

The Gisborne Herald

TE NUPEPA O TE TAIRAWHITI

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2022

HOME-DELIVERED \$1.90, RETAIL \$2.20

'WE WILL LEARN TO LIVE WITH IT'



by Andrew Ashton

GISBORNE has recorded its highest daily tally of Covid-19 cases this year, as the Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners says there is a need for a mindset change for how Covid-19 is dealt with in the future.

Seven new cases were confirmed in the region today. "Six cases are linked to two main clusters that are developing, or household contacts of previous cases. One is under investigation," Hauora Tairāwhiti chief executive Jim Green said.

"There are now 30 active cases in isolation and 13 people have recovered. None of these cases are in hospital."

The origins of three cases reported earlier this week are still under investigation.

"Boys' High students are now back at school and we can all be proud of how our principals and teachers are protecting our tamariki," Mr Green said.

"The leadership being shown within these schools is exceptional and we thank both schools and parents for their dedication during these weeks.

"What is clear is that Omicron is circulating in our community. Our best protection is vaccination, scanning in, wearing masks and washing hands regularly."

"With the country now in Phase 2 of the Omicron response, health services will move to an approach that continues to ensure our communities, health system and social settings target support where it is most needed to give our health system and supply chains a sustainable position of managing Covid-19.

"The aim of Phase 1 was to 'stamp it out' and contain and eliminate local outbreaks," Mr Green said.

"Phase 2 has a focus on 'flattening the curve' of infection, minimising and slowing further spread and using digital pathways as the preferred tool to contact tracing. Those who need support with this will be prioritised."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Council appeals kiwifruit decision

Backing from Valuer-General

by Matthew Rosenberg

Gisborne District Council is appealing a recent decision by the Land Valuation Tribunal that saw them miss out on increased rates from golden kiwifruit growers.

In December 2020, authorities in Gisborne decided licences to grow gold kiwifruit – which already cost hundreds of thousands of dollars per hectare – constituted an increase in value to the land, justifying the rise.

NZ Kiwifruit Growers Incorporated (NZKGI) then brought a judicial review proceeding to the High Court in support of local grower Tim Tietjen, who had an objection before the Land Valuation Tribunal.

On February 1, the tribunal ruled in favour of the growers — a decision that applied to all within the

Gisborne district. But on Tuesday, the council announced it planned to appeal that decision, backed by the Valuer-General.

The council was disappointed the tribunal had decided to treat gold kiwifruit orchards the same as other kiwifruit orchards, despite them selling for higher values.

"Given the significance of the backing of the Valuer-General and issues raised, there is an obligation on council to appeal," council chief executive Nedine Thatcher Swann said.

The cost of the appeal will be covered by the Valuer-General, who considered it inequitable for ratepayers that existing licences meant golden vine values were removed from the equation.

Changes to Gisborne's valuation methods were the result of a meeting between the Valuer-General and valuers in August 2020.

Meanwhile, Mr Tietjen said he was disappointed the council was appealing the decision.

In his situation, the capital valuation of his small orchard had increased from \$1.65 million to \$4.1 million under the new system.

"It's pretty disheartening that they've decided to appeal what was a really comprehensive decision by the tribunal," he said. "It's unfortunate that the council are determined to keep on targeting a minority group of ratepayers with a substantial rates hike."

NZKGI chief executive Colin Bond echoed those sentiments, saying his organisation will continue to support Mr Tietjen through the appeal process.

"Gisborne growers return over \$60 million to the Gisborne economy and should be supported by their council," he said.

The issue will be reheard in the High Court, with the Valuer-General joining proceedings as an interested party.

■ Local Democracy Reporting is public interest journalism funded through NZ On Air



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BIRD'S EYE VIEW: Gisborne's temporary roundabout at the Peel Street-Palmerston Road intersection for the last six months will be replaced by a new purpose-built roundabout. Construction will start next week. It means the city will now be reduced to having only one set of traffic lights. File photo

\$500K ROUNDABOUT

Council works with raised pedestrian crossings to start on February 24

by Wynsley Wrigley

GISBORNE District Council will start construction on a new roundabout on the Peel Street-Palmerston Road intersection next week at an estimated cost of \$500,000. This is more than three times the original cost estimate in August.

The city's ubiquitous orange traffic cones will diminish in number as they have formed a temporary roundabout since the former traffic lights were destroyed by a drink-driver late on the night of July 17.

Construction will begin on February 24 and is estimated to be finished by April 19.

The works will take place between 7pm and 5am, Monday to Friday, to minimise disruption to daytime traffic.

The roundabout will include raised pedestrian courtesy crossings.

Council unsuccessfully sought reparation of \$56,000 from the driver to repair the traffic lights and the bridge when he was sentenced in Gisborne District Court in January.

The public has indicated strong support for the construction of a roundabout rather than new traffic lights.

Councillor Larry Foster, speaking at a

council meeting in August, said traffic flow had never been better since the creation of the temporary roundabout.

Councillors Josh Wharehinga, Debbie Gregory and Meredith Akuhata-Brown made similar comments about improved traffic flow and called for the construction of a roundabout, which would assist elderly pedestrians.

A report before councillors at that August meeting said the worst-case scenario for the cost of repairs was \$130,000.

The report highlighted the main issues as the underground traffic light cabling, which appeared to be stretched and needed replacing; repairs required to bridge barriers; and the destruction of the traffic camera units.

Council community lifelines director Dave Wilson, in announcing construction of a new roundabout and raised pedestrian crossings was a better long-term solution for the intersection.

"Vehicle movements will be more efficient as a result of the roundabout.

"We know many in our community support this decision to make the

temporary roundabout permanent but we did have people and groups in our community who we needed to consult with about this plan."

Mr Wilson said that during a three-week consultation period last year staff spoke with the walking and cycling group, CCS Disability, Age Concern, emergency services, neighbouring property owners, their residents and Kate Nelson, who advocates for those with disabilities.

"Comments and ideas from that consultation process have been incorporated into these designs.

"An independent safety audit based on the design has also been completed."

Mr Wilson said each crossing area will be raised with pedestrian refuges 1.8 metres wide, which will be built into the middle of the crossing where pedestrians can wait.

"They will be painted red and positioned further away from the intersection than the previous pedestrian crossings at the old traffic light signals.

"The traffic islands and domed roundabout will be able to be driven over by large vehicles negotiating the intersection if needed."

Mr Wilson said one of the first jobs

to complete was the removal of the large London Plane tree on the corner of Reads Quay and Peel Street to increase visibility and create a safer crossing point.

A 36-year-old man was convicted of driving with an excess blood alcohol level of 193 milligrams (nearly four times the legal limit), and two charges of dangerous driving.

The court heard he had an altercation with his ex-partner and another person occupying a Suzuki Swift at about 11.30pm.

He drove over the centre line, hit the Suzuki, then sped off. He failed to take a right-hand bend, clipped the traffic light at the intersection, mounted the footpath and demolished the concrete abutment at the Peel Street Bridge.

He was sentenced to four months home detention, disqualified from driving for 12 months, and had a zero-alcohol licence imposed for the following three years.

Judge Robert Spear said the man had a "sad history" of driving offences.

He was already paying back his sister for writing off her Toyota Celica and could not afford to pay Gisborne District Council any reparation.

The Guide Arts & Entertainment

- The Herald speaks with artist Peter Adsett about his latest exhibition showing at Paul Nache gallery this month.
- The Guide has new poetry from local poet Benita Kape.
- Artist Holly Howman Evans has been inspiring the next generation of artists with after-school workshops.

TOMORROW



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CRASH SCENE: A Whangara farmer badly injured in a quad bike crash on Monday remains in Waikato Hospital and the hospital reported this morning he remained in a stable condition. He was flown to Whakatane by the Trust Tairāwhiti Rescue Helicopter and then on to Waikato by a Waikato rescue chopper on Monday night. The quad bike rolled on a hillside (pictured) as he was mustering stock. His wife flew to Waikato Hospital with him and The Herald understands other family members have joined them. Picture supplied

Increase in car thefts reflected overnight

by Murray Robertston

A CAR was found down the bank at the top of Titirangi/Kaiti Hill this morning, one of three vehicles stolen in the city overnight.

Emergency services were called to the top of the hill by the gun emplacement at around 6am.

"The car was about 10 metres down the bank by the carpark," a senior firefighter said. "There was no one in it."

Police said it was one of three cars taken last night, with one other recovered so far.

The number of vehicle thefts in the district has increased in the past seven weeks.

Earlier this month police issued a warning to the owners of the "target" makes and models.

In January there were 63 reports of unlawful taking/conversion of a motor vehicle in Gisborne.

A range of vehicles were taken including Holdens, Fords, Toyotas, Nissan Tiidas and Mazda Familias.

Tiidas and Familias were the more targeted makes.

Detective Jared Phelps, from the Tairāwhiti Tactical Crime Unit, at the time said Tiidas and Familias got taken more often typically because they did not have immobilisers and/or alarms fitted.

"That makes them susceptible."

Det Phelps said while a vehicle often got recovered, it was usually in a damaged state.

"We ask anyone witnessing suspicious behaviour around vehicles or anyone who has information about who is committing these crimes to contact us.

"In an emergency, call 111. Otherwise report through the 105 line or anonymously on Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111."

'Omicron is not Delta'

FROM PAGE 1

Testing continues every day at Watson Park from 9am to midday or at your GP. Vaccination clinics can be found on the Hauora Tairāwhiti website.

The news comes on the same day as the Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners said there needed to be a change in mindset for dealing with Covid-19.

"Omicron is not Delta, and as we enter the third year of the pandemic, we need to show that we can still manage what's going on with Covid but we also need to mentally prepare for a shift towards living with, instead of fighting

Covid-19, and focus on other health issues and illnesses that are waiting in the wings," the college's medical director Dr Bryan Betty said.

"The pandemic will come to an end in the next six to 12 months. That's not to say Covid-19 will disappear. It won't. However, we will learn to live with it in the same way we do with colds and flu.

"For those who are elderly, isolated, have co-morbidities or live in areas of high deprivation, we know this could be difficult and it is crucial that the necessary support is in place and that the appropriate medical care is available if required."

GBHS reopens after 'first wave'

by Andrew Ashton

GISBORNE Boys' High students are back at school today after learning remotely for the last two days.

Remote learning was initiated after two students tested positive for Covid-19 last weekend.

"It would appear at this stage we have navigated our first wave of Covid-19," principal Andrew Turner told The Herald.

"Full credit to our staff, students and whānau for their cooperation and the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health for their timely and constructive advice.

"I am pleased to report, having worked through the last 72 hours that we have a

community within the school and outside the school 100 percent committed to our safety and wellbeing.

"We have been able to reassure staff and students that it is safe to return to onsite learning with the Covid Protection Framework securely in place.

"We have several layers of protection — staff are fully vaccinated, mask wearing is mandatory, health and safety practices are in place and enforced in every classroom."

In an email to parents yesterday, as a precautionary step, students notified to get a test had been asked to stay home until they had received a negative result.

"These students and caregivers will be contacted

directly for follow-up information regarding their testing. If you have received confirmation of a negative test, you can safely transition back to school."

Mr Turner advised people to be vigilant and watch for symptoms.

"If any develop, get tested immediately. Then stay at home until you receive the result. If your whānau hasn't been vaccinated, please do so as soon as possible. You can book online at bookmyvaccine.nz or by calling 0800 28 29 26. It's free. Get vaccinated.

Find out where at bit.ly/3o38iZP

"Should your child or any members of your whānau have symptoms, please get tested as soon as possible."

Bid to ban 'offensive' headstones in Wairoa



WAIROA MAYOR CRAIG LITTLE

Council proposing change to Cemeteries Bylaw

WAIROA District Council is pushing ahead with a bylaw change that would ban gang and other "offensive" insignia from headstones in its cemetery.

But the proposed change seems unlikely to lead to the removal of headstones already in the council-run cemetery that have Mongrel Mob patches on them — much to the mayor's frustration.

Wairoa District Council has reviewed its Cemeteries Bylaw, including a proposed addition which would ban headstones deemed "offensive".

Three headstones in the cemetery feature Mongrel Mob insignia.

Mayor Craig Little said other members of the community found their presence offensive.

"Any gang stuff is offensive to people," Mr Little said.

"So if you have a loved one beside one, you can be looking at your loved one's headstone and you look up and could think they are part of the gang because there is a big gang (headstone) behind it.

"They are huge, too. It is quite offensive."

When asked if he would like to be able to get rid of the three existing gang-branded headstones, Mayor Little said: "Yep, definitely".

"It is not what we are and it

is disrespectful for others.

"Sadly for people in a gang, people see those symbols as not being nice. They wouldn't want their loved ones beside it. That is just the reality when you are a gang member. That is what people see you as.

"They haven't got good reputations and I don't see them doing a lot of good stuff or helping old people and things like that."

But he said he believed it would be "hard" for the bylaw to be enforced retrospectively.

When the three Mongrel Mob headstones were installed they were not outlawed.

The bylaw has already been recommended for public consultation by the office of the district council's group manager of planning and regulatory services.

Mr Little confirmed a six-week public consultation would begin soon.

"I am sure we will get feedback similar to what I have said . . . because that is what has alerted us to the issue," he said.

"We are stopping alcohol up there as well. Certain groups want to party up there with their loved ones but it's not the way it should happen."

Mr Little said he hoped constructive dialogue would also occur between council

officials and gang members over the cemetery proposal.

"If we can genuinely work with them, I am sure we can get somewhere. As long as we don't go in there and just demand, demand."

Problems of trying to apply the bylaw retrospectively are also addressed in the document.

In a section headed "Implementation and Considerations", the document states: "While it may be desirable to remove the three existing gang insignia headstones, this would appear unlikely as council did verbally accept these headstones at the time they were installed, and no actions or directives or notices were issued at the time or have been issued since regarding the matter."

It added that the families of the three people who have prominent Mongrel Mob insignia on their headstones "may volunteer to address the matter".

The trio were buried in 2015.

The Mongrel Mob has a large presence in Wairoa.

The town has been the scene of numerous violent clashes between the Mob and Black Power.

Police have also dealt with Mongrel Mob-linked drug operations, stabbings and shootings in recent times.

FAMILY NOTICES

Deaths

Deaths

FOX, David George. — At home February 1st, 2022. Son of the late George and Adine Fox. Just when we thought you had won the battle. Missed by Brian and Chloe (Canada), Pete and Marcel (Canada), Tony and Kerry, Diane, Adine and Paul, Ian and Noelene. Loved uncle of his 16 nieces and nephews. The link in the chain has been broken only to be joined again one day.

A private family farewell was held at Dave and Karen's home.

ORSLER, Anthony Stephen (Tony). — Passed away on 12th February 2022, at Tauranga Hospital. Partner and best friend of Lisa. Dad of Tracy, Dean and Wayne. Poppa Tony to his 7 grandchildren.

Private cremation has been held.

A farewell for Tony at his home in Katikati will be held at a later date.

ROTHSCHILD, Louise. — Dear sister-in-law Lou. Thinking of you having gone away and your journey has just begun. Life holds so many facets, this earth is only one. Thinking of you resting, from the sorrows and the tears, in a place of warmth and comfort where there are no days or years. Thinking of you living in the hearts of those you've touched, for nothing loved is ever lost and you were loved so much.

— Arohanui, Barbara.



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Show scholarship to East Coast boy

Working dog on the way for Fletcher

THE Poverty Bay A&P Show Association has awarded its annual scholarship to former Ormond School, Gisborne Intermediate and Lindisfarne College student 17-year-old Fletcher Ware (pictured).

He started a farm cadet course at Smedley Station in Hawke's Bay last month.

Fletcher was thrilled to receive the scholarship which he intends to put into buying a working dog.

He is the son of Jo and Phil Ware of Gisborne.

Association General Manager Erica McNeil said the association was very proud to be able to give back to the community with a tertiary scholarship to an East Coast student entering studies in the Primary Industries Sector.

"This is our fourth year for the scholarship and after the last two years we have all experienced, we are fortunate that we can still offer this to our young achievers in this district." Picture supplied

ALL A BIT 'HAZY'

Rape accused told police he had little recollection of the night

A MAN accused of multiple sexual assaults, rape and violation of his co-worker told the police in an interview that he had minimal recollection of the night due to the high level of intoxication but remembered her "enjoying it".

It was all a bit "hazy", the accused told the police in two hours of interview footage shown at a jury trial in Gisborne District Court yesterday (February 15).

The 35-year-old accused, who cannot be named for legal reasons, is facing seven charges — one of indecent assault, three of sexual violation by rape, two of attempted sexual violation by unlawful sexual connection and one of a male assaulting a female.

One charge of sexual violation was amended to attempted sexual violation after hearing the complainant's evidence.

In cross-examination by counsel Michael Lynch, the complainant admitted that she had accepted to get in the car and became aware of the accused's intentions when they arrived at the motor lodge where her mother lived.

However, she could not get far away because she was intimidated by him and

was scared by the situation she was in.

Questioned by prosecutor Steve Manning, the complainant said had the accused not been there, she would have told the two strangers who came to help them get the car out of the sand about what had happened.

A police detective who examined the scene told the Court with the complainant's assistance (drawings of maps and GPS identification), he arrived at the beach where the vehicle was parked, where the police uplifted some items as exhibits — an empty Viagra packet and a car's exhaust system and muffler.

The exhaust system and muffler was later proved to be from the defendant's vehicle.

A doctor's statement was read to the court. The doctor noted the complainant had abrasions on both knees and one on

her back, there was tenderness at the front of the neck, minor trauma and her genitalia were normal, which was normal in both consensual and non-consensual sex.

The doctor also noted a bruise under her eye which was three weeks old. The complainant admitted this injury was due to an unrelated and separate intimate

partner violence incident.

The complainant's sister's statement was also read, in which she said she was at the motor lodge when the complainant arrived there with their mother. She heard the complainant crying and that's when she was told by the complainant what had occurred.

The accused kept following her and she was telling him no, the statement read.

CCTV footage of the accused's interview was shown to the Court.

In it, he told the detective constable that he had little recollection of the night of November 6 and only remembered little bits and pieces because he was intoxicated.

He said from the point where he went back to the social gathering to waking up the next morning in his car at the beach it was "hazy", although he recalled the complainant wanting to engage in sexual intercourse, initiating it and enjoying it.

He also told the police he suffered from erectile dysfunction after heavy drinking but he did not take any medication for it.

On the car ride to her father's house, the complainant "filled in the blanks" for what happened the night before, he said.

He felt "pissed off" because it seemed consensual, he told the detective in the interview.

The trial is expected to end today. The accused is remanded in custody. Judge Warren Cathcart is presiding.

Assaulted man suffers broken jaw

A MAN was set upon in Aberdeen Road near Cobham Place in the early hours of Sunday morning and has had to have specialist treatment in Waikato Hospital.

Police said the aggravated robbery happened shortly after midnight Saturday night.

The man was struck with an object and suffered a broken jaw.

Police said just one assailant was involved in the attack and they have been following lines of inquiry in relation to the incident.

Repairs under way

CIVIL Defence Manager Ben Green has updated the likely timeframe to reopen East Cape Road to the lighthouse and said the reinstatement could take up to a month.

The southern end of the road suffered extensive damage in the rain storm earlier this month. Engineers assessed damage on Friday.

"As a result of the assessment, engineers have indicated it could be up to a month before the road is re-opened," he said.

"The goal is to clear a pathway for 4x4 vehicles and residents initially."

On Friday nine people were evacuated by helicopter with food and supplies dropped off for the remaining residents.

Lending restrictions felt as house prices rise

by Andrew Ashton

GISBORNE'S house prices continue to rise faster than the national average but signs of a divided market are appearing.

Figures from Real Estate Institute New Zealand (REINZ) show median prices for residential property across New Zealand increased 20.5 percent — from \$730,300 in January 2021 to \$880,000 in January of this year.

For Gisborne, that rise was even higher — the median of \$650,000 in January 2022 up 30 percent on January the previous year.

"Agents initially saw hesitation in the market as New Zealand entered the red traffic light setting, but this feeling has since passed," REINZ regional director Neville Falconer said.

"Listings increased only slightly as people waited until after the holidays to make their decisions.

