THE Government will spend $5.96 million upgrading Gisborne Hospital and its capacity to treat Covid-19 patients.

Work will start next year on the development of an intensive care unit ward, and emergency department for Covid-19 assessment and treatment, including air management and improvements of patient flows.

It will also involve oxygen system repairs and upgrades to support Covid-19 treatment, and support planned and routine care so non-Covid patients are safe when Covid patients are being treated.

"With high vaccination rates and better treatments and prevention methods, we are shifting to better support planned and routine care while also safely caring for Covid-19 patients," Health Minister Andrew Little said in a statement yesterday.

"Treating Covid patients can be disruptive to other treatment as additional precautions are taken for infection prevention and control. Today's announcements are about minimising that disruption."

"We asked Hauora Tairāwhiti to prioritise projects that would strengthen local hospitals to provide planned and routine care in the age of Covid-19, and could start as soon as possible in 2022, with some projects completed as early as March."

Hauora Tairāwhiti chief executive Jim Green said the improvements to the hospital to increase the ability to appropriately and safely manage the care of people who have Covid-19 were additions to changes already in progress.

"We have been working with the clinical team to identify what more is needed to make the hospital better, based around how people need to be cared for and the modelling we have on need to provide care for people with Covid-19."

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"This also supports care for all the other people who will still need hospital services, and keeping our staff and the public safe."

"There has been a speedy and comprehensive response from the Government to our proposals put up, with all the requested additional changes to clinical areas being approved in the funding announced."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4
GUARDING OUR BEACHES

by Murray Robertson

The team of paid surf lifesavers to patrol the city and Tolaga Bay beaches on weekdays over the peak summer period has been selected. They will be stationed across Midway, Waikane and Wainui beaches and will operate from 10am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, from December 20 to January 21.

Lifeguards will also be stationed at Tolaga Bay from December 22 to January 7, seven days a week, from 10am to 6pm.

"Our thanks to Gisborne District Council, Trust Tairawhiti, Surf Life Saving New Zealand (SLSNZ) and our local clubs for this continued service," SLSNZ club development officer Sonia Keeps said.

"Remember, if you are heading to the beach this summer choose a lifeguarded beach and swim between the flags," Mrs Keeps said.

"Come and talk to your lifeguards. They have a lot of safety tips to give. "It’s important to know your limits and if you’re ever in doubt, stay out of the water."

LOOKING AHEAD

TODAY

FOCUS ON THE LAND

• A sizeable yarding of more than 2000 head finished off the sales year today at the Matakawhio saleyards - prices and comment.

• The Muster Road Trip is coming to Tairawhiti over the summer period has been selected.

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Looking Ahead

Top of the class

University Entrance turnaround at Ngata

by Jack Marshall

OVER six years have passed without a single student gaining University Entrance (UE) at Ngata Memorial College but this year the school has ended that drought.

Out of the seven Year 13 students at Ngata, two already have UE and two more are waiting on exam results to confirm they have the required credits.

This would give the school a UE pass rate of 57 percent.

"We are extremely proud of our young men and women," said principal Peter Heron, who took over the role at the start of last year.

"They show that the students in our community, whatever career route they choose, have the capability to gain University Entrance (UE) confirmed students.

Anahera Palmer are the two who have given them."}

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The company bought the property at a time when it was thought racing would continue. NZRB said that although “remote tracks” around New Zealand, including Gisborne, were closing, they still considered all clubs were important and had a role to play in the racing industry. NZRB could no longer support racing in Gisborne because of the significant costs of TAB servicing and broadcasting costs and the transport costs of horse owners, it said. Other key factors announced previously when planning the closure of about 30 courses around the country included poor returns to the industry and owners, and the low horse population trained in those areas.

HALCYON DAYS: Happy Gisborne punters at Makaraka Racecourse in January 1962. The New Zealand Racing Board has confirmed 150 years of racing in Gisborne is over, however. LeaderBrand chief executive Richard Burke said the company, as yet, did not have any plans for the grandstands on the property.

AN $18.7 million research project to make sauvignon blanc grapes more sustainable will also improve the variety of plantings here, Gisborne's largest wine producer says. The Bragato Research Institute (BRI) has partnered with the Government to start work on its Sauvignon Blanc Grapevine Improvement Programme. The research programme will develop new variants of New Zealand's premier wine varietal, sauvignon blanc, to make the wine industry both more resilient and more sustainable.

The seven-year programme will apply the latest genome sequencing technology to allow BRI to create up to 20,000 entirely new variants of contemporary New Zealand sauvignon blanc, and then screen them to identify plants that exhibit the most useful traits selected by the wine industry.

"Indein, a long-time supporter of the project, helped get it off the ground. It was the first company to commit funding to it and is a platinum partner," a company spokesman said. In addition, the company and club presidents. LeaderBrand chief executive Richard Burke said the company, as yet, did not have any plans for the grandstands on the property.

"Any environmental threat, whether bio- security or changing climate, could have a significant impact on the wine industry and this research will enable us to choose local vines that are inherently more sustainable.

As Gisborne's largest wine producer, Indein has significant sauvignon blanc plantings in the region, and also land available for future plantings.

"We are hopeful that this research programme will in time provide improved sauvignon blanc variants that can be used in our red and white wines. The technology we will use is not being used elsewhere in the world, and this programme leverages unique New Zealand knowledge and capability developed over the past decade.

Primary Industries Minister Damien O'Connor said many existing vines would need to be replaced in 10 to 15 years in order to avoid a loss in productivity.

"The new variants could also lead to new flavour and aroma profiles, resulting in exciting new styles of wine that will add further value to the sector."
2022 calendars to boost funds for foko wharā

by Avneesh Vincent

FOR the eighth year Tokomaru Bay Heritage Trust is selling calendars to help fund the wharf restoration project. The aim is to collect $6 million to fully restore the wharf. Trust member Lois McCarthy-Robinson said the calendar sale was an annual fundraising initiative to contribute to the fund.

“We sell 500 calendars each year and raise about $10,000 which goes towards the project,” she said.

This year’s calendar has 13 handpicked historic photographs of the wharf, the freezing works and of Tokomaru Bay, to serve as a reminder of what it was in the prime.

Friend of the trust and historian John Robinson said one of the unique photos of the calendar told the story of a man called Chappie whose family once owned a business of transporting commodities such as stock and wool using horses and carts.

“The business later expanded to 50 trucks and lasted for about 60 years. These goods were taken to the wharf and put on the small ships that headed for Napier,” he said.

Mrs McCarthy-Robinson said the trust is a part of a delegation that will go to Wellington next year to ask for funding for the project, alongside the Gisborne District Council and Trust Tairāwhiti.

Trustees and friends of the trust will be in Gisborne’s city centre tomorrow selling the 2022 calendars, outside the HB Williams Memorial Library in Peel Street from 9am to 12midday.

Tonui pivots to mobile model

From page 1

STEM educator Tonui Collab is going mobile.

The not-for-profit organisation which provides learning opportunities through workshops is taking to STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) classroom to the highways after failing to find a suitable new premises.

For the past 2½ years Tonui has been based in the inner harbour, attracting more than 2000 people annually from across the rohe (region).

Tonui lead Shanon O’Connor said the move was another effort from the charitable trust to reach as many rangatahi (young people) as possible and break down barriers of travel to access exciting technology.

Their base was covered as part of Trust Tairāwhiti sponsorship since June 2019. For the past 2½ years Tonui has been based in the inner harbour, attracting more than 2000 people annually from across the rohe (region).

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Their base was covered as part of Trust Tairāwhiti sponsorship since June 2019.

While the contract ended in September, the Tonui lease was covered until December 18.

“Going mobile is ideal right now,” Shanon says. The Covid restrictions placed on schools have made it difficult for some school groups to leave their campuses. However, in the future, she would like to have a mixed model — continuing to go into schools, kura and marae, but also having a purpose-fit lab that would be Tonui to install and provide rangatahi with access to high-end equipment like laser cutters, virtual reality (VR) rigs and dedicated science laboratory conditions. This year the Tonui team spent 20 days travelling up the Coast to Wharekauhau, Tokomaru Bay, Whāngārā, Tolaga Bay and inland to Rere.

“It was a real privilege to be welcomed into communities and to create STEM learning opportunities,” Shanon said.

“We understand from building relationships with schools locally and further afield that the logistics of bringing rangatahi to our space presented challenges, so we want to eliminate that,” Shanon says.

“We also realise there is a need and desire from whānau to develop STEM understanding. Whānau want to support their rangatahi but this is a new world for them. By going out to our communities . . . we want to create opportunities for all to learn about it and how they support them on these pathways.”

It’s not going to be easy for the team operating without a whare or dedicated space for workshops.

“Some of the learning experiences we offer will have to be put on hold like the use of 3D printers, laser cutters and VR glasses. These things will go into storage while we adopt a mobile strategy. That said, our team are creative and this is an opportunity for us to demonstrate to rangatahi, educators and whānau the diversity and accessibility of STEM.”

Tonui will shift from a workshop model to a wānanga operation, with full day and multi-day sessions so rangatahi have the time, space and support to experiment with the diversity of STEM.

We want them to develop new knowledge so that we are facilitating an authentic STEM learning experiences that have been meaningfully built around pūrākau (stories, legends) Māori.”

And while it will be challenging for all, Shanon says there is a silver lining.

“We are excited to be going into schools and working with hapū to create a more diverse STEM workforce.

“We are committed to building relationships with our rangatahi, with whānau, other education partners and industry to realise these aspirations, but in order for it to be equitable, we need the support of funders.”

Maori make up just 4 percent of the tech workforce.

“We want to establish a more inclusive STEM workforce where Maori are represented and celebrated for our unique contributions,” she said.

“Rangatahi need the support of whānau to do this and for that to happen, whānau need to understand that opportunities exist for their descendants.

“Our Maori-based STEM wānanga will enable this.”

Previously, from March 2015, the business was Gisborne Mindlab, the first place outside Auckland to offer the digital and robotics learning programme.

In 2019 Mindlab gifted the programme to the local crew of educators.
READY TO HELP: Gisborne RSA manager David Sly (left) and president Trevor Jukes will promote their welfare services more widely in 2022. They say too many ex-servicemen and women do not know what support they are entitled to. They also want to thank the many volunteers operating behind the scenes at the RSA.

by Wynsley Wright

GISBORNE RSA plays a low-key but important role in these Covid-19 affected times.

