confirmed it was notified on Sunday morning about the situation.

The vessel was in quarantine and isolated at its berth.

NZ Customs and Public Health staff were managing all vessel and crew interaction.” — Otago Daily Times

MIQ system struggling to keep up with demand

by Rowan Quinn, RNZ

MIQ system struggling to keep up with demand when we contact families they are already out of the large number of cases, she said.

The Gisborne Herald

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Dentist threatened after advising extra charge for unvaccinated

by Belinda Feek, NZ Herald

PALMERSTON NORTH — A Palmerston North dentist has been bombarded with threats — including to burn the practice down — after advising it wants all patients to be vaccinated, and will charge them a fee for the use of PPE.

Vivian Street Dental put up the sign outside its practice last Wednesday, saying its patients had been asked to be vaccinated or unvaccinated will be given a designated time in the afternoon and will have to wear full PPE gear.

There have been threats of a Molotov cocktail being thrown at the practice.

“As a health professional, he gets a lot closer to the person than a hairdresser does or hospitality do. He’s three inches from your mouth and this is what a lot of people don’t realise.”

Their patients ranged in age from 50s and older and included several 90-year-olds. She said given the type of work dentists do, they were at higher risk of catching Covid-19 given saliva was often sprayed out of the mouth while work was being done.

“For him (the dentist) to ensure that he is safe, that his assistant is safe, he is going to be wearing full PPE gear.”

She said they had the same emotions with Covid and that segregation, discrimination “is not an acceptable action in any circumstances” and to seek “we have reported those threats against the premises as a charge.”

Asked how their clients felt about the change, Erin said most — or 90 percent — agreed with it.

“We are not saying we won’t see them, all we’re saying is we’re going to take extra precautions and because we’re taking extra precautions there is a charge.”

She said they had the same whakapapa is the same, so let’s get together for practitioners and their staff”.

Whanganui iwi leader shocked by region’s low vaccination uptake

A Whanganui iwi leader says he was shocked when he heard how low Covid vaccination rates were in the Whanganui district currently sit at the top of the vaccination leaderboard.

Two regions reach 99 percent vaccinated

QUEENSTOWN — Queenstown-Lakes and the Selwyn District have reached 99 percent with one Covid-19 vaccination.

In Queenstown-Lakes population were fully vaccinated, 11.5 percent have had one dose and 1.1 percent are unvaccinated.

It is currently sitting in the top spot as the most Covid-protected place in the country. In Selwyn, 85 percent of residents are fully vaccinated, 14 percent have had one dose and 3 percent are unvaccinated.

There are 182 people with the virus in hospital, up from the previous day’s 74. Of those in hospital, 80 are in Auckland and one in Northland.

There are seven people with Covid-19 in intensive care, one in a high dependency unit. — NZ Herald

Two regions reach 99 percent vaccinated

JOHN MAIHI

We’re saving our whakapapa

Whanganui iwi leader shocked by region’s low vaccination uptake

by Moana Ellis, Local Democracy Reporter

WHANGANUI — A Whanganui iwi leader says he was shocked when he heard how low Covid vaccination rates are for the Maori in the Whanganui district.

Watching last week’s angry crowd in Whanganui of more than 250 mainly Maori anti-vaccination protestors, kaumatua John Maihi says the protest showed how a section of the community feels.

But he was nevertheless shocked at the low uptake of vaccination among Whanganui Maori, with only 49 percent of eligible Maori vaccinated with the two required doses as of last week.

“I couldn’t believe it. I thought it was a normal thing to actually work with the health system because of what happened when I was going to school.”

Maihi said at Whanganui there were waiting to greet the Prime Minister at a pop-up clinic at the main public centre on Monday when the hostile crowd swarmed on to the forecourt and caused the mobile vaccination bus.

The Prime Minister dined her visit, later saying it would have been counter-productive to try to talk to that angry crowd that was blocking people from getting information and getting vaccinated.

Maihi said he supported people’s right to protest but those who wanted to get vaccinated also had rights.

“People have the right to decide how they want to live their lives. Some people who want to be vaccinated who should have the right to do that also. I think we should talk with each other and make sure we’re not trampling on each other’s rights. We have to find a pathway to compromise.”

Maihi said vaccinations were “a normal thing” in his childhood and his generation grew up with public health immunisation programmes against many serious diseases and infections. Most of the protesters were too young to understand this, he said.

“We had injection after injection to stop polio, tetanus, measles — we had all those when I was growing up and going to school. Some of them are so young, how would they know? We’re the age group. . . we should know.

“So I’m saying to them, my own personal opinion is that we should get vaccinated and that’s my right. I lined up straight away for my injection. We’re doing it for the mokopuna, saving our whakapapa. Remember, your whakapapa and my whakapapa is the same, so let’s get together and work on that.”

JOHN MAIHI

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HOSTILITY: An angry crowd of more than 250 protested last Wednesday, forcing the Prime Minister to cancel her visits to vaccination clinics in Whanganui and Huntlyville.

Picture by Moana Ellis/LDR
NZ second on new global index for drug policy

WELLINGTON — A new global measure ranks New Zealand second when it comes to drug policies, but the New Zealand Drug Foundation says there is plenty of room for improvement.

Released by the Harm Reduction Consortium, the Global Drug Policy Index (GDP) assessed the drug policies of 30 countries against key United Nations recommendations. Norway tops the index with a score of 74.2, while New Zealand comes in last with 26.100. The median score across all 30 countries is 48.

New Zealand received a score of 71, attributed to recent reforms. However, New Zealand Drug Foundation executive director Sarah Helm said the data highlights several areas for improvement.

“There is an opportunity for us to continue to implement a health-based approach to drugs and to be a world leader,” Helm said.

“As it stands, we are essentially among the best of a bad bunch. For example, we don’t have the death penalty or mandatory minimum sentencing, which helps improve New Zealand’s ranking.

The measure scored New Zealand particularly poorly when it came to ethnic disparities, as Māori face disproportionate impacts within the criminal justice system.

“We also score poorly for access to harm reduction services and interventions,” Helm said.

“Recent moves to legalise and provide funding for drug checking show there is political will for progress in this area. We need to continue to improve if we want to increase our score.”

Not surprisingly, we score 0/100 for decriminalisation, as the Misuse of Drugs Act still has us operating within an outdated, prohibitional model, despite some expansion of police discretion and rhetoric about health-based approaches.

Within New Zealand the countries adopting law reform, and we expect them to shift up in the next GDP.”

International Drug Policy Consortium executive director Ann Fordham said none of the countries assessed should feel good about their score.

“No country has reached a perfect score or anywhere near it. This index highlights the huge room for improvement across the board.”

For decades, assessing governments’ drug policies has been difficult because these have not been measured against health, development, and human rights outcomes, but instead tended to prioritise indicators such as the numbers of people arrested or imprisoned instead of police discretion and rhetoric about health-based approaches.

We are seeing other countries adopting law reform, and we expect the trend to continue to improve if we want to increase our score.

Chair of the Global Commission on Drug Policy and former prime minister Helen Clark said the index is a “radical innovation.” — RNZ
NZ’s oldest World War 2 veteran dies

by Jamie Morton, NZ Herald

AUCKLAND — Up to 100 cases of bowel cancer, and 41 deaths, may be caused by nitrate-contaminated drinking water each year — with around 800,000 Kiwis exposed to levels that international studies deem a risk, new research finds.

The risk of nitrate contamination in the country’s drinking water supplies has come under the spotlight over recent years, with some studies suggesting the current maximum level of 11.3 milligrams of nitrates per litre (mg/l) is set far too high.

Nitrate leaching — much of which stems from dairy farms — has increased substantially since 1990 and some groundwater sites continue to degrade.