"A change in the mid-to-lower property price range selling at auction is evident due to lending restrictions impacting first-home buyers.

"Gisborne saw only 4.5 percent (one property) in the low-to-mid price range sold by auction in January this year in comparison to 33.3 percent (nine properties) in January 2021.

"Many expect the market to level out and the days spent on the market to increase across all price ranges in the following months."

Changes to the Credit Contracts and Consumer Finance Act mean banks are tightening up on who they lend money

to but Property Brokers Gisborne branch manager Stefan McNeely said initial impacts had been to deter buyers at the lower end of the market.

"We are seeing probably consistent activity in that \$650,000 and above bracket. However, the lower-mid range bracket is struggling a little bit with the new finance regimes, for sure.

"There are not too many investors running around and there's definitely been a drop in the number of first-home buyers out there."

Mr McNeely said it was still a good time to sell but people would need to adjust their expectations of time a property would remain on the market.

That would also highlight the importance of selecting the right agent to market properties and using more creative marketing

methods, rather than "cookie cutter" online marketing programmes,

"I think we will start seeing a few changes where people have to start being a bit more creative about how they market their property."

Bayley's Gisborne director Simon Bousfield said interest for property and activity in the auction room remained as strong as it had been in recent months.

"Some buyers are facing challenges with new lending restrictions.

"However, with the right guidance and time allowed leading in to a deadline sale, most are able to get the answers they need.

"Demand continues to exceed supply. More buyers competing continues to result in rising medians against those experienced in previous years."

DISTRICT COURT NEWS



Jail for order breaches, assaulting ex-partner

EARLY institutionalisation contributed to a man's offending and he was comfortable where he was in prison, a judge observed as he returned him to jail on burglary and violence charges.

Before Judge Warren Cathcart was Dean Tangaroa Rowlands, 48, who pleaded guilty to burglary, contravening a family protection order and assault on a person in a family relationship.

He was sentenced to 13 months imprisonment with six months post-release conditions, which included undertaking any programmes probation deemed necessary.

The court was told that on October 9 last year Rowlands entered a store while it was closed and "rummaged through" the premises, presumably looking for alcohol. He was caught on CCTV taking a set of headphones.

The assaults were of an ex-partner, who he had approached "wanting to fight". He pushed her on to a road, spat in her face and kicked at her. As he was wearing steel-capped boots at the time, it was fortunate he missed.

Rowlands was living on the streets at the time and not complying with a previous community-based sentence.

The court was told he had had a relationship with the complainant for 12 years but it was described as "dysfunctional".

Counsel Alistair Clarke said Rowlands had a tragic start to life but expressed a desire to address that. He had already spent 122 days in custody on remand.

He had no place to live so an electronically-monitored sentence was not possible.

Mr Clarke agreed a sentence of imprisonment would have to be imposed.

Aggravating factors of the case were the violence Rowlands inflicted and being on bail at the time of the offending.

"For the record the cultural report shows you have been institutionalised from a very young age and that has impacted on you significantly," the judge said.

Rowlands was sentenced to 22 months imprisonment but in consideration of his early guilty plea and the contents of the cultural report, his final sentence was reduced to 13 months.

"I'm hopeful you will have the strength to overcome all of that, and I'm hopeful that the right support will be extended to you," Judge Cathcart said.

Imprisoned 13 months after flouting his home detention

"THIS is really silly behaviour," Judge Warren Cathcart said of a man facing a list of charges in Gisborne District Court.

Matthew Peneha appeared via AV link from Hawke's Bay Regional Prison on six charges, including three of breaching home detention for earlier offences.

The earlier offences were reviewed in light of the latest charges and Peneha was resentenced to 10 months imprisonment for the earlier charges, and three further months for the latest six.

Counsel Jackie Van Schalkwyk sought a cancellation of Peneha's remaining term of home detention and to have it converted to imprisonment.

Attempts to find accommodation for Peneha for electronically-monitored sentencing had been fruitless, she said. His latest six offences — while they did occur during home detention — were at the lower end of the scale, she said.

He had been on home detention for 30 days before the latest offending occurred, and had been in custody for nearly three months. He was willing to engage in the restorative justice process but that had not been able to take place.

Ms Van Schalkwyk told the court Peneha was completing a level 5 te reo Maori course and attending drug and

alcohol counselling.

"He is taking steps to address his offending," she said.

Judge Cathcart told the court that Peneha's sentence had to be one of imprisonment.

"He is still a very young man, and this sort of offending will make future electronically-monitored sentences difficult," he said.

Peneha had been sentenced on October 18 of last year to home detention, and the new charges were three of breaching home detention, one of unlawful interference with a motor vehicle, and another of being in an enclosed yard.

The earlier charges, for which he had been sentenced to nine months home detention, included two charges of burglary, possessing an offensive weapon (a sword), receiving and assault.

Peneha had breached home detention three times — on October 21 when his vehicle was stopped; on November 4 when he was recorded leaving the boundary of his detention residence without approval; and on a further occasion.

He had tampered with his monitoring equipment to obscure his trail.

On October 21, Peneha was with an associate in a vehicle when it was stopped. He had no approval to be absent from his residence and was arrested. An officer saw a steel bar in the vehicle, and a sword, and he had no satisfactory answer to explain his breach of home detention.

On November 4 a man parked his vehicle and returned at 1.30am the next morning to find it stolen. At 4.50am on November 5, Peneha was seen walking to the stolen vehicle and opening it. Hearing police arrive, he fled but was subsequently arrested.

In sentencing, the judge took the aggravating factor into account — that Peneha had committed the offences while he was under the sentence of home detention — and said there needed to be a deterrent.

He took into account Peneha's early guilty plea.

"He was warned then that if he breached home detention he would go to prison. He was told at the time he was one step short of imprisonment," Judge Cathcart said.

"Now you've gone and done this, and that's where you are."

Destruction of the sword was ordered.

Mental health 'key factor' behind offending

A MAN's diagnosed mental health issues and drug and alcohol addiction, as well as an early guilty plea, contributed to a discount on his sentence for two charges of assault and one of wilful damage.

Counsel Bree Munro told the court that Tarquin Stacy Raika-Pere had no previous record of family violence.

With the time he had already served, he was released and ordered to pay \$1500 reparation.

Raika-Pere appeared in court via AV link from Hawke's Bay Regional Prison, and Judge Warren Cathcart said he did not want "this young man in prison any longer than absolutely necessary".

The court was told Raika-Pere wished to stay in Hawke's Bay and did

not intend to come back to Gisborne, where the complainant lives.

On September 25 of last year, Raika-Pere kicked a hole in the window of a shop in Peel Street.

"I smashed a few windows because I felt like it," he told police.

On December 9 last year he assaulted a person with whom he had been in a relationship for 18 months. The complainant was getting ready for work when an argument escalated and Raika-Pere punched her three times.

The woman suffered bleeding from the nose and a small cut.

When spoken to by police about the assault, Raika-Pere said she made it up.

On March 27 of last year Raika-Pere asked the complainant for money for poker machines. She refused and

he hit her on both cheeks three times, and on the back. She complained to police and his response was that he did not assault her.

Raika-Pere's offending took place while he was on intensive supervision imposed on June 3, 2020.

His counsel told the court that there was an absence of any "entrenched pattern of offending", and that Raika-Pere's mental health was likely to be a key factor behind his actions.

Judge Cathcart sentenced him to time served of 62 days, with conditions to attend counselling or programmes as directed by his probation officer.

Police raised the issue of damage to the shop window and Raika-Pere was ordered to pay reparation of \$1500.

Time-served sentence with 'word of warning'

A MAN who breached protection orders multiple times and committed acts of violence against his former partner was told in Gisborne District Court that prison was highly likely if he offended in such a way again.

Counsel Alistair Clarke told the court the charges Jonathon Mahoney, 30, appeared on represented a "spree of protection orders" involving Mahoney's then partner.

Physical violence was used twice and wilful damage several times, and some of the offending occurred while Mahoney was on bail.

Judge Warren Cathcart sentenced Mahoney to 30 days imprisonment but with time of 131 days already served while on remand, he was released.

Conditions of his release were that he attend a marae-based assessment, undertake

drug and alcohol counselling, attend assessment for a family violence programme, and do any further counselling, treatment or programmes as directed by his probation officer.

He was also ordered to pay reparation of \$300 for wilful damage of a cellphone.

Mr Clarke told the court Mahoney had a very "pro-social" residence and a solid offer of employment, so the appropriate outcome in counsel's view would be a sentence of home detention.

Mahoney pleaded guilty to three charges of breaching a protection order, two of assaulting a person in a family relationship, and four of wilful damage.

The offending occurred between May and August 2020 in Gisborne.

In one of the incidents, Mahoney threw a hammer at the complainant's

car during an argument. She caught the hammer, then he grabbed a security camera and smashed it.

On August 17, Mahoney and his partner had a disagreement about the location of car keys, and he kicked and broke the driver's side mirror. He "shoulder-barged" the complainant. She barged back and he "backhanded" her, then punched her in the head numerous times.

When she attempted to call police, Mahoney got to his knees and begged her to stop. She hung up, he started to leave and she muttered abuse. He picked up a rock and shattered the rear window of her car, then kicked and broke the other side mirror.

As she dialled 111, he snatched the phone and stomped on it, shattering it beyond repair.

After he was served with a protection order he continued to

contact her in breach of the order, saying he loved her and wanted to be with her.

In January of last year he left a threatening message, saying he might want to commit suicide, and a further text he sent her was demoralising and abusive, describing the complainant's physical appearance in a degrading way.

On October 6 last year he went to her home. She told him she did not want a relationship with him because of his drug use. He smashed a plate and punched the front door and was arrested.

Judge Cathcart agreed the breach of the protection order was the lead offence.

"It is offending against the court, as it is a court order," he told Mahoney.

Mahoney was given a 25 percent

sentence discount for his early guilty plea, and a further discount for the cultural report. The court was told Mahoney had requested that certain information in the report not be mentioned publicly.

The cause of his recent offending was his use of methamphetamine, the court was told. He had acknowledged it had a negative effect and said he had stopped using it.

The judge said there was a likelihood Mahoney would reoffend unless he had a change in his frame of mind.

"I add a word of warning to you," Judge Cathcart said. "Your criminal record is marked with a term of imprisonment and you will struggle to get bail."

"You will struggle to get anything short of a term of imprisonment if you appear again."



OCCUPATION ONGOING: Protesters have camped out on Parliament grounds for the ninth day.

NZ Herald picture

BRIEFS

Person critical after fire

AUCKLAND — A person is in a critical condition after a fire at a property in South Auckland this morning.

Fire and emergency services were called to a house in Manurewa after reports of a fire in a sleepout.

Less than an hour after the fire, a witness told The New Zealand Herald family members could be seen gathered on a deck, as emergency services remained at the scene.

"They were distraught," he said.

Northern fire communications shift manager Colin Underdown said the blaze was out when firefighters arrived just after 4.30am.

The circumstances of the blaze were not yet known, but inquiries were referred to police.

St John said one person was taken to Middlemore Hospital in a critical condition.

Two ambulance vehicles, a fire truck and police officers were on the street, the witness said, and a large cordon had also been put in place. — NZME

Students party despite virus

DUNEDIN — Some Dunedin students are taking extra precautions but others say they will party on despite the threat of catching Covid-19 and hefty fines.

It comes as a student flat party in Leith Street's north was closed on Monday night after it was flooded with uninvited guests, several hours after the Southern District Health Board said a member of the student community had tested positive for Covid-19.

Students spoken to by the Otago Daily Times this week had different views on whether students would limit their partying because of the threat of Omicron.

Students at a Castle Street party on Monday said they would not change their behaviour.

"Castle doesn't get Covid bro," one said, and another said everyone needed to catch the virus so they could keep partying.

A group of female students believed it was inevitable they would all get it eventually, but they hoped being vaccinated would stop them getting badly sick. They said they would try to limit their contacts by avoiding big parties in favour of small-scale gatherings with people they knew were vaccinated.

They believed alcohol-fuelled poor behaviour was not representative of most students.

Senior Sergeant Anthony Bond said the gathering broken up in Leith Street had more than 150 guests when it was closed about 9.45pm.

The organisers said they had someone on the door checking vaccine passes, but measures fell by the wayside as those who were meant to be enforcing compliance joined the party. — ODT

Homicide probe launched

OPOTIKI — Eastern Bay of Plenty Police have launched a homicide investigation following the death of a 57-year-old man in Waikato Hospital.

The man had been admitted to hospital on Monday after being assaulted in Taneatua around 2pm. He died yesterday afternoon.

Police were at an address overnight in Cobham Street, Taneatua, where a scene examination would continue today.

Police would like to hear from anyone who may have information that could help this investigation. — Rotorua Daily Post

Motorcyclist injured

CHRISTCHURCH — A motorcyclist has been seriously injured after a crash on Christchurch's Northern Corridor this morning.

The crash, between the Belfast on-ramp and Queen Elizabeth II Drive off-ramp was reported at 6.40am. A police spokesperson said it involved a motorcyclist and another vehicle.

A St John spokesperson said a patient was taken to hospital in a serious condition. — NZME

Man expresses regrets

DUNEDIN — A man who accidentally shot himself in the chest at the end of a crime spree says he believes he survived for a reason.

Nicholas James Newton, 33, was jailed for three years and one month when he was sentenced at the Dunedin District Court last year but Justice Jonathan Eaton shaved four months from that after appeal.

Newton told the court he now planned to change his ways.

Justice Eaton said he accepted Newton's resolve was genuine. He ruled the original sentence was excessive and noted an adjustment to the penalty would have a large impact on Newton because he was on a second strike and thus serving the entire jail term. — NZ Herald

'Time is running out'

Police prepare to move illegally-parked vehicles

WELLINGTON — Frustrated Wellingtonians want their streets back as police signal a firmer line with protesters from today, including plans to tow vehicles clogging streets around Parliament.

Police are preparing to move against Covid response protesters who have brought parts of Wellington city to a standstill, warning illegally-parked occupiers that "time is running out fast".

Central Wellington streets continue to be blocked by protesters' vehicles on the ninth day of their occupation at Parliament.

Cabinet Minister Megan Woods has told Newstalk ZB's Mike Hosking that it is not true that any government ministers will meet with protesters or their representatives today.

Wellington City Council said they yesterday issued about 335 tickets to illegally-parked vehicles in the area of the protest, bringing the total to more than 500 fines.

In an update this morning they said a dedicated council team has been established to address the wide-ranging operational issues with the protest.

The statement said the council team was following "every possible route and option", but for security reasons they were unable to provide detailed information at this time.

"Where we can, we will keep Wellingtonians informed of developments, but we ask for your patience and tolerance while we work to resolve this difficult situation."

Meanwhile, Police Commissioner Andrew Coster said towing trucks will begin removing vehicles.

Speaking with Mike Hosking this morning, he said they have also appealed for more assistance including from the New Zealand Defence Force for their towing

'We urge the Government to engage'

WELLINGTON — The protesting groups said they were mindful of public safety and wanted to minimise disruption to the people of Wellington.

"We strongly urge the Government to engage. They want a solution, we want a solution."

Protesters continued to sing, dance, chant and give speeches yesterday.

Kita, 21, said she had been staying on Bunny Street near Parliament for the past week.

She travelled from Auckland to join family and friends.

About 20 people were in her group, from toddlers to grandparents, she said.

Kita said she was standing up for the rights of younger family members, and any

future children.

"I don't want any of them getting jabbed without their parents knowing," she said.

No vaccine mandates currently apply to children but Kita said that might happen one day and she didn't trust the Government.

Despite police and parking wardens seeking to move people, Kita said her group would not be going anywhere.

"It's not right, they shouldn't be doing that. We are here for something important," she said.

Some protesters were seen removing number plates and registrations from their vehicles to avoid being ticketed. Others attached fake plates instead. — NZ Herald

capabilities.

On whether the police were doing enough he said it was important they took a measured approach.

"If we went in there early with all guns blazing then we would have had a much messier and problematic situation on our hands.

"What we need here is a resolution that means normal people can go about their normal lives safely and that calls for a measured approach on police's behalf."

To those at Parliament protesting lawfully, he said there is no issue from a police perspective.

"We're not a threat to lawful protest.

The problem with this protest is that it is significantly across the line in terms of blocking roads and the extensive structures that have been put on Parliament. That has to change."

Appearing on AM earlier, Coster said towies would be required to move the

vehicles, but they would be supported by police officers.

"We are not seeking an escalation here, we just need to clear the roads," he said.

"We are engaging with protesters about the manner of the protest. But there has to be a line here — this can't go on indefinitely."

With the protracted standoff in its eighth day yesterday, protesters claimed they wanted to minimise disruption and planned to work with police to identify rogue elements in their midst.

The group said it had received no response to a request to meet Cabinet ministers, but police had acknowledged their right to protest on Parliament grounds.

Earlier police attempts to persuade occupiers and demonstrators to move vehicles to Sky Stadium were unsuccessful, with some protesters believing the offer was a trap. — NZ Herald

Mahuta heading to Paris for Indo-Pacific talks

by Thomas Coughlan, NZ Herald

WELLINGTON — Foreign Affairs Minister Nanaia Mahuta will head to Paris later this month to participate in a French-led forum designed to build a coalition of like-minded Indo-Pacific states who support the rules-based multilateral order.

The meeting will be chaired by France, in its role as President of the Council of the European Union, a role which rotates around all 27 EU Member states, who each get to hold the title for a term of six months.

The forum will bring together foreign ministers of several Indo-Pacific nations with European diplomats and officials including Foreign Ministers of the 27 EU Member States, high-

ranking foreign affairs officials from the EU itself, including the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

It is understood Mahuta has been invited to the meeting to be held in Paris on February 22, and that she plans to attend.

Two aspects of the guest list have piqued foreign affairs watchers' interest.

The first is France's decision to extend an



NANAIA MAHUTA

invitation to Australia, following fallout over the Aukus alliance, when Australia's Prime Minister Scott Morrison abruptly canned a deal to buy conventionally-powered submarines from France in favour of a nuclear sub deal with the United States and the United Kingdom.

Also of note is France's decision not to invite two Indo-Pacific powers: China and the US.

Canterbury University Professor Anne-Marie Brady says leaving those two nations off the guest list is "not so much a snub as a tactic to build a grouping of small and medium states, who then can dialogue with the great powers".

She added that leaving China and the US out of the forum was "a way to not get bogged down in the US-China confrontation, while talking about the core issues".

NZ entering a new phase

by Emma Russell, Isaac Davison and Adam Pearse, NZ Herald

WELLINGTON — The second stage of New Zealand's plan to tackle Omicron came into force this morning. But are we ready for the surge in cases?

Uncertainty remains over who exactly will get access to rapid tests, and experts are warning of gaps in health and home isolation services.

Covid-19 Response Minister Chris Hipkins says the main message for New Zealanders is that we are now in a different phase of our Covid response. It is about recognising that there will be cases in the community and we have to manage that as best we can. It is no longer about elimination.

It is also about allowing those who had symptoms and were close contacts to get access to testing stations, he told TVNZ.

On testing lines around Auckland, in particular, Hipkins urged people who were just "a little bit worried" not to get tested.

Hipkins encouraged otherwise healthy people who contracted Covid not to go to hospital but to stay home and recover there like they would if they had the ordinary flu.

"If you do get a positive test and you're relatively well, you might be showing very mild symptoms, then please don't go to hospital.

"Stay home and get better, as you would from a cold or a flu and make sure that those hospital beds are available to those who really, really need them."

Asked why teachers were not considered to be critical workers and therefore not

able to quickly access rapid antigen tests, Hipkins said at this point, schools were able to do other things such as bringing in relief teachers if staff test positive for Covid.

"It's really about the fact that we don't want to have people who potentially have Covid-19 in a classroom with a whole lot of children — many of whom won't be vaccinated.

"It is about keeping those kids as safe as we can."

Hipkins told Newstalk ZB's Mike Hosking that many businesses had already indicated that the self-isolation exemption scheme would be used as a last resort.

On large families potentially having to isolate for longer periods of time, Hipkins acknowledged it could be quite difficult as people potentially pass the virus from one person to the next.

The Government says it has enough RATs to deal with a large Omicron outbreak. But it is uncertain whether they will be widely available to all workers or members of the public, and when that could happen.