The Government provided the Royal New Zealand Returned and Services' Association with $3.53 million from the Covid-19 Response, and Recovery Fund to allow the RSA to maintain welfare support for war veterans, as well as others who have worn the country's uniform and their families.

Of that funding, Gisborne RSA has distributed $250,000 into the local community.

It's a major function of the local RSA as it continues to rebuid after financial and labour relations issues, and an executive forced to resign four years ago.

A group of unsuspecting heroes operating behind the scenes had been vital, said Gisborne RSA manager David Sly, who was reluctant to name individuals for fear of missing anyone.

But speaking in a general sense, he mentioned “the young man” who runs house night, the builder who looks after repairs and maintenance at no charge, the woman who organises Poppy Day each year, immediate past president Paul Bayly, and many others.

Poppy Day requires a large number of much-appreciated volunteers, including cadets and school students.

Honouring the country’s war dead each Anzac Day is the most high-profile community role of the RSA.

But Anzac Day’s accompanying Poppy Day fundraising remains the key role of the RSA.

“The RSA’s welfare role, Mr Sly said, but there was some confusion over who qualified to receive support.

You do not have to be a war veteran.

“If you have signed on the dotted line for your country...”

A wide range of needs can earn RSA financial support.

The RSA Independence Programme helps to keep veterans in their homes.

Support is available in the provision of services such as lawn mowing, gutter cleaning, window cleaning and the maintenance of ramps and railings.

Financial assistance through needs-based grants to see alleviate financial, medical and education hardship is also available.

Mr Sly regrets that many former military personnel and their families are unaware of the support they are eligible to receive.

Gisborne RSA would be out to promote greater awareness of their welfare services in 2022, he said.

He also pointed out that you do not have to be part of the country’s military services to join the RSA.

POLICE discovered a prison parolee was a methamphetamine dealer when they stopped him for bad driving, Gisborne District Court was told.

Tutavake Rangitahiwa Paniora Karaitiana Ngati Maxwell, 30, was subsequently recalled to prison to serve out a previously-imposed sentence for aggravated robbery that he had breached.

He pleaded guilty to the more recently-laid charges — possession of methamphetamine for supply and possession of an offensive weapon — and was sentenced by Judge Warren Cat Heath to a further prison term of 21 months, cumulative on his current sentence.

Cash of $230,000, found when Maxwell was arrested, was forfeited to the Crown.

The offending came to light on July 6 this year when police noticed Maxwell speeding past numerous vehicles while driving through roadworks.

Officers who stopped him noticed a large knife wrapped in a gang sign on the back seat of his vehicle and invoked a search.

If you have signed on the dotted line for your country...
by Sophie Trigger, NZ Herald

WELLINGTON — Medsafe has granted provisional approval for the Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine for children aged 5 to 11 years old.

The provisional approval is for two doses of the paediatric vaccine, given at least 21 days apart.

The Pfizer vaccine for this age group has been adapted for use on children, said Medsafe group manager Chris James. “The Medsafe team has worked tirelessly this year to ensure that Covid-19 vaccine applications are prioritised and urgently reviewed, while still maintaining the same scrutiny that all medicine applications undergo, because they can be approved,” James said in a statement.

“Medsafe will only approve a vaccine or medicine for use in New Zealand once it is satisfied that it has met high standards for quality, safety and efficacy. The Covid-19 Vaccine Technical Advisory Group is now providing advice to the Ministry of Health to inform Cabinet’s decision on whether to use this version of the vaccine in New Zealand.

In a statement, National Immunisation Programme director Astrid Koornneef said work was well under way to prepare for the potential roll-out, but Cabinet has yet to make a decision.

“If Cabinet agrees to use the vaccine in New Zealand, we want to have systems in place to roll out the vaccine safely and efficiently, at the earliest opportunity,” Koornneef said.

“This means completing the necessary transitional work within the community to roll out the vaccine, including through whānau-based approaches.”

If approved, the Ministry of Health said the roll-out is expected to start in New Zealand no later than the end of January 2022. — BNZ

Medsafe gives provisional approval for Pfizer vaccine for children

ASHER BLOOMFIELD

The government is moving to give New Zealanders a bit of an early Christmas gift.

If approved by Cabinet, the Ministry of Health will proceed to open the border to fully vaccinated Kiwis travelling from New Zealand’s “green list” countries from March 19.

传媒 not a cause for panic’

by Sophie Trigger, NZ Herald

WELLINGTON — The arrival of Omicron has “thrown a spanner in the works” for New Zealand’s Covid response with a leading epidemiologist warning Kiwis to expect a “messy” 2022.

And Director General of Health Dr Ashley Bloomfield said he could lead to a reduction in the recommended time double-jabbed New Zealanders should wait before getting a booster shot.

New Zealand’s first confirmed case of Omicron was announced yesterday, located at the Sudima Christchurch Airport MIQ facility.

Bloomfield told Newstalk ZB there have been no further detections of Omicron in those who travelled alongside the infected person on flights to and from New Zealand.

He said all the people on the flight that brought the people to New Zealand and the linking domestic flight to Christchurch were in quarantine and undergoing testing regimes.

“Well be watching closely to see if there are any other positive tests,” said Bloomfield.

While he couldn’t rule out any further infections from the flight, he said this would not be the only case officials would encounter at the border.

“We are expecting most of our cases within a short period of time will be Omicron coming across the border and then we will deal with them and keep them at the border.

Bloomfield said it was very confident that Omicron would remain there, and not escape into the community.

Talking on TVNZ’s Breakfast show, Bloomfield said the booster programme was a tool that will help keep the new Covid variant at bay.

He said evidence from cases overseas showed the third booster jab was important in the fight against Omicron.

Bloomfield revealed that he had been given advice in the last couple of days on the time period between getting the second jab and the booster shot.

Currently, there is a six-month period between those two jabs.

He said the advice he had been given in recent days was being put forward for discussion among Government officials and ministers.

“It may be that a shorter interval will ensure that people do get that booster and increase their protection at the right time in case we get Omicron in the country.”

He expected there would be an announcement on bringing the booster shot forward before Christmas, but that was up to ministers to decide.

On opening up order, Australian-based Kiwis and next month, Bloomfield acknowledged that that is up for review along with a Covid-19 vaccine for children aged 5 to 11 years old.

Deputy Prime Minister Grant Robertson said this morning he was not unnerved by Omicron on our doorstep. “Obviously it’s a cause for concern but it’s not a cause for panic,” he told Newstalk ZB’s Mike Yardley.

He said the managed isolation and quarantine system had been set up to deal with a highly transmissible variant and while it was not 100 percent perfect it had served as well.

He said while the new Covid protection framework did not have provision for medium-sized lockdowns, if needed, “we have previously used to quell outbreaks, it did allow for bespoke lockdowns at a localised community level if needed.”

Robertson said the Cabinet would meet on Monday to discuss the Omicron situation.

The booster situation to counter Omicron would be an important topic of conversation in coming days.

“The advice coming to the Ministry of Health is landing and we’ll get advice in the next couple of days,” he said.

Asked if the planned January border changes with Australia were in grave jeopardy, Robertson said the government would take another look at that with the latest information at hand.

He said while there were no plans to bring the decision forward it was important to use the most up-to-date information as the situation across the ditch unfolded.

“The Prime Minister has indicated we will have another look in early January,” he said.

On GDP, Robertson said the latest economic data showed resilience in New Zealand business.

“What it does show is the resilience of New Zealanders through Covid. We learnt a lot through the 2020 outbreak and people realise we will bounce back and they don’t need to panic.”

Auckland University epidemiologist Rod Jackson said Omicron was always going to arrive in New Zealand, but

‘SPANNER IN THE WORKS’: Covid-19 testing is continuing around the country as the first case of Omicron was announced at the border.

“Omicron demonstrates that nothing is for certain . . . 2022 is going to be messy.”

“It’s going to be uncertain, and Omicron has just thrown a spanner in the works. We just don’t know how bad it’s going to be.”

“In terms of opening the border in January, I don’t know. But I wouldn’t be surprised if Cabinet would defer a decision to that effect . . . to wait and see how the Omicron wave progresses.”

The administration of the Ministry of Health will keep the community informed, he said.

Alex Brauer, chief executive of the Ministry of Health, said the roll-out is expected to start in New Zealand no later than the end of January 2022.

“Right now, we’re preparing the community as we wait for the advice of our expert panel before we make any official announcements,” she said.

“Right now, planning is in the early stages . . . in order to make any changes, we need to have full confidence that the vaccine will be safe and effective for use in New Zealand.”

Commuter train damaged

WELLINGTON — A commuter train has been damaged after colliding with a slip north of Pihanga.

“At about 9.15pm last night a northbound commuter train derailed colliding with a slip,” Paul Ashton, KiwiRail General Manager Operations — Lower North Island, said in a statement.

“The train has not derailed.”

In a statement on its website, Metlink confirmed services had been suspended between Porirua and Waitakana.

“The trains are suspended between Porirua and Waitakana due to a major slip train services cannot operate between Wellington and Porirua.”

Commuter Gary Henson told Stuff the train was still on the line but “in an urgent halt . . . in the middle of nowhere”.

No injuries have been reported.

Earlier on Thursday, multiple slips blocked traffic in both directions on the main highway between Wellington and Porirua.

Motorists were asked to expect significant delays after a slip came down at Picton Bay on State Highway 59 — formerly State Highway 1 — at around 1.25pm.

Highway 59 remained throughout the afternoon, with stop-go traffic management put in place at 4.30pm. Waka Kotahi issued an update just before 6pm to say the road was open in both directions. — NZ Herald

Man charged with murder

TE AWAHUA — A 19-year-old man has been charged with murder following a homicide at a house in Te Awahou on Wednesday.

The murder charges were made after the man appeared in the Hamilton District Court on Thursday.

On Wednesday morning, at about 6.15am, police were called to a Hazelmere Crescent property in Hamilton. A 46-year-old man was pronounced dead at the scene.

Police say they are not seeking anyone else in relation to the matter and no further comment will be made. — NZ Herald

Three in court after shooting

AUCKLAND — Police have arrested three men after a man was shot dead in his Ohuha home four months ago.

Detective Inspector Karen Bright, Counties Manukau Police, said the man, aged 18, 21 and 29, have been jointly charged with the murder of Peter Rasmussen and are expected to appear in Counties Manukau District Court today.

A homicide investigation was launched after the 75-year-old was shot and killed in his home on August 22. Bright said the investigation was ongoing and police could not rule out the possibility of further charges being laid.