In a new study, researchers collated data on nitrate concentrations in drinking water from estimated 85 percent of the population — or around four million people — on registered supplies.

The study team, from Otago, Auckland, Victoria and Loughborough universities, also estimated nitrate levels for the remaining population based on samples from more than 370 private supplies.

They then applied a bowel cancer risk estimate from a meta-analysis of eight studies investigating the link between nitrates in drinking water and bowel cancer.

Their analysis found three-quarters of New Zealand’s populace using water supplies with concentrations of less than 1mg/l could be exposed to the cancer risk.

The population-weighted average for nitrate exposure for all those on registered supplies was estimated to be 0.04mg/l — with 1.91 percent of colorectal cancer cases attributable to nitrates. That correlated to nearly 50 cases per year, at a cost of around $30m each year.

When they combined registered and unregistered supplies, however, the overall average came to 3.26 percent of bowel cancer cases stemming from nitrates — equivalent to around 100 annual cases and 41 deaths, at a cost of $80m.

“This research highlights the potential health burden of nitrate contamination, particularly if further evidence on the link between nitrate and bowel cancer reinforces existing studies,” said study co-author Dr Tim Chambers, a senior research fellow in Otago University’s Department of Public Health.

“The results support the need to take a precautionary approach towards nitrate contamination in New Zealand.”

Chambers noted the study didn’t go as far as directly assessing the link between nitrate exposure and bowel cancer, as some overseas epidemiological studies have done.

The paper, just published in the scientific journal Environmental Research, was preliminary step of future research to assess the potential public health impact of water quality.

The effort followed Hawke’s Bay’s campylobacter outbreak in 2016 linked to 42 hospitalisations and four deaths.

Chambers said the results also highlighted the need for the country’s Three Waters reform, in which billions of dollars of council infrastructure will be amalgamated into four regional bodies.

Nitrate contamination may cause 40 deaths a year: study

by Thomas Coughlan, NZ Herald

WAIMAKARIRI — A small group of councils are considering banding together to launch a campaign challenging the Government’s Three Waters proposals.

The group has circulated a draft memorandum of understanding (MOU) to prospective councils, urging them to sign up to the campaign.

The group has been consistent of the Timaru, Manawatu, Far North and Waimakariri district councils, although only Waimakariri confirmed it had signed up. All of them were approached for comment.

Waimakariri District Council mayor Dan Gordon said that across the sector “there was near consensus that the model now being mandated wasn’t acceptable to councils or our communities (67 councils opposed the model).”

“We believe each asset owner has the freedom to make their own decisions,” Gordon said.

For these reasons, and also because a significant number of councils are opposed to the Government’s Three Waters reform, it is “highly likely” that LGNZ will sign a memorandum of understanding with the Government promising not to actively oppose the Government’s proposals, he said.

The draft MOU, which outlines the principles councils will pay between $10,000 and $20,000 to join the campaign, depending on the size of the council.

Manawatu District Council mayor Helen Worboys, speaking for the group, said it was “still largely in the discussion phase.”

“We are having a conversation with a number of councils who share our view that they are opposed to the Government making this (Three Waters reform) mandatory, and we’re also opposed to the Government’s preferred model,” Worboys said.

Mitchell gained the title as the oldest living World War 2 veteran, Bill Mitchell had been an active member of the organisation for 76 years, which was a lifetime.

The Gisborne Herald

Jeep, a New Zealand Air Force service celebration for a number of years, with some researchers suggesting the maximum level of 11.3 milligrams of nitrates per litre (mg/l) is set far too high.

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NZ car dealer Armstrong’s tests market for an NZX, ASX listing

by Jamie Gray, NZ Herald

AUCKLAND — Rick Armstrong started his working life as an upholsterer. When he decided that line of work wasn’t for him, his father told him to secure another job before he threw in the towel.

So at the age of 19, he became a car salesman.

Today he owns one of New Zealand’s biggest car dealerships, with annual turnover approaching half a billion dollars.

Armstrong’s has grown to a point where it needs more capital, which may mean a listing on the NZX and the ASX.

The exercise would involve Armstrong selling down his 100 percent stake by up to 40 percent and the company buying property associated with him.

Armstrong’s has embarked on a “non-deal” roadshow to test the water in the investment community for a possible share offer and has engaged Jarden and UBS.

“I always had an ambition to be in business for myself,” Armstrong told the Herald.

“Armstrong’s was formed in 1993 when the Japanese used car import trade was a “gold rush.”

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Testing time for local govt, media

by Clive Bibby

Along with other more recognisable columnists, I have spent a lot of time on a backbench from voters against the Government’s recent irrational and irrational behaviour. This was in spite of promises made to make a genuine apology and the option to opt out of any moves to steal locally owned infrastructure assets worth billions that are essential components of local economies. Tragically, the opposite has happened. It is a story of betrayal and arrogance rarely seen in a country that prides itself on being on one of the few remaining true democracies, where governments are elected by, but the power remains with, the people. Apparently, not any more.

For some reason, this mob has lost touch with where the boundaries are that dictate what is acceptable behaviour in an environment where trust is everything. That line has not only been crossed but the unstated agreement that sets limits on what we have been permitted to act on our behalf has been contemptuously cast into oblivion.

Is it as if the fox has gained entry to the hen house and is not stopped until every last bit of evidence that innocents producing a quality product ever existed. It is a return to the rape and pillage that is so often used by left-wing radicals and sympathetic revisionist historians to describe the activities of the colonial immigrants to this country. Fortunately this time the characterisation is an accurate assessment of this unbridled attack on our sovereignty. We should resist it with everything we have at our disposal.

Our chances of success, however, will be immensely damaged by the support we gain from those in whom we have entrusted our fortunes on the local scene and their counterpart in the one industry that has the power to direct public opinion in this necessary and righteous campaign – the media.

The stakes are so high in this fight that nothing short of total opposition will be sufficient to change the course of history. We are about to see whether New Zealand’s local body politicians and the senior journalists in what has been a sympathetic profession of late are capable of recognising and challenging the tyranny when it is being orchestrated by some of our own.

I am hopeful but not at all confident that those individuals acting collectively have the desire and/or the ability to stop this outrageous overreach in its tracks.

If I am proved wrong on anything then I would prefer that it be on this one. Too much is at stake for this defence of the realm to fail.

Let’s all unite in a demonstration of unanimity that future generations will be proud of. I’m up for it — how about you?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, ONLINE COMMENTS

New base, more expense

Letters to the Editor

Three waters protest 21 November 2021

Make your voice count, against the theft of our Three Waters by the Government. Join the Groundswell Mother of All Protests on Sunday 21 November. Rural people will be driving in from Wainui and Makaraka at 10pm. Join them out there or in as they pass by on Gladstone and Wainui Roads.

NEIL HENDERSON

eletters@gisbornerald.co.nz

Three waters protest 21 November 2021

Make your vote count, against the theft of our Three Waters by the Government. Join the Groundswell Mother of All Protests on Sunday 21 November. Rural people will be driving in from Wainui and Makaraka at 10pm. Join them out there or in as they pass by on Gladstone and Wainui Roads.

NEIL HENDERSON

eletters@gisbornerald.co.nz
The Gisborne Herald • Tuesday, November 9, 2021

WORLD

Attempt to storm Polish border
Migrants aided by Belarus escalating a simmering crisis

WARSAW, Poland — Hundreds if not thousands of migrants sought to storm the border from Belarus into Poland on Monday, cutting razor wire defences and using branches to try to climb over fences. The siege escalated a crisis along the European Union’s eastern border that has been simmering for months.

