GISBORNE’s housing crisis will be addressed through a new strategy to free up land for 5000 houses.

Gisborne District Council’s Future Development Strategy (FDS) has started and will have “a huge influence on Tairawhiti’s growth and housing development over the next 30 years,” the council said.

“Tairawhiti has a housing crisis and the FDS is one of the tools to solve it,” strategy lead Shane McGhie said.

“Working alongside Barker & Associates, who have a proven track record in urban development planning, the council plans to have the strategy completed by the end of the year.

With the population expected to grow in the next 30 years, a recently-completed Housing Business Assessment projects Tairawhiti will need nearly 30 percent more houses in that time. That’s around 5000 new homes.

“Almost half of Tairawhiti’s population doesn’t earn enough money to buy or rent a house,” Mr McGhie said. “This will get worse unless something is done about it.”

“One solution is allowing housing intensification to occur in the right places and in the right way. Redeveloping existing urban areas and building smaller but high-quality dwellings, can bring housing costs down and help create connected communities.”

To make up the existing shortfall and provide for the increased demand, areas need to be identified that are suitable for housing growth.

Once completed, the FDS will map-out where and how different types of development can occur. This will guide how zoning and rules are changed in the Tairawhiti Plan.

Mr McGhie said community involvement was key to this process.

“We need to work together to solve this housing crisis and we’ll be working with iwi and asking for community input throughout the development of the FDS.”

“All this hard mahi is to plan for the best possible outcomes for our community and while the strategy covers residential, commercial, and industrial land, there’s particular focus on providing affordable housing options.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3
OMICRON LOOMING

Early effects being felt in seasonal industries

by Murray Robertson

‘IT’s work as usual for the district’s seasonal industries but Omicron is starting to have an impact on the workforce. Cedenco’s sweetcorn and tomato harvests remain in full swing. “We had our first case of Omicron last week and we’re still operating normally,” Cedenco’s managing director Tim Chrisp said. “As an exempt critical service we have all the safety procedures in place to manage Omicron. While we’re still operating normally we are feeling the impact of an increasing number of virus cases on the processing plant.” Mr Chrisp said they expected to be in this situation for the next 30 days. “We don’t believe we will reach a point where we will be unable to operate.”

As for the season to date, Mr Chrisp said it has been a bit mixed due to the weather events in November and so far in the harvest season. “But the Gisborne team have done well and our January production was 14 percent higher than January last year.” Conoco continues to harvest its squash and this week started its seed maize harvest. “Omicron is definitely affecting our squash harvest — in the fields and in the pack house — and has slowed down production overall,” managing director Omid Badsar said. “As an essential service we have all the necessary procedures in place to protect our staff. There is compulsory mask use in the packhouse and people who are close contacts can still work with a rapid antigen test each day.” Mr Badsar said while the virus had slowed down production “we are ongoing and we are dealing with it as we go”. “We are preparing for all scenarios and we have backup plans in place if needed.”

“On arrival the first fire crew found a smoke-logged building and a fire burning in a kiln,” a FENZ communications spokeswoman said. “The crew called in further appliances.” When the Herald went to print today there were eight fire appliances and tankers on site from the city and the Manutuke and Te Karaka rural brigades, along with a rural fire unit.

Fire comms reported the fire was under control and the building was being ventilated.

“The truck’s we’re using have not been affected at this stage, which is good, and we hope it stays that way.”

“The company will be harvesting maize through into June. Conosi Grain start its harvest next week. Procurement manager Richard Hyland said they have not been impacted by Omicron yet. “It’s just another thing we have to deal with,” chief executive officer Richard Burke said. “It’s not wiping out whole teams, so as long as we keep doing what we are doing, we should be OK.”

Maize producer Viterra started its grain maize harvest yesterday. “We’re not affected by Omicron at this stage,” regional manager Dave Corrin said.

As we go.”

“FIRE and Emergency NZ turned out in force this morning with a “three alarm callout” after a fire started in a kiln at the Wood Engineering Technology plant in Dunstan Road. A FENZ communications spokeswoman said. “The crew called in further appliances.”

Mr Badsar said while the virus had started to affect the truck drivers who cart our maize, so we are concerned what might happen when the virus peaks.

“OMICRON LOOMING

Early effects being felt in seasonal industries"
Inquiry into systemic abuse of Māori starts Monday

THE Māori public hearing of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into systemic abuse in care starts on Monday and goes for two weeks.

The hearing will focus on the lived experiences of whānau Māori who were abused by state and faith-based institutions.

Māori survivors and their whānau from throughout the motu (country) will share their lived experiences of being abused in care, and the ongoing impacts the tikūnō, or abuse, has on them and their whānau.