The investigation team has worked tirelessly to resolve this case for Mr Rasmussen’s family.

“This will be the Christmas they will spend in his memory and that is something we hope the arrests will provide some degree of relief and comfort.” — NZ Herald

Penguins rescued

MORAY Firth — More than 20 penguin chicks have been rescued after torrential rain swept away their nesting boxes in Canterbury. On Friday, the Kaikoura Police group frantically worked to save as many of the chicks and the nesting boxes as the weather worsened at Banks Peninsula.

Dozens of the chicks spent the night, along with a small group of workers, without a safe place to rest. The seven of the chicks, aged from five to seven weeks, have now been given to Christchurch Penguin Rehab. — RNZ
Anti-vaxxers march to an empty Parliament

WELLINGTON — Thousands of anti-vaccine protesters descended on Parliament yesterday after marching through the Wellington streets behind a gang of motorcycles. There was a strong police presence to meet them — despite Parliament being empty, as politicians had their last day of the year on Wednesday. Barricades were in place in front of the building with at least 50 officers guarding the building. The discontent was voiced on the same day the country officially surpassed the milestone of 90 percent of the eligible population being double-jabbed.

Yesterday protesters set up their gazebos as the Wellington weather threatened rain throughout the day, chanting “you serve us” and “show us your face” to the empty building. A speaker told the crowd he was looking forward to seeing his mum for the first time in a long time. He thanked protesters for attending “on behalf” of the Freedoms & Rights Coalition and praised Destiny Church leader Brian Tamaki — who was nowhere to be seen. Destiny senior pastor Derek Tait told the crowd Tamaki had given him authority to speak. “This is a bigger cause than all of us,” he said. A witness at the protest says dozens of motorcycles escorted the protesters on their walk which began Civic Square. There was a distinct lack of masks among the protesters, with one man handing out “exemption” passes to people who wanted one. Last month thousands of protesters from the Freedoms & Rights Coalition brought Wellington’s CBD to a standstill when they marched to Parliament. Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern earlier said the messages from anti-vaxxers or protesters marching to Parliament did not represent the majority of New Zealanders. — NZ Herald

PROTEST AT PARLIAMENT: Freedoms & Rights Coalition protesters gathered on an empty Parliament’s lawn yesterday in Wellington. NZ Herald picture

Calls for change after Air NZ plane grounded

NELSON — It has been revealed the pilot of an Air New Zealand flight from Nelson to Christchurch wanted to kick two passengers off the plane when they refused to put masks on.

However, the E tū union told The New Zealand Herald that when the pilot checked with Air New Zealand management, they were told they were legally unable to do so.

Flight ZK5857 was left sitting on the tarmac for half an hour on December 2 while staff negotiated with two passengers refused to put on their masks.

It departed 30 minutes late with the unmasked pair still onboard, after staff confirmed they had an exemption.

Air New Zealand won’t confirm how the two people proved they were exempt from having to wear a mask, but The New Zealand Herald understands they did not have an official Covid exemption card.

E tū union head of aviation Savage said they had since been investigating the incident.

He said they understood there was a discussion by the pilot to offload the passengers on the flight, but were told by Air New Zealand they couldn’t do so due to the current rules around mask exemption.

“The ability of the pilot to offload the passengers was limited because the rules clearly state a person is not required to show their exemption,” Savage said it wasn’t just refusing to wear a mask that raised concerns.

“It appeared they were anti-vaccination and anti-mask wearing, they were quite belligerent and rude to people around them.”

He said fellow passengers on the plane were also quite concerned.

These allegations were referred to Air New Zealand but the airline refused to comment.

When asked about the incident, New Zealand Airlines Pilots’ Association President Captain Andrew Ridling said he couldn’t speak to the specific case as he wasn’t involved with it.

However, Ridling told The New Zealand Herald pilots are ultimately responsible for making decisions onboard the plane.

“They can remove any passenger from their aircraft if the situation warrants this,” Ridling said they greatly appreciate that the vast majority of passengers follow the rules.

He said he’s not personally aware of any other instances of passengers refusing to wear a mask on a flight in New Zealand.

The incident has fuelled calls from the E tū union to change the mask rules.

Savage said this would help stop unruly passengers getting on planes.

“We just want to make sure that if someone has got an exemption for wearing a mask that the cabin crew or the ground staff are not having to confront that person or get themselves into any situation where a person is going to get offended for being asked,” he said.

He said they would like to work with the airlines to help get the rules changed to better protect union members and their employees. — NZ Herald

Health data platform gets the green light

WELLINGTON — People will soon be able to check their health records on everything from medicines to vaccination status from their smartphone or computer, following government approval of a $179 million health technology package.

The Ministry of Health’s deputy director-general of health for data and digital Shanye Hunter said the Hira programme will bring together digital solutions and tools that will transform the way people deal with health services and use their health information.

He said that currently information may need to be gathered from several different providers and systems, which can create delays in care and put patients at risk.

“Hira will allow New Zealanders and their chosen health providers to use their smartphones, tablet or computer to securely access a range of important health information through a virtual electronic health record.

“In the first instance this will include basic patient information, enrolment general practice, entitlements, medicines, Covid-19 vaccination status and test results, and summary primary care data.”

Hunter said this would ensure New Zealanders could be in control of their health information so they can better manage their health and wellbeing.

Options for people who do not have a digital device or prefer not to use one were also being looked at, he said.

“Hira will also enable better clinical decision-making and allow services to be targeted in a way that improves equity for Māori, Pacific peoples and vulnerable populations.”

He said Hira would also allow people to nominate someone from their whānau to access their health information and would make it clear where the information is held and who is authorised to access it.

Delivery of the Hira programme will be split into three stages through to the end of 2020.

“We’ve already built a solid platform for Hira through our work to implement key initiatives such as My Health Account and My Covid Record. By the end of this year one in around mid-2024, we will have put in place many of the elements of Hira needed to lay the foundations for a digitally enabled health and disability system.”

He said the Hira programme the Ministry has government approval to invest a further $81m over three years to support the replacement of ageing technology and to address digital capabilities.

It would work closely with district health boards to identify priority areas for the spending, Hunter said. — RNZ

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43603-03
Taxpayers foot $392k bill for mosque terrorist

by Anna Leask, NZ Herald

CHRISTCHURCH — The legal aid bill for the man responsible for the Christchurch terror attack has almost reached $400,000 — and will rise even further if he decides to appeal his sentence of life without parole.

On March 15, 2019, Brenton Tarrant — who is now also the first person to be sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole — was found guilty of 51 counts of murder, 40 of attempted murder, and 13 of terrorism-related charges.

The High Court matters encompass Court of Appeal matters and $4573 for, a four-day hearing before Justice Cameron Mander.

At the end of the hearing, Tarrant became the first person in New Zealand legal history to be sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

The New Zealand Herald had earlier reported on the gunman’s legal aid bill, revealing that up to March 30, 2020, a total figure of $176,788 had been paid.

That brings the current total legal aid bill — as of yesterday — to $392,966.

On March 15, 2010, the offender enacted a horrendous planned attack on Christchurch mosques.

In the attack, which was livestreamed on Facebook, 51 were fatally wounded and 40 others injured.

The lone gunman was charged with 51 counts of murder, 40 of attempted murder — and was also the first person to be charged and convicted of engaging in a terrorist act under the Terrorism Suppression Act 2002.

He soon indicated he intended to represent himself but then he accessed legal aid and Auckland barristers Shane Tait and Jonathan Hudson took on his case.

The legal aid system is designed to ensure people who cannot pay for a lawyer are provided with legal representation in court, which is an important part of New Zealand’s justice system.

The offender sacked the Auckland defence duo after he unexpectedly pleaded guilty to all of the charges.

Again he indicated he would self represent at sentencing — a unprecedented four-day hearing before Justice Cameron Mander in the High Court at Christchurch.

However, Pip Hall QC was then instructed to act as stand-by counsel.

Tarrant’s legal bill will likely rise further as he is said to be considering appealing his sentencing.

Last month it was revealed he had engaged Dr Tony Ellis, a prominent New Zealand human rights lawyer.

Ellis was hired after Chief Coroner Deborah Marshall confirmed an inquest would be held into the terror attack.

Tarrant claimed, through Ellis, that he only admitted the charges against him because of “inhumane and degrading treatment” he experienced in prison while awaiting trial.

In a memo to Chief Coroner Marshall, Ellis said the terrorist believed his right to a fair trial was compromised, that his guilty pleas were obtained “by duress” and the conditions under which he pleaded needed to be taken into consideration.

In the memo, Ellis also raised his lack of access to counsel, information and to documentation which would impact his ability to participate in the Coronial Inquest.

The Chief Coroner had written directly to the inmate, informing him of her decision to hold a Coronial Inquest, but those letters were not passed on, Ellis said.

The attacker had also been sent two copies of the Royal Commission which were withheld from him by the department.

Without access to those documents, he advised his lawyer that he was unable to give detailed instructions ahead of any proceedings.

Ellis argued this was a “serious breach of human rights” and the “behaviour is deeply offensive, and unlawful” because he was no longer being treated as human.

Ellis said he had advised Tarrant to appeal his sentence of life without the possibility of parole, because it is what is called a “sentence of no hope”.

He appreciated the significant distress his instruction would have on the affected victims and families but said it was Tarrant’s right to do so.

“Carrying out client’s instructions is every barrister’s duty, and while this case is likely to be the pinnacle of professional difficulty, every accused or convicted person is entitled to exercise his right of access to the court,” he said.

Days later Ellis confirmed he was no longer representing the shooter, who had dismissed him as counsel.

LIFE-SAVING EQUIPMENT: Pacific Surf Life Saving Club chairman Harry Michiela with two “dead” radars similar to those stolen from the Marine Parade beachfront clubhouse.

Burglary threatens start of surf patrols

by Doug Laing, Hawke’s Bay Today

NAPIER — Hawke’s Bay’s Pacific Surf Life Saving Club has lost thousands of dollars of lifesaving gear and radios to thieves just days before the start of the Marine Parade club’s seven-day-a-week summer patrols.

Among items stolen in a burglary discovered by bike shop proprietor Eddie Kattenberg as he arrived for work yesterday morning were two fast response life packs and an oxygen bottle — vital equipment for use at the water’s edge in the most serious of rescues.

Also taken were five radios and a new e-bike used for patrolling the length of the city beachfront from Ahuriri to Te Awahou.