Poland’s interior ministry said it had rebuffed the illegal invasion and claimed the situation was under control. It posted a video showing armed Polish officers using a chemical spray through a fence at men who were trying to cut the razor wire. Some migrants threw objects at police.

Video footage from Belarusian media showed people using long wooden poles or branches to try to get past a border fence at a police border post.

“A co-ordinated attempt to massively enter the territory of the Republic of Poland by migrants used by Belarus for the hybrid attack against Poland has just begun,” a spokesman for Poland’s security forces, Stanislaw Zaryn, said.

Noting that the border is also NATO’s eastern border, Zaryn stressed that the “large groups of migrants . . . are fully controlled by the Belarusian security services and army”.

He accused Belarusian president Alexander Lukashenko of acting to destabilise Poland and other EU countries to pressure the bloc into accepting migrants.

“The largest attack of migrants on the eastern coast. — AP

Belarus and Poland were seeking to verify what was happening. Journalists have limited ability to operate in Belarus and a state of emergency is keeping reporters and human rights workers out of the border area.

The massing of people at the border appeared, however, to rev up the crisis that has been going on for months in which the autocratic regime of Belarus has encouraged migrants from the Middle East and elsewhere to illegally enter the European Union, at first through Lithuania and Latvia and now primarily through Poland.

Anton Bychkovsky, spokesman for Belarus’ State Border Guard Committee, said the migrants at the border between Belarus and Poland were attempting to “exercise their right to apply for refugee status in the EU”. Bychkovsky insisted they “are not security threats” and “are not behaving aggressively”.

Bychkovsky said that, according to the refugees, they gathered into such a large group in order to avoid “forcible ousting by the Polish border guards regrouping. They must end immediately,” he said.

Steffen Seibert, German chancellor Angela Merkel’s spokesman, told reporters on Monday that “the Belarusian regime is acting as a human trafficker”. It instrumentalises refugees and migrants in a way that’s politically and from a humanitarian point of view condemnable.

The development appeared to signal an escalation of a crisis that has been going on for months in which the autocratic regime of Belarus has encouraged migrants from the Middle East and elsewhere to illegally enter the European Union, at first through Lithuania and Latvia and now primarily through Poland.

Bix Aliu, the US charge d’affaires in Warsaw, tweeted that Lukashenko’s regime was risking the migrants’ lives and “using them to escalate the border crisis and provoke Poland”.

“Hostile actions by Belarus are exacerbating the situation on the border with the EU and NATO dangerously and must end immediately,” he said.

Polish Defence Minister Mariusz Blaszczak said on Twitter that more than 12,000 soldiers had been deployed to the border and a volunteer Territorial Defence force was put on alert.

He also posted video footage of what appeared to be a large group of migrants in Belarus, near Ruzhyn in northeastern Poland.

In Brussels, a spokesman for the European Commission, Adalbert Jahnz, called it “a continuation of the desperate attempt by the Lukashenko regime to use people as pawns to destabilise the European Union and of course the values we stand for”.

Frontex, which is headquartered in Warsaw, refused to comment on the situation, noting that it is not present at the Polish border.

Meanwhile, in neighbouring Lithuania, officials were preparing for the possibility of a similar incursion, with the Interior Ministry proposing to declare an emergency situation and the border guards regrouping.

“We are getting ready for all possible scenarios,” said Rustamnas Liubagavas, the head of border guards.

Since the summer, Poland and Lithuania have seen thousands of migrants from the Middle East and Africa trying to cross into the EU.

The Polish authorities in Russia clearly knew that authorities in Russia clearly knew what was going on.

“The largest attack of migrants on EU borders is taking place three days after Belarus and Russia signed a new agreement on military co-operation.

“The Kremlin is at least aware of the details of what’s happening,” Karbalevich said. — AP

SHARK ATTACK: Search and rescue vessels patrol off Port Beach in North Fremantle, on Saturday. A man was attacked by sharks on Saturday off the coast of Fremantle near Perth.

AP Image via AP

Police call off search for man attacked by shark

SYDNEY — Police in Western Australia on Sunday called off a search for a swimmer who was attacked by a shark.

The wife of Paul Millachip, 57, said he was killed at the Port Beach, in Fremantle, on Saturday morning when two teenagers on a boat witnessed the shark attack.

“It came out of the blue. But it did happen, you just have to deal with it,” the wife said, asking not to have her name published. She praised the teenagers who tried to help.

When the shark attacked a second time, they raced their boat and alert other swimmers to get out of the water.

Police said earlier the attack may have involved more than one shark, but witnesses believed it appeared to be a 4.5-metre great white.

Police said there was an extensive marine search for the father of two, which turned up a pair of goggles believed to belong to him.

“A family is now grieving, a man has lost his life. It’s a terribly sad situation,” West Australia premier Mark McGowan said.

The most recent fatal shark attack in Australia was on the shark in New South Wales state on the eastern coast. — AP

SEEKING NEW LIFE: Migrants from the Middle East and elsewhere rest on the ground as they gather at the Belarus-Poland border near Grodno, Belarus, on Monday. Poland has increased security at its border with Belarus, on the European Union’s eastern border, after a large group of migrants in Belarus appeared to be congregating at a crossing point, officials said.

The development appeared to signal an escalation of a crisis that has been going on for months in which the autocratic regime of Belarus has encouraged migrants from the Middle East and elsewhere to illegally enter the European Union, at first through Lithuania and Latvia and now primarily through Poland.

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AP Image via AP

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AP Image via AP
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CONCERT VICTIMS IDENTIFIED

HOUSTON — Authorities on Monday released the names of the eight people who died at a Houston music festival, an investigator watched video, interviewed witnesses and reviewed procedures to try to determine what went wrong when the crowd rushed the stage during a performance by the rapper Travis Scott.

Medical examiners have still not released the causes of death, which could take several weeks, said Michele Arnold, a spokeswoman with the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

“It’s not the crowd’s fault at all, because there was no way you could even see it. It was just like a mass loss of control,” said Ben Castro. 13 He returned to the venue on Monday to leave flowers at a makeshift memorial that included notes, fists and candles.

He said he didn’t know anyone who had died until the next day.

The dead were between the ages of 14 and 27 and were from Texas, Illinois and Washington, according to public records in Texas.

They included high schoolers, an aspiring Border Patrol agent and a college science student.

Investigators planned to examine the design of safety barriers and the use of crowd control at the event that Scott founded. Over 300 people were treated at a field hospital on site and at least 13 people remained hospitalized on Sunday.

Houston police and fire department investigators said they would review video taken by concert promoter Live Nation, as well as dozens of clips from people at the show. The investigators also planned to speak with Live Nation representatives, Scott and concertgoers.

More than a dozen lawsuits had been filed as of Monday (local time), and Live Nation announced it was delaying ticket sales for a Billy Joel concert at a different venue in Houston. The promoter said on Monday it was assisting authorities so “the fans who attended and their families can get the answers they want and deserve.”

Contemporary Services Corp., headquartered in Los Angeles, was responsible for security staff at the festival, according to county records in Texas.

Representatives for the company — which advertises online as being “recognised worldwide as the pioneer, expert and only employee owned company in the crowd management field” — have not responded to emails and phone messages seeking comment.

Astroworld’s organisers had laid out security and emergency medical response protocols in festival plans filed with Harris County.

A 56-page operations plan, obtained by The Associated Press, describes the potential for multiple alcohol/drug related incidents, possible evacuation needs, and the ever-present threat of a mass casualty situation are identified as key concerns. The plan instructs staff to notify Event Control of a suspected deceased victim utilising the code “Smurft.”

It goes on to say, “never use the term dead or deceased over the radio.” It’s not clear whether the protocol was followed.

None of the people listed in charge of managing Astroworld’s security and operations had responded to requests for comment.