In all, 123 million rapid antigen tests have been ordered through to June. There are 7.2 million tests in the country now and another one million are expected by the end of the week. By the end of the month, there will be 22.5 million in the country.

Modelling has indicated that New Zealand might need up to nine million RATs a week at the peak of the Omicron outbreak — the equivalent of every New Zealander getting tested twice a week.

For now, the tests are limited to symptomatic people and contacts, "critical" sectors like healthcare and supply chains,

It is about keeping those kids as safe as we can

—Chris Hipkins



SECOND STAGE: Health officials are encouraging those eligible to get vaccinated and boosted as New Zealand enters a new phase of the pandemic. NZ Herald picture

and high-risk places like rest homes (visitors will require a negative test).

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said on Monday that enough RATs had been secured by the Government to deal with a widespread Omicron outbreak.

But neither the Government or Ministry of Health could say when they might be available to other sectors, like teachers, or for purchase from supermarket shelves.

Ardern noted two important variables. The first was the number of cases, because all symptomatic cases would need a RAT. And the second was the ability of RAT suppliers to deliver on the orders.

Director General of Health Dr Ashley

Bloomfield said he expected to have more confidence in New Zealand's supply by the end of February, when several large orders had arrived.

One of the limitations in using the tests more broadly is that they first need Medsafe approval. Nine types of tests have been cleared for use so far, and another 19 types are being assessed. In Australia, 23 tests have been approved for use at home, and 67 types for "point of care" use.

National and Act have called for all tests approved in Australia to be immediately approved here. They say anyone should be able to buy one in a supermarket or pharmacy.

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Conversion therapy bill passes final reading

by Katie Scotcher, RNZ

WELLINGTON — Legislation banning conversion therapy has passed its third and final reading at Parliament with the support of almost all MPs.

The Conversion Practices Prohibition Legislation Bill was only opposed by eight National MPs.

Conversion therapy involves attempts to change a person's sexual orientation or gender despite there being no scientific basis for it — and evidence it does harm.

Deputy Prime Minister Grant Robertson told the House during the third reading the legislation rights a wrong.

"A hurtful, insidious, destructive wrong. But it also sends a message — a message of love, support and affirmation to all in the Rainbow communities."

He shared his experience of growing up gay in a religious household.

"There were plenty of negative messages for me to hear as I grappled with my sexuality and the challenge of feeling very different from those around me.

"When I finally gathered the courage to come out to my parents, I was met with love. Whatever fears that they held for me, and I know that they did, they were full of acceptance, but not everybody is or was so lucky."

The legislation bans the practice of trying to change or suppress a person's sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

Anyone who performs conversion therapy on someone under 18 years old could be jailed for up to three years and up to five years if they have caused serious harm, irrespective of age.

Under former leader Judith Collins, National voted against the bill at its first reading, straining



NEW LAW PASSED: The law banning conversion therapy has passed its third and final reading. RNZ picture

the party's liberal and conservative fractions.

National, now led by Christopher Luxon, U-turned at the second reading, with its caucus agreeing to vote with their conscience.

Twenty-five National MPs supported the legislation and eight opposed it, one more than at the second reading.

Simon Bridges, Simeon Brown, Melissa Lee, Todd McClay, Simon O'Connor, Chris Penk, Shane Reti and Michael Woodhouse opposed the bill.

Louise Upston opposed the bill at the second reading and supported it at the third, while Penk and McClay changed their position between the

second and third readings.

None of the National MPs who oppose the legislation spoke during the third reading.

National's Paul Goldsmith said his concerns about what is captured in the definition of a conversion practice have been alleviated.

"My hope now is that this bill will be one that provides future generations of young people from all sorts of backgrounds with the confidence that they won't be exposed to some of the terrible practices that some of the earlier members of the community have faced."

The new criminal offences will come into force immediately following Royal Assent.

NZ ratifies upgrade to China FTA

WELLINGTON — New Zealand has ratified an upgrade to its 2008 free-trade agreement (FTA) with China that will give exports greater access to the Chinese market.

The entry into force date was agreed in a virtual meeting last week between Minister for Trade and Export Growth Damien O'Connor and his Chinese counterpart Wang Wentao.

O'Connor said the deal modernises the original 2008 FTA and forms part of a body work the Government is doing to drive the country's economic recovery from Covid-19.

"Our trade agenda has very good momentum, with our primary industry exports forecast to hit a record \$50 billion this year alone," he said.

The upgrade includes new rules making it easier to export goods to China and cutting down compliance costs by millions of dollars each year.

O'Connor said it also has ambitious environmental measures — the highest level of commitment China has agreed to in any FTA.

The upgrade will strip tariffs on 12 extra wood and paper products worth about \$30 million in trade to China; meaning 99 percent of over \$4 billion of wood and paper trade will soon have duty-free access.

"Goods and services exports between China and New Zealand reached \$20.1 billion in the year ending June 2021. New Zealand businesses will benefit from up-to-date rules underpinning our trade," O'Connor said. — RNZ

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DEMAND INCREASING: Health officials are asking people to only get tested if they are symptomatic or identified as a close contact, to free up strained resources. NZ Herald picture

UNDER PRESSURE

Testing centres overwhelmed as cases surge

AUCKLAND — Auckland's community testing centres are under pressure as thousands of people show up to get swabbed at rates similar to the height of the Delta outbreak.

Northern Region Health Coordination Centre (NRHCC) chief clinical officer Andrew Old said 70 percent of people who went through Auckland's testing sites over a 24-hour period to Tuesday weren't symptomatic and didn't need a test.

That has sparked pleas for people to only get tested if they are symptomatic or identified as a close contact, to free up strained resources.

The city's testing network was able to manage current demand, but if levels increased beyond this point, it would start to struggle.

"If demand increases, turnaround times on results would take longer. Currently people can expect their results in two days."

On Monday, around 20,000 swabs were processed from across 17 sites in Auckland, which meant around 14,000 of these were carried out on people without symptoms.

There were 744 Covid-19 community cases reported yesterday (including 535 in Auckland), a dip from the record 981 seen on Monday. An increase in positive case

rates had also affected lab testing capacity.

Old said yesterday 3.5 percent of all tests processed over the last couple of days returned positive results, up a percentage from last week.

Testing would now be based on priority needs as the centres grappled with the high demand.

The NRHCC said people only needed to be tested if they felt unwell or had symptoms, were a close contact of a Covid-19 case; had received a positive rapid antigen test (RAT); were required to have a test under a mandatory testing order; worked directly with Covid-19 patients; were attending a hospital procedure or appointment and had been asked to get tested; or been told to get a test by a health official.

The Ministry of Health said it was encouraging to see a high level of testing this week and there was good testing capacity throughout the country. But unnecessary testing could delay results for people who urgently needed them.

New Zealand has woken this morning to phase 2 of the Omicron response plan, which includes changes to the self-isolation period for cases and contacts.

For cases, self-isolation has been shortened from 14 days to 10 days, and for contacts from 10 days to seven. The period of self-isolation also applied to household members.

Phase 2 also sees the start of the "close contact exemption scheme".

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said it ensured New Zealand's critical workforce could keep going over the next few months by allowing asymptomatic, vaccinated close contacts to go to work instead of isolating if they returned a daily negative RAT.

National's Chris Bishop claimed Covid-19 Response Minister Chris Hipkins had admitted the reason why "critical" businesses were included in the scheme, rather than all businesses, was due to a limited supply of RATs in the country.

Bishop called it "a stunning admission".

"The Government ordered its own rapid tests too late and now businesses are under pressure because the Government doesn't have enough tests to make sure the scheme can apply to all."

Ardern said at Monday's press conference that there were 7.2 million RATs in the country and more would arrive over the next week. — NZ Herald

Returnees pleased with short MIQ stay

AUCKLAND — One thousand returnees in MIQ are set to be released today as the country entered phase 2 of the Government's Omicron response plan.

One woman who has been in MIQ since the end of last month said she received a call at midday yesterday telling her she could leave MIQ today.

"They didn't tell us why.

"We assumed it was because they had re-calculated the isolation period for positive cases and then the additional isolation for the close contacts."

The recent returnee was told she could pick a time to leave and a shuttle bus would pick her up from MIQ.

"They said we can't leave the room until the shuttle gets here and then we can get all of our stuff and leave."

An MIQ spokesperson said under phase 2, managed isolation

periods for international arrivals into New Zealand reduce from 10 days to seven days.

"This change also applies to those already in MIQ who have completed seven or more days, and are confirmed by a Medical Officer of Health as at low risk of having or transmitting Covid-19."

About 1000 people, between days seven and 10 of their MIQ stay, would be eligible to leave MIQ today, the spokesperson said.

"These changes provide greater consistency between MIQ and the management of community close contacts and cases in phase 2 of the Omicron response plan."

As the woman was scheduled to be released at the end of next week, she first thought it was a joke.

"With everything we have been through here you sort of lose trust in the system so we were pretty shocked." — NZ Herald

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'Racist' clash at Otago High

Dunedin Muslims 'hurt and angry' as girl's hijab ripped off

by Wyatt Ryder, Otago Daily Times

DUNEDIN — Dunedin's Islamic community is working with Otago Girls' High School following accusations that an attack at the school last week was racially motivated.

Otago Muslim Association chairman Dr Mohammed Rizwan said the school needed to set a precedent to ensure the

"brutal" attack, which he said included a hijab being ripped off the head of a pupil, never happened again.

He had been working with the victims, their families, the police and the school.

Rizwan said the incident began when a group of Muslim pupils were approached by another group who tried to intimidate the Muslim pupils into teaching them Arabic swear words.

The situation escalated and one pupil threatened to forcibly remove the hijab of one of the Muslim pupils and film it.

One of the Muslim pupils tried to push the phone aside and the attack turned physical, he said.

A video of the incident emerged and ended up being shared on social media

and between pupils.

One of the Muslim pupils had to be taken to hospital for a check-up after suffering blows to the head.

Rizwan said during the course of the attack one girl's hijab was forcibly removed. Her friends quickly tried to cover her head.

The attack was a "serious disrespect to our religion and community", he said.

The account was backed up by a family member of one of the pupils.

She said the attack on the pupils was not only bullying, but was a "hate crime".

The school needed to take responsibility for addressing racially charged verbal and physical abuse, the family member said.

Rizwan said the Muslim community

was "hurting". "We are frustrated and angry."

"Schools should be a safe space for pupils and the offenders need to face consequences."

The Otago Muslim Association was meeting the school.

The pupils had returned to school and their teachers were trying their best to ensure they felt comfortable, he said.

Otago Girls' High School principal Bridget Davidson declined to answer any further questions about the incident, including the accusation it was racially motivated.

"Out of respect for each of the young people involved, it is not appropriate to comment further on the details," she said.

'The boy in the picture, that's definitely me'

by Lincoln Tan, NZ Herald

AUCKLAND — A chance find has stunned a man who discovered he was a boy in a picture taken 55 years ago which is now being exhibited at the Auckland Art Gallery.

John Kearns, 58, said his wife was looking through the photos from a photography exhibition in the gallery by renowned photographer Max Oettli when she spotted a picture taken at a fish shop in 1967 with a boy that looked like Kearns in it.

"My wife knew that my family owned a fish shop at the time and asked if that's me," Kearns said.

"The fish shop wasn't the one owned by mum and dad, but the boy in the picture — that's definitely me. I have other photos with me wearing those same trousers and top."

Max Oettli is a Swiss-New Zealand photographer known within New Zealand for his photographs taken in the late 1960s and early 70s in Auckland.

Some of the photos, including this one with

Kearns, have not been seen in public before.

"I don't remember the photo ever being taken, so it came as a real surprise," Kearns said.

"We've been trying to figure out which fish shop it was, because there weren't many around in Ponsonby in those days. I can think of only three."

Growing up, Kearns said his family owned a fish shop at the top of Karangahape Rd, close to the Queen St junction.

"We lived at Grey Lynn at the time, before moving to Balmoral. Then we built a yacht and my father and I left New Zealand for Australia, went through Indonesia, Singapore, South America, Africa and I got off the boat in Florida in 1984," he said.

"I came back to New Zealand and found out I had kidney failure. I started dialysis in 1986, and a year later I had my first transplant, the kidney was donated by my sister."

He continued working on boats, met his wife and became a father of three daughters.

Kearns said after three kidney transplants, he stopped working on boats and became a boat broker.

"My wife was looking for a book for my daughter and was on the Art Gallery website and saw this exhibition, and saw this photo," he said.

"She said 'it looked like you' and showed it to me. I looked and said 'it sure does look like me'. Then I found other photographs of me wearing the same pants."

Kearns said he has shared this with no one else except his daughters.

He said the photo took him back "to a happy and carefree time".

Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tamaki Director Kirsten Lacy said during a decade of massive urban and social change, Auckland-based Oettli worked as one of New Zealand's most innovative contemporary photographers.

"Max Oettli's evocative vintage photographs are of great significance to the social history of Tamaki Makaurau," Lacy said.

"They provide a glimpse into the private and public life of Aucklanders during in the 60s and 70s and, I've no doubt, stir up many memories for visitors."



STUNNED: John Kearns said he was stunned to find a photo of himself as a boy on exhibition at the Auckland Art Gallery. Right, Max Oettli's photo of a boy at the fish shop taken in 1967.

NZ Herald picture/Picture supplied



This was a period when independent photography was developing rapidly and Oettli ensured that his camera was a "creative mirror".

He avoided traditional picture making, preferring the realism of expressive black and white photography.

The exhibition, Visible Evidence, revealed the intersections between private and public lives of Auckland, and possible only because of Oettli's gift of his vintage photographs.

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44471-22

Fletcher Building nails net profit rise to \$171m

AUCKLAND — A strong cost-saving drive and higher demand for its products has seen Fletcher Building nail a strong interim result, pushing up net profit 41 percent.

Ross Taylor, chief executive, said the company made a net profit after tax of \$171 million in the December 31, 2021 half-year, up from \$121m previously.

Revenue rose 2 percent from \$3.9bn to \$4.06bn and ebit before significant items was up 3 percent from \$323m to \$332m.

“With improved operational performance and cost disciplines now embedded across the business, we were able to deliver a strong half-year performance. This was despite the first quarter being heavily impacted by the up to five-week-long Covid-19 stringent lockdown in New Zealand and local lockdowns in Australia which impacted EBIT by approximately \$105m,” Taylor said.

“Our strong second-quarter performance was a particular highlight in this result where the group generated EBIT of \$264m, up 73 percent on the comparative quarter, delivering a strong group EBIT margin of 11.8 percent, indicating strong momentum into the second half,” he said.

Cash flows from operating activities for the half-year were \$157m, compared to \$424m reported in HY21 and reflects flagged investments to rebuild stock in key areas and housing investment following a busy FY21.

The board approved a fully imputed interim dividend of 18cps, to be paid on April 7.

Taylor also issued an upbeat outlook.

The second half of the June 30, 2022 financial



PERFORMING WELL: Massive new \$400m Winstone Wallboards plant rising in the Bay of Plenty. NZ Herald picture

year was expected to be very solid with customers and forward indicators pointing to continuing volumes.

“With confidence in our operational disciplines and in covering inflationary costs, we expect our second half EBIT margin to be approximately 9.5 percent and to deliver FY22 full-year EBIT before significant items of approximately \$750m. Based on our experience in Australia with the Covid-19 Omicron variant, we foresee a potential risk impact on our EBIT in the \$25m to \$50m range,” he said.

The business was well-positioned to drive growth.

“In our New Zealand materials and distribution divisions, we are investing in increased manufacturing capacity and driving product and

market growth. Our residential and development businesses are well advanced in growing annual sales volumes by circa 500 houses a year which includes our new Vivid Living retirement offer. In Australia, we continue to drive an innovative suite of disruptive product offers,” Taylor said.

New Zealand residential consents were running ahead of industry capacity.

“This has created a backlog of work on top of future consents in the coming years. This is anecdotally supported by our home builder customers generally now placing orders for their customers 12 to 18 months in advance,” he said.

As well, the infrastructure sector continued to have a strong growth outlook on the back of committed and planned government projects.

Similarly, in Australia, forecasters are all pointing to ongoing strong growth across residential, commercial and infrastructure through FY23 and beyond, Taylor said.

“Fletcher Building is in a very strong position: our markets look robust, we expect to not see the significant impacts of lockdowns to reoccur, we remain on track to further improve EBIT margins across the group to 10 percent in FY23 and importantly, we have a maturing pipeline of investments that will keep driving growth beyond FY23,” he said.

In October, Taylor gave an indication of how the business was tracking in its first half. He had an optimistic tone. “While Covid lockdowns have impacted trading in the first quarter of FY22, the activity pipeline remains strong in New Zealand and Australia,” he said then.

“This is driving a robust bounce-back in market demand as government restrictions ease.”

Operating disciplines were in good shape across the group, input cost inflation and supply chain disruption were being managed and the company had a strong balance sheet, a favourable market outlook and remained well-positioned to drive ongoing performance and growth, Taylor said.

Grant Swanepoel and Luan Nguyen, Jarden research analysts, were relatively upbeat about the business in their outlook for today.

“The guidance given at the half-year result could be a catalyst for a modest upgrade”.

The Bloomberg consensus for Fletcher’s full-year 2022 result is ebit of around \$715m, they noted. — NZ Herald

‘Every worker is critical’

Govt’s RAT policy will punish small businesses: Barnett

by Damien Venuto, NZ Herald

AUCKLAND — The Government’s current strategy with Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) could lead to “defacto lockdowns” for some businesses.

This according to Auckland Business Chamber chief executive Michael Barnett, who says that the lack of access to rapid tests will give smaller businesses little choice but to close down temporarily if they have a positive case.

He says that smaller businesses, particularly those in the hospitality sector, that can’t split their workforces will be hit particularly hard by the Government’s current RAT policy.

Last week, the Government unveiled a “close contact exemption scheme” that would allow workers at critical businesses to keep working even if they are close contacts.

The Ministry of Health website provides that as part of this scheme critical workers in essential businesses will be able to order RATs to clear close contacts to return to work.

This will allow vaccinated asymptomatic critical workers who are close contacts to be able to perform their job under a set of conditions and allow businesses to maintain minimum capacity levels in the event of high

numbers of absenteeism.

Barnett says that smaller businesses that do not fall within this critical category will be hit particularly hard by Omicron.

He uses the example of a restaurant to make the point that there will be few options available to overcome the inevitable spread of omicron.

“The teams are often small and they mix all the time,” Barnett says.

“Unlike big firms that can split staff, smaller businesses just don’t have the capacity to do that.

“And with the unemployment level at a record low, they can’t hire staff to cover those who are isolating at home on account of being close contacts.”

“In cities like Queenstown, you could end up with a de facto lockdown as many restaurants end up closing down.”

The threat of de facto lockdowns was previously also alluded to by economist Infometrics principal Brad Olsen in a paper released in March warning that high worker absenteeism will present a limit to economic activity.

Under phase 2 of the Government red light setting, the isolation period for positive Covid-19 cases drops from 14 to 10 days, while the isolation period for close contacts goes from 10 days to 7 days.

Barnett says that RATs should become available to all businesses so that workers who test negative can be allowed to return to work.

“Every business is essential, and every worker is critical to their family and their place of work,” Barnett says.

“Every employee and employer should have access to Rapid Antigen Testing.

“Without this, businesses will face closure due to staff shortages and others will face failure due to loss of revenue.”

Barnett isn’t alone in calling for a broader application of RATs across the workforce.

Businessman Sir Ian Taylor has been vocal in his support of the use of RATs in navigating through this stage of the pandemic.

And last week, National MP Stuart Smith also called for more businesses to have access to RATs.

“Government policy has made it incredibly difficult for firms to get their hands on these tests,” Smith said.

“This issue continues at a time when RATs are widely available around the world to the extent that they can even be bought in vending machines.

“Meanwhile, New Zealand businesses continue fighting for access to a sufficient number to keep their workforce safe.”

‘One-off’ support on the way for hospitality firms

CAFES and restaurants on the brink of collapse because of Covid-19 restrictions are being promised relief by the Government, but still don’t know what that will be.

Businesses are allowed to remain open under the red traffic light setting but fear of Omicron or being a close contact and isolating rules are keeping people at home.