The bike would have also been used this summer to help in counts of numbers of people swimming at the beach to inform the coastal safety strategy being implemented not only in the area but throughout New Zealand.

Club chairman Harry Michiela said a stocktake was still to be done and it was possible other items had been taken, but he wants the thieves to think about what they have done and return the essential goods.

Police are also seeking any information which may be related to the burglary.

He estimated the property known to have been taken would cost $4000 to $6000 to replace, and it can’t all be replaced in a hurry, and it could impact the weekend patrols the club started a fortnight ago and the summer weekday lifeguard patrols running from next Monday to the end of January.

“It’s all very depressing,” he said, although there was an immediate uplift with the donation of two radios and indications of other help.

“ But we will still have to beg and borrow before we go on patrol at the weekend.”

There had been little to no problems of burglary or vandalism nature around the clubhouses for years, which he said highlighted the public respect for the service it provides.

But the burglars appeared to have come prepared with the tools needed to break into the building, which is on the beachfront near the port end of the parade.

Council apologises for privacy slip

WELLINGTON — Wellington City Council has apologised for sending outstanding rates bills and corresponding addresses to the wrong households.

About 1400 people have been caught up in the “embarrassing” privacy breach. Affected ratepayers were sent emails from the council this week outlining the error in the latest round of rates reminders on Monday.

When the reminders were being prepared, the contact details of the people outstanding amounts related to were sent to another email address.

“The information that was shared was that of the outstanding rates total, and the address to which it relates. The email did not include your name or contact details.”

Council spokesman Richard MacLean said the situation was embarrassing. He said the council was made aware of the issue soon after the reminders were sent out.

“The council has apologised to all these people and of course we’re putting steps to make sure it doesn’t happen again. It would be safe to say it was human error.” — NZ Herald

Tropical goes sophisticated

This colour scheme, inspired by the wrapping paper featured in the frame, takes the concept for a more sophisticated spin. The key textual elements and motifs of a tropical theme are all still present in this look, but anchored in the deep, smouldering tones of Resene Quarter Bokara Grey. It becomes elegant and modern, rather than kitsch.
Areas cut off by wild weather

by Niva Chittock, RNZ

CHRISTCHURCH — Torrential rain has left parts of Canterbury cut off after a month’s worth of rain fell in one day. A route into Le Bons Bay, one of the hardest hit areas, was achieved yesterday, but one of its access roads isn’t expected to be reopened for some time after a bridge was washed out.

Christchurch City Council contractors worked through the night to clear slips and flooding. Homes in Le Bons Bay were evacuated after the stream burst and took out part of the hillside.

Anita Osborne lives in Le Bons Bay township, a few kilometres inland from the beach and said the weather wasn’t like anything she had ever seen or heard before.

“You would just hear a roar of stones, a rumble coming through the forest, and then there would be a mud river flowing across the property,” she said.

Osborne was given the option to evacuate, but did not need to take it.

Amazingly, their house was fine, but the rest of the property wasn’t so lucky and was strewn with boulders and silt.

“There was a loud crack and a giant big tree fell down and then that blocked a back stream up ahead of us, which then sent the river coming down in a different direction,” Osborne said.

Adrienne Brown lives near the beach at Le Bona Bay and told RNZ the gully down the middle of the bay was a raging torrent spewing mud yesterday.

“It’s gone right around the back road and flooded the houses down Rue de la Mer. There’s just silt and sludgy mud everywhere. It’s going to take a long time to clean up and it’s going to ruin a lot of people’s Christmas,” she said.

Brown has lived in the Bay for the past 11 years and said she’s seen a lot of rain and damage like this before.

She said on first inspection it looked like four baches had water through them.

“Everything was just looking good for Christmas and some people were coming over to their baches and now they’re going to have mud all through them and carpets to lift up, which isn’t nice at all.”

Brown said it has left her feeling sick at the thought of what the owners will face when they make it over to Le Bons.

At Carol and John Masefield’s sheep and beef farm at nearby Goughs Bay, the bridge providing the only road access to their home has been washed away.

Carol said they were using horses to assess the damage this morning.

“The only access now is right down at the beach to get across as we can get up the hill to the rest of the farm. Because of the tides, we’ve only just managed to get the horses across the creek at the beach now.”

She said the creek has turned into more of a river and she expects the community to have a massive clean-up on their hands.

“Everyone feels sick at the thought of what the owners will face when they have come down and wiped everything out.”

Banks Peninsula ward councillor and Christchurch City Deputy Mayor Andrew Turner said damage is still being discovered and the clean-up is expected to take a while.

“There are a few bays which have been or remain shut off after heavy rain caused rivers and streams to burst their banks and leave water flowing where it wouldn’t normally. Roads have become secondary streams and there are slips and flooding blocking access.”

“This type of thing isn’t unusual on Banks Peninsula when there is heavy rainfall, but when you get close to or over 100ml of rain falling and big concentrations of water flow in those valleys, then it creates a worse incident than we would expect to see on the peninsula,” said Mr Turner.

“This isn’t the time of year that we would be expecting (severe flooding). Normally people are planning barbecues and beach visits, not planning a clean-up after a big flood like this.”

Someone love a phone?

This Christmas, get a gift they’ll use.
ACHIEVING THE IMPOSSIBLE: Hamish Fleming descending Mt Aspiring’s North West Ridge buttress. Picture supplied

Climbers achieve remarkable feat

by Mike Scott, NZ Herald

CHRISTCHURCH — Two Kiwi mountaineers have cracked what they had thought was impossible and climbed New Zealand’s 24 highest peaks in a month.

Alastair McDowell, 30, and Hamish Fleming, 31, started their arduous mission on November 13 and climbed, camped, hiked and biked to their final summit on December 12.

“This was just an epic adventure that we didn’t even think we could achieve. We took it one step at a time and broke it into parts then suddenly got to the point where yesterday we finished,” Fleming said on Tuesday.

The pair scaled the 24 peaks across one continuous trip. They were at the mercy of poor weather — sheltering from storms in huts, a tent or ice caves and unwilling to utilise helicopters typically used to access New Zealand’s high peaks.

Because the entire journey was “human-powered”, they also went overseas we want to show how much mountain climbing we are capable of in New Zealand,” McDowell said.

McDowell said mental exhaustion was the hardest part of the mission.

“It wasn’t an overly technical challenge, it was more about the mental aspect of being on lots of exposed terrain, just gritting your teeth for hours and hours and hours on end. It was the sustained nature of it all.”

The pair started the journey the previous winter season in 1989. The previous fastest time was by mountain guides Erica Beuzenberg and Gottlieb Braun-Elwert during an impressive single winter season in 1989.

However, completing them in one continuous trip entirely under human power was unprecedented.

McDowell and Fleming credited their combined years of alpinism, adventure racing and outdoor experience for providing the necessary fitness and skills to complete the mission safely.

“We’re not here to push things to the limit or beyond the limit. We want to do things with a margin of safety and I think we achieved that,” McDowell said.

Yet they believe their achievement could be surpassed in the coming years with numerous talented young alpinists already making their mark on New Zealand’s mountains.

McDowell said the mentoring he received as a member of the New Zealand Alpine Team was instrumental in achieving his goals and felt New Zealand alpinism was flourishing.

“Climbing is on a rising tide in New Zealand, and I think that’s due to the sharing of knowledge and information through social media and clubs. We can already see several different waves of generations doing amazing stuff.”

An April 2019 breakdown in Auckland showed the tensions.

“This was the only heavy aerial available in Auckland at the time,” the station officer wrote.

After the basket did not level out as the ladder was being extended, the track “shut itself down” and “could not be moved”.

“For a period of time, both TV4 and STV (Type 4) appliances were unable to fight the fire.”

Luckily no one was in the basket.

“Where there would have been nearly impossible for an operator to escape.”

He asked for an investigation, saying, “all aerials need to be tested regularly and maintained to a very high standard to ensure safe operating.”

The investigation into the Chch Central International Convention Centre fire called over a FENZ aerial strategy needs an update of the old national aerial strategy.

How many trucks are required and how long their ladders need to be is complicated by factors such as the country’s growing population, the increase in medium-rise townhouse and apartment living and changing weather patterns.

Despite this, at governance level, FENZ’s board has only considered aerials once in the last 18 months, reports show.

That was last November, and was regarding the union “blacklisting” of the South Island’s oldest aerial trucks.

It is a backup, bought from the UK when it was already old, and was extensively modified here, but hard to use — and now parked up in Christchurch.

The union told RNZ that doubts persisted that the backup truck could perform.

The Christchurch brigade recently got lucky. In the same week a fire badly damaged the city’s water treatment plant last month, they tackled another major fire at Antonio Hall.

The following week that same ladder truck was out of action for four days.

Chassis cracks and defects have also sidelined at least three dozen Type 3 trucks, the workhorses of FENZ’s smaller fleet that is also subject to a belt and braces strategy revision.

The annual report shows repair costs have not been confirmed and legal action is looming between FENZ and a fire appliance engineer over who is responsible.

ON A MISSION: Hamish Fleming (left) and Alastair McDowell on the summit of Mt Aspiring. Picture supplied
The customer said the inquiry by Spark staff member came after several area later this month. Spark advised it the way.

Customer no comfort, the Herald’s can mean that it’s not good “. Which ring, and bad lines, concluded there was missed calls because the phone doesn’t, and bad lines, concluded there was no plan for a second Spark call tower in the location “any time soon”. The advice was Spark deemed the quality coverage “fair coverage” — “which can mean that it’s not good”. 

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While the pandemic forcing people to work from home has put pressure on networks, the Herald can attest the Spark reception is better. The customer is set to start rising next year after

PROGRESS “INEVITABLE”: Whip Around CEO Noah Hickey (left), with co-founders James Colley and Tim Boyle, and engineering VP Shai Bula.

The customer, one of dozens of Spark received a bizarre recommendation for a customer

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Tit for tat nuclear temptations

by Bob Hughes

It was pleasing to see such extensive news coverage of this year’s Glasgow COP26 summit and the consequent announcements for the snipets on the climate change that accompanied the 10 day event from start to finish.

World leaders have finally spoken the words of commitment, like UK PM Boris Johnson’s “death knoll for coal pollution” and the expectation the 1.5°C maximum goal is still alive.

It was good to see trustworthy foreign correspondent Gwynne Dyer’s Weekender piece, saying it was one of the more productive climate summits. However, I’m not so sure.