Steven Adelman, vice president of the industry group Event Safety Alliance — which was formed after a stage collapsed at the Indiana State Fair in 2011 killing seven people — helped write current industry guidelines. Besides looking at safety barriers and whether they correctly directed crowds or contributed to the crash, Adelman said it’s important to see whether something incited the crush beyond Scott taking the stage.

Adelman said another question was whether there were security personnel, noting a nativity scene and a sign, someone willing to take low-wage, part-time security gaps.

Security professionally was unable to stop people. Optically, that’s really bad looking,” he said. “But as for what it tells us, it’s too early to say.”

On video posted to social media, Scott is seen stopping the concert at one point and asking for aid for someone in the audience: “Security, somebody help real quick.”

“Nothing was done yet on the three main goals of the UN conference. They are pledges —

• to cut emissions by half by 2030 to keep the Paris climate deal’s 1.5°C temperature limit goal alive.

• the need for $100 billion annually in financial help for rich countries to help poor countries.

• and the idea that half of that money goes to adapting global warming’s worst effects.

Scientists say the Earth is only a few years away from the point where meeting the goals will require unfulfilled commitments by developed countries, also weren’t solved yet.

Representatives of 77 developing nations, along with China, said until this climate conference produced compelling help for poor nations cope with climate change the talks couldn’t be considered successful. Further announcements on fighting climate change were high in number, but worried that they were low in quality.

Ahmed Sebou Touray of Guinea said rich countries not fulfilling their $100 billion a year pledge to aid poor nations showed they were just making “empty promises.”

“There is a history of broken promises and unfilled commitments by developed countries,” added Diego Pacheco Balzola of Bolivia.

Scientists say the Earth is only a few years away from the point where meeting the goals set in the Paris accord became critical due to mounting damage from coal, petroleum, agriculture and other pollution sources. The last few days have seen huge protests in Glasgow and around Scotland as the leaders demanding faster action in fighting global warming.

Obama met later on Monday with a dozen climate activists, many in their 20s, urging them to keep up their public pressure despite the conference producing the financing to help poor nations adapt to global warming’s worst effects.

“Those are the places where there was pressure, those are the places where there was political mobilisation, where there was pressure, where there were activists,” Obama said. — AP
US reopens to international travel

SAN DIEGO — Parents held children born while they were stuck abroad. Long-separated couples kissed, and grandparents embraced grandchildren who had doubled in age.

The US fully reopened to many vaccinated international travelers Monday, allowing families and friends to reunite for the first time since the coronavirus emerged and offering a boost to a travel industry decimated by the pandemic. The US lifted restrictions on travel from 84 countries, including many European nations, Canada, and Mexico, where traveling back and forth was often a source of anxiety.

"It's a big feeling," said Alvarez, 43, who lives in Ensenada, Mexico, a two-hour drive from San Diego. Prior to the pandemic, his family would visit California twice a month. "The emotional cost of the border restrictions were very high," he said.

American citizens and permanent residents who are fully vaccinated were always allowed to enter the US, but the travel bans forced millions of people to resort to monthly tunnel for some return of normalcy. "At Newark International Airport in New Jersey, there were hefty and the cutting of family ties," regional director of education Maman said.

"Our focus this week is for us to as一件事 that any contact with Kelly, whether you saw him, whether you met with him, whether you spoke to him on the phone during the relevant period to please make yourself known to police."

SAFE: Cleo Smith has told police a woman brandished a hair dresser and dressed her during the 18 days she was missing.

"So, we just ask that if there was anyone that had any contact with Kelly, whether you saw him, whether you met with him, whether you spoke to him on the phone during the relevant period to please make yourself known to police."

Cleo was found "alive and well" just before 1am on November 3 after police received "a female passenger in the vehicle making hand gestures that are known on the social media platform TikTok to represent violence at home — I need help — domestic violence," the Laurel County Sheriff's Office.

The caller noted that the girl "appeared to be in distress" and was being driven by an older male. The girl, who has not been named, told officers she had travelled through North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Ohio. The hand gesture is a one-handed sign someone can use when in distress, according to the Canadian Woman's Foundation.

The campaign, called the "signal for help", spread virally on social media in 2020 during the initial pandemic lockdowns, in an attempt to address a rise in domestic violence. — BBC

Children killed in Niger fire

Niger's education minister said Wednesday that five children have been killed after their thatched-roof classrooms caught fire in southern Niger.

Ysidro crossing, said the economic losses were hefty and the cutting of family ties, "immeasurable." Retail sales in San Ysidro fell about 75 percent from pre-Covid levels, forcing nearly 300 businesses to close.

Edith Aguirre of Tijuana took time off work to go shopping in San Diego. Bubbling with laughter, she accepted a gift bag from a duty-free store at the San Diego border crossing. She was a regular at SeaWorld in San Diego and last came to the US to celebrate her 50th birthday in December and was in Florida on Monday.

On Monday, border traffic quickly returned. At Vermont’s busiest international crossing with Canada, US investigators said they began to notice the uptick in border crossing shortly after midnight. — AP

The US lifted restrictions yesterday on travel from a long list of countries including Mexico, Canada, and Europe.

The 16-year-old used the gesture designed to viral sign for help from TikTok. She was in danger.

"That is a really important factor that will come through in the coming weeks, by the end of the year," Chief medical officer Paul Kelly indicates the campaign, called the "signal for help", spread virally on social media in 2020 during the initial pandemic lockdowns, in an attempt to address a rise in domestic violence. — BBC

Chief medical officer Paul Kelly indicates the green light is imminent from the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) on vaccinating children aged between five and 11.

"For the moment we cannot state the origin of the fire," regional director of education Maman said.

"Classes had been suspended and three days of mourning declared in Maradi, he said.

"Twenty preschool children were killed in April in Namibia."

The council of ministers said on Monday that following the two incidents, preschool classes must not be held in straw-roof huts. — AAP

Children’s Pfizer jab imminent

CANBERRA — Pfizer vaccines for children as young as five are expected to be approved by Australia’s medicines regulator by the end of the year.

Chief medical officer Paul Kelly indicates the green light is imminent from the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) on vaccinating children aged between five and 11.

"That is a really important factor that will come through in the coming weeks, by the end of the year," he said.

The TGA has received their advice from Pfizer. In terms of an application for that age group they are going through that process," he said.

That’s a really important factor that will come through in the coming weeks, by the end of the year."

It follows Prime Minister Scott Morrison stress classes must not be held in straw-roof huts. — AAP

Lockdown exit confusion

RUSSIA — Technical difficulties have marred Prime Minister Scott Morrison's efforts to exit a partial coronavirus lockdown, with many digital vaccination certificates inexplicably inaccessible.

The Kremlin mentioned a “technical problem” in its comments to online news service Gospoglu.ru, as scores of people reported their QR codes used to prove vaccination status were inexplicably inaccessible.

The government acknowledged that the system was not yet ready to last for a year had expired after only six months. — AAP

(REUNITED: Natalia Abrahao is lifted up by her fiancé Mark Opetrsehing as they greet one another at Newark Liberty International Airport in New Jersey on Monday. Pandemic travel restrictions have made their recent meetings difficult and infrequent. The US lifted restrictions yesterday on travel from a long list of countries including Mexico, Canada and Europe.

Gaye Camara, who lives in France, last saw her husband in New York in January 2020; not knowing it would be 21 months before they could hold each other again. "I’m going to jump into his arms, kiss him, touch him," said Camara, 40, as she wheeled her luggage through Paris’ Charles de Gaulle airport, where the humongous crowds resembled those before the pandemic, except for the face masks. On the US borders with Mexico and Canada, where travelling back and forth was a way of life before the pandemic, the reopening brought relief. Malls, restaurants and shops in US border towns were devastated by the lack of visitors from Mexico.