After 37 years running Tony’s Restaurant in West Auckland, owner and chef Chris Sinclair doesn’t want this to be his last. But Covid-19 restrictions are keeping customers away.

Some cafes are mothballing their kitchens to wait out the Omicron surge while businesses across different sectors are closing for good.

The Government is soon to offer hard-hit hospitality businesses one-off targeted relief, but exactly what that will be and when is still unknown. Finance Minister Grant Robertson said it was a work in progress.

“Overall economic activity is only down two to five percent but within food and beverage it’s much more significant than that so we’re working through how we could provide targeted support to that sector and we will have more to say about that in the near future.”

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern told media at this week’s post-Cabinet briefing that the finance minister was constantly reviewing the situation. — RNZ

SHAREMARKET YESTERDAY

WELLINGTON — The New Zealand sharemarket steadied as selling pressure eased, but some stocks associated with the slowing housing sector took a hit.

The S&P/NZX 50 Index closed almost flat at 11,938.32, down 11.81 points, after reaching a high of 11,991.61 yesterday morning.

There were 46 gainers and 85 decliners. Volumes were steady, with 35.76 million shares changing hands.

Shane Solly, portfolio manager with Harbour Asset Management, said the market closed with a more positive tone.

“We’ve seen some heavy selling in the last few days but the pace of that selling slowed. The speculation is that an overseas investment fund has been moving its portfolio out of New Zealand,” Solly said.

The latest REINZ statistics revealed that the national house price index fell 0.6 percent in January, a second successive monthly decline. Solly said the sharemarket is a little wary of the housing market and what the slowdown means.

Fletcher Building was down 5c to \$6.28 on the eve of reporting its latest financial result, and developer Winton Land declined 7c to \$3.43. Ryman Healthcare was chopped a further 20c to a 23-month low of \$9.15.

Fellow retirement village operators Summerset Group Holdings declined 23c to \$11.30; Arvida was unchanged at \$1.63; and Oceania Healthcare gained 2c to \$1.09.

So far this year, Fletcher Building’s share price has fallen nearly 14 percent, Ryman 24 percent, Summerset 16 percent, Arvida more than 17 percent and Oceania 20 percent. Infratil

rose 13c to \$7.75 after providing a message of growth opportunities. The utilities investor said it was well positioned with a balance sheet including \$800m of cash.

Market leader Fisher & Paykel Healthcare gained 10c to \$28.11. But EBOS Group, expected to be included in the FTSE Global index, was down 18c to \$38.02; Auckland International Airport declined 13c to \$7.10; Mainfreight shed \$1.04 to \$82; and Chorus decreased 6.5c to \$6.715.

Trustpower was down 1c to \$7 after telling the market the unsettled and dry weather and outage at the Waipori hydro scheme has put pressure on earnings for the second half of the 2022 financial year.

Among other energy companies, Vector was down 6c to \$3.73; Meridian was up 5c to \$4.94; and Mercury gained 3.5c to \$5.825.

Other decliners were Port of Tauranga falling 12c to \$6.13; Napier Port shedding 10c to \$2.99;

EROAD down 9c to \$4.30; Rakon decreasing 10c to \$1.75; and Sky Network Television losing 8c to \$2.47. DGL Group fell 20c to \$3.03; Vista Group was down 4c to \$2.05; Steel and Tube decreased 4c to \$1.55; Just Life Group declined 5c or 7.14 percent to 65c; and Plexure Group shed 2.5c to 38.5c.

Retailers Briscoe Group fell 4c to \$6.33, Hallenstein Glasson was down 14c to \$6.55; Michael Hill International fell 3c to \$1.49; and The Warehouse Group shed 4c to \$3.04.

Amongst the gainers, Air New Zealand was up 3c to \$1.58; SkyCity Entertainment collected 8c to \$2.98; Pacific Edge rose 3c to \$1.08; South Port New Zealand increased 11c to \$8.50; and Tourism Holdings was up 4c to \$2.70.

Promisia Healthcare told the market it has received an extension to satisfying the finance conditions for buying Aldwins House in Christchurch. Promisia’s share price declined 0.001c to 0.001c. — NZ Herald

EDITORIAL

Strengthening supply chains for Omicron

Having Covid about to become common

Anyone relieved to see Covid-19 community case numbers retreat from the record 981 on Monday to 744 yesterday should steel themselves. Modellers at Te Punaha Matatini estimate that over the next few months, 1.5 million to 3.3m of us will have a Covid infection.

The trendline of reported case numbers has them doubling roughly every three days, meaning the daily tally is likely to be around 4000 a week from now. Te Punaha Matatini's Dr Dion O'Neale says the lag effect "baked in" to the outbreak is that cases reported now come from people first infected a week ago, with around two doubling times since then. So, "... when we see a day with 1000 new cases reported, that same day there is likely to also really be 4000 new infections".

Their latest modelling is for a three-to-four month wave with February 1 as the start date. Assuming low transmission and a 90 percent booster rate, they estimated a total of 1.5m infections of which 386,400 were reported as cases. With a booster rate of 70 percent but transmission generally low, the figures rose to 1.7m infections and 447,000 reported cases. If transmission is high, the modelling indicated 3.3m infections and 858,000 cases, even with 90 percent of eligible people boosted.

These numbers will be shocking for many. We have become accustomed to living in a largely Covid-free country, and observing with alarm the impacts elsewhere as Covid sweeps through populations.

The key difference for us, and what should make this a significantly less traumatic experience, is our high vaccination rate — that and the fact the highly-transmissible Omicron variant driving this fast-moving outbreak also tends to cause less severe illness.

On this note, though, too many of us are complacent about getting a booster shot, with 1 million people eligible but yet to take it up.

The Conversation reported last week that emerging evidence suggests two doses provide 0-10 percent protection against infection with Omicron five to six months after the second jab, and around 35 percent protection against hospitalisation. Two to four weeks after having a booster, protection against symptomatic Omicron infection is restored to 60-75 percent (waning to 30-40 percent after 15 weeks); protection against hospitalisation goes back up to around 90 percent, dropping to 75 percent after 10-14 weeks.

Vaccines matched to Omicron are being developed which, if approved, will no doubt induce better immunity.

by Kiri Allan
MP for East Coast



AS we move into the next phase of our Covid-19 response, our Government's priority remains keeping Kiwis safe while also working to keep our economy and essential services running.

Since the start of the pandemic, a strong health response has proved to be the best economic policy. We have one of the lowest rates of cases and deaths in the OECD, and we've also seen better-than-expected economic growth, record low unemployment, and strong demand for our exports.

While there's no doubt the past two years have been challenging for businesses here in Te Tairāwhiti, it has been encouraging to see local companies diligently using the traffic light system over the summer. This system aims to strike a balance, keeping people safe while allowing businesses to operate.

We've seen overseas that if there are no

restrictions, many people don't feel safe to go out to socialise, and prefer to stay at home. We've also seen overseas the impact Omicron can have on supply chains and on businesses, and the disruption it can cause. That's why, as part of our plan to protect lives and livelihoods, we're taking steps to ensure vital industries and services can continue operating and our communities can access the essentials we all need. We've worked alongside industry bodies to set up a practical scheme that will help keep critical services like food production, emergency services and power supply functioning over the coming months.

From phase two of the Omicron response, our Close Contact Exemption Scheme will see workers who have been identified as close contacts in critical industries able to go back to work instead of isolating, so long as they return a daily negative rapid antigen test, and are vaccinated and asymptomatic.

In addition, people who work alone and don't have contact with anyone else will be able to continue operating as a "bubble of one" if they are identified as a contact. This will cover people like farmers and sole traders, as long as they're

vaccinated and don't have symptoms. It's just one of the ways we're working to keep people safe at the same time as securing our recovery and supporting businesses during the pandemic, and follows on from our recently announced plan to carefully reopen the border.

You can find out more about the Close Contact Exemption Scheme, and register as a critical service, at: business.govt.nz

Of course, one simple way we can all help to support local businesses is to get our booster shot as soon as we're eligible. Boosters provide better protection against Omicron, and help to slow the spread. If you're 18 or over and received your second dose more than three months ago, you're able to get yours today. You can book one, or find your nearest walk-in clinic, at: bookmyvaccine.nz

More than 1.9 million Kiwis are already boosted, which is awesome. Thank you to those who've already stepped up for this extra layer of protection. Thanks, too, to all the businesses and critical workers who are keeping our local economy going — your mahi makes all the difference.

Kudos for public missing Left needs to engage with anti-mandaters

Re: Driver stable after truck plummets into Waioka River, February 14 story.

It's a shame that the public who responded while waiting for emergency services were not mentioned. We came across the accident and waited an hour and a half for emergency services to respond. In the meantime

a number of people went down to the cab to ensure the driver was OK, to keep him calm and warm. They did an awesome job in looking after him in very trying, wet and dangerous circumstances.

DOUG RICHARDSON
Whakatane

Kapai te iwi kaenga

Re: Thanks from Waitiri as Maori reach vax milestone, February 15 story.

Kia ora tātou. Kapai te iwi kaenga to get those vaccination rates up for us as Māori. Ngā mihi miharo ki te whānau me ngā whanaunga katoa o te wā kaenga. I am really happy to read our newspaper the Gisborne Herald online and see the news how well our people are striving to move forward and get the vaccinations

and booster numbers up back at home. Well done to our local MP Meka Waitiri for being there to support our whānau to go out and do their bit to help make our community Turanganui a Kiwa and Ngati Porou safer for all our kaumatua, whānau mokopuna. Tino rawe te kite wēnei tuinga i roto te pepa whānau. Mauri Ora Miharo

HORIANA KAAHO
Tāmaki Makaurau, Papakura

A price of democracy

Aimee Milne speaks of dodgy health information that is "literally going to cause death". We have all been thinking this. My thoughts keep coming back to how important democracy is. We have fought and died for democracy, and society's overwhelming narrative is that it was worth it.

Protests this large are not common and can only materialise over big issues. These issues need to be heard out for the reasons Dennis Pennefather wrote about yesterday. Our Prime Minister should live up to her rhetorical "Team of 5

million" and bring them into the conversation.

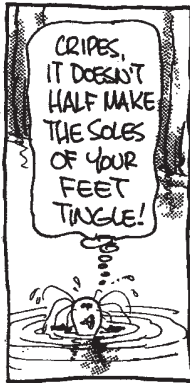
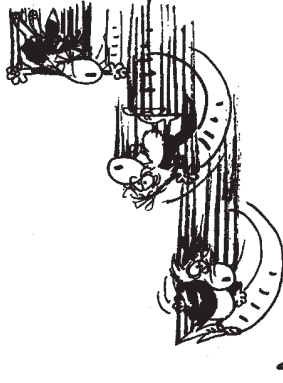
Our problem is that we believe the purpose of a protest is what validates it. It doesn't. Validation comes from how many people are moved by the cause. The protesters logically represent all those mandated people who waited to the last moment to get their jabs. This is not a small number. They are genuine in their beliefs, whether we share them or not.

If we see a health risk, it is a price of the democracy we fought for.

ALEXIS COPLAND

editor@gisborneherald.co.nz

- The maximum length for letters is 350 words.
- Anyone can write a column, 600 words maximum, but a photo is required.
- Always include full name and contact details.
- If you use a nom de plume, there is a higher bar for acceptability.
- Letters may be edited for clarity, length or legal reasons.



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Tentative deal in prince's sex-abuse case reached

Duke of York agrees to settle Giuffre lawsuit and donate to charity

NEW YORK CITY — Britain's Prince Andrew has agreed to settle a lawsuit filed by Virginia Giuffre, who said she was sexually trafficked to the British royal by the financier Jeffrey Epstein when she was 17.

The deal, described in a court filing on Tuesday (local time) in New York City, avoided a trial that would have brought further embarrassment to the monarchy.

It called for the prince to make a substantial donation to his accuser's charity, while saying he never meant to malign her character.

It did not specify whether Giuffre would personally receive any money as part of the settlement.

Attorney David Boies, representing Giuffre, informed the judge presiding over the case in New York City that a settlement in principle had been reached and lawyers on both sides will request a dismissal of the lawsuit within a month.

A lawyer for Andrew did not immediately return a message seeking comment.

The letter signed by Boies said all lawyers were asking the judge to suspend all deadlines in the case and put it on hold.

Giuffre accused the British royal of sexually abusing her while she travelled with Epstein.

The American sued Andrew in August.

Andrew strenuously denied Giuffre's allegations and attempted to get the lawsuit tossed out earlier this year.

Attached to the letter by



AVOIDING TRIAL: Above, Prince Andrew is seen in this April 5, 2015, file photo in London. A tentative settlement has been reached in a lawsuit that accused the British prince of sexually abusing Virginia Giuffre when she was 17 years old, according to a court filing in Manhattan, New York City, on Tuesday (local time). The parties involved will file a stipulated dismissal of the trial upon Giuffre's receipt of the settlement (the sum of which has not been disclosed). AP file picture

Boies was a statement that read: "Virginia Giuffre and Prince Andrew have reached an out-of-court settlement. The parties will file a stipulated dismissal upon Ms Giuffre's receipt of the settlement".

The sum involved in the settlement was not disclosed.

"Prince Andrew intends to make a substantial donation to Ms Giuffre's charity in support of victims' rights. "Prince Andrew has never intended to

malign Ms Giuffre's character, and he accepts that she has suffered both as an established

victim of abuse and as a result of unfair public attacks."

According to the statement, Prince Andrew acknowledged that Epstein trafficked "countless young girls" over many years and said the prince "regrets his association with Epstein, and commends the bravery of Ms Giuffre and other survivors in standing up for themselves and others."

He also pledged to support the victims of sex trafficking as part of demonstrating his regret.

The tentative settlement came weeks after Judge Lewis A. Kaplan last month rejected the prince's attempt to win an early dismissal of the lawsuit, meaning depositions and other evidence-gathering could

commence.

After Kaplan ruled, Andrew — who had already stepped back from royal duties — was stripped of his military titles and roles and leadership of various charities, known as royal patronages. He also could no longer use the title "His Royal Highness" in official settings.

The decision was an effort to insulate the House of Windsor from the fall out from potentially years of sordid headlines if the suit moved forward.

The Queen's move came after more than 150 veterans and serving members of the armed forces came forward to ask her to strip her son of his military titles. — AP

Ottawa police chief resigns in Canadian truck protest

OTTAWA, Ontario — Ottawa's police chief resigned on Tuesday (local time) amid criticism of his inaction against the trucker protests that have paralysed the Canadian capital for over two weeks, while demonstrators elsewhere across the country abandoned another one of their blockades at the US border.

Trucks with horns blaring rolled out of the southern Alberta town of Coutts, across from Montana, ending the siege that had disrupted trade for more than two weeks.

Police earlier this week arrested 11 people at the obstructed crossing and seized guns and ammunition.

The two developments came a day after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau invoked extraordinary emergency powers to try to end the occupation in Ottawa and elsewhere around the country.

Across Canada and beyond, the question in the coming days would be whether the measure works or not.

In Ottawa, the bumper-to-bumper demonstration by hundreds of truck drivers against the country's Covid restrictions — and the failure of Police Chief Peter Soly to break the siege early on — had infuriated many residents.

They complained of being harassed and intimidated by protesters.

Soly's resignation was confirmed by a government official. A message seeking comment from Soly through the Ottawa police force was not immediately returned.

Canadian Public Safety Minister Marco Mendicino said it was time for police to begin using their broad authority conferred under Canada's Emergencies Act, which allowed the government to ban the blockades and begin towing away trucks.

"We have given new powers to police, and we need them to do the job now," he said late on Monday — after Trudeau announced he was invoking the law.

Government leaders had not indicated when or where the crackdown on the self-styled Freedom Convoy would begin. — AP

Alec Baldwin sued by family of cinematographer killed on set

LOS ANGELES — The family of a cinematographer shot and killed on the set of the film *Rust* sued Alec Baldwin and the movie's producers on Tuesday (local time) for wrongful death.

Lawyers for the family of Halyna Hutchins announced the lawsuit filed in New Mexico in the names of Hutchins' husband, Matthew Hutchins, and their son, Andros, at a Los Angeles news conference.

At least four other lawsuits had been filed over the shooting, but this was the first directly tied to one of the two people shot.

The "reckless conduct and cost-cutting measures" of Baldwin and the film's producers "led to the death of Halyna Hutchins", attorney Brian Panish said.

A video created by the attorneys showed an animated recreation of the shooting.

Baldwin, who was also a producer on the film, was pointing a gun at Hutchins during the filming of a scene for the western in New Mexico on October 21. The gun went off, killing Hutchins and wounding the director, Joel Souza.

Baldwin said he was pointing the gun at Hutchins at her instruction and it went off without him pulling the trigger.

The attorneys said in the video that Baldwin had turned down training for the kind of gun draw he was doing when he shot Hutchins.

It said industry standards called for using a rubber, or similar, prop gun on set, and there was no call for a real gun.

Emails sent seeking comment from an attorney for Baldwin and a representative of the film's other producers were not immediately returned.

Last month, nearly three months after the shooting, Baldwin turned over his cellphone to authorities in his home state of New York.

They gathered information from the phone and provided it to Santa Fe County investigators, who had obtained a warrant for it.

Investigators had described "some complacency" in how weapons were handled on the set of *Rust*.

However, they said it was too soon to determine whether charges would be filed.



Alec Baldwin

Baldwin had said he did not believe he would be criminally charged in the shooting.

The film's script supervisor and its lead camera operator, both of whom were standing a few metres away when Hutchins was shot, each filed a lawsuit over the trauma they went through.

And, the film's armourer, Hannah Gutierrez Reed, who was named as a defendant in those lawsuits and blamed by some for the shooting, filed her own lawsuit, in which she



Halyna Hutchins

said an ammunition supplier created "dangerous conditions" by including live ammunition in a box that was supposed to include only dummy rounds.

In an interview with ABC News in December, Baldwin said he felt incredible sadness over the shooting — but no guilt.

"Someone is responsible for what happened, and I can't say who that is — but it's not me," Baldwin said.

He said Hutchins had asked him to point the gun just off camera and

towards her armpit before it went off. "I didn't pull the trigger," Baldwin said.

"I would never point a gun at anyone and pull the trigger at them. Never."

He called Hutchins "somebody who was loved by everybody and admired by everybody who worked with her".

Hutchins, 42, grew up on a remote Soviet military base and worked on documentary films in Eastern Europe, before studying film in Los Angeles and embarking on a promising movie-making career.

On her Instagram page, she identified herself as a "restless dreamer" and an "adrenaline junkie".

In a 2019 interview with American Cinematographer, which had named her as one of that year's rising stars, she described herself as an "army brat" drawn to movies because "there wasn't that much to do outside".

She would document herself parachuting and exploring caves, among other adventures, and through her work with British filmmakers, became "fascinated with storytelling based on real characters".

— AP

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Auction 12.00pm, Thu 17th Mar, 2022, (unless sold prior), 66 Reads Quay, Gisborne

View Fri 18 Feb 5.30 - 6.15pm

Web pb.co.nz/GIR12035



Tom Lane
M 021 058 7018 **P** 06 869 0091
E toml@pb.co.nz

Solid line-up at Matawhero

by Trevor Brown

IT was a strong sale yesterday for the 2092 cattle presented for sale at the Matawhero saleyards.

There was a large contingent of buyers from throughout the North Island.

Long-time stock agent Wally Moore described it as the most well-presented line-up he had ever seen at Matawhero.

A new feature of the sale was the presence of a team from Bidr, who operate an online selling platform.

Their registered online buyers were very active, including a purchase to North Canterbury.

The main feature of the fair was the large number of rising 2.5-year steers on offer, the first 15 pens being all Angus steers.

Waipuna Valley Farms Ltd, operating from Morunga Station at Rakauoro, were the largest vendor with their annual draft.

Their first pen of 51, weighing 525kg, sold for \$1640, \$110 more than they received for their best pen at the 2021 February fair.

Merv and Connie Utting were paid \$1515 for their top pen of 56 Charolais 18 month steers, weighing 455kg.

Prices per kg: R 2.5-year steers: \$3.25 — \$2.94; 18-month steers: \$3.33 — \$2.69; 18-month heifers: \$3.09 — \$2.51; MA cows: \$2.04 — \$1.98; 18-month bulls: \$3.06 — \$2.56.