There is still the same saying “Words without deeds are meaningless” and I suspect the words of cooperation on climate between the USA and China are meaningless. They are both nuclear powers that clash politically and ideologically — doing this with nuclear deterrents always at the ready is nonsense.

Armistice Day and Remembrance Day have just gone by and there was my August Hiroshima day column “World without nuclear threat” where I mentioned HG Wells’ 1814 science fiction novel The World Set Free.

Britain and Germany had a 21st-century world divided, nations at war exchanging tit-for-tat atomic bombs, destroying great cities, rendering them radioactive and uninhabitable for generations to come. With peace, a gigantic change of attitudes eventuates allowing the formation of a united world republic to emerge from “The war to end all wars”. But punitive post-war measures imposed on Germany put paid to that myth.

Anger, hate and revolution eventually leading to Adolf Hitler and the Nazi party gaining power in 1933.

How many know Nazi Germany had a nuclear weapons programme until the outbreak of World War II? But, owing to more pressing wartime demands, it was dropped? Just as well. Imagine nuclear weapons in any of the 1932-41 and V-2 flying bombs Germany launched on Britain during the last years of the war.

The V-1 flying bomb (Vergeltungsflaette 1) or “Vengeance Weapon 1” was an early cruise missile.

Saddily, awareness of the German nuclear programme hurried the United States to develop an atomic bomb for fear that whoever had the bomb first would win the war.

As it turned out there was no race to win, but the United States had the bomb by the war’s end. Germany had already been defeated and to finish off Japan, the US dropped nuclear bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki — killing a great many people, mainly civilians.

Next, the Cold war began. By 1949 the Soviet Union had nuclear weapons as well and the nuclear arms race was on.

Now time to stepstocked enough nuclear weapons to wipe out humanity. Threats have been made, and there have been many close calls.

In chapter 4 of The World Set Free, Wells wrote: “At the end of human history, among war, jealousy, particularism, and belligerency, were incompatible with the monstrous destructive power of the new appliances the inhuman logic of science had produced. The equilibrium could be saved only if we were to destroy itself down to a level at which modern apparatus could no longer be produced, or by human nature adapting itself to its new conditions.”

It’s over 100 years since Wells wrote the book. He couldn’t have imagined the environmental degredation we’ve caused.

Civil unrest, famines and imminent civilisation collapse are with us now.

A world nuclear war would result in death to most people and most likely hurl our species to extinction, due to the terrible effects of over a decade of nuclear winter.

We need a world without nuclear threat. Urgently.

I might use that phrase, in a neurological sense.

However, I find the quoted passage, “The same is true for anti-Maoist sentiment and other toxic beliefs held by old, white, new Zealanders”, is capable of being interpreted as agent, racist and a prime example of prejudicial stereotyping. It seems to me, that could be one of the reasons the columns are written, to speak out against such things.

Christmas:

BON TAYLOR

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, ONLINE COMMENTS

Trespassed

Re: Orange glow for New Year’s Eve, Dec 14 editorial.

I gave up hope of being put $20 on my TAB account. Welcome to the brave new world

The police refused to test out the new legalities. They avoided it by issuing a trespass notice.

PETER JONES

Dancefit show must go on

Despite Covid lockdowns and red traffic lights, the show must go on — and it was the case with the end-of-year Dancefit concert with all its dance troops. Primarily due to the restrictions, the War Memorial Theatre was proud and cheering parents and friends, with the various groups on stage for the video camera instead, and for pride. But this would never stop them from putting in 110 percent effort.

The parents will, however, be able to see the recorded show later on and that will be a showcase to — boasting over 400 very talented dancers ranging from the fantastic little Junior Jammers right through to advanced Foundation classes. Dancefit is spear-headed by Tessa and Anna Beattie who put a lot

of work into teaching and putting these shows together — no easy task. They are incredible and without helpers like Lucy, Jarahna and Charli, it would be almost a mission impossible put together.

The talent that Dancefit has is of Hollywood quality and is eager to see them all performing on stage, and all the dance costumes and routines are lovingly made by Tessa, Anna and her Dancefit team are all fantastic.

On behalf of all the parents of the dancers who attend Dancefit I would like to say “Thanks” for all your effort in 2021. It has been so much appreciated and I know the performances that the dancers appreciated it as well.

ALL THE BEST FOR 2022.

ANDREW RICKARD

Many thanks

Big thank you to Rewiti Ropsha and all the staff at Turanga for the year 2021. Nga Mihia

QUEENIE TAKURAKA

A poor display

Re: Petition calls for cancellation of Rhythm and Vines, Nov 1 story.

I hope RnV relocates to a new town following this poor display by Gisborne!

PETER JONES

Many thanks

A somewhat quixotic statement on quantum mechanics that if you think you understand the subject, the subject is a reliable sign that you don't.

I find the same problem with Tanith Wurhiana Te Watuhihiteri's latest column unfortunately. This is probably due to my failing faculties and my previous cultural "brainwashing" for years, for I am former is down to age and the many years of old cultural influences I am certainely suffer from Dunning-Kruger effect which creates an almost "perfect storm", if

I might use that phrase, in a neurological sense.

However, I find the quoted passage, “The same is true for anti-Maoist sentiment and other toxic beliefs held by old, white, New Zealanders”, is capable of being interpreted as agent, racist and a prime example of prejudicial stereotyping. It seems to me, that could be one of the reasons the columns are written, to speak out against such things.

Christmas:

BON TAYLOR

ON PREJUDICIAL STEREOTYPING

He ‘spoke up’ more

Re: Player banned for life, December 15 story.

Gisborne Herald you have finally got one. Get your facts straight. Timoti was wrongly banned for life because he was caught up in an HSOF cheating. All the other players swear they were cheating and it happen and no one else spoke up.

Good on you PBCA, supporting a bunch of liars you can’t.

STEPH ROGERS

Footnote from Ed: This article is a Poverty Bay Cricket Association press release.

Train more

Re: Yet shortage, December 16 story.

Why on Earth don’t they make it slightly easier for people who are invariably interested in "pass the vet qualifications?"

I know three very intelligent people who have worked crazy, ludicrous hours to pass but fell foul of the ridiculous demands of the course and the passfail system. Train more good New Zealand vets.

Simple answer:

CHRIS McINTRYE

Wellington

The Gisborne Herald • Friday, December 17, 2021

OPINION
Surge in Omicron cases rattles Europe

LONDON — Soaring infections in Britain driven in part by the Omicron variant of the coronavirus rattled Europe on Friday, prompting new restrictions on the Continent and fueling a familiar debate on both sides of the Atlantic about entering a new phase of the pandemic just in time for the holidays.

Much remains unknown about Omicron, but officials increasingly warn that it appears more transmissible than the Delta variant, which has already put pressure on hospitals worldwide. With so many questions unanswered, uncertainty reigns over how quickly and how severely it might disrupt Christmas travel and year-end parties.

After the UK recorded its highest number of confirmed new Covid-19 infections since the pandemic began, France announced on Thursday that it would tighten entry rules for those coming from Britain. Hours later, the country set another record, with a further 88,376 confirmed Covid cases reported in Britain, almost 10,000 more than the day before.

In England, the chief medical officer urged people to limit who they see in the festive period. Pubs and restaurants said they were planning to close by the end of the month to comply with cancelling Christmas parties, though the government has been quiet about what’s at stake.

In the US, the White House instructed people to accelerate the lockdown they appear to need for a lockdown, despite signs that the Omicron variant in America was gaining ground there.

Given that more than 75 countries have reported confirmed cases of the new variant, in Britain, where Omicron cases are doubling every two to three days, Omicron was expected to soon replace Delta as the dominant strain in the country. The government has accelerated its booster programme in response. Authorities in the 27-nation European Union say Omicron will be the dominant variant in the bloc by mid-January.

Early data suggests that Omicron may be milder but better at evading vaccines — making booster shots more crucial. Experts have urged caution in particular among law enforcement officials whose hospitalisations lag behind infections and because many variables contribute to hospitalisation rates.

Even if Omicron proves milder on the whole than Delta, it may disarm some of the lifesaving tools available and put immune-compromised and elderly people at particular risk. And if it’s more transmissible, more infections overall raise the risk that more cases will be serious.

While experts gather the data, some governments have reacted to the news, while others sought to calm fears that the new variant would land countries back on square one.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson is expected on Thursday that the situation in the UK is different from last year because of the widespread use of vaccines and the ability to test. If people want to attend an event “the sensible thing to do is to get a test and make sure that you’re not carrying something,” he said.

“But we’re not saying that we want to cancel stuff. We’re not locking stuff down, and the fastest route back to normality is to get boosted,” he said.

Professor Christ Turner, England’s chief medical officer, struck a more cautious note, advising people earlier in the week to limit their social contacts.

On Thursday, he told a parliamentary committee hearing that the government could have to review measures if vaccines prove less effective than expected against Omicron.

He said that “would be a material change to how ministers viewed the risks going forward.”

Among those taking the more cautious route are Bangladesh Prime Minister, Alexander De Croos said: “If every country goes it alone, we’ll even be further from home.”

But ahead of the meeting, European nations already were acting to rein in the spread. Greece and Italy tightened entry requirements for travellers earlier this week, and Portugal decided to keep stricter border controls in place beyond their planned January 9 end.

France said on Thursday that it will slap restrictions on travellers arriving from the UK, putting limits on reasons for travelling and requiring 48 hours of isolation upon arrival. The new measures will take effect early on Saturday. — AP

‘Unthinkably heartbreaking’

Five children dead, five injured after wind lifts bouncy castle into the air

SYDNEY — Five children died and four others were in critical condition Monday after falling from a bouncy castle that was lifted 10 metres into the air by a gust of wind at Hillcrest Primary School on Australia’s island state of Tasmania.

The school was holding a celebration to mark the end of the school year. The children were killed when the bouncy castle, which had been set up for a Christmas party, was lifted into the air by a powerful wind.

The accident occurred as the school was holding a Christmas party to celebrate the last day of primary school, said Tasmania Premier Peter Gutwein. The children were trapped inside the castle, which had been set up on the school grounds.

Parents arrived at the school gate to collect their children as helicopters ferried the injured to hospitals.

Tasmania state Premier Peter Gutwein called the incident “unthinkably heartbreaking. I know this is a strong and caring community that will stand together and support one another.”

“This is a very tragic event and our thoughts are with the families and the wider school community and also our first responders,” Tasmania police commander Debbie Williams said.