San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria, flanked by US and Mexican officials at a celebratory news conference at the San Ysidro crossing, said the economic losses were hefty and the cutting of family ties, "immeasurable." Retail sales in San Ysidro fell about 75 percent from pre-Covid levels, forcing nearly 300 businesses to close.

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Missing girl found after using viral sign for help from TikTok

NORTH CAROLINA — A teenager who went missing in the US has been found after she used a hand gesture that went viral on TikTok to show she was in danger.

The girl had been reported missing by her parents in North Carolina last Tuesday morning, and was spotted inside a car in Kentucky two days later.

The 16-year-old used the gesture designed to help domestic abuse victims ask for help to alert a passerby.

 Authorities say they arrested a 61-year-old man. A driver called police after noticing “a female passenger in the vehicle making hand gestures that are known on the social media platform TikTok to represent violence at home — I need help — domestic violence,” the Laurel County Sheriff’s Office.

The caller noted that the girl “appeared to be in distress” and was being driven by an older male. The girl, who has not been named, told officers she had travelled through North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Ohio. The hand gesture is a one-handed sign someone can use when in distress, according to the Canadian Woman’s Foundation.

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"That is a really important factor that will come through in the coming weeks, by the end of the year."
TRICK OR TREAT: Halloween continues to become more popular year by year in New Zealand, including Gisborne. Heading out to fill their pumpkins and buckets with sweet treats were, right (from left): Jochannah Smith with Indigo Shine, Indie Neshausen and Tessa Holloway-Smith. Meanwhile, it was “fangs for the lollies” from Bronson O’Neill (above left) while sister Nevaeh chose walking over the broomstick.

Pictures supplied

The Gisborne Herald • Tuesday, November 9, 2021

KIDS PAGE 19

COPY CAT

Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? Read backwards or forwards, up or down, or diagonally. The words will always be in a straight line. Cross them off the list as you find them.

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SUDOKU

Enter numbers into the squares so that every row, every column and every 3x2 box contains all the numbers from 1 to 6.

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Tairawhiti Rock Lobster Industry Association Inc

Situations Vacant

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Fixed Term teaching position in our Junior team.

We are looking for a positive, cooperative teacher with experience in teaching children with special needs. A willingness to work within a team to realise the best outcomes for students is desired.

Applications close Tuesday 9th November 4pm.

Electronic applications only. Please email your letter of application outlining your suitability to join our team, teaching experience, current CV, and the contact details of 2 referees to:

Andy Hayward principal@gisborne.central.school.nz

Situations Vacant

CENTRAL SCHOOL

Fixed Term teaching position in our Junior team.

We are looking for a positive, cooperative teacher with experience in teaching children with special needs. A willingness to work within a team to realise the best outcomes for students is desired.

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The Gisborne Herald

## Canterbury races at Riccarton Park Wednesday

### Jetset 6

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### Selections

1. **Stephanie Manni Mortgages Prem. 1.17**
   - Race 2
   - Time: 6.17
   - Distance: 1200m
   - Format: Hcp
   - Prize Money: $4,000
   - Conditions: No conditions
   - Distance: 1200m
   - Format: Hcp
   - Prize Money: $4,000
   - Conditions: No conditions

2. **Hotel Montreal Prem. 1.07**
   - Race 6
   - Time: 6.17
   - Distance: 1200m
   - Format: Hcp
   - Prize Money: $4,000
   - Conditions: No conditions
   - Distance: 1200m
   - Format: Hcp
   - Prize Money: $4,000
   - Conditions: No conditions

3. **Outback Trading Prem. 1.27**
   - Race 9
   - Time: 6.17
   - Distance: 1200m
   - Format: Hcp
   - Prize Money: $4,000
   - Conditions: No conditions
   - Distance: 1200m
   - Format: Hcp
   - Prize Money: $4,000
   - Conditions: No conditions

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LONDON — Lord Kamlesh Patel, the new chairman of Yorkshire County Cricket Club, has apologised to Azeem Rafiq over the county’s handling of his racism and bullying allegations and settled their former player’s employment case against the club.

Rafiq has responded by planning Lord Patel, and calling for chief executive Mark Arthur and director of cricket Martin Moxon to follow former chairman Roger Hutton in resigning.

Lord Patel, who was appointed on Friday following Hutton’s exit, also vowed to oversee “urgent and seismic change” in response to the ongoing racism crisis, which threatens the county’s viability after their crisis, which threatens the county’s viability after their crisis, which threatens the county’s viability after their crisis, which threatens the county’s viability after their crisis, which threatens the county’s viability after their crisis, which threatens the county’s viability after their crisis, which threatens the county’s viability.

“Azeem is a whistleblower and should be praised as such, he should never have been put through this,” the Bradford-raised peer said at a press conference.

There’s a clear need for urgent and seismic change, the Bradford-raised peer said at a press conference. Roger Hutton in resigning. 

We’re sorry for what you and your family have experienced and the way in which we’ve handled this.” — PA

“Thank you for your bravery in speaking out. Let’s work together to make Yorkshire a better place for all our players and staff,” Patel said.

The former player’s employment case against the club.

apologised to Azeem Rafiq over the county’s handling of his racism and bullying allegations and settled their former player’s employment case against the club.

Chairman of Yorkshire County Cricket Club, has apologised to Azeem for his bravery in speaking out. Let’s work together to make Yorkshire a better place for all our players and staff,” Patel said.

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20. Wrong (5)

SUDOKU is a logic puzzle made up of 81 squares on a 9x9 grid.

1. Identical (4)

To solve the puzzle, each row, column and 3x3 grid within the larger grid must end up containing each number from 1 to 9, and each number can only appear once in a row, column or box.

No.1,442

CRITICAL CLUES

ACROSS

1. Area where more than 500 are overflow (8)

7. Made attractive (6)

10. Nice views might be (8)

17. A creditable presentation (8)

21. Self-centred person is to (12)

3. Unlucky lad if let (8)

4. It is measured in fall (6)

5. Nice views might be (8)

7. Linked up in space where (5)

9. Boy is wicked pest to (7)

12. Paternoster (8)

13. A creditable presentation (6)

16. Take a closer look at the way you present yourself to the world. An update will (6)

20. Stage presentation of (6,6)

21. Take a closer look at the way you present yourself to the world. An update will (6)

DOWN

1. 10 o'clock will see the (6)

2. Copy (5)

3. Prosperous (8)

4. Endless (12)

5. Clear I should be in part (12)

6. Boycott (13)

7. Meander (11)

8. Rashly (12)

9. Boy is wicked pest to (7)

10. Bassist (6)

11. Piracy (12)

12. Paternoster (8)

13. A creditable presentation (6)

14. Restrict (7)

15. Probable (6)

16. Take a closer look at the way you present yourself to the world. An update will (6)

17. A creditable presentation (8)

18. Said I omitted to include (3-5)

19. Yeast over a specified time (4)

20. Stage presentation of (6,6)

21. Self-centred person is to (12)

SUDOKU is a logic puzzle made up of 81 squares on a 9x9 grid. To solve the puzzle, each row, column and 3x3 grid within the larger grid must end up containing each number from 1 to 9, and each number can only appear once in a row, column or box. A sudoku grid has a single unique solution, which can be reached without using guesswork.

SOLUTION IN NEXT PUBLICATION.