Best prices —

R 2.5-year steers: Ranui Station, 14 (605kg), \$1850; Karetai and Mitchell Ltd, 16 (585kg), \$1800; LS and J Symes P/S, 25 (535kg), \$1700, 40 (520kg), \$1650, 7 (475kg), \$1430; Tangihau Station, 26 (520kg), \$1650, 57 (460kg), \$1495; Waipuna Valley Farms Ltd, 30 (530kg),



WELL PRESENTED: This line-up of 2.5-year steers was presented at the February cattle fair at the Matawhero saleyards yesterday. The first 15 pens were all Angus. Pen one in the foreground weighed 525kg and the 51 head, from Waipuna Valley Farms Ltd at Rakauoro, sold for \$1640. Long-time stock agent Wally Moore described yesterday's entries as the most well-presented cattle he had ever seen at Matawhero.

Picture by Trevor Brown

\$1685, 40 (530kg), \$1675, 51 (525kg), \$1640, 28 (505kg), \$1630, 51 (515kg), \$1620, 66 (510kg), \$1610, 10 (510kg), \$1605, 18 (510kg), \$1535, 11 (495), \$1525, 53 (480kg), \$1520, 53 (480kg), \$1510, 107 (475kg), \$1485, 51 (470kg), \$1475, 51 (465kg), \$1475, 51 (460kg), \$1475, 18 (460kg), \$1390, 50 (435kg), \$1380, 31 (450kg), \$1375, 6 (450kg), \$1372.50, 22

(420kg), \$1281.

18-month steers: MD and CA Utting, 56 (455kg), \$1515, 20 (400kg), \$1325; Tangihau Station, 13 (470kg), \$1450, 14 (430kg), \$1400; Ormond Wainui, 12 (445kg), \$1280, 26 (350kg), \$970, 5 (310kg), \$850; Linburn P/S, 23 (370kg), \$1165, 9 (325kg), \$1000.

18-month heifers: Bournbrook Station,

21 (380kg), \$1175, 14 (400kg), \$1120, 28 (365kg), \$1080, 26 (360kg), \$1080, 7 (340kg), \$950; Waikura Ltd, 66 (330kg), \$1010, 9 (320kg), \$930, 50 (300kg), \$910, 13 (275kg), \$820, 22 (195kg), \$530.

R 2.5-year bulls: Te Kautuku Station, 6 (470kg), \$1260, 18 (335kg), \$1025; Mangawhariki Trust, 3 (375kg), \$1060, 12 (305kg), \$930.

AgriHQ MARKET REPORT

Week beginning February 14

LAMB

Store lamb prices have already rebounded on the back of the rain received last weekend.

The 32kg male lambs increased 35c/kg to \$3.60/kg in the North Island last week. Given the reported volumes selling, many buyers this week don't appear to be too concerned by the 35c/kg trade off between waiting on rain or chancing it last week.

There were not many store lambs for sale in the South Island last week, and certainly not enough to meet the demand for them. Vendors that usually sell lambs are trying to buy them in. High country farms have started weaning and selling stores through on-farm sales, lines are undrafted and thought to be averaging around 30kg/LW.

These lambs were going under the hammer for \$130/hd, putting them in the \$4.30/kg price bracket.

This is consistent with reports of on-farm sale lambs making between \$3.80/kg and early-\$4.00/kg.

The rain has brought about new on-farm challenges. The humid weather conditions have meant an increase in cases of barber's pole and facial eczema.

BEEF

Rain over the weekend has done little to stem the flow of cattle into processing plants.

Cattle throughput at plants remains hamstrung by a lack of staff, which means backlogs are taking longer to reduce. Overseas markets remain steady to firm across the board.

However, it remains a logistical nightmare trying to navigate the shipping delays.

The hold-up in getting product to market is taking the shine off the high prices on offer. The US imported beef market is unusually high for this time of the season but simply reflects the strength of the US market and the shortage of imported product. The rain has not had the same

upwards effect on cattle paddock prices that we have seen in lamb prices. However, it is likely to have created a floor in market prices.

FORESTRY

Omicron is setting an awkward and varied market for forestry.

Exports are mainly at or around the same as levels at the end of last year. The low exchange rate (below US67c) has added little to bottom-lines at the end of New Zealand supply chains.

Port-level inventories in China have mellowed out by a small degree, which is always a good sign, but there has not been enough of a swing to get excited just yet.

Locally, builders have a mountain of new home builds on back order, with would-be owners often reporting significant wait times before construction is completed, which should keep local timber usage going strong.

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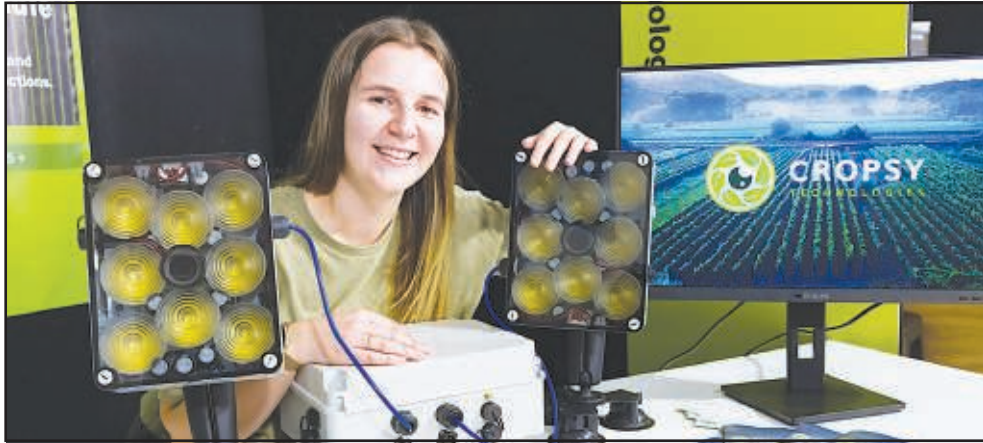
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INNOVATORS: Entries have opened for the Fieldays Innovation Awards and the organisers have pointed to the success of Agtech start-up Cropsy in terms of how well the awards can work. Co-founder Leila Deljkovic (pictured) was at Mystery Creek last year promoting the company's crop vision system designed to improve the performance of viticulture in New Zealand. Picture by Stephen Barker Photography

Support crucial for tech start-up

AUCKLAND-based Cropsy Technologies, who received accolades at the 2021 Fieldays Innovation Awards, have proved the potential of their crop vision system after raising 1.5 million in an over-subscribed capital raise.

They were recognised at Fieldays as one of New Zealand's most promising early-stage companies by the Technology Investment Network.

Leila Deljkovic, Cropsy co-founder, said they could not have achieved this without the support of their early trial partners and customers.

"The close of our first capital raise has been a thrilling start to 2022," she said

"We are so humbled to have this opportunity to leave our mark on viticulture's vast, rich history. We cannot wait to take our newest investors and board members on this journey."

The agtech start-up addresses the frustrations growers face every season with pests, disease, and managing crops on huge scales.

With their scalable AI-enabled and GPS-tracked insights, Cropsy can monitor every plant with high-definition image capture, empowering growers to know their crop and make better, more efficient decisions.

"The hardware attaches to an existing tractor, watching every plant as workers go about their daily tasks — enabling growers to achieve new levels of performance, sustainability, profitability, with no extra effort," Ms Deljkovic said.

The company have already been proving themselves to be trailblazers in the primary sector. Cropsy took home two awards at the

2021 Fieldays Innovation Awards in the Early-Stage Award and Young Innovator Award categories.

"Our Innovation Award win and experience exhibiting in the Fieldays Innovation Hub helped us get the attention of the media and investors, which sped up the commercialisation process.

"I loved sharing my passion for agtech and Cropsy's innovation with people in the Fieldays Innovation Hub," she said.

"You could see the 'wow' moment in someone's eyes when they realised the scope of the information we could provide to a grower, whether they were in the industry or not."

Fieldays Innovation Awards has begun accepting applications for the 2022 intake.

The globally-renowned awards clearly represent the innovation lifecycle across three categories: Prototype, Early-Stage, and Growth and Scale.

Special recognition will be given to younger innovators, with an award for the Fieldays Young Innovator of the Year.

The total prize package includes more than \$60,000 worth of cash, services and products with tailored opportunities to progress innovations in each award category.

As for what's next for Cropsy, Ms Deljkovic said they have been aiming for their organisation to be recognised as "the brains and operating system behind vineyards and orchards of the future".

"Our mission is to provide certainty to growers in a changing world and forge new frontiers in fruit growing with adoptable and transformative technology."

Entries for the Fieldays 2022 Innovation Awards are open until May 1.

MIA awards new scholars

THE Meat Industry Association (MIA) has awarded scholarships to young New Zealanders considering careers in the red meat processing and exporting sector.

Every year, the Meat Industry Association awards a number of undergraduate (\$5000 per year) and post-graduate (\$10,000 per year) scholarships.

The organisation currently has a total of 21 scholars, with 14 existing scholars also continuing to receive support under the scheme.

This year's new scholars are studying subjects ranging from food science to agribusiness, food marketing and supply chain management.

The returning scholars include undergraduate and post graduate students, studying at a range of universities across New Zealand and internationally.

Sirma Karapeeva, chief executive of

MIA, said the range of subjects being studied by the new and returning scholars reflects the many different career opportunities across the red meat processing and export sector.

"As New Zealand's largest manufacturing industry, there is a range of different roles and strong pathways for career progression available.

"The industry has a strong focus on attracting skilled people and supporting the development of those who can make a significant contribution to the sector in the future."

The scholarship recipients were returning scholars Hennie Pienaar from Invercargill and Grace Macdonald from Taranaki, and new scholars Chloe Lennox from Waverley, Emma Yorke from Whangarei, Josh Tatham from Masterton, Lily Brankin from Otautau, Molly Goodisson from Havelock North, Nicola Schroeder from National Park, and Angus Grant from Christchurch.



BELL RD BACK: The popular Saturday stock and rural goods auctions run by former stock agent Peter McGrannachan will make a comeback this Saturday, at the Matawhero saleyards. Mr McGrannachan, pictured, ran the auctions for many years, giving people the chance to sell off a huge range of animals, birds and other items. New auction organisers Cody Clark and Alex Chrisp said they will cater for everything that the former auction offered. "Exactly what Peter was doing." It will begin at 10am Saturday. File picture

Let's find a better solution to the ETS

The Government has legislated that agriculture greenhouse gas emissions will be priced by 2025 to meet emission reduction targets.

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Hamilton man, company to fight charges of underpaying workers

by Belinda Feek, NZ Herald

A HAMILTON company director and his company will fight an MBIE prosecution involving alleged underpaying of staff.

Dinsdale man Gaurav Batra, 40, and his company GSK Company Ltd, face seven charges each laid by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment.

Fellow company director Sourav Sardana, 29, still has a warrant out for his arrest as he had yet to return from overseas when the case was first called last month.

Sardana, of Frankton, faces one



charge of being responsible for a serious contravention of the Wages Protection Act on or about July 11, 2017.

Batra and GSK face three charges of breaching the Wages Protection Act on

April 3, 2017, July 11, 2017, and April 16, 2018; two charges of being in serious default under the Minimum Wage Act for two staff between March 8, 2017, and October 3, 2018; and May 1, 2017, and December 10, 2018, and two charges of serious failure to pay two temporary staff money payable under the Holidays Act during the same time period.

Not guilty pleas were entered to all charges when Batra reappeared in the Hamilton District Court yesterday.

The charges carry a maximum prison term of seven years or a \$100,000 fine.

One of the companies run by GSK includes a kebab shop in Dinsdale.

Man convicted after shining laser at rescue helicopter

by Rob Kidd, Otago Daily Times

DUNEDIN — A man has admitted shining a laser at a rescue helicopter as it transported a “seriously sick” patient over South Dunedin.

Michael James Stirling, 33, appeared in the Dunedin District Court yesterday where he was convicted of endangering transport, which carries a maximum penalty of 14 years’ imprisonment.

The defendant was at a friend’s home on December 2 when he found a green laser, a police summary said.

At 1.44am, he noticed the chopper flying overhead and aimed the pointer at it, shining the beam into the cockpit for 10 to 15 seconds.

The Otago Rescue Helicopter pilot realised what was happening and pinpointed the location of the culprit.

Stirling continued to shine the laser on a couple more occasions.

The pilot hovered over the address, guiding officers to the scene, the court heard.

Despite fleeing the scene, Stirling was soon apprehended in King Edward Street.

He told police he “was just playing with the laser and believed he was shining it at a satellite or drone”.

Graeme Gale, managing director of HeliOtago Ltd, the organisation which operates the Otago regional rescue helicopter service, said the pilot had been on a rescue mission bringing a “seriously sick” patient to Dunedin Hospital at the time of the incident.

“We have had a number of these incidents in Dunedin, and further south. There has also been a number through the country.

“For whatever reason, people tend to target rescue helicopters when they’re out and about at night.”

Gale said laser strike was “extremely dangerous,” and could incapacitate a pilot.

Stirling was remanded on bail until sentencing next month.

Judge Emma Smith ordered a report on the defendant that should assess the viability of an electronically monitored sentence.

Woman on third strike jailed for home invasion

by Craig Kapitan, NZ Herald

AUCKLAND — An Auckland woman with a long criminal history who participated in an armed home invasion that was both terrifying and humiliating — pouring milk over two of the victims’ heads at one point — has been handed the maximum sentence due to the three-strikes law.

Justice Edwin Wylie yesterday ordered that Levi Nepia, 32, serve 14 years in prison for the 2019 aggravated burglary, which she previously pleaded guilty to.

However, he also ruled that it would be “manifestly unjust” for her to serve the term without the possibility of parole, as also outlined in the three-strikes law.

Instead, he set Nepia’s minimum non-parole period at four years.

“There is still hope that you will be able to turn your life around,” Wylie told the mother-of-six as he announced her sentence at the High Court at Auckland.

“It will not be easy for you, but I hope you will be able to put your past behind you and become a productive member of society.”

Nepia thanked the judge as she was led out of the courtroom to begin serving her sentence. She was one of three people who broke into an Onehunga home where five residents were sleeping in August 2019. Co-defendant Shaynee Manuel was sentenced one year ago to 15 months’ imprisonment.

A third participant, a man described in court documents as having committed most of the violence that morning, was never identified.

One of the victims was awakened by the male offender tapping him on the face with a knife. The man allegedly taunted two other victims by asking: “Who wants to die first?”

Authorities said the unknown man beat several of the victims with the knife handle, threatening to cut off their ears, as Nepia and Manuel filled a suitcase with thousands of dollars worth of household items including phones, a laptop, wallets and car keys. One of the victims required stitches.

‘It will not be easy for you, but I hope you will be able to put your past behind you and become a productive member of society.’

— Justice Edwin Wylie

At one point Nepia saw a television and said: “I’ll take this for my children”.

At another point, she retrieved milk from the victims’ fridge and poured it over their heads.

She and Manuel later pulled shirts over the victims’ heads. One of the victims’ credit cards was used by Nepia at a dairy to buy an energy drink, chocolate milk and cigarettes.

Before yesterday, she had been before a judge for sentencing 17 other times since 2007, Wylie noted.

Her first-strike offence in 2013 was for aggravated robbery and her second-strike offence in 2016 was for aggravated burglary.

“It is concerning you’ve continued to commit these types of offences despite receiving warnings at each stage.”

But the judge also noted her “dysfunctional and deprived upbringing”. He and Crown prosecutor Lily Nunweek agreed with the defence that her upbringing has played a part in her current circumstances.

Nepia was raised in a broken home and last saw her parents when she was 10, the judge noted. Her mother had a drug addiction, leaving Nepia to fend for herself and her younger siblings.

“You said you had to steal to feed them and yourself,” the judge said.

Her father was a high-ranking member of the King Cobras gang, introducing her to violence at an early age.

As an adult, she was in a “toxic” relationship for over a decade and at the time of the burglary was using methamphetamine on a daily basis, according to a sentencing report.

Nepia wiped away tears as the judge reviewed her upbringing.

Defence lawyer Elizabeth Gresson said her client is ready to turn her life around so she can reconnect with her children, who are between the ages of 1 and 14 and are staying with other members of Nepia’s family.

She pointed to a letter to the judge in which Nepia expressed remorse for the crime. Wylie responded that Nepia said the same thing during her second-strike sentencing. Had the three-strikes law not been at play, a sentence of six years and eight months’ prison might have been appropriate, the judge indicated.

Farmers despair as cyclone, rain ruin arable crops

CHRISTCHURCH — Weeks of persistent rain have left arable crops sodden and led to farmers describing this season as the harvest from hell.

Three weeks of intermittent rain followed by Cyclone Dovi hitting at the weekend have caused widespread damage to arable crops around the country.

Federated Farmers arable chairperson Colin Hurst said talking to farmers who have been around for a while, some of them are calling it the worst harvest season they can remember.

“Farmer feedback from Canterbury and flooded parts of the Wairarapa are that up to half — and in some cases all — of pea crops have been ruined.

“Wheat crops are turning black in Mid and North Canterbury which is likely to cause a shortage of good quality grain to turn into flour.”

Hurst said yields will be greatly affected and in many places crops will be downgraded in quality.

“Wet soil also hinders the natural drying of seed crops and so harvest is not going to be easy even as weather improves.

“One farmer said that clover crops around Methven now resemble hay crops and the heads have largely disappeared into the foliage, with sprouting of those crops happening.”

In Hawke’s Bay the harvest of vegetable crops like sweetcorn, beans and squash has been

interrupted by the wet weather and in Waikato and Taranaki the cyclone has knocked over maize crops.

Wairarapa arable farmer Karen Williams said the heavy rain at the weekend was the worst she’s seen since a large flood in 2004.

“We had over 90 millimetres of rain the weekend before last, more throughout the week and then another 150mm the weekend just gone, so it’s created a big mess and flooded the paddocks . . . some crops have been completely submerged.”

Williams said the Ruamahanga River which runs through her Gladstone farm flooded.

“The timing couldn’t be worse. For most parts of the country February is harvest time and now some crops have been destroyed by floodwaters and others are still sitting in water which will cause issues with disease and sprouting.”

“We had harvested the ryegrass but we still have our pea seed, barley and wheat in the ground which is now sodden,” Williams said.

“If they sprout then the quality will be downgraded affecting the profitability of the farm.

“It’s hard to say how much we will lose from this event but it will be significant.

“A couple of hundred hectares of crops have been affected.” — RNZ



‘HARVEST FROM HELL’: Wairarapa arable farmer Karen Williams says the heavy rain at the weekend was the worst she’s seen since 2004. RNZ picture

GLOBAL BRIEFS

Pollution causing more deaths than Covid-19 — UN report

GENEVA — Pollution by states and companies is contributing to more deaths globally than Covid, a UN environmental report published has stated. The UN has therefore called for “immediate and ambitious action” to ban some toxic chemicals.

The report stated that pollution from pesticides, plastics and electronic waste was causing widespread human rights’ violations and at least nine million premature deaths per year, and that the issue was largely being overlooked.

The coronavirus pandemic had caused close to 5.9 million deaths so far, according to live data on the coronavirus analyst website, Worldometer.

“Current approaches to managing the risks posed by pollution and toxic substances are clearly failing, resulting in widespread violations of the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment,” the report’s author, UN Special Rapporteur David Boyd, concluded.

“I think we have an ethical and now a legal obligation to do a better job,” he told Reuters later in an interview. — AAP

Good news for the vaccinated

LONDON — Long Covid-19 is less likely to affect vaccinated people than unvaccinated people, a new review of 15 studies by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) released on Tuesday (local time) has concluded.

UKHSA said the people who had received two doses of Pfizer-BioNTech, AstraZeneca or Moderna vaccine, or one dose of the single-shot J&J vaccine, were around “half as likely” to develop symptoms of long Covid-19 compared to the unvaccinated.

UKHSA Head of Immunisation Dr Mary Ramsay said: “These studies add to the potential benefits of receiving a full course of the Covid-19 vaccination”.

“Vaccination is the best way to protect yourself from serious symptoms when you get infected and may also help to reduce the longer-term impact.”