It will explore the systemic abuse of Māori by state and faith-based care institutions.

It will also investigate why tamariki and vulnerable adult Māori were and continue to be over-represented in care and the ongoing impacts that Māori experience as a result of being abused.

Evidence from rangatahi survivors and multiple generations of whānau, and Māori survivors and advocates will provide their vision of what a transformed care system should look like for Māori.

The hearing was planned to be held at Ōrākei marae in Tāmaki Makaurau.

However, due to Covid-19 Protection Framework restrictions, the Royal Commission and Ngāti Whānua Orākei have decided the hearing cannot be open to the general public.

Witnesses will provide evidence remotely by video link and the hearing will be livestreamed publicly on the Māori public hearing webpage bit.ly/3yF7y7Z.

Te Hōkai Male Survivors Tairāwhiti will be hosting a viewing of the first day and then by request.

Te Hōkai is located at 73 Peel Street below Tauawhi Men’s Centre.

Te Hōkai and Whānau Ahurawa Mōwai Gisborne Rape Crisis is offering support to anyone needing it.

* Te Hōkai Male Survivors Tairāwhiti can be contacted at 027 412 5485, winton@matariwihiti.nz or through the website www.malesurvortairawhiti.nz

* Whānau Ahurawa Mōwai Gisborne Rape Crisis can be contacted at (06) 867-9967, 027-285-4656, info@whaairoa.mario.nz or www.rapecrisis.gis.nz

No shame in getting Covid

“By reporting your result, you are helping your community”
— Hauora Tairawhiti chief Jim Green

There are 155 new cases of Covid-19 in Tairawhiti today.

Hauora Tairawhiti district health board confirmed active cases numbers at 722, with three people in hospital.

Hauora Tairawhiti chief executive Jim Green says it is more important than ever to report a positive result.

“By reporting your positive result you are helping our community beat Covid. You are slowing the spread and helping us understand the true spread of the virus,” he said.

“There is no shame in being positive for Covid-19 and as a community we must remove any stigma attached to this.

“We will only achieve this by working together.

“I know some people are also afraid to report their result because they might lose their jobs.

“I appeal to employers to reassure their staff that this will not happen.

“You can report your result through your MyCovid Record, or by calling 0800-222-478, option 3.

“It may take up to 24 hours to get a text with confirmation.

“Today marks the first day of the rapid antigen test kits collection centre at its new location at the old railway station on the beach end of Grey Street.

The Salvation Army centre is now closed. For help or support, reach out through your GP or go online to the Covid hub covid19.health.nz/advice/help-available.

For where to get vaccinated go online to bit.ly/3o383ZP.

For where to get tested go online to bit.ly/3byD9bl.

For a Covid plan, go to www.covid19.govt.nz/be-prepared.
Gisborne on the radar with 5G rollout

by Andrew Ashton

MAHIA will be the launchpad for a mission to the moon in just two months time.

Rocket Lab chief executive Peter Beck yesterday announced a launch window of May 4 to May 15 for the mission, which will come from the company’s Mahia launch complex at Onenui Station.

The mission, named CAPSTONE, will be Rocket Lab’s first launch to the moon, and will be a precursor to returning humans to the moon.

CAPSTONE (the Cislunar Autonomous Positioning System Technology Operations and Navigation Experiment) is part of NASA’s Artemis program, which includes landing the first woman and the first person of colour on the moon and establishing a long-term presence there.

Described by NASA as a “microwave oven–sized” 25kg satellite created by Advanced Space, CAPSTONE will be launched on an Electron launch vehicle and deployed from Rocket Lab’s Photon spacecraft platform.

The satellite will test a unique, elliptical lunar orbit.

As a precursor for Gateway, an international and commercial moon-orbiting outpost that is also part of NASA’s Artemis program, CAPSTONE intends to help reduce risk for future spacecraft by validating innovative navigation technologies and verifying the dynamics of this “halo-shaped” orbit.

Rocket Lab used its Photon spacecraft as a “trans-lunar injection stage” on the mission to place a satellite on a trajectory that will take it beyond Earth orbit to the moon.

It will be the third time Photon has been deployed but for the first time it has gone further than low-Earth orbit — 384,000km more.

“From a launch perspective the mission is effectively the same as usual,” a Rocket Lab spokeswoman told The Herald.

“The key difference is the use of Photon as an additional upper stage to transport the CAPSTONE satellite to a ballistic lunar transfer orbit to put it on a trajectory to the moon.”

After lifting off on Electron to an initial elliptical low-Earth orbit, Photon will separate and use its 3D printed hydraulic rudder to provide in-space propulsion to allow CAPSTONE to break free of Earth’s gravity and set a course for the moon.