Tuesday, November 9, 2021

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

by Eugenia Last

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Mira Lambert, 38; Ellen Pompeo, 52; Tracy Morgan, 53; Michael Jai White.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY:

Lil Nas X: Today is the perfect day to celebrate you and your achievements. Take some time to reflect on your past year and plan for the future. You are at a crossroads, and you must decide which path to take. Don't be afraid to take risks and embrace new opportunities. You have the strength and courage to make the necessary changes. Keep your eyes on your goals and remember to celebrate your successes along the way.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):

Shay Mitchell: Today is a perfect day to celebrate you and your achievements. Take some time to reflect on your past year and plan for the future. You are at a crossroads, and you must decide which path to take. Don't be afraid to take risks and embrace new opportunities. You have the strength and courage to make the necessary changes. Keep your eyes on your goals and remember to celebrate your successes along the way.

ONE STAR: It’s best to avoid conflicts. Work behind the scenes or read a good book.

TWO STARS: You can accomplish a lot, but don’t rely on others for help.

THREE STARS: If you focus your efforts, you will reach your goals.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):

Miranda Lambert, 38; Ellen Pompeo, 52; Tracy Morgan, 53; Michael Jai White.

Rick Ross: Today is the perfect day to celebrate you and your achievements. Take some time to reflect on your past year and plan for the future. You are at a crossroads, and you must decide which path to take. Don't be afraid to take risks and embrace new opportunities. You have the strength and courage to make the necessary changes. Keep your eyes on your goals and remember to celebrate your successes along the way.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):

Don’t trust anyone with your money, responsibilities or documents. Stay in and to things for yourself to ensure you are happy with the results. Physical fitness and a healthy routine will help you excel. Leave nothing to chance. Budget wisely, and put a financial plan in place to ensure that you maintain the freedom to follow a path that allows you to live the life you want. Question beliefs, resolve issues and acquire peace of mind. Your numbers are 7, 18, 24, 31, 36, 43, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19):

Check in with the people who have helped and offered you the best advice over the years, and you won’t be disappointed. A kind word will encourage you to look back and see the progress that was made by being quick if you focus on self. Improving a step can be a little thing. 

Taurus (April 20-May 20):

Fipping from one thing to another won’t get you very far. Consider your current situation and your relationship with others, then adjust how you handle your personal and professional affairs. Be a leader, not a follower. 2 stars.

Gemini (May 21-June 20):

Learn as you go. Ask questions, do your homework and explore new possibilities. Someone who suggests may intrigue you, but before you decide to follow someone’s lead, consider what’s best for you. Focus on your interests and talents.

Cancer (June 21-July 22):

Mix business with pleasure, and you’ll make headway. Entertain ideas and proposals you encounter, but don’t negotiate without taking a clear look. You may have to take a stand, but remain flexible. Sometimes, a broken fence isn’t in place. Gather information and consider consequences. 3 stars.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22):

Slow down, listen to your intuition. Make plans and surround yourself with people who are stable and receptive. Keep change to a minimum, and work with what you have. You have a gift of gab, and aliens will hold you in awe. Be careful not to overthink things.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):

Listen to your intuition. Be patient and listen, but don’t lose your identity. Add a unique spin to whatever you do, and you’ll maintain your voice and sustained power and support. Romantic and self-improvement are on the rise. 3 stars.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):

Take responsibility seriously, and you’ll gain support. Make suggestions, and compromise if necessary to clear up unfinished business. Take an innovative approach to work, but don’t lose sight of your objective. Protect your health in risky environments. 5 stars.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):

Keep your distance with others. Say less and listen more. Don’t be judgmental if you don’t want others to judge you. Play fair, be kind and say more to attract better care of your health, loved ones and 2 stars.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):

Explore your options, and make intelligent decisions. How you handle your money will determine what you can accomplish. A tight budget will put your mind at ease, and give you the wiggle room you need to take advantage of a good deal. 4 stars.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):

Take a closer look at the way you present yourself to the world. An update will give you a fresh perspective on what’s current. Embrace change at home and work, and you will become a forerunner in your field. 3 stars.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):

Miranda Lambert, 38; Ellen Pompeo, 52; Tracy Morgan, 53; Michael Jai White.

Take a closer look at the way you present yourself to the world. An update will give you a fresh perspective on what’s current. Embrace change at home and work, and you will become a forerunner in your field. 3 stars.

Twin sisters: Give your sibling love, affection and attention. They are special and unique. Never forget to appreciate their input. A close bond will develop. 4 stars.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20):

Don’t trust anyone with your money, responsibilities or documents. Stay in and to things for yourself to ensure you are happy with the results. Physical fitness and a healthy routine will help you excel. Leave nothing to chance. 3 stars.

Birthday Baby:

You are dynamic, unique and insightful. You are protective and adamant. and a healthy routine will help you excel. Leave nothing to chance. 3 stars.

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FOOTBALL

Newcastle United confirm Howe as boss

Newcastle United have named former Bournemouth boss Eddie Howe as head coach until 2024 following the departure of Steve Bruce last month, the English Premier League club said today.

“Newcastle United are delighted to announce that Eddie Howe has been appointed as the new manager of the club.”

Eddie Howe, 43, has been out of a job since he left Bournemouth at the end of last season when Howe was also confirmed as new head coach of the south-coast club were relegated from the Premier League on the final day of the season.

He had taken the club from the bottom of the fourth tier, 10 points adrift and near-bankrupt, into the top-tier Premier League, in a coaching stint broken by two years at Burnley during which Bournemouth marked time.

Bournemouth, who had never previously reached the top flight, were relegated after five seasons.

It is a great honour to become head coach of a club with the stature and history of Newcastle United,” Howe said today.

It is a very proud day for me and my family,” Howe added.

“It is a wonderful opportunity, but there is also a lot of work ahead of us,” Howe said.

“I am eager to get on to the training ground to start working with the players.”

Graeme Jones has been interim manager for the past three games after Bruce left following a takeover of the club by a consortium 80 percent led by Saudi Arabia’s PFF sovereign wealth fund.

Howe was in the stands for the 1-1 draw at Brighton & Hove Albion on Saturday when first game in charge will follow the international break when Brentford visit St James’ Park on November 20.

Newcastle are second-bottom of the stand with five points from 11 games, five points adrift of the safety zone, having failed to win a league game so far this season. — AAP

SPORTS BRIEFS

Robertson claims English Open

Robertson claims English Open

MILTON KEYNES — Australian ace Neil Robertson has claimed the English Open snooker title, defeating Scotland’s John Higgins 9-4 in a see-sawing final.

A year after being trounced 9-0 in the final by English star Judd Trump, 39-year-old Robertson made amends in Milton Keynes yesterday as he rallied from 5-3 down to win.

Robertson, the 2010 world champion, piled more final-frame agony on Higgins, who lost the final three of their five meetings in a row.

Robertson, having suffered an identical 9-8 loss in last month’s Northern Ireland Open final against Mark Allen, had Higgins 4-1 up by the end but beached on 22 when he over-cut a red, and Robertson shrugged off his inconsistencies to win the match with a break of 65.

“I found something from somewhere, and I played my best snooker towards the end of the match,” said Robertson.

Robertson earned some high praise with English star Ronnie O’Sullivan saying in television commentary: “It’s a little surprising he (Robertson) has not won the world championship more than once.”

The UK Championship is one of the big three snooker events along with the world championship and the Masters, and Robertson has also three UK Championships and one Masters to his name. — PA

Maradona death causes shock

BUENOS AIRES — Seven medical professionals charged with homicide in the death of Diego Maradona have appeared in court in the city of San Isidro, in the Greater Buenos Aires area.

Appearing in court on Monday were neuropathologist Alejandro Galli; psychologist Agustina Cossachov; psychiatrist Carlos Diaz; the physician who co-ordinated Maradona’s homecare, Nery Forlini; the nursing co-ordinator, Mariano Perroni; and nurses Ricardo Omar Atimon and Daniel Miguel Mattos.