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson had lifted Covid-19 restrictions in England as booster shots and the lower severity of the Omicron variant weakened the link between cases and death.

However, Britain was still averaging around 50,000 cases each day, and mild cases of Covid could still lead to debilitating long Covid and its associated symptoms of fatigue, memory issues and brain fog. — Reuters story via RNZ

Testing continues in the Cooks

AVARUA — The Cook Islands Health Ministry Te Marae Ora tested 371 people for Covid-19 yesterday, in the wake of the first positive test result in the country.

Of the 371 polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests conducted at the Terevete Park testing station, 211 had come back negative as of 8pm last night, with 160 still pending.

There were also 46 rapid antigen tests (RATs) conducted at the airport, but all returned a negative result.

All of the 14 close contacts that had been identified so far of this positive case — a New Zealand tourist who arrived last Thursday — had been tested, with 11 returning negative results, with three results pending.

All those close contacts had been formally quarantined for 10 days, while the positive case remained in isolation.

Testing was continuing today at the Terevete Park (Constitution Park) testing station.

The woman who contracted the virus was a close contact of a family member in Auckland who tested positive on Sunday last week in New Zealand. — RNZ

Boat sinks off Canada: 7 dead

MADRID — A Spanish fishing boat sank in rough seas off Newfoundland in eastern Canada, killing at least seven people, an official in Spain said.

Three crew members were saved from a lifeboat, and a maritime search was launched for the 14 other crew members who were still missing in heavy seas.

The 50-metre long fishing boat, named Villa de Pitaxo, which operated out of northwest Spain’s Galicia region, sank in the dark in the early hours of Tuesday (local time), Spain’s regional representative — Maica Larriba — told Spanish public radio.

The 24-member crew of the sunken vessel included 16 Spaniards, five Peruvians and three workers from Ghana, Spain’s maritime rescue service said. — AAP

South Korea’s Covid deaths on the rise

Asian nation resting its hopes on booster jabs

SEOUL — South Korea on Tuesday (local time) reported its highest number of Covid deaths in a month as US health authorities advised Americans to avoid travelling to the country grappling with a fast-developing Omicron surge.

The 61 deaths reported by the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA) on Tuesday was the highest daily tally since the 74 reported on January 19, when the country was emerging from an outbreak driven by the Delta variant.

While the Omicron variant seemed so far less likely to cause serious illnesses or death, the greater scale of the outbreak was fuelling concerns that hospitalisations and fatalities could spike in the coming weeks.

The 57,177 new cases reported by the KDCA was another one-day record and more than a 12-fold increase from the levels seen in mid-January, when Omicron became the dominant strain.

The US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention updated its travel notice for South Korea to Level 4 — the highest risk — advising Americans to avoid travelling to the Asian country or to make sure they were fully vaccinated if travelling to South Korea was necessary.



LINING UP FOR TESTS: People wait in line for their coronavirus tests at a testing station in Seoul, South Korea, on Tuesday.

AP picture

Park Hyang — a senior South Korean Health Ministry official — said the country’s hospital resources remained stable, with less than 27 percent of intensive care units designated for Covid currently being occupied.

Officials had expressed cautious hope, due to the country’s high vaccination rate — with nearly 58 percent

of the nation’s population of more than 51 million already having received booster shots, that hospital systems would be prevented from buckling under the strain.

They planned to start offering fourth vaccination shots to people at nursing homes and other long-term care settings later this month.

“While unvaccinated people

account for only 6 percent of the population 12 years or older, these people have accounted for 62 percent of serious cases and 66.5 percent of the deaths over the past eight weeks,” Park said during a news media briefing.

South Korea had reshaped its Covid-19 response due to the unprecedented surge.

— AP

‘I assumed fellow cops were caring for Floyd’

ST PAUL, MN — A former Minneapolis police officer charged in George Floyd’s killing testified on Tuesday (local time) that he had been relying on his fellow officers to care for Floyd’s medical needs while he controlled onlookers as police tried to arrest the Black man.

Tou Thao was one of three former officers who had been charged in federal court with allegedly violating Floyd’s constitutional rights when Officer Derek Chauvin pressed his knee into Floyd’s neck for nine-and-a-half minutes as the 46-year-old man was handcuffed, face down on the street.

Thao held back bystanders, while J Alexander Kueng knelt on Floyd’s back and Thomas Lane held his legs.

Kueng and Lane also planned to testify.

Thao said that when he and Chauvin arrived, the other officers were struggling with Floyd.

He said he took a position on the roadway to serve as “a human traffic cone” to keep traffic away from the other officers.

Thao said he heard onlookers becoming more anxious about Floyd’s condition and calling on officers to check his pulse.

However, he said his role was “crowd control; there were about 15 bystanders.”

Thao’s attorney, Robert Paule, asked Thao whether he saw any

officers roll Floyd over and perform CPR.

He said he had not, and presumed that meant Floyd was breathing.

“It indicated that Mr Floyd was not in cardiac arrest,” said Thao, who later testified that he did not know there was anything seriously wrong with Floyd — even as an ambulance took him away.

Thao, Kueng and Lane were accused of allegedly depriving Floyd of medical care.

Kueng and Thao were also accused of allegedly failing to intervene to stop the May 25, 2020, killing, which triggered protests worldwide and a re-examination of racism and policing.

The charges allege the officers’ actions resulted in Floyd’s death.

Prosecutors rested their case on Monday after calling to the stand doctors, police officers and bystanders to build an argument that the officers should have intervened to stop Chauvin and that they allegedly violated their training by not rolling Floyd on to his side so he could breathe or by not giving him CPR.

Defence attorneys were seeking to show that the Minneapolis Police Department had not provided adequate training and had not taught cadets to obey their superiors.

Chauvin, who was convicted of state murder and manslaughter



George Floyd.

File picture



Former Minneapolis police officer, Tou Thao.

AP picture

charges last year, was the most senior officer at the scene.

Thao testified that he was taught that it was “sometimes OK” to use neck restraints to help handcuff someone.

But under cross-examination by prosecutor LeeAnn Bell, Thao agreed that using a knee to get someone under control was different from using it to restrain someone who was already handcuffed — and that the neck should be avoided once someone was under control.

Asked if what Chauvin was doing was a trained neck restraint, Thao replied: “I don’t believe so”.

Police tried to arrest Floyd after responding to a 911 call that he used a counterfeit US\$20 bill at a corner store.

Thao said it was obvious to him,

as the other officers struggled to put Floyd into a squad car, “that he was under the influence of some type of drug”.

He said it seemed clear that Floyd was in a state of “excited delirium” — a disputed condition in which someone was said to believe they had extraordinary strength.

Thao also said that although he heard Floyd saying, “I can’t breathe”, he could not see anything from where he was standing that would have interfered with Floyd’s breathing. He also said that, on several occasions, he had heard someone say they could not breathe but “was not sure they were being honest”. — AP

UKRAINE HIT BY CYBERATTACK

KYIV, Ukraine — A series of cyberattacks on Tuesday (local time) knocked the websites of Ukrainian government offices and major banks offline, Ukrainian authorities said — attacks that came amid the strong tensions between Russia and the West over Ukraine.

It was too early to know, however, if the apparently low-level denial-of-service attacks might be a smokescreen for more serious and damaging cyber-mischief.

The escalating fears about a Russian invasion of Ukraine eased slightly as Russia sent signals on Tuesday that it might be pulling back from the brink, but Western powers were still demanding proof.

At least 10 Ukrainian websites were unreachable due to denial-of-service attacks, including those of the Defence Ministry, the Foreign Ministry, the Culture Ministry and Ukraine's two largest state banks.

In such attacks, websites are barraged with a flood of junk data packets, rendering them unreachable.

It is possible the aggressor has resorted to tactics of petty mischief, because his aggressive plans aren't working overall

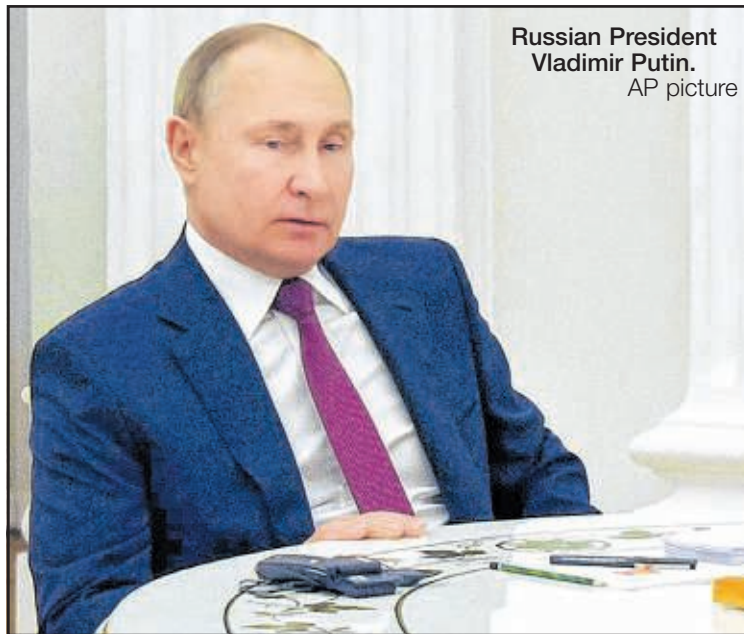
—Ukrainian Information Ministry

Customers at Ukraine's largest state-owned bank, Privatbank, and the state-owned Sberbank, reported problems with online payments and the banks' apps.

"There is no threat to depositors' funds," the Ukrainian Information Ministry's Centre for Strategic Communications and Information Security said in a statement.

Deputy Minister Victor Zhora confirmed the cyberattacks.

The ministry suggested Russia could be behind Tuesday's incident, without



Russian President Vladimir Putin.
AP picture

providing details.

"It is possible that the aggressor has resorted to tactics of petty mischief, because his aggressive plans aren't working overall," the statement said.

Oleh Derevianko — a leading private sector expert and founder of the ISSP cybersecurity firm — said it was not immediately clear if Tuesday's cyberattacks were limited to a denial-of-service campaign.

"That's exactly the question we always ask," he said. Ukraine had been subject to a steady diet of Russian aggression in cyberspace since 2014, when Russia annexed the Crimean Peninsula and backed separatists in eastern Ukraine.

The attacks followed a January 14 cyberattack that damaged servers at Ukraine's State Emergency Service and at the Motor Transport Insurance Bureau with a malicious "wiper" cloaked as ransomware.

The damage proved minimal — some cybersecurity experts thought that was by design — given the capabilities of Russian state-backed hackers.

A message posted simultaneously on dozens of defaced Ukrainian government websites said: "Be afraid and

expect the worst".

Serhii Demediuk, the No. 2 official at Ukraine's National Security and Defence Council, called the January 14 attack "part of a full-scale Russian operation directed at destabilising the situation in Ukraine, aimed at exploding our Euro-Atlantic integration and seizing power".

Such attacks were apt to continue as Russian President Vladimir Putin tried to "degrade" and "delegitimise" trust in Ukrainian institutions, the cybersecurity firm CrowdStrike said in a subsequent blog post.

Ukraine had been the premier testing ground of cyber-conflict.

In the winters of 2015 and 2016, attacks on Ukraine's power grid, attributed to Russia's GRU military intelligence agency, temporarily knocked out power.

Russia's GRU had also been blamed for perhaps the most devastating cyberattack ever.

Targeting companies doing business in Ukraine in 2017, the NotPetya virus caused over US\$10 billion in damage worldwide.

That virus, also disguised as ransomware, was a "wiper" virus that scrubbed entire networks. — AP

United States 'has not verified claim of Russia troop withdrawal': Biden

WASHINGTON, DC — US President Joe Biden said on Tuesday (local time) that the US had "not yet verified" Russia's claim that some of its forces had withdrawn from the Ukraine border and said an invasion of Ukraine remained a distinct possibility.

Biden made the remarks at the White House just hours after Russia announced that some units participating in military exercises near Ukraine's borders would begin returning to their bases.

Russian President Vladimir Putin earlier on Tuesday said Russia was ready for talks with the United States and Nato on military transparency, missile deployment limits and other security issues.

But Biden continued to express scepticism about Russia's intentions.

Biden warned again that if Russia invaded Ukraine, the US "will rally the world to oppose its aggression".

Putin said earlier on Tuesday that he "welcomed a security dialogue with the West" as his military reported pulling back some of its troops near Ukraine — signals that were interpreted by some at the time as indicating the Kremlin had opted for a diplomatic path for now, despite Western fears of an imminent Russian invasion of its neighbour.

Putin said he did not want war and would rely on negotiations as he pressed his demand for the West to halt Ukraine's bid to join Nato.

At the same time, Putin did not commit to a full pull-back of



US President Joe Biden.
AP picture

Russian troops, saying Russia's next moves in the stand-off would depend on how the situation unfolded. While the overtures soothed global markets that had been on edge amid the worst East-West tensions in decades, the US and its European allies remained cautious, saying they wanted to see evidence of a Russian withdrawal of troops.

The US and Nato previously warned that over 130,000 Russian forces had massed near Ukraine and that they could invade at any time.

The US and Nato claimed Russia had sent troops and military supplies to shore up Nato members in Eastern Europe.

Russia denied having such plans, demanding that the West keep Ukraine and other ex-Soviet nations out of the alliance, halt weapons deployments near Russian borders, and roll back forces from Eastern Europe.

The US and its allies had so far mostly rejected all of those demands, but offered Russia to engage in talks on ways to bolster security in Europe. — AP

NSW nurses protest over pay, work conditions during pandemic

SYDNEY — Thousands of nurses and midwives walked off the job in New South Wales (NSW) yesterday to protest about pay and staffing levels, saying Covid-19 had pushed an already-stretched system to its limit.

Many travelled from across Sydney and beyond to march through the city's CBD to Parliament House, with rallies also taking place in regional parts of NSW.

The NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association defied an order yesterday to call off the industrial action.

Late yesterday afternoon, the Industrial Relations Commission (IRC) ordered the union to immediately cease organising the strike and to refrain from taking any kind of industrial action for the next month.

The intervention came after the NSW government took the matter to the IRC, arguing that the planned strike would disrupt health services across the state.

Crisis talks between the nurses union and Health Minister Brad Hazzard yesterday failed to resolve the stalemate in negotiations over pay and staffing levels in hospitals.

The Nurses and Midwives' Association said the intervention came too late as members across the state had already voted to strike, and they needed to "stand tall" to express their frustrations.

Hazzard said he was disappointed that the strike had gone ahead, but added it was "not going to stop us working together" to find a solution.

"We need to have enough

nurses every day to make sure the nurses are not frazzled," he said.

"We're in agreement, it's just a matter of how we actually approach this formula. There has to be a ratio, it's just how this ratio works."

Speaking yesterday morning, nurse Kathy Triggol said health workers "deserve better".

"Most of the time, the staff are overworked and stressed and it's just not fair."

"We don't ask for much — we're just asking for it to be fair," she said.

She said the past few years had been "dreadful", with many wards short-staffed.

"It's gotten to the stage that every hospital is the same," Triggol said.

"We're talking about nurses in the ICU and emergency

departments who can't even stop to go to the toilet. It's just ridiculous."

Wollongong midwife Emma Gedge boarded a bus to Sydney yesterday morning along with 150 colleagues.

"We're drowning . . . we've been drowning for a long time, and Covid has really just pressed that point home that this health system is just not working," she said.

"As nurses and midwives, we don't walk away from our patients lightly and this really rips our hearts out having to do this."

In Orange, in the state's central west, about 60 nurses marched up the main street where a crowd watched on and motorists honked their support.

Union member Grace Langlands said she was "proud

to be there.

"We're running into double time, overtime, we're doing mornings and finishing late, late into the nights — doing stupid hours — because we want our patients to be OK, but that's not OK (for us) anymore," she said.

"We need to put ourselves first so we can provide the appropriate care, with the appropriate number (of staff) and the appropriate safety."

Langlands said some union members had stayed at work to ensure patient safety.

On the state's south coast, about 200 nurses rallied in Bega's Littleton Gardens.

Sarah Anderson, a midwife and nurse based in the Bega Valley, said the system was breaking young staff, and they were leaving because of the unfair conditions. — ABC

WEDNESDAY—THURSDAY'S TELEVISION GUIDE

TVNZ 1

5pm The Chase Quiz show where contestants must stay one step ahead of The Chaser.
6pm 1 News At 6pm The latest news, sport, and weather.
7pm Seven Sharp Stories of the day from around New Zealand.
7.30 Beat The Chasers Five quiz masters compete as a team against contestants hoping to win cash prizes.
8.20 Lotto The Lotto draw.
8.25 Beat The Chasers Continued.
8.30 Under The Vines Gus and Tippy have dilemmas; Daisy's plan to wow the showcase attendees seems to fall apart; Marissa keeps a close watch.
9.30 Coronation Street PG
10.30 1 News Tonight
11pm Shortland Street PGV
11.30 My Life Is Murder M
After a near-death experience, Alexa confronts her own mortality as she investigates a body that was found in someone else's grave.
THURSDAY
12.30 Life M
David investigates Kelly's past; Hannah is drawn to Andy; Gail confronts Henry with her feelings.
1.30 Te Karere
1.55 Infomercials
5.30 Te Karere
6am Breakfast
9am The Ellen DeGeneres Show PG
10am Tipping Point
11am The Chase
Noon 1 News At Midday
12.30 Emmerdale PG
Cain is furious that Al is moving in with Kyle; Jai rocks the boat; Ellis dreads breaking some news to Belle.
1pm Coronation Street PG
2pm The Hotel Inspector PG
3pm Tipping Point
4pm Te Karere
4.30 Neighbours PG
Paul's deceit pays dividends; Ramsay Street worries for Leo.
5pm The Chase

TVNZ 2

5pm The Simpsons
5.30 Superstore PG
6pm The Big Bang Theory PG
6.30 Home And Away PG
7pm Shortland Street PGV
7.30 NEW The Dog House Australia PG
8.30 NEW Wellington Paranormal M
9pm NEW Starstruck M
9.35 8 Out Of 10 Cats Does Countdown M
10.35 NEW Hell's Kitchen: Young Guns M
11.35 Mom
THURSDAY
12.25 Motherland: Fort Salem M
1.10 Emmerdale PG
1.35 Infomercials
2.35 Survivor New Zealand PGL
3.45 The Middle
4.10 The Ring Inz M
4.35 Neighbours PG
5am Infomercials
6am Les Mills Born To Move
6.25 Mighty Little Bheem
6.35 Code Fun
6.45 Maia The Brave
6.55 Darwin And Newts
7.05 Miss Moon
7.30 Dragons: Riders Of Berk
7.55 Pokemon Journeys: The Series
8.15 JoJo And Gran Gran
8.40 Thomas And Friends
9am Infomercials
9.30 Les Mills Core
10am Home And Away PG
10.30 Shortland Street PGV
11am The Middle
11.20 Charmed PG
12.15 Heroes PG
1.15 The Drew Barrymore Show PG
2.15 The Mindy Project PG
2.40 Superstore PG
3.10 Bob Hearts Abishola
3.35 Bluey
3.40 Mystic PG
4.10 The Parker Andersons PG
4.35 Amelia Parker PG
5pm The Simpsons PGV
5.30 Friends

THREE

5pm Gold Rush PG
6pm Newshub Live At 6pm
7pm The Project
7.30 Married At First Sight Australia PG
Twelve couples try to make their marriages work, despite meeting for the first time on their wedding day.
9pm Sort Your Life Out UK PG
A family is helped to declutter, by laying out the entire contents of their home. They decide what to keep and what to lose.
10.10 Newshub Late
10.40 Hawaii Five-0 M
11.40 Yard Crashers
THURSDAY
12.05 Infomercials
5.30 AM Early
6am AM
9am Infomercials
10.30 Bondi Vet
11.30 Newshub Live At 11:30am
Noon House Hunters International
12.30 House Hunters International
1pm MOVIE Model Citizen M
2019 Thriller.
Two criminals kidnap a fashion model, intent on selling her to human traffickers. Held hostage in a remote cabin, she must do whatever it takes to escape.
Cassie Howarth, Shawn Pyfrom.
3pm Cutthroat Kitchen PG
4pm Yard Crashers
4.30 Newshub Live At 4:30pm
5pm Gold Rush PG