There is no doubt that this has been a very confronting and distressing scene.

“Counselling is being made available to the families affected by this tragic event in the school community along with the first responders,” — AP/RRNZ/BBCC

Horrific tragedy: An ambulance helicopter on scene at Hillcrest Primary School in Devonport, Tasmania yesterday. Several children suffered serious injuries after falling from a jumping castle that was blown into the air. — AAP picture.

Covid spiking in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG — Amid fast-increasing new Covid-19 infections, South African officials on Thursday urged people to get vaccinated before travelling for the holidays and attending festive gatherings.

South Africa’s seven-day rolling average of daily cases has risen steeply over the past two weeks from 6.4 new cases per 100,000 people on December 1 to 38.3 new cases per 100,000 people on December 15, according to Johns Hopkins University. The rate of deaths has not increased over the same period, but health experts warn that fatalities can lag a few weeks after new cases.

— AP

Denmark to rent prison cells

PRISTINA, Kosovo — Kosovo’s Justice Ministry said on Thursday that it has struck a preliminary agreement to rent 300 prison cells to Denmark, to help the Scandinavian country cope with its over-populated prison systems.

A ministry statement said the 10-year agreement would earn the small Balkan country 210 million euros ($236 million), which will fund Kosovo’s justice system and renewable energy projects.

It added that only “non dangerous inmates” would come to Kosovo from Denmark. It did not specify how the rented cells would be managed by whom. Kosovo’s prisons are already close to capacity.

“Denmark has positively evaluated inmates’ treatment in Kosovo and our capacities,” the ministry said.

The ministry said a letter of intent on the agreement will be signed next week with visiting Danish officials. — AP

RAF jet destroys hostile drone

LONDON — A Royal Air Force Typhoon jet has shot down a “small hostile drone” over Syria, the ministry of Defence says. It is the first time the British military has downed another enemy aircraft since the Falklands War.

The MoD said it fired a “ground threat” to coalition forces fighting the Islamic State group in southern Syria. It did not say which hostile group it was.

Biden’s administration said tighter security rules would be imposed on US citizens who travel to the UK, in response to the soaring number of Covid-19 infections, South African officials said on Thursday that the situation in the UK is different from last year because of the widespread use of vaccines and the ability to test.

The Queen, who opted to cancel her traditional pre-Christmas family lunch.

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The Queen, who opted to cancel her traditional pre-Christmas family lunch.
BEYOND BELIEF: President Joe Biden and Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear talk to people as they survey tornado-ruined Kentucky. — AP picture

EU hopes to avoid Ukraine war with talks, threats of sanctions

BRUSSELS — European Union leaders on Thursday focused on preventing a Russian military invasion of neighbouring Ukraine with threats of unprecedented sanctions and denials of plans for diplomatic talks.

After months of diplomatic moves, Russia said it submitted draft documents to the United States outlining security guarantees that would preclude NATO’s expansion to Ukraine.

A Russian military build-up in Ukraine’s border took centre stage at the summit of the EU’s 27 leaders, coming on the heels of a plea from Ukraine’s president for more sanctions to be imposed before — instead of after — any possible invasion.

Lithuanian President Gitanas Nauseda said the EU should not underestimate the threat Russia poses building up forces, adding that he sees Moscow’s actions as creating the worst security situation since the collapse of the Soviet Union.

“I’m talking not only about Ukraine,” Nauseda said. “I mean that NATO’s eastern flank and the Baltic region should also be concerned.”

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz warned Moscow not to “play with fire.”

“The inviolability of borders is one of the very important foundations of peace in Europe,” Scholz said on Thursday. “That is why we are doing together to ensure that this inviolability actually remains and is not only said as he entered the one-day summit.

Many of the leaders said they feared a failure to reach diplomatic terms to stave off a military action in Ukraine. Prime Minister Sanna Marin of Finland said the EU’s rotating presidency until the end of the year, suggested talks between France, Germany, Ukraine and Russia.

“I maybe there are preconditions for some serious negotiations” over the coming days, Janas said.

US President Joe Biden has any plans to attack Ukraine, but did so in 2014 when he said that the US was “ready to go” if an invasion came.

That warning of a possible invasion early next year.

“Nothing is normal for regular military exercises,” Janas added, adding that there’s no doubt that Russia is using its military might to put Ukraine under pressure.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky urged EU leaders late on Wednesday to swiftly impose new sanctions on Ukraine before it invades its country, warning that action after any conflict would be too late.

Zelensky said Ukraine stands ready to enter into talks with Russia to ease tensions but that Russian President Vladimir Putin doesn’t appear willing to come to the table at the moment.

EU leaders are widely expected to approve on Thursday a draft summit conclusion, seen by The Associated Press, that warns that further military aggression against Ukraine will have massive consequences and severe cost in terms of foreign policy initiatives.

European officials argue that it’s a better deterrent to keep Putin in the dark about what measures might be used against him. The US and EU have been coordinating their response to the Russians, but no real details of any new sanctions have emerged.

Despite the president’s push for unity in the face of disaster, his visit to the very important foundations of peace in Kentucky, said as he entered the one-day summit.

Many of the leaders said they feared a failure to reach diplomatic terms to stave off a military action in Ukraine. Prime Minister Sanna Marin of Finland said the EU’s rotating presidency until the end of the year, suggested talks between France, Germany, Ukraine and Russia.

"I intend to do whatever it takes as long as it takes," Biden said. "I see that our friends and partners are looking at our stand  against Russia..."

The Kremlin on Thursday again refused to allow employees to go home early as safety precautions. The factory seeks compensatory and punitive damages from the company for having refused to allow employees to go home early as safety precautions.

The lawsuit claims the factory had "up to 100 and 114" workers in two shifts when a tornado hit its worksite as safety precautions. The factory seeks compensatory and punitive damages from the company for having refused to allow employees to go home early as safety precautions.

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Mass evacuations as Typhoon Rai slams Philippines

MANILA — A powerful typhoon slammed into the southeastern Philippines on Thursday, toppling trees and leaving power down as it blew across island provinces where nearly 100,000 people have been evacuated.

Coast guard personnel were rescuing residents stranded in deep-water areas in a southern province, where pounding rains swamped villages in brownish water. In southern Cagayan de Oro city, footage showed two rescuers struggling to keep a month-old baby inside a laundry basin above the waters and shielded from the wind and rain with an umbrella.

Forecasters said Typhoon Rai further strengthened with sustained winds of 155 kilometres per hour and gusts of up to 270 km as it blew from the Pacific Ocean into the Stagao Islands. There were no immediate reports of casualties or major damage.

“TThere is a deep love and whole lot of love in the house and we are in the process of finding where to go,” said a resident. “We are praying for safety.”

The previous government had contracts with a Netherlands-based aid group, HealthNet TPO, to run the hospital. But the contract expired in November and was financed under a fund managed by the World Bank, which like most of the international community has frozen payments to the new Taliban government.

HealthNet TPO programme manager Willem Reussing said the organisation is in negotiations to secure funding, “but the donor community is very reluctant to continue support and has strict conditions.”

The Taliban government wants the international community to lift sanctions and release Afghanistan’s assets abroad. For a country heavily dependent on foreign aid, the consequences have been devastating.

The economy already was deeply troubled under the previous government, with state employees often going unpaid. Last year, almost half the population was living in poverty, with the situation made worse by the coronavirus pandemic that has driven up food prices.

The Taliban government wants the international community to ease sanctions and release Afghanistan’s assets abroad so it can pay civil servants, including doctors and teachers.

The United Nations has sounded the alarm over a hunger crisis, with 250 were hospitalised and the rest were transferred to hospital. But it is in Kabul’s Covid-19 hospital where the situation seems most severe. Pharmacists Bilal Ahmad said more than 36 thousand medications have run out and many others had expired. In three months, he said, another 55 medications will run out.

“Disaster will be there”

KABUL — The diesel fuel needed to produce oxygen for coronavirus patients has run out. So have supplies of dozens of essential drugs. The staff, unpaid for months, still shows up for work, but they are struggling to make ends meet at home.

“The situation was similar at Wazir Akbar Khan National Hospital, where supplies were running low. As with most of the other state-run hospitals, its patients must buy their own drugs, with staff only dipping into emergency supplies for those who truly need it,” Evardone told The Associated Press. “We do what we can. We have to eke out resources to save lives.”

More than 70 percent of villagers in the province have gotten at least one shot, and Evardone expressed concern because some vaccines in Eastern Samar will expire in a few months.

“Overcrowding is unavoidable, he said, in the limited number of evacuation centres in his province, where more than 32,000 people have been sent to safety.

“We observe a lot of social distancing, it will really be tough,” Evardone told The Associated Press. “What we do is we cluster evacues by families. We don’t mix different people in the same place as a precaution.” — AP
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**IPCA finds police officers failed in their duty of care**

by Robin Martin, RNZ

HÄVERA — The partner of a Hāvera man who died in police custody in 2019 feels like someone is finally listening after a report found officers failed in their duty of care.

Austrailian-born farm worker Allen Ball died on a holding cell floor after consuming a mix of pharmaceutical drugs and spirits.

Police assumed he was a drunk and sleeping it off.

Now, an Independent Police Conduct Authority report found he was killed while he was alive.

Stacey Whittome and Allen Ball argued on the night of his death.

"I don’t think he should ever have been there," she said.

"He should have been taken straight to the hospital and they didn’t do that so they failed right there.

"And everything else was just something on top of that or over again.""}

But a forensic toxicology expert told the authority if he had gotten medical assistance earlier it was very likely he would have lived.

In June, Sergeant Sandra Shaw, Constable Craig Longworth and Constable Corey Watie were found not guilty of manslaughter.

Whittome said he was incredibly excited such a loved part of Wanaka was coming into public ownership.

"Opportunities like this come along maybe once in a generation. With increasing development pressure around the district, reserves and open spaces have never been so important for community wellbeing.

"With increasing development pressure around the district, reserves and open spaces have never been so important for community wellbeing?"

— Councillor Quentin Smith

**Mt Iron sold for safekeeping**

by Bernard Orsman, NZ Herald

AUCKLAND — The NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi has ruled out allocating a vehicle lane on the Auckland Harbour Bridge for cyclists and pedestrians.

It was not practical to use a lane for cyclists and pedestrians and has been ruled out, Waka Kotahi chairman Sir Brian Roche told Parliament’s transport and infrastructure select committee yesterday.