The defendants could face between eight and 23 years in prison, if convicted of negligence and failing to properly carry out their medical duties.

The formal proceedings, ordered by the Attorney General’s Office as part of the investigation, are aimed at obtaining the fingerprints of the accused, as well as determining the potential existence of criminal records for them. — EFE

Impressive start for Lee

WELLINGTON — New Zealand golfer Danny Lee will play a full part on the PGA tour following his impressive start to the new season.

Lee has finished tied for second and tied for seventh over the past two weeks, while playing without his caddie.

He finished outside the top 125 on the money list last season losing his full playing rights. Lee missed some tournaments this year after back surgery.

However, he’s made the most of his medical exemption, earning $11.1 million in the past fortnight to jump to the top 75 on the money list.

The PGA tour has been known for its high standards, but being an exempt player, he’s earned enough ranking points to command regular starts for the rest of the season.

Lee has also made a good impression in Texas. He has Jumped 27 spots in the world rankings to be at 117, just ahead of Ryan Fox. — Radio NZ

Over-50 success for Alker

NEW ZEALAND golfer Stephen Alker earned the US Champions Tour for the first time with a two-shot victory at the TimberTech Championship in Florida.

Alker started the day in a tie for third and fired a birdie-laden last round of 65 to seal his win, and he got his let off the mark after missing the cut in August.

He has jumped 27 spots in the world rankings to be at 117, just ahead of Ryan Fox. — Radio NZ

Tiafoe back to winning ways

LONDON — Frances Tiafoe has returned to winning ways with victory over local wildcard Elias Ymer in the third round of the ATP Tour’s Stockholm Open tennis tournament.

American Tiafoe had one of the best weeks of his career when he won his second ATP Tour title in Umag, Croatia, last month.

He then opened his opening match in Paris last week. — PA
SPORT

PBEC fly flag at Freyberg Masters

BOXING

distinguished sporting career is coming to an end

Gallen acknowledges end in sight

The Gisborne Herald

PBEC fly flag at Freyberg Masters

SPORTS BRIEFS

Kohli ends captaincy on high

DUBAI—Virat Kohli has ended his stint as India’s 20-overs captain on a winning note, bequeathing his nine wickets to Twenty20 World Cup.

However, with the team already eliminated following wins for New Zealand and Pakistan on Sunday, Monday’s match was a dead rubber.

Kohli had to lead the inaugural campaigns to their second Twenty20 World Cup title was effectively over after the comprehensive defeats by those teams, who are the semi-final qualfiers from Group B.

Conversely Namibia return home happy despite another thrashing having achieved more than they had anticipated.

Sipundu Raviendra Jadeja and Ravichandran Ashwin split six wickets to restrict debutants Namibia to 81-2 after being inserted at the Dubai International Stadium.

Rohit Sharma (56) and KL Rahul (54 not out) smashed brisk fifties as India prevailed in the 16th over.—AAP

Vince replaces injured Roy

LONDON—James Vince, who helped
to Sydney Sixers to successive BBL titles, has been called up by England to replace the stricken batsman Roy in their T20 World Cup squad.

Roy, who had scored 123 runs in five innings at an average of 9.77, suffered a calf injury running a single against South Africa in the final pool game.

A replacement has yet to be named, but his inclusion could see Vince or Adil Rashid included in the squad

Vince has been in the Gulf as a travelling reserve. He has not played an International T20 since 2019 but is an experienced T20 cricketer having played for franchises in several countries — though not the IPL — for five years.

He was named in the England squad for the 2020-21 title with an unbeaten 98 in the qualifiers and 95 in the final.—AAP

NOVAK Djokovic plans to become a coach

Once he calls time on his playing career as he has no intention of taking his knowledge “to the grave”, the world No.1 said after claiming the Paris Masters.

Few leading players have become coaches after retiring but Djokovic has himself been coached by former grand slam champions Boris Becker (2003-2016) and Andre Agassi (2017-18) and currently has Goran Ivanisevic as his coach.

Others who have put their knowledge to use include Ivan Lendl, who coached Andy Murray and Alexander Zverev and John McEnroe, who coached Andy Roddick.

Djokovic secured a record-breaking 37th Masters title and his sixth in Paris on Sunday with a 4-6 6-3 6-3 win over Russia’s No.2 Daniil Medvedev.

Djokovic, who also won his 20th birthday, said his 34-year old from Belgrade.

“Before I start working on my game, I’m going to work on my game, but there’s no weaknesses.”

He is set to coach the world No.1 for at least a season as No.1 for a record seventh time, heaped

head for training.

“Tennis is a sport that I can do to to work on my game, but I’m not going to do it.”

“Tennis is a sport that I can do to to work on my game, but I’m not going to do it.”

And he is very close to becoming the world No.1. He is probably my biggest rival at the moment

Djokovic and his coach Alexander Zverev and Jimmy Connors, who

Medvedev won his maiden grand slam trophy when he beat Djokovic in September’s US Open final.

Djokovic is level on 20 grand slams each with Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal and stressed he was eager to nurture future talents when he hangs up his racket.

“I try to pass on to my new generation of everything that I’ve learned. I’m just learning to play tennis, but not how to use it.”

“I try to pass on to my new generation of everything that I’ve learned. I’m just learning to play tennis, but not how to use it.”

“For me, it’s only logical that the next step should be to become a coach. I see myself in various roles in the future and I am glad that I can also develop as a coach.”—AAP

Solution No 78

The Gisborne Herald

Tuesday, November 9, 2021

SPORT

PBEC fly flag at Freyberg Masters

BOXING

distinguished sporting career is coming to an end

Gallen acknowledges end in sight

SYDNEY — At 40, Paul Gallen accepts his distinguished sporting career is coming to an end.

The rugby league great turned paypugist even conceded his Dwayne Russell’s midweek match with Manly prop Josh Aloia in Newcastle could be his last hurrah.

“Once you’ve lost a bit of pace you can’t box on forever,” Gallen said.

“I’ve got a three-fight deal with No Limit after the first few go-arounds, but there’s not too much left in the old body,” he said.

“It’s just about when I’m sick of getting up and going for a run in the morning and when I’m sick of going out and getting punched in the head for training.

“Tennis is a sport that I can do to to work on my game, but I’m not going to do it.”

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And he is very close to becoming the world No.1. He is probably my biggest rival at the moment

Djokovic and his coach Alexander Zverev and Jimmy Connors, who

Medvedev won his maiden grand slam trophy when he beat Djokovic in September’s US Open final.

Djokovic is level on 20 grand slams each with Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal and stressed he was eager to nurture future talents when he hangs up his racket.

“I try to pass on to my new generation of everything that I’ve learned. I’m just learning to play tennis, but not how to use it.”

“I try to pass on to my new generation of everything that I’ve learned. I’m just learning to play tennis, but not how to use it.”

“For me, it’s only logical that the next step should be to become a coach. I see myself in various roles in the future and I am glad that I can also develop as a coach.”—AAP

Tennis

NOVAK Djokovic plans to become a coach once he calls time on his playing career as he has no intention of taking his knowledge “to the grave”, the world No.1 said after claiming the Paris Masters.

Few leading players have become coaches after retiring but Djokovic has himself been coached by former grand slam champions Boris Becker (2003-2016) and Andre Agassi (2017-18) and currently has Goran Ivanisevic as his coach.

Others who have put their knowledge to use include Ivan Lendl, who coached Andy Murray and Alexander Zverev and John McEnroe, who coached Andy Roddick.

Djokovic secured a record-breaking 37th Masters title and his sixth in Paris on Sunday with a 4-6 6-3 6-3 win over Russia’s No.2 Daniil Medvedev.