After deploying the CAPSTONE satellite, Photon will continue on its own trajectory to conduct a lunar fly-by, while CAPSTONE will use its own propulsion system to enter a cislunar orbit.

Following a three-to-four-month trip to the Moon, the CAPSTONE CubeSat will enter a near rectilinear halo orbit (NRHO), which is a highly elliptical orbit over the Moon’s poles. 

During its six-month primary mission in orbit around the moon, it will validate the propulsion requirements for maintaining this type of orbit as predicted by models, reducing logistical uncertainties for future missions. It will also test the accuracy of innovative spacecraft-to-spacecraft navigation solutions and demonstrate capabilities for commercial support of future lunar missions.

“It’s the step before the leap into the next era of lunar and deeper space exploration,” a Rocket Lab statement said.

No injuries in crash

by Murray Robertson

THERE were no significant injuries in a two-vehicle crash yesterday at the Grey Stones Road roundabout. One of the vehicles came to rest against a wall of a business premises at the corner.

The crash happened at about 2.50pm.

“A person from each car was checked over at the scene by St John ambulance officers for minor injuries,” an emergency services spokesman said.

“THERE were no significant injuries in a two-vehicle crash yesterday at the Grey Stones Road roundabout. One of the vehicles came to rest against a wall of a business premises at the corner. The crash happened at about 2.50pm.

“The intersection remained open while the crash scene was cleared.
Tough patrol season coming to an end

ANARU Tawhara, 28, shearer, was told to keep his hands to himself when he faced sentence on three charges in Gisborne District Court — assault on a person in a family relationship, possession of cannabis plant and failure to answer bail.

His counsel Mana Taumaunu said the offending was at a lower end of the spectrum. He sought a sentence of community work and supervision, to give Tawhara an opportunity to address the underlying issue of addiction.

Police Inspector Tawhara would also face the court on new family violence charges on March 17. Mr Taumaunu said Tawhara was yet to enter a plea on the new charges, and waiting for them to be dealt with would prolong sentencing on the matter now before the court. They were also family-violence related.

“Anger seems to be an issue,” Judge Turitea Bolstad said.

Tawhara had already benefited from programmes offered by the Family Harm Intervention Court for previous offending for family violence and wilful damage. In less than six months, he was back in court for another similar offence, she said.

She sentenced him to nine months intensive supervision to allow continuation of his rehabilitation. She corrected and discharged him for failing to answer bail.

On November 8, 2020, Tawhara argued with family members, which angered him to the point that he struck his step-father five times on the head, injuring his nose and eye.

In his impact statement, the 58-year-old step-father described Tawhara as “so angry, like never before. … I was scared that he would lose control”. He suffered a bleeding nose and a sore eye. The punches left him feeling unsafe at that address, he said. At the time of Tawhara’s arrest, he was in possession of a cannabis plant.

Judge Bolstad said Tawhara was a single father who had had a good upbringing. He had never been exposed to violence, alcohol or drugs in his childhood.

She told him, “you need to keep your hands to yourself … keep them in your pocket”.

The following appeared in front of Judge Turitea Bolstad in Gisborne District Court on March 2.

A MAN with a long history of drink-driving convictions was told by the judge that the positive changes he had made in his life had saved him from jail.

What could have been a 19-month prison sentence was discounted to six months home detention.

David Thomas Tumataroa faced two charges — breaching a zero alcohol licence (he drove with a breath-alcohol reading of 662 micrograms) and breaching a family protection order.

He pleaded guilty to both. Counsel Daniel Berry said the lead charge was drink-driving on a zero alcohol licence, for which his client had 13 similar convictions.

He proposed a starting point of 16 months imprisonment with an uplift of three months for the breach of family protection order and a month for offending while on bail.

Tumataroa qualified for a discount on this sentence for early guilty pleas, Mr Berry said.

A letter from Tumataroa’s employer — in which the employer described his work experience and skills as hard to come by — was presented to the court.

The probation report also recommended home detention. Judge Turitea Bolstad said the alcohol and drug report stated that Tumataroa had difficulty growing up and became associated with alcohol which resulted in drink-driving convictions.

Judge Bolstad agreed with Mr Berry’s suggested starting point of 16 months imprisonment and uplifted two months for the breach of a protection order and a month for offending while on bail.

This resulted in an end sentence of 19 months imprisonment. She gave him a discount of six-and-a-half months for early guilty pleas. The sentence was then converted to six months home detention, followed by six months post-detention conditions.

Tumataroa was disqualified from driving for 28 days from March 2.

He will be restricted to a zero-alcohol licence for a further three years.

The judge said if it was not for his positive changes, she would have sent him to prison.