PRIME

5.30 Prime News
News, sport and weather, with updates through the night.
6pm Beijing Winter Olympics Day 12.
Extensive coverage, including all of the New Zealanders in action.
THURSDAY
2.55 Closedown
3am Infomercials
8am Blue's Clues And You
8.25 Football: A-League (HLS) Wellington Phoenix v Brisbane Roar.
9am Football: Women's A-League (HLS)
10.10 3rd Rock From The Sun PGC
Dick and Harry tumble down an air-shaft, prompting a televised search and rescue; Tommy decides to hawk souvenirs.
10.40 The Late Show With Stephen Colbert PG
11.35 Royal Pains PGC
The wife of a US senator calls Hank and Divya to perform a physical on her teenaged son; Evan attempts to recruit more clients.
12.30 Parks And Recreation PGC
Leslie organises a Galentine's Day to find a replacement for Ann; Tom and Ben try to finalise a deal on tents for the concert.
1pm Beijing Winter Olympics (HLS) Day 12.
2.15 Beijing Winter Olympics Day 13.
5.30 Prime News

MAORI TV

5pm Pukana
5.30 Te Pou Herenga O Kia Aroha
6pm Te Arawa
6.30 Te Ao Marama
7pm Waiata Nation
7.30 5 Minutes Of Fame
8.30 MOVIE Beauty Shop M
2005 Comedy. Unable to tolerate her obnoxious boss, a hairstylist leaves her job and opens a beauty shop.
Queen Latifah.
10.20 Sidewalk Karaoke
10.50 Te Ao Marama
11.20 Closedown
THURSDAY
6.30 Pipi Ma
6.35 Waiata Mai
6.45 Takaro Tribe
7am Taki Atu Taki Mai
7.10 Te Nutube
7.20 Kia Mau
7.30 Potae Pai
7.40 Smooth
7.50 He Rourou
8am Polyfest
8.30 Oranga Ngakau
9.30 Whanau Bake-Off
10am Easy Eats
10.30 Toi Te Ora
11am Sidewalk Karaoke
11.30 Shear Bro
Noon Te Ao Tapatahi
12.30 He Aha To Say?
1pm Uka
1.30 Toku Reo
2.30 Ako
3.30 Waiata Mai
3.45 Takaro Tribe
4pm Taki Atu Taki Mai
4.10 Te Nutube
4.20 Kia Mau
4.30 Potae Pai
4.40 Smooth
4.50 He Rourou
5pm Polyfest
5.30 Te Pou Herenga O Kia Aroha



Under the Vines 8.30pm on TVNZ 1
Starstruck 9pm on TVNZ 2
The Project 7pm on Three

CHOICE

5pm Mysteries At The Museum PG
6pm American Restoration
6.30 Forged In Fire PG
7.30 North America With Simon Reeve PG
8.30 Deadliest Catch: Dungeon Cove PG
9.30 The Misadventures Of Romesh Raganathan PG
10.30 Forged In Fire PG
11.30 Mysteries At The Museum PGC
THURSDAY
12.30 Adam And Poh's Malaysia In Australia PG
1am Rick Stein's Cornwall
1.30 American Restoration PG
2am ChoccyWoccyDoodah
3am Escape To The Chateau DIY
4am Deadliest Catch: Dungeon Cove PG
5am Mysteries At The Museum PG
6am ChoccyWoccyDoodah
7am Adam And Poh's Malaysia In Australia PG
7.30 Rick Stein's Cornwall
8am Escape To The Chateau DIY
9am BBQ Pitt Masters PG
10am Mysteries At The Museum PG
11am Forged In Fire PG
Noon North America With Simon Reeve PG
1pm Deadliest Catch: Dungeon Cove PG
2pm The Misadventures Of Romesh Raganathan PG
3pm Escape To The Chateau DIY
4pm Rick Stein's Long Weekends
5pm Mysteries At The Museum PGC

SKY SPORT 1

5.30 Gallagher Premiership (RPL) Saracens v Harlequins.
7.30 Six Nations (HLS) France v Ireland. From Paris.
8pm Six Nations (HLS) Wales v Scotland.
8.30 Playmakers Rugby Stories
9pm Playmakers Flashback
11pm Aotearoa Rugby Pod
11.30 Gallagher Premiership (RPL) Saracens v Harlequins.
THURSDAY
1.30 Six Nations (HLS) Wales v Scotland.
2am Six Nations (RPL) Italy v England.
6am Gallagher Premiership (RPL) Saracens v Harlequins.
8am Playmakers Rugby Stories
8.30 Playmakers Flashback
10.30 Best Of Super Rugby (RPL) Aotearoa 2021. Final: Crusaders v Chiefs.
1pm Golf: Challenge Tour (HLS) Dimension Data Pro-Am.
1.30 Gallagher Premiership (RPL) Leicester v Northampton.
3.30 Gallagher Premiership (RPL) Saracens v Harlequins.
5.30 Six Nations (HLS) Wales v Scotland.

SKY 5

5pm Storage Wars PGL
5.30 Pawn Stars PG
6pm Ice Road Truckers PGL
7pm RBT MC
The team goes behind police lines to work against drink driving.
7.30 The Mentalist MVC
8.30 FBI MV
9.30 Lethal Weapon 16VLSC
10.30 Person Of Interest M
11.30 Mountain Men PG
THURSDAY
12.30 Wheel Of Fortune
1am Jeopardy!
1.25 RBT MC
1.50 Lethal Weapon 16VLSC
2.35 FBI MV
3.30 Ice Road Truckers PGL
4.20 Person Of Interest M
5.10 The Mentalist MVC
6am Jeopardy!
6.25 Wheel Of Fortune
6.45 Pawn Stars PG
7.10 Storage Wars PGL
7.35 Mountain Men PG
8.25 RBT MC
8.50 Ice Road Truckers PGL
9.40 The Mentalist MVC
10.30 Person Of Interest M
11.30 Pawn Stars PG
Noon Jeopardy!
12.25 Wheel Of Fortune
12.50 FBI MV
1.40 Lethal Weapon 16VLSC
2.30 The Mentalist MVC
3.20 Mountain Men PG
4.10 Jeopardy!
4.35 Wheel Of Fortune
5pm Storage Wars PGL
5.30 Pawn Stars PG

PAY TV

MOVIES PREMIERE

8.30 Four Good Days MVLSC
2019 Drama. A 31-year-old heroin addict begs her estranged mother for help with fighting a fierce battle against the demons that have derailed her life.
Mila Kunis, Glenn Close.
10.15 Archenemy 16VLC 2020
Action. Joe Manganiello, Skylan Brooks.
11.45 Target Number One 16VLC 2020 Thriller.
Josh Hartnett, Antoine Olivier Pilon.
THURSDAY
1.47 Mortal Kombat 18VLC
2021 Action. Lewis Tan, Jessica McNamee.
3.33 Savage 16VLC 2019 Crime Drama. Jake Ryan, John Tui.
5.09 Chaos Walking MV 2021
Sci-fi. Tom Holland, Daisy Ridley.
6.54 The King Of Staten Island 16L 2020 Comedy.
Pete Davidson, Marisa Tomei.
9.07 The Marksman MVL 2021
Action. Liam Neeson, Kathryn Winnick.
10.52 Outback MVL 2020 Thriller.
Lauren Lofberg, Taylor Wiese.
12.16 A Quiet Place Part II MVL 2021 Thriller.
1.50 Penguin Bloom ML 2020 Drama.
3.22 Dreamland 16VLS 2020 Drama.
5pm Alone 16VL 2020 Thriller.

DISCOVERY

5.40 Fast N' Loud MLC Big Red Caddy: Part Two.
6.35 Homestead Rescue: Raney Ranch PG On Thin Ice.
7.30 Homestead Rescue: Raney Ranch PG Count Your Blessings.
8.30 Alaskan Bush People PG Growing Pains.
9.30 Barnwood Builders PG
10.30 Moonshiners MLC
11.25 Naked And Afraid MLC
THURSDAY
12.15 Building Off The Grid PG
1.05 How The Universe Works PG
1.55 Deadliest Catch PG
3.35 Yukon Men MLC
4.25 Bering Sea Gold MLC
5.15 Outback Opal Hunters PG
6.05 How Do They Do It? PG
6.30 Pool Kings PG
6.55 You Have Been Warned PG
7.45 Building Off The Grid PG
8.35 Top Gear: Ambitious But Rubbish PG
9.25 Fast N' Loud PG
10.20 Homestead Rescue: Raney Ranch PG
11.15 Alaskan Bush People PG
12.10 How Do They Do It? PG
12.35 Pool Kings PG
1.05 How The Universe Works PG
2pm Naked And Afraid MLC
2.55 Outback Opal Hunters PG
3.50 Deadliest Catch MLC
4.45 Bering Sea Gold MLC
5.40 Fast N' Loud MLC

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Happy to share their love of the water



SURFING JOY: Tama Wirepa catches a wave at Sunday's adaptive surfing day run by Gisborne Boardriders Club and Parafed. Origins of Light picture by Don Pearson

SURFING by Jack Malcolm

TEN budding surfers and their whanau took to the water on Sunday for the adaptive surfing day run by Gisborne Boardriders Club and Parafed.

With the event in its third year, club surfing development officer Flo Bub said it was exciting to see familiar faces and families.

"It's just awesome to be able to give people the opportunity to experience surfing and our love for the water," Bub said.

He estimated more than half the participants were returnees from previous years.

Tricky windy conditions from Cyclone Dovi didn't make it easy, but the waves were still "perfect" and everyone had a lot of fun, he said.

The club had nine volunteer coaches on hand.

Bub said a personal highlight was being able to see Gisborne Boardriders' growth as a club.

"The club is building its

capabilities and it doesn't matter who's running it . . . (what matters is) seeing that we do our upskilling workshops and that they run really well."

Parafed regional development co-ordinator Lou Ellery said the day was always a highlight for participants. Some were already counting down to next year.

"We're quite lucky in Gisborne that people are so good at supporting us . . . and giving these kids an opportunity they might not otherwise have."

Parafed was always eager for clubs and organisations who might be interested in collaborating to reach out, she said.

"Any sports organisation that's thinking about having an adaptive session, we're happy to equip members."

They're also always on the lookout for new members from the physically disabled community who want to get involved.

Renouf scores 61-ball ton

Defending champions show good late-season form

CRICKET by Ben O'Brien-Leaf

HIGH School Old Boys Presidents are starting to get it together.

The defending champions of Poverty Bay Senior B Grade 30-over club cricket and holders of the Hope Cup beat Mark Naden's Champion College by 94 runs on Saturday.

Leg-spinning all-rounder Jarrod Renouf scored his maiden century off only 61 balls — he hit five sixes and 11 fours — from No.1 before he was caught and bowled by Champion captain Hamish Swann off the last ball before the drinks break for 101.

The Bollywood HSOB Presidents (10 competition points) still trail the Civil Project Solutions Ngatapa Green Caps (25pts), Rawhiti Legal OBR (19) and Horouta Te Waka (15). Behind them are Champion (6pts) and the Gisborne Boys' High School second 11 (1pt).

Presidents skipper and wicketkeeper Ollie Needham won the toss on Nelson Park artificial pitch No.3 and chose to bat. He shared a 136-run opening stand with Renouf.

Needham retired on 28. Both second-drop Jeff Chambers and No.7 Jason Lines made 22 in Presidents' total of 212-9 in 29.1 overs. Unusually, in a limited-overs match, HSOB declared their innings closed with five balls remaining; hence Champion spearhead Connor Starck's figures of 2-25 off 5.1 overs.

Aiden Armstrong (2-19 off 3 overs) and Joe Singh (2-31) were the college's seventh and sixth options, while Starck's new-ball partner Taye McGuinness and first-change Swann both bowled out, conceding 52 and 50 respectively, in Champion's all-medium-pace attack.

Coach Naden said: "Jarrod Renouf made us pay for dropped chances and Ollie retired, but we bowled the rest of them out for 76 in 14.1 overs, in 31-degree heat. Catches win matches and if we'd held just one to stop Jarrod's hard-hit ton, we would've been well in the hunt. The footwork of our batsmen showed huge improvement from our last game, against Ngatapa, in which we were bowled out for 39 in 22.2 overs."

Swann led by example in the run-chase, punishing the bad delivery with eight boundaries in his 47 from 61 balls

at No.1. David Milne struck six fours in 28 balls for 31, having come in at No.6. It was his first game of cricket since he turned out in Eastern Suburbs' win against Onslow in Wellington premier grade play in 2006.

Milne was the last man to fall, Champion reaching 118-5 in 30 overs.

As HSOB opening bat and wicketkeeper, Ollie Needham had the best seat in the house for three-quarters of the match: "Champion batted with patience and, at times, aggression, as with Connor's superb pull-shot off the best bowler of the day, Jason Lines (1-12 off six overs), and a lovely late-cut from Hamish off Mike Francis in his excellent, composed innings of 47.

"After a long break from the game, David Milne showed that class is permanent, with excellent footwork in his busy cameo.

"The young Champion team hung in and pegged us back after the first drinks break, when it looked as if 250-plus was on the cards."

Renouf and Swann were, according to CricHQ, their sides' MVPs (most valuable players).

Swann said: "We were happy to welcome Charlie Whitfield into our first 11. He had a great game, saved a lot of runs on the boundary and just has a great attitude."

NGATAPA deserve more credit than they'd ever take.

The competition leaders beat Horouta Te Waka by five wickets on Nelson Park 2 through the quality of at least three strong contributors in each innings.

Horouta captain Mel Knight won the toss and elected to bat and, although her crew made a fair fist of things (165-7 in 30 overs), three solid seamers came to the party for the Green Caps.

Zac Borrie (3-48) and fellow opening bowler Ryan West (1-4) both bowled out, while their captain and first-change Mike Gibson took 2-43 in five overs.

Special mention must be made of West. To concede only four runs in six overs — four of those being maidens — is an effort worthy of the local premier grade's best pacemen.

Ngatapa won the teams' first meeting this season by seven wickets, having

bowled out Horouta for 124 in 24.1 overs on Harry Barker Reserve's tiny practice-wicket boundaries.

As No.1 Grant Walsh (33), first-drop Borrie (32) and Gibson (20 not out) at No.5 had stepped up for the Caps with the bat in Round 4, so the right-hand/left-hand opening pair of Charles Morrison (68no) and Richard Briant (26), and Walsh (24 at No.4), made hay on this occasion.

Right-arm and left-arm finger-spinners Knight (2-33 off 5.4 overs) and Clarence Campbell (2-37 off five) were The Waka's best with the ball and Horouta played enterprising cricket.

Aman Kamboj just pipped Morrison as the CricHQ MVP of the match. Second-drop Kamboj hit three sixes and five fours in his 61 runs from 54 balls in 66 minutes at the crease.

Te Waka No.2 Vishal Singh (38 off 31 balls with two sixes and four fours in 49 minutes) set an aggressive batting tone for the Horouta innings.

First-drop Kayley Knight (23 off 60 in 79 minutes) featured in partnerships of note (27 and 62) with Horouta's two big hitters, Singh and Kamboj.

Mel Knight said: "It was important to us to see West off with only one wicket. He was the only pace bowler on the day to find the right length — he was really accurate.

"Vishal's 38 was his best knock for us this season. He showed patience in not trying to go after West and instead profited from the other bowlers. I wouldn't have wanted to get in the way of some of the shots he hit — he smoked them."

Mike Gibson paid tribute to Morrison for carrying his bat in the Ngatapa innings and said his team had put up "a great team performance in a great game of cricket".

GEORGE Gillies is becoming a cricketer of note.

And while the Gisborne Boys' High School second 11 captain couldn't stave off defeat against Craig Christophers' OBR at the weekend, he made everyone sit up and take notice from the start.

Having won the toss and chosen to bat, Gillies faced the first over from Rawhiti Legal OBR spearhead Lloyd van Zyl and

hit boundaries off the second, fifth and sixth balls of the innings. After one over, the youngest team in senior club cricket were 12-0, then 17-0 two overs in.

Having scored 15 runs, Gillies fell to a great catch at point by Amit Vyas off the bowling of Van Zyl, from the first ball of the third over. The scoring rate then decreased markedly.

Gillies's opening partner, Dylan Torrie, got to 22, and No.5 Lukas Fry top-scored with 26, his highest score to date in club cricket. Fry looks capable of bigger totals. He hit the ball crisply and his innings included four fours.

Second-drop Nathaniel Fearnley also showed promise as he scored 15 runs.

The time is right for the likes of Gillies, Torrie, Fearnley and Fry to kick on. They can, and they should.

GBHS were 118-8 after 30 overs, Van Zyl and Vyas bowling out to take 4-31 and 2-21 respectively.

George Reynolds took 2-15 off five overs. He is always up to the bat, and second-change Johnathan Gray, with his tight line from over the wicket, bowled as well as anyone — he conceded only eight runs in six overs.

OBR wicketkeeper Thom Berry played a match-winning hand with 58 off 41 balls from No.2. He hit two sixes and nine fours in his 70 minutes at the crease. Left-handed first-drop Tim Scrimshaw (19 off 23 in 33 minutes) likewise pushed the score along in a positive manner.

The second-wicket stand between Berry and Scrimshaw was broken when Riker Rolls, fielding at mid-off, went sideways, gathered the ball off Scrimshaw's straight drive from the off-spin bowling of Gillies and — with a remarkable pick-up and throw — hit the stumps direct to run out Scrimshaw at the non-striker's end.

OBR's Van Zyl, Berry and Reynolds beat Gisborne Boys' High School's Fry in the MVP stakes.

Gillies said: "That by Riker was a very good piece of fielding.

"With the bat, we made a good start. Dylan stayed in for a while and built a partnership with Lukas, who made much-needed runs, but OBR bowled and fielded well.

"They were just the better team."

AROUND THE GREENS

Club bowls news

Gisborne

GISBORNE Bowling Club holds its marquee event this weekend with the Burton Cup at stake.

This was first contested in 1910, and the tournament continued during two world wars. It has been cancelled just four times.

It is now played over two days in the classic fours format, with 16 mixed teams of four. All teams must play singles, pairs, triples and fours.

On the sponsorship front, the Eastland

Group has contributed prize money and Gear Meat will keep hunger pangs at bay.

All 16 entries will be worth watching, and vaccinated spectators are welcome to watch the play of some of the district's top bowlers, as well as those visitors who enjoy the event so much they keep coming back.

Last year's winning skip, Queenie Takurua, has her team back to defend their title.

Previous winners and hopefuls will be just as determined to get their hands on the magnificent Burton Cup.

Poverty Bay

THE third and final night of Poverty Bay Bowling Club's Twilight Triples was held on a hot evening.

Play did not start until 5.30pm in the Star Service Centre-sponsored event.

Two of the teams were pairs.

Two teams won both of their games but the overall winners, with eight ends, were Dave Hooper (skip), Diane Doyle (director) and June Kinder (lead).

Second, with six ends, were Kim Walters (s) and Anna Colvin.

SPORT BRIEFS

Guidelines for Omicron threat

POVERTY BAY Cricket Association has announced logistical guidelines ahead of this weekend as the threat of Omicron remains in the community.

In a statement, the association said the decision was made with "significant consideration" for player wellbeing.

"These are not ordinary times that we are operating under, and it is important that all of the community understand our desire for cricket to be played, but widen this understanding to the fact that at times this may not be possible, either for an individual game, a competition, or across the region," the statement said.

"Physical activity and organised sport are crucial to personal wellbeing and, as such, every effort will be made to ensure that opportunities for the playing of cricket will continue."

Any team requesting an abandonment must contact Poverty Bay Cricket. More details are on Poverty Bay Cricket Association's Facebook page.

Djokovic will forego slams

NOVAK Djokovic will not defend his Wimbledon or French Open titles if the tournaments require mandatory vaccination for competitors.

"Yes, that is the price that I'm willing to pay," the world No.1 told the BBC when asked if he would sacrifice participating in the competitions.

"I say that everybody has the right to choose or act or say or feel whatever is appropriate for them."