But Waka Kotahi’s general manager of transport services, Brett Gliddon, said the agency was Considering options for cyclists.

Auckland ferry shuttles between the city end and running alongside other bus services, said the agency.

Allowing cyclists to cross the harbour has a become a headache for Wood since hundreds of cyclists pushed past a police barrier and rode across the bridge in May to protest the lack of a cycle-lane trial.

The announcement was made in June by Wood announcing plans for a 4-lane to-midnight ferry shuttle service every 15 minutes.

The papers said a regular ferry service could be running within two years after upgrades to terminals and ferries costing $60 million and operating costs of about $6m a year.

Running a 10-minute bus service for cyclists was also looked at.

It would cost $30m for terminal upgrades and operating costs of $6m a year, but faced challenges at the city end and running alongside other bus services, said the agency.

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LANE CHANGE: Waka Kotahi has ruled out a lane of the Auckland Harbour Bridge being used by cyclists.

**PUBLIC OWNERSHIP:** The Queenstown Lakes District Council has bought nearly 100ha of land surrounding Wanaka’s Mt Iron to protect it from development.

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**PUBLIC OWNERSHIP:** The Queenstown Lakes District Council has bought nearly 100ha of land surrounding Wanaka’s Mt Iron to protect it from development.
HOMECOOKED: Seasonal Recipes for Every Day by Lucy Corry was an unexpected delight this year as Lucy had had recipes featured in Canvas, Cuisine, NZ Life & Leisure and Nadia Journal, just to name a few. Her debut cookbook is laid out by season and it is a fantastic way to find new things to make depending on what's currently at the market. Homecooked is a vibrant mix of contemporary recipes and old Kiwi favourites.

The photography by Carolyn Robertson is stunning. It is the incredible cover art by Evie Kemp. When I got my hands on this one I wanted to eat everything. The braised chicken thighs with leeks and spring herbs, lamb, kumara and date meatballs with tahini yoghurt, coconut and chilli braised beef, and lemon, gin and ginger bars. Lucy makes the sort of food that I love to eat, and not only are the recipes delicious, they are clever with lots of useful tips throughout. Bonus — she’s funny!

There are chapter titles such as The Healing Power of Condensed Milk and What to do with a Can of Black Doris Plums. Gift this one to anyone who loves good, honest food.

Many were inspired by lockdowns and take into consideration what people are likely to already have in their pantries. After a surge in people buying flour, there was also a huge number of baking cookbooks published, and some of the biggest names in food have released their latest tomes. Here I have chosen three favourites that would make excellent additions to any keen cooks’ kitchen, and are excellent gifts for Christmas. — CP

SHELF LOVE by Yotam Ottolenghi published by Ebury Press

Shelf Love by the Ottolenghi Test Kitchen team is mouth-watering, as suggested by the title, a very pantry-focused cookbook. Most of the ingredients will already be in your kitchen, apart from the odd Ottolenghi-ish item, which can now be found in most supermarkets (no longer is it a fruitless undertaking to try to find rose harissa and preserved lemons). This would be a great cookbook for anyone who is looking to buy their first Ottolenghi as it is weeknight friendly (his cookbook, Simple, would also be an excellent choice) and caters to many dietary requirements. Lots of the recipes have options on how to veganise them and many are naturally vegetarian friendly. They have also included tips on what you can prepare ahead of time and hints on how to make the recipes your own.

With recipes such as, smoky, creamy pasta with burnt aubergine, and tahini confit tandoori chickpeas, curried pasta with burnt aubergine, and tahini and many naturally vegetarian friendly. They have also included tips on what you can prepare ahead of time and hints on how to make the recipes your own.

With recipes such as, smoky, creamy pasta with burnt aubergine, and tahini confit tandoori chickpeas, curried cauliflower cheese filo pie, and coconut dream cake, who wouldn’t want to eat what you’re making?

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RICK STEIN AT HOME by Rick Stein published by BBC Books

Rick Stein is back with Rick Stein at Home: Recipes, Memories and Stories from a Food Lover’s Kitchen, and this is my favourite book of his to date. Rick spent a lot of time in Australia with his wife in 2020 and this cookbook reflects that with a lot of the recipes featuring an Aussie bent, and many stories of what they cooked and ate during that time. It is a great read and full of delicious dishes, like Rick’s slow-cooked pork and spring herbs, lamb, kumara and date meatballs with tahini yoghurt, coconut and chilli braised beef, and lemon, gin and ginger bars. Lucy makes the sort of food that I love to eat, and not only are the recipes delicious, they are clever with lots of useful tips throughout. Bonus — she’s funny!

There are chapter titles such as The Healing Power of Condensed Milk and What to do with a Can of Black Doris Plums. Gift this one to anyone who loves good, honest food.

Honourable mentions

Some other honourable mentions include: Josh Niland’s Take One Fish, for the seafood lover and keen chef in your life. Nigel Slater’s A Cook’s Book, a must have for anyone who loves to read cookbooks before they go to sleep, and Thalia Hios’s Wild Sweetness for anyone with a sweet tooth.
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**Classifieds**

2pm advertising day prior to publication.

10am Saturday for Monday’s issue.

9am publication day for Births and Deaths.

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**New Bylaw**

**TRAFFIC AND PARKING BYLAW**

On 13 December 2021 the Gisborne District Council made the Traffic and Parking Bylaw 2021. The bylaw is effective from the same date and can be viewed online.

A copy is available on request from CCO staff offices.

This notice is given in accordance with Section 157(1) of the Local Government Act 2002.

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**Classified Deadlines**

Have you lost a furry family member?

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**General Terms and Conditions**

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2. Indemnity: The Advertiser acknowledges that The Gisborne Herald relies on the warranties (including notices) for publication on the following terms and conditions:

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4. Publication: The Gisborne Herald will publish the advertisement as submitted by the Advertiser.

5. Disclaimer of Liability: We will not be liable for any indirect or consequential loss (which includes, but is not limited to, loss of profits or savings) to an advertiser or third party in any circumstance that liability is limited to the cost of the advertisement, or to the extent permitted by law.

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9. Disclaimer of Liability: We will not be liable for any indirect or consequential loss (which includes, but is not limited to, loss of profits or savings) to an advertiser or third party in any circumstance that liability is limited to the cost of the advertisement, or to the extent permitted by law.

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1 63 21952 6 150 11
1 32 30472 30 150 1
total 30268 150 1
1 Lodge Property Management Mile 12.30
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30495 6 183 30
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The Gisborne Herald • Friday, December 17, 2021

RACING 23

South Wales Races at Randwick Saturday

Selections

1. MAN IN THE MIRROR
2. STARLARK, SUBLIME TIME
3. MR KIRK, EMPIRE MONSTER
4. QUEEN VICTORIA, FIRST THOUGHT
5. HOLLYWOOD DREAM
6. EXCITE CAROL, WHITE NOISE
7. CRYPTO GAL, BODIEY CAT
8. THE KNOTT, SENTIMENTAL TOSSED

TAB doubles 1-2-3-4-5, 9-10 Trebles 4-5-6-7-8-9-10 Quaddie 3-4-6-7-8-9-10 Pick 5 Place 10

$330.000. Jpy, 1200m
1. 61 Janemar (3) 56.5 1 J Berry
2. 61 Hesperist (3) 56.5 J McEvoy
3. 55 Miss the Mirror (5) 58.8 K McEvoy
4. 61 Mr Mack (3) 57.5 B Prebble
5. 64 Lily (5) 57.5 J McEvoy
6. 64 Sedudda (5)
7. 1 Professor (5) 57.0
8. 2 Sacred 2 (5) 57.0 J Clark
9. 4 Features (6) 57.0

$2 ATC Thanks John Williams 3.00
1. 6416 Black Duke (6) 61.0 1 T Clark
2. 4232 Kale Rocks (6) 61.0 J McEvoy
3. 6416 Black Duke (6) 61.0 1 T Clark

Victoria races at Flemington Saturday

Selections

1. MISTLETOE, Boonie, Honeymoon
2. SAGE STAND, SAGE. SAGE, WHISPER
3. DODGE THE TIE, HIGH GROUND FARM, TOSY TOM
4. SATA CLYDE, QUARTZ, SANTA CLUBE
5. DIRTY DESIGNS, SHAMANIC LOUISA, BABY DESIGNS
6. TAKASHI, SADIE, ARRINDAM DESIGN
7. THE KALEID, SH fleur pierre
8. SILLIS CRAWFORD, SORROW BETH, GALAH

TAB doubles 1-2-3-4, 9-8 Trebles 4-5-6-7-8 Quaddie 2-3-4-6-7-8 Place 9-4

$130.000. Jpy, Flemish Bell Midlands 700m
1. 2617 Lawn Cat (6) 58.5 1 J McEvoy
2. 2617 Lawn Cat (6) 58.5 J McEvoy
3. 2617 Lawn Cat (6) 58.5 J McEvoy
4. 2617 Outdoor Darling (6) 58.5 J McEvoy
5. 2617 Outdoor Darling (6) 58.5 J McEvoy
6. 2617 Outdoor Darling (6) 58.5 J McEvoy
7. 2617 Outdoor Darling (6) 58.5 J McEvoy
8. 2617 Outdoor Darling (6) 58.5 J McEvoy

$2 TAB Coupe 2.40

$2 TAB Coupe 2.40

Queenland races at Eagle Farm Saturday

Selections

1. MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM BRC 3.48
2. BROLU GIN
3. YONGA MAWUW, ARMY SIZE
4. FANFICION TALENT, HEART OF LOVE
5. FANFICION TALENT, HEART OF LOVE
6. ARYAPRASAD, FROGGY MUSHROOM
7. ARYAPRASAD, FROGGY MUSHROOM

TAB doubles 1-2-3-4-5, 9-8 Trebles 4-5-6-7-8 Quaddie 3-4-5-6-7-8 Place 9-4

Legend: T = Won at track. C = Won at this distance on this course. D = Won at this distance on another course. M = Won in slow or heavy going. B = Beaten favourites at last start. H = Trained on track. N = Won at night. S = Spell of three months. F = Fell. P = Pulled up. L = Rider TV. N = Tracked on TV.
Quick Crossword answers also fit the large grid

**CRYPTIC CLUES**

**ACROSS**

1. Upright (6)
2. Adder (6)
3. Blackbird (6)
4. Grinning (6)
5. Sticky (8)
6. Morocco (4)
7. English (4)
8. Plot (4)
9. Renew (8)
10. Insertion (13)