Djokovic, who also won his 20th birthday, said his 34-year old from Belgrade.

“Before I start working on my game, I’m going to work on my game, but there’s no weaknesses.”

He is undoubtedly one of the best players in the world at the moment and if he stays healthy he will win many more grand slam tournaments,” said the 34-year old from Belgrade.

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Tribute to ‘the maestro’
New mausoleum to house remains beside cars

MOTORSPORT

TRIPLE world champion Jackie Stewart will pay tribute to Formula One great Juan Manuel Fangio on Wednesday when the Argentine’s last remains are moved to a new resting place in a museum beside his cars.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the first of Fangio’s five world championship titles with four different constructors. He was known simply as “the maestro”.

“Tin carrying his remains to his racing car collection. He was the greatest driver of all time,” Stewart said at the weekend’s Mexico City Grand Prix.

The Scot presented Mercedes driver Valtteri Bottas with a replica of Fangio’s 1950s helmet and goggles for taking pole position. Stewart, 82, was one of six pallbearers who carried the 84-year-old coffin to the ceremony at the 1995 funeral in the Argentine city of Balcarce, to the west of Mar del Plata.

The other five, who included Fangio’s former team mate Stirling Moss and Argentine racer Carlos Reutemann and Jose Froilan Gonzalez, have since died.

The procession around Balcarce on Wednesday, ahead of next weekend’s Brazilian Grand Prix, will feature cars from the museum and local clubs.

“I’ll never forget what happened that day,” Stewart recalled of the funeral in Gerald Donaldson’s biography of the man whose five titles have been surpassed only by the seven of Michael Schumacher and Lewis Hamilton.

“There must have been 10,000 people gathered outside in the square, standing there in total silence. Absolutely amazing. And suddenly they just started to clap — 10,000 people clapping in a linear motion.

“They were all in tears – 10,000 people in tears – and they all just wanted to touch the coffin of Fangio... it was one of the most important things I have ever done in my life. I was an enormous fan of his.

“More than a fan, a great admirer of the manner in which he conducted his life, presented himself and represented the sport.”

Fangio dominated the first decade of grand prix racing and won the 1951 and 1954-57 world championships before retiring in 1956.

A new mausoleum has been built at the museum for a few blocks away from where he was born in 1911.

JUAN MANUEL FANGIO

RUGBY

IRELAND wing James Lowe is relishing the prospect of playing against some of his closest friends in this weekend’s game against his native New Zealand.

Lowe, 29, celebrated his international recall by scoring the opening try as Ireland thrashed Japan 60-5 in last weekend’s autumn opener in Dublin.

The former Taranaki and Chiefs back also previously played alongside teammates Christophe and Will Jordan.

“I’ll go to school with two or three of them, I played with a few of them when they were young and now they speak for themselves in the 15,” said the Leinster man.

“The list goes on with the number of people that helped me become a player through playing with them. And, mate, I can’t wait for next weekend.

“To have the opportunity now to potentially represent Ireland against them is something that I challenge I knew was around the corner and I have to say I can’t wait to put my best foot forward for.”

Lowe is among a trio of New Zealand-born players in Ireland’s current squad, with his Leinster team-mate Jamison Gibson-Park and Connacht centre Bundee Aki also having started against Japan at the weekend.

“In terms of the measuring stick, New Zealand have been at the top of the pecking order for years,” he said.

The Leinster man qualified for his adopted nation last autumn through residency rules but a number of defensive errors led to him being dropped for Ireland’s final Six Nations win over England before being recalled to play for the contest with Japan.

After Saturday’s impressive Irish win, Farrell admitted that Lowe had “had a bit of a wake-up call”, went away and understood how he needed to prepare for international level, with his preparation is through the roof in comparison to what it was before.”

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RUGBY by Albie Redmore, NZ Herald

MORE INVESTMENT NEEDED: Black Ferns players congratulate Ruahei Demant after she scored a try against the Wallaroos at Eden Park in August 2019. Such scenes were in short supply against England at the weekend. Former Black Ferns star Honey Hireme-Smiler says the New Zealand women’s team needs more investment if they are to retain the Rugby World Cup on home soil next year.

FORMER Black Ferns star Honey Hireme-Smiler believes the side’s current European tour is exposing the team’s bleak chances of retaining the women’s Rugby World Cup title on home soil next year.

The Black Ferns suffered their second straight record defeat at the hands of world No.1 side England at the weekend, leaving even their opponents surprised at the lack of competitiveness from the traditionally powerful Black Ferns.

Hireme-Smiler told Newstalk ZB that England’s dominance is the result of a concerted effort by England Rugby to advance the women’s game.

“I suppose that’s what full-time professionalism does for the game and those players,” Hireme-Smiler said.

“A lot of those players have been around for a while now, but just to see the progress — both individually and as a team — is really impressive.

“In the same breath, it’s really hard. It’s been hard to watch my Black Ferns sisters really struggle with such big scorelines up against that England team and for me it is, on reflection, a real indication of where we’re at in terms of the investment in our Black Ferns women’s rugby team.”

Hireme-Smiler said that, while a two-year gap in test rugby is partly to blame for the disparity between the sides, the fact that these squad members are only part-time professionals is the main factor holding them back from staying at the top of world rugby.

“We came out of the last World Cup as champions and moved to part-time professionalism, but it’s not enough for the women. They’re still juggling so many aspects of life and training and trying to stay at the top of that level and it’s a big ask for them.”

Hireme-Smiler believes there is a clear test case for what increased investment does for the game and those players, Hireme-Smiler said.

“We’ve come out of the past couple of months of Black Ferns Sevens and they’ve a massive achievement in terms of the Olympic gold medal, but that shows what investment does for players. They are consistently performing well, at the top of their game, because they are now full-time professionals.

“You can see the difference in the sevens girls who are now in the 15s programme, where they’re at in terms of their skill set and their impact within that 15s team.”

With a World Cup defence looming in October 2022, Hireme-Smiler believes this side will have a tough time competing with the likes of England, given a continued lack of game time at the top level scheduled for the players and even with the introduction of Super Rugby Aupiki.

The new competition will run across four weekends in March and has been hailed as a stepping stone between the Parah Palmer Cup and the Black Ferns. Aupiki translates as “the ascent to the uppermost realm”.

“There’s been a lot of talk, obviously, with the Black Ferns women not having much game time in the past two years,” Hireme-Smiler said.

“England, in that time, have been able to notch up 14 test matches. I mean, you just can’t beat that in terms of test match and World Cup preparation.

“So if nothing changes between now and the World Cup, England’s going to come out here and dominate almost every team.

“The Super Rugby Aupiki will add some value to that but, again, it’s only part-time and, when you calculate it down, it’s only another four games that they get to add to their match fitness.”

“They’ll go back into club, then they’ll hit Parah Palmer Cup and then they’re literally stepping into a World Cup and that’s not good preparation if they want to retain that World Cup.”

The Black Ferns continue their European tour this weekend and will face a French team who have also benefited from an increase in investment from their local union and who Hireme-Smiler believes will test the Black Ferns.

“We’ve yet to see the upcoming games for the Black Ferns against the French, and they’re really investing in their women’s team as well.

“So I think those two test matches are again going to test our Black Ferns.”

However, despite the grim prognosis, Hireme-Smiler says the young talent this tour is exposing is extremely impressive and the players have what it takes to defend a World Cup — if they’re given the resources.

“I know they’re doing it tough out there but, you know, we still have some real exciting rugby players and it’s just really investing in them so they can ensure that we are bringing home that World Cup when we play it here in New Zealand.”

Defence chances ‘bleak’

Women’s game needs investment says Hireme Smiler