The 34-year-old, who is not vaccinated against COVID-19, said he would forego the tournaments "because the principles of decision making on my body are more important than any title or anything else. 'I'm trying to be in tune with my body as much as I possibly can,' he added. Djokovic also distanced himself from the anti-vaccination movement, despite being deported from Melbourne ahead of the Australian Open last month amid concerns about his vaccine status.

- AAP

Extra security for threats

CANADIAN Formula One driver Nicholas Latifi says he had to hire extra security after receiving death threats following the controversial season-ending Abu Dhabi Grand Prix.

The 26-year-old crashed in the closing laps of the race, triggering a safety car that turned the result on its head.

An altered re-start procedure allowed Red Bull's Max Verstappen to pass Mercedes rival Lewis Hamilton on the last lap and deny the Briton an unprecedented eighth title.

Latifi received a barrage of online abuse after the race, which included death threats. "Yeah, it sounds funny, it sounds silly but we definitely did take threats seriously," Latifi told reporters following the launch of the Williams team's new 2022 livery.

Latifi addressed the abuse in a statement he published on his website last year, saying he hoped to spark a conversation about the "drastic consequences" of online bullying.

He received a flood of supportive messages including from Hamilton.

"Lewis did send me a message... just before I released the statement," said Latifi declining to elaborate on what it was. "I did get some messages of support from other team members at Mercedes as well."

"Obviously, the whole outcry (of) support on social media from multiple drivers and teams across so many different disciplines was really nice to see, encouraging to see. 'Obviously everyone agreed with the whole sentiment and message.'" - AAP

PSG edge over Real

KYLIAN Mbappe has struck deep into stoppage to earn Paris Saint-Germain a 1-0 win over Real Madrid in the first leg of their Champions League last 16 clash while Manchester City belted Sporting 5-0 to all but seal their tie.

In Paris, Lionel Messi had a penalty saved by Thibaut Courtois in the 62nd minute before the hosts finally scored late for a deserved victory.

Substitute Neymar made the goal with a backheel and Mbappe slipped the ball under Courtois, who had previously looked in unbeatable form.

The Belgium goalkeeper had made several excellent saves including a brilliant stop low to his left to keep out Messi's penalty just after the hour.

PSG dominated throughout against a Real side that appeared happy to return home to Madrid with a clean sheet, knowing that would have them in the driving seat with the away goals rule scrapped. - AAP

Global champion every two years

RUGBY

RUGBY could be a step closer to crowning a world champion every two years with reports of an overhaul to the sport's global calendar.

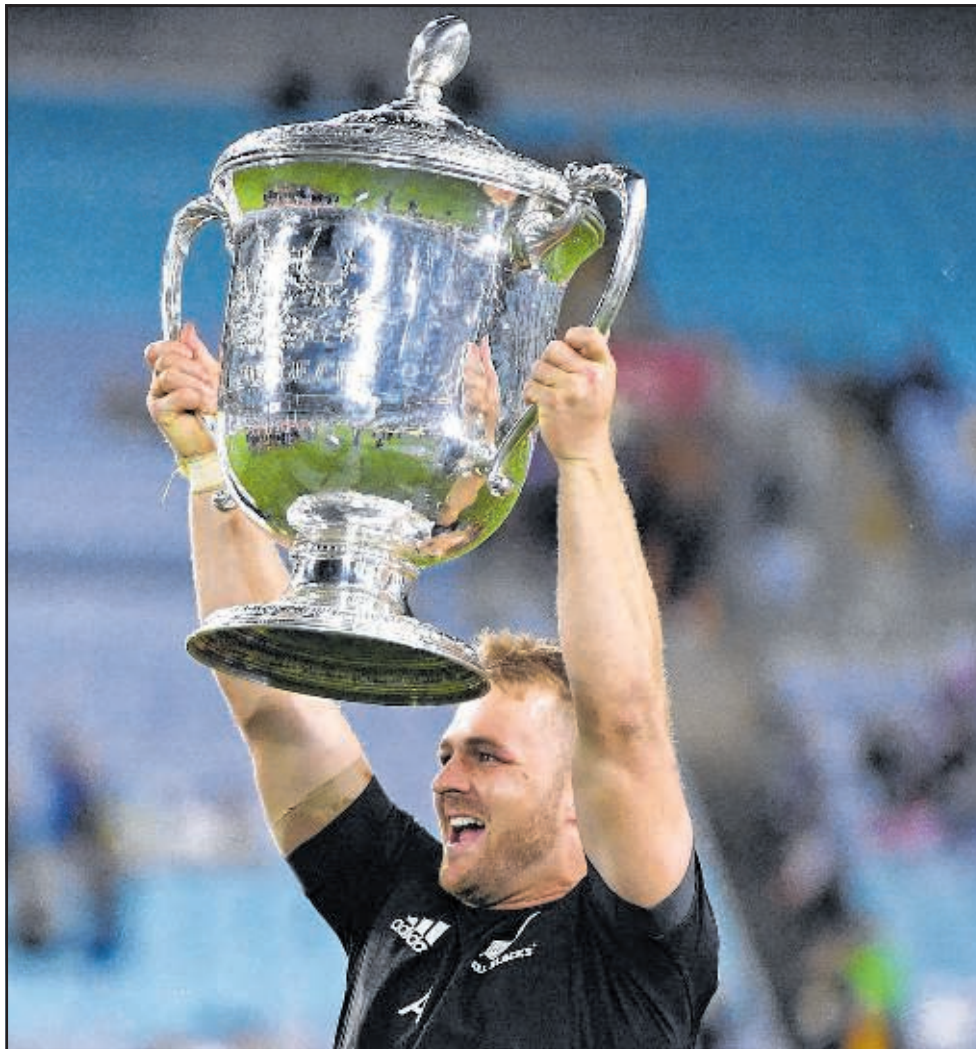
The Sydney Morning Herald reports bosses from the Six Nations and Rugby Championship are set to meet in London next month to begin talks about a new World Nations Championship.

The competition, which would take place between World Cups, would be similar to cricket's World Test Championship where points are compiled before a final at the end of the year, the newspaper reports. According to the SMH, it would involve countries from the Rugby Championship, Six Nations and two other nations, such as Fiji and Japan with a winner being crowned world champions.

Teams would accrue points from their respective competitions, such as Rugby Championship matches, as well as from June-July and end of year tours.

A second tier would also be created and would involve promotion-relegation.

"If we can work together for an outcome that produces a global champion every two years, engages our fan bases more than we do now and throughout the year, and provides a pathway for rugby's emerging nations to improve and progress, then we can be in a much better position to grow our game and take it to the next level," SANZAAR boss Brendan Morris told the SMH. Last year World Rugby chief executive Alan Gilpin caused a stir when he told the Telegraph the global governing body was considering reducing the four-yearly gap between World Cups to two. But this new proposal would be a different structure and doesn't change the global calendar too drastically outside of a World Cup year. - NZ Herald



NEEDING SPACE: All Black Sam Cane and his merry men may need to dust off another space in the trophy cabinet as negotiations on a new World Test Championship continue in London between the Six Nations and Rugby Championship contenders. AAP picture

Club members concerned for Inter-island travel

FROM PAGE 28

"The clear message we are now receiving from the membership is that inter-island travel is too much of a risk in the current environment.

"Of particular concern to them was the potential of any North Island participant to have to self-isolate in Christchurch for seven to 10 days if they caught Covid or were a close contact, and the logistics and cost of that for younger athletes who did not have their parents travelling with them."

McClintock said the escalation in Covid numbers further increased the chance of a partial or complete cancellation of the national championships at the last minute.

"It is clear that the most appropriate decision now is to cancel the event and look to support smaller, localised events for the membership instead."

Entries for the championships were sitting at 50 to 60 percent down on normal levels.

Waikanae head coach Cory Hutchings

said the decision to cancel was hugely disappointing for the athletes.

"The kids have put in all that training, for two years now, and had the nationals cancelled.

"A lot of other sports and organisations are in the same boat. It's the world we live in.

"But the season's not all over yet.

"There's to be an eastern regional event of some kind at Mt Maunganui this weekend, and the high-performance selection carnival will be held in Auckland the following weekend.

"We'll have quite a few athletes involved this weekend and a few the following weekend as well.

"That's a positive, I guess, but it's really disappointing the nationals are off. The kids and I were all really looking forward to them."

Midway head coach Matt Sutton said he was "disappointed but not surprised".

"I don't think Surf Life Saving New Zealand had a choice, given the Covid restrictions and risks of travelling," he

said.

"It's just another year of not being able to finish the season off the way they would like.

"But I would say the kids that we coach are pretty resilient and enjoy coming down to training, regardless of the nationals.

"They enjoy the process, and I'm confident that we won't lose anyone from the sport."

Midway will also have some athletes competing at the Mount and at the high-performance carnival. Riversun Wainui had not intended to send athletes to the national championships this year as they continue their rebuilding phase.

"But we're gutted for the kids who've trained so hard from the other clubs," Wainui head coach Dion Williams said.

"I know last year's cancellation caused some of our athletes to pull the pin," he said.

"I just hope that this latest disappointment will not cause more to think again about being surf lifeguards."

BIG AIR SILVER

Sadowski-Synnott has three medals at age 20

SNOWBOARDING

IN just her second Winter Olympics Zoi Sadowski-Synnott has become the youngest Kiwi to earn a complete set of medals.

But that silver lining means her quest for an equally historic second gold will have to wait until 2026.

The snowboarding sensation was forced to settle for silver in today's big air final in Beijing, upstaged by defending champion Anna Gasser.

The Austrian seized gold in a breathtaking climax at Big Air Shougang stadium, becoming the first woman to land a 1260 (three-and-a-half revolutions while in the air) in Olympic competition with the penultimate jump in the final.

That left top qualifier Sadowski-Synnott with one last shot to retake the lead but, unlike in her slopestyle victory last week, she was unable to respond and couldn't quite connect on a 1260 of her own.

The silver medal will still sit triumphantly alongside her slopestyle gold and the big air bronze she claimed four years ago, giving Sadowski-Synnott the majority share of the five medals New Zealand have won at the Winter Olympics.

Nothing about her performance in Beijing suggests the 20-year-old will be stopping at three, especially with Gasser proving an inspiration at 30.

Sadowski-Synnott said after qualifying that since the top riders all knew one another's best tricks they felt genuine joy when their rivals landed a jump that had taken countless hours of hard work to master.

Standing at the top of the ramp after Gasser had done just that to storm into the gold-medal position, any joy for Sadowski-Synnott was put on hold as she prepared for

her final action of these Games.

But after barely failing to land her attempt at a 1260, a jump she completed while winning double gold at the X Games last month, it was clear the Kiwi was as excited as anyone with Gasser's performance.

The pair exchanged a couple of big hugs while the scores were confirmed, Gasser taking gold with a combined 185.50 from her two best efforts as Sadowski-Synnott earned silver with 177.00.

It looked like that order would be reversed after the first two runs, with Sadowski-Synnott quickly carrying over the form that saw her take top spot in qualifying.

The Wānaka local watched her 11 rivals jump first and then immediately flew above them all on the leaderboard, her frontside double cork 1080 coming with huge air, a long grab and a silky smooth landing, riding away with a wave to the Kiwi contingent in the crowd.

It was the same trick that had set alight qualifying, only the judges were even more impressed, the 93.25 score topping her best of 91.00 yesterday.

Only Gasser (90.00) was near Sadowski-Synnott after the first round and she kept up the pressure with a backside 1080 to earn a second-round score of 86.75.

Sadowski-Synnott soon replied to retake the lead by the finest of margins, putting down a backside 1080 that was perhaps safer but no less sleek, sneaking ahead of Gasser by a quarter of a point.

The Austrian then showed just why she was the defending champion, as her unprecedented jump received a score of 95.50 to leave Sadowski-Synnott in need of perfection.

That was a level the Kiwi, for once, wasn't



CELEBRATIONS ALL ROUND: Zoi Sadowski-Synnott of New Zealand celebrates her silver medal in the women's snowboard big air finals of the 2022 Winter Olympics. She holds three of the five medals ever won by New Zealand. – AP picture

quite able to achieve, but it will surely be a matter of when and not if Sadowski-Synnott stands atop an Olympic podium once more.

New Zealand won't have to wait very long for another shot at the podium in Beijing, with Ben Barclay tonight booking himself a spot in the men's freeski slopestyle final.

The 20-year-old impressed in both runs during qualifying, landing 1620s to conclude two technical efforts that produced scores of 76.00 and 77.71.

Either of those runs would have been

enough for a top-12 spot he needed to reach the final and the second score saw Barclay finish seventh in a 29-man field.

Compatriot Finn Bilous wasn't quite so fortunate, coming 15th with a best effort of 68.01 after finishing 13th in the event four years ago.

Alpine skier Alice Robinson also concluded her Olympic campaign with a 25th-place finish in the downhill final, finishing a disappointing Games with a creditable result in her third-favourite discipline. – NZ Herald

WEATHER FOR TOMORROW

16 Feb, 2022

GISSBORNE CITY

TOMORROW morning min 15 max 23 Partly cloudy with a few early showers. Dying southwesterly.	FRIDAY morning min 13 max 24 Mainly fine with northeasterlies.	SATURDAY morning min 13 max 25 A few showers. Northwesterlies developing.
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GISSBORNE REGION

Isolated showers becoming confined to the ranges in the afternoon. Southwesterlies dying out.	Mainly fine but isolated afternoon and evening showers about the ranges. Northeasterlies developing.	A few showers, mainly about the ranges. Northeasterlies tend northwest.
---	--	---

SUNDAY
Showers, clearing later in the day and becoming fine. Northerlies.

GISSBORNE SUN PROTECTION ALERT
9:25 AM – 1:00 PM
PROTECTION REQUIRED
Slip, Stop, Slap and Wrap
Data provided by NIWA

NZ SITUATION
A ridge over the country, shifts to the North Island on Friday, while a front approaches the South Island from the west. The front moves over the South Island on Saturday followed by southwesterlies, then over the North Island on Sunday.

WIND km/h
less than 30
30 to 59
60 or more

SWELL m
e.g. S 1m

FRONTS
high low H L
warm
cold
stationary
occluded

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MIDNIGHT TONIGHT

NOON TOMORROW

GISSBORNE TIDE MOVEMENT

Thursday Feb 17		Friday Feb 18	
am	pm	am	pm
3	6	3	6
9	12	9	12
3	6	3	6
9	12	9	12
3	6	3	6
9	12	9	12

Hicks Bay H 8:09am 8:24pm L 1:48am 2:19pm	Hicks Bay H 8:50am 9:07pm L 2:30am 3:01pm
Waipiro Bay H 7:56am 8:11pm L 1:23am 1:54pm	Waipiro Bay H 8:37am 8:54pm L 2:05am 2:36pm
Tolaga Bay H 7:44am 7:59pm L 1:11am 1:42pm	Tolaga Bay H 8:25am 8:42pm L 1:53am 2:24pm
Gijsborne H 7:23am 7:42pm L 1:07am 1:36pm	Gijsborne H 8:06am 8:26pm L 1:50am 2:20pm
Wairoa H 6:58am 7:24pm L 12:48am 1:17pm	Wairoa H 7:42am 8:08pm L 1:32am 2:02pm

SUN-MOON-MAORI FISHING GUIDE

© OceanFun Publishing www.ofu.co.nz Maori fishing guide by Bill Hohepa

Rise 6:38 am Set 8:05 pm	Rise 6:39 am Set 8:04 pm
Set 6:34 am Rise 8:43 pm	Set 7:39 am Rise 9:10 pm
Best at 1:20 am	Best at 2:07 am
Good	Good

NZ TOMORROW

Auckland	fine	25
Hamilton	fine	26
Tauranga	fine	24
Rotorua	fine	23
Taupo	fine	24
Napier	fine	24
New Plymouth	fine	24
Palmerston North	fine	24
Wellington	fine	22
Christchurch	fine	20
Queenstown	fine	24
Dunedin	fine	21

GISSBORNE READINGS

Taken at the Airport, for the 24 hours to 9am, Wednesday 16 Feb 2022

SUNSHINE hours
On Tuesday, 15 Feb 5.5
To date for February 102.2
Average for February 199.0
To date this year 327.3
To date last year 409.6

WIND km/h
Max gust on Tue 15 Feb S 30

RAINFALL mm
24 hours to 9am, Wed 16 Feb 0.3
To date for February 108.4
Average for February 74.0
To date this year 155.4
To date last year 61.0

EVAPOTRANSPIRATION mm
Daily average for past week 3.8

TEMPERATURE °C
Maximum 20.5
Minimum 9.5
Grass minimum 6.7

BAROMETRIC PRESSURE
At 9am 16 Feb (hPa) 1020.1
At 9am 16 Feb (inches) 30.12

TODAY IN HISTORY

2004 – One of the worst floods to hit Wairarapa in living memory left Martinborough and several small communities under water and cut off. Hundreds of sheep and lambs were washed away before farmers could get them to high ground.

For the latest weather info including Weather Warnings visit metSERVICE.com

WORLD TOMORROW

Adelaide	fine	17	25
Amsterdam	drizzle	10	10
Bangkok	showers	23	29
Beijing	cloudy	-7	1
Berlin	showers	9	11
Brisbane	fine	20	29
Buenos Aires	fine	18	27
Cairo	cloudy	9	20
Canberra	fine	15	31
Cape Town	fine	16	25
Delhi	fine	8	28
Frankfurt	showers	10	14
Geneva	drizzle	7	13
Hong Kong	cloudy	17	19
London	rain	7	11
Los Angeles	fine	8	22
Melbourne	showers	17	24
Moscow	rain	-1	4
New York	rain	7	16
Paris	fine	9	14
Perth	fine	21	37
Singapore	thunder	24	33
Stockholm	rain	-4	1
Suva	showers	24	30
Sydney	fine	19	31
Tokyo	fine	0	10
Toronto	rain	0	2



Kerr scores century to seal win

PAGE 24



Parafed share love of waves

PAGE 25

Cricket.....	24
Cricket.....	25
Rugby.....	26
Snowboarding ...	27

CLUBBIERS GUTTED



CALLED OFF: There was huge disappointment for the surf lifeguards of the district when Surf Life Saving New Zealand yesterday announced the cancellation of the national championships. Scenes like this at a nationals carnival in Gisborne will not be repeated in Christchurch next month. Herald file picture

National championships cancelled

SURF LIFESAVING by Murray Robertson

CANCELLATION of the national surf lifesaving championships is a major disappointment for the district's surf athletes.

The New Zealand Surf Life Saving Championships were to be held at New Brighton, Christchurch, from March 10 to 13 but have been cancelled due to Covid-19.

It is a body blow for dozens of lifeguards from Dawson Building Midway and Kaiaponi Farms Waikanae, coming on top of the cancellation of last year's nationals, also a victim of the pandemic.

Surf Life Saving New Zealand (SLSNZ) national sport manager Lewis McClintock said in a release to the country's lifesaving clubs that it was an "incredibly difficult decision" to cancel again.

"Earlier this month we said it was our intention to continue with the plans to run the event, which we acknowledged would come with significant uncertainty and risks, and potential cancellation further down the track.

"As we navigate the ongoing challenges of operating within the Covid Protection Framework restrictions, it's clear now that the most appropriate decision is to cancel the event and look to

support smaller, localised events for the membership instead."

McClintock said SLSNZ acknowledged that the decision to cancel — along with the numerous other recently modified, postponed or cancelled competitions — would have a negative impact on individuals and clubs.

The entire movement, now and in the future, would be affected.

"We hope that clubbies will support each other and focus on the opportunities still available," he said.

SLSNZ regional and national staff would continue to work closely with local and regional sport committees to find alternatives that met the needs of

members, and that could be resourced appropriately and delivered safely within the Covid-19 restrictions, McClintock said.

"Initial messages from clubs and individuals indicated they wanted to see all efforts taken for the nationals to proceed and for the decision around the Covid risks to be left with clubs and individuals to make.

"Now that clubs, athletes and volunteers have had the opportunity to assess these risk factors, the messaging we are getting has switched in the opposite direction.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26



TE AHO A MĀUI

f @ in | eit.ac.nz

0800 22 55 348

INFO EVENING
THURS 17 FEB
Te Whatukura
4:30pm - 6pm

Angela Tibble | Ngāti Porou

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