**DOWN**

1. Logical target in reputable match (4,4)
2. Blacksmith (8)
3. Don't take food quickly (6)
4. Enthusiasm for being sharp (8)
5. Huey, in surprise (6)
6. Timber transaction (4)
7. Gets on by using different tactics (6)
8. Month when revolutionary mob never appears (8)
9. Turkeys caught out in raid (8)
10. Placed among others to offer help (8)
11. Excursion visiting ancient city (4)
12. List of names in revolution? (8)

**SUDOKU**

Across:
1. 2
2. 3
3. 4
4. 5
5. 6
6. 7
7. 8
8. 9
9. 1
10. 2
11. 3
12. 4
13. 5
14. 6
15. 7
16. 8
17. 9
18. 1
19. 2
20. 3
21. 4
22. 5

Down:
1. 6
2. 7
3. 8
4. 9
5. 1
6. 2
7. 3
8. 4
9. 5
10. 6
11. 7
12. 8
13. 9
14. 1
15. 2
16. 3
17. 4
18. 5
19. 6
20. 7
21. 8
22. 9

SOLUTIONS TO PUZZLE 11,474

**DOUBLE CROSSWORD**

**ACROSS**

1.鳄鱼, 2.规则, 3.画眉, 4.垃圾, 5.冰, 8.水

**DOWN**

1.鳄鱼, 2.规则, 3.画眉, 4.垃圾, 5.冰, 8.水

**CRYPTIC CLUES**

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The government has repeatedly declined the idea of exemptions for sport but Robinson is clinging to the prospect, saying there was a "huge amount of work going on with the government" to get the competition happening. Covid-19 has already forced many changes to southern hemisphere rugby, including the last two rugby world championships.

In 2020, the Super Rugby season was suspended before being split into domestic competitions. In 2021, the South African and Argentinian sides went their own way and domestic competitions concluded with a mini-trans-Tasman season. Given the NZ government's hyper-vigilance in the face of Covid-19 and its fear of the Omicron variant, trans-Tasman sport could be a long way from returning. Covid-19 has also smashed NZ Rugby’s finances, which wore a NZ$4.6 million loss last year. Robinson pre-empted another loss, saying ‘‘we’d like to think we get pretty close to break-even’’. The former All Blacks is highly content among players and fans.

"If I try to p*** him off and get him angry, that’s one of the reasons for their inconsistency." Slingsby said. "It’s a bit of a strange feeling to go out there and compete against your country but it’s fun, it’s exciting.” Outteridge said.

"Aussie skipper Tom Slingsby is such a good mate of mine, and all the guys and girls on (Slingsby), who is such a good mate and teammate, is nowhere near ready for the return to competition at this stage,” he said. Robinson is nowhere near ready for the return to competition at this stage, and will tee off last on Saturday.

"I’ve just got to focus on performing better..." The 15-time major champion said his game is nowhere near ready for the PNC Tour as he continues to work his way back from injuries suffered when he lost control of his car in Los Angeles in February. Woods, who rallied from major titles only the 18th won by Jack Nicklaus, faced the possibility of having his leg amputated during a three-week hospital stay after the accident.

Tiger on the road back

GOLF

TIGER Woods will go out in the final group when he makes his highly anticipated return to competition at this week’s PNC Championship in Orlando, Florida, according to a list of tee times published on Thursday. Woods, who sustained serious leg injuries in a February car crash, and his 12-year-old son Charlie will tee off last on Saturday alongside good friend and world No.6 Justin Thomas, who is playing with his father Mike.

The two-day event at the Ritz-Carlton Golf Club is not a PGA Tour event but, rather, a laid-back 36-hole tournament with a field comprising 20 major champions accompanied by a member of their family. Woods, who has not competed since he and Charlie finished in a share of seventh place at the 2021 event, announced last week that he would play in this year’s edition.

The 15-time major champion has said his game is nowhere near ready for the PNC Tour as he continues to work his way back from injuries suffered when he lost control of his car in Los Angeles in February. Woods, who rallied from major titles only the 18th won by Jack Nicklaus, faced the possibility of having his leg amputated during a three-week hospital stay after the accident.

Among the others in the field are former Masters champions Gary Player, Nick Faldo, Vijay Singh, Tom Watson, Mark O’Meara and Bobbi Watson.

Swede Henrik Stenson, Zimbabwean Nick Price, Irishman Padraig Harrington and Americas Lee Trevino, Matt Kuchar, Jim Furyk, Stewart Cink, Tom Lehman, David Duval and Rich Beem head the other teams. — AAP picture

The scenarios that we’re talking about at the moment all have element of trans-Tasman rugby, including the hemisphere rugby, including the last two rugby world championships.

In 2020, the Super Rugby season was suspended before being split into domestic competitions. In 2021, the South African and Argentinian sides went their own way and domestic competitions concluded with a mini trans-Tasman season. Given the NZ government’s hyper-vigilance in the face of Covid-19 and its fear of the Omicron variant, trans-Tasman sport could be a long way from returning. Covid-19 has also smashed NZ Rugby’s finances, which wore a NZ$4.6 million loss last year. Robinson pre-empted another loss, saying ‘‘we’d like to think we get pretty close to break-even’’. The former All Blacks is highly content among players and fans.
CRICKET by Ben O'Brien-Leaf

A top-of-the-table Hope Cup clash between OBR and Ngatapa tomorrow will be good cricket.

Eight rounds into a 14-week Senior B season, Rotorua's big two teams have 16 competition points. Horouta have nine, Campion College six, and Hope Cup holders Ngatapa five.

Boys Presidents and Gisborne Boys' High School (2) both have one point.

Ngatapa are 1-0-4 in 30-over action on Harry Barker Reserve No. 1. “We’re looking forward to the challenge of playing the top team,” Ngatapa captain Grant Birkall said.

“OBR are a good side well led by Craig Christophers. They have dangerous players who, on their day, can be match-winners. It’s a great opportunity to head into the break with one team ahead.”

The game has all the makings of a classic. Walsh, Jeremy Castles and Jack Christophers. They have dangerous stand, just hours after Pat Cummins had been ruled out of the test and confined to his hotel.

Boys Presidents and Gisborne Boys' High School (2) both have one point.

Ngatapa are up for 1 v 2 in 30-over action on HBR 3.

At stake tomorrow will be the Naden-Taylor Trophy, contested by Campion and holders Horouta. The Waka hold the balance of power 4-2 in the fixture.

In knowing that his 29 from No.1 on that occasion but Horouta Te Waka knew their total of 127 would not be enough for six wickets; we’re confident in our ability to

At one stage against Warner, England had a fine leg, backward square and forward square all on offer as a fly slip.

But it was Warner who asserted himself at the drop of a hat; we’re looking forward to the challenge of playing the top team,” Ngatapa captain Grant Birkall said.

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The Gisborne Herald • Friday, December 17, 2021

SPORT 27

Barty crowned ITF world champion

The ITF women’s world tennis singles rankings for the third consecutive season. Barty, 25, joins Serena Williams, Steffi Graf, Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert as the only women to have led the year-end tennis rankings three straight times.

Barty said she felt fortunate to make her living playing the sport she loves, “especially in a year that was challenging and unpredictable for so many.”

She thanked her team and her family for everything they did, and tennis fans around the world for continuing to support the players.

The ITF honour won’t be the last award Barty picks up. Tonight she will crown her magical year with an unprecedented fourth consecutive Newcombe Medal as Australia’s outstanding player of the year.

Djokovic ended his own sensational season as the oldest-year-end world No.1, and he has now moved ahead of Pete Sampras by winning a record seventh ITF World Champion award.

Djokovic is now level with Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal on 20 major wins. This year he took the lead at world No.1 — 435 and counting — and also picked up a further two titles on his way to a 55-7 win-loss record.

Djokovic said: “After such a rewarding year for me, my team, family and fans, it is a great honour to be named the ITF World Champion for the seventh time.”

I’d rather be fishing...
Thriller in waiting

HSOB know when to strike, OBR never say die

CRICKET by Jack Malcolm

FINALS time is upon Poverty Bay premier cricket as OBR and High School Old Boys battle it out tomorrow for Doleman Cup glory.

Following a hard-fought regular season, Bollywood Stars HSOB and Coastal Concrete OBR have emerged as the two most in-form teams, and the final is shaping up to be a thriller.

Two weeks ago a late OBR surge in wicket-taking threatened to take the game away from HSOB.

Neither team will want to take a step back tomorrow.

OBR have defined themselves as a team of consistent players who band together to make a strong unit.

HSOB have a raft of talented players but in the past they have struggled to find consistent success.

On form, HSOB must be favourites. They dominated their first game this season against OBR before it was rained off, then beat them in the second game of the regular season.

HSOB have gone from strength to strength but still have a tough challenge ahead of them tomorrow.

They have an uncanny sense of when their opponents’ morale is shaken and have become adept at driving home any advantage.

HSOB are ruthless in their execution and have built a strong culture that helps them maintain high spirits in the field.

With batsmen like Baxter Mackay, the only premier-grade century-maker so far this summer, and Scott Taltott eager to score runs, depth in batting is one of their strengths.

OBR also have the winning touch and will want to lay a solid foundation for big hitters like Kieran Venema and captain Nick Greeks.

OBR have fewer standout players but have a strong team culture and camaraderie. They all chip in to create some impressive performances.

Individually, they still have strengths and standout performers, but OBR successes this year have largely been built on how well they coalesce as a team.

The depth of their batting line-up is an asset, with threats from the openers through to the tailenders.

All team members have a high level of skill.

A lack of exposable weak links means OBR can never be counted out until the final ball is bowled.

Greeks said they would look to limit the HSOB scoring options with some early wickets.

“The HSOB have a very strong top order, and taking our chances and batting out the 40 overs will be vital to winning the game,” he said.

Joe Loffler enters the team this weekend as a replacement for James Bristow.

The players were eager to get to work and prove themselves deserving winners of the Doleman Cup, Greeks said.

“We have been slowly building momentum and the boys are pumped to carry it into the final and perform against an experienced and quality HSOB team.”

ON THE FRONT FOOT: High School Old Boys batsman Baxter Mackay finishes his follow-through one-handed. HSOB will hope the saying “many hands make light work” applies to the contributions of their top-order batsmen in the Doleman Cup final against OBR tomorrow. Mackay’s century was key to the HSOB victory over OBR two weeks ago.

File picture by Paul Rickard