Tumataroa said he would work on his issues and attend rehabilitation programmes as directed.

JOHN Thomas Hindrup faced a jail sentence for his third or subsequent drink-driving offence. He was charged with driving with an excess breath-alcohol level of 68mcg in recognition of his guilty plea it was reduced to community detention.

Counsel Elliot Lynch said his client’s high alcohol reading was the issue. Past convictions could be considered moderate because they had significant gaps between them.

He sought a starting point of 12 months imprisonment and asked the court to consider Hindrup’s personal circumstances at the time of the offending.

Hindrup was stopped for a routine check by the police and his breath-alcohol level was more than twice the legal limit. He told the police he was going to get dinner.

He had 12 previous convictions, the last in 2012.

Judge Turitea Bolstad said she accepted the starting point proposed by Mr Lynch. But with respect to Hindrup’s personal circumstances, there was no statement but his own to support his assertion, so there was nothing substantial to justify those circumstances.

The judge set a start point of 12 months imprisonment. Hindrup was given a two-month discount for early guilty pleas.

The sentence was converted to three-and-a-half months community detention and six months supervision. He was disqualified from driving for 28 days.

He will be subject to a 12-month interlock licence and after that will be subject to a zero-alcohol licence for three years.

ANNA Ryoina Kerrisome faced six charges described as “out-of-character behaviour” when she appeared in Gisborne District Court.

Five were of taking using a document for pecuniary advantage and one of receiving property valued under $500. She received a community work sentence.

Kerrisome stole an ANZ debit card and spent $161.50 within 30 minutes.

Judge Bolstad noted Kerrisome had no history of dishonesty-related offending, only three traffic-related convictions. This was “out-of-character behaviour”.

The pre-sentence report read to the court said Kerrisome admitted and took full responsibility for using the card to purchase items. She was shamed, remorseful and at low risk of re-offending.

“Something must have been going on for you but there needs to be consequences,” the judge said.

Counsel Mana Taumaunu submitted a starting point of six months imprisonment and with the benefit of early guilty pleas it could be reduced to a four-and-a-half-month community-based sentence.

He sought a combination of community work and community detention because it was the least restrictive and would provide Kerrisome the help she needed. Kerrisome could pay $15 a week in reparation, Mr Taumaunu said.

Judge Bolstad sentenced her to 100 hours community work, with nine months supervision, and imposed reparation of $161.50. 
**Tensions high in the capital**

Protesters attempt to occupy marae, community responds

**WELLINGTON** — Residents appear to have repelled an attempt by some of the protesters to move on from Parliament grounds who then tried to occupy the Wainuiomata Marae.

Tensions were running high in Lower Hutt last night as a group ousted from central Wellington tried to rehome themselves elsewhere in the region, with some of them targeting one of the marae.

However, residents from the Lower Hutt community turned out in force, blocking the entrance to the site, putting up cones and even sitting in chairs across the driveway.

A police helicopter circled overhead and continued flying late into the night.

A post on Facebook suggested the protesters stayed in the community, and spent the night in the Remutaka Forest Park and at a temple.

Attorney-General David Parker today told the AM show that what had happened in Wellington over the past few weeks was a “direct attack on the rule of law and it was important to look at the role social media and overseas influences had played.”

“This was a violent mob worse than anything I’ve seen in the law at a Parliament, who said unless the police did their sworn duty, they would hang us.”

“They blocked streets, they disrupted businesses, cordoned off areas they did not operate, children could not go to school. Journalists were targeted and threatened, and when the police did their sworn duty, but protesters attacked them and in some instances, they were justified in using force,” he said.

“This was a direct attack on the rule of law.”

On the causes of the occupation, Parker said it was necessary to look at what was happening overseas and social media influences that led people down rabbit holes.

Last night, Speaker Trevor Mallard weighed in on the resident blockade, saying he had spent some time at the marae yesterday evening.

“My community is doing a better job of stopping the feral campers than I did,” he wrote.

Residents reported that shop windows had been damaged and campies set up near the marae.

Wainuiomata Marae was Wellington’s first marae-based vaccination clinic.

Police Minister Poto Williams said while police staff had done “an extraordinary job” in relation to controlling the protest in Wellington, there was still a big piece of work needed to bring under control those who felt aggrieved with the Government.

“People are looking for answers to some of the big questions,” she told Three’s AM.

Williams acknowledged that some of the protesters were trying their information from questionable.

Williams said it was clear that the protesters involved were becoming increasingly violent.

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Williams said it was clear that the protesters involved were becoming increasingly violent.

The minister said police were doing a lot of visible controls around the Wellington region in a bid to show the community that they would be putting a stop on any further protest activity should it pop up again.

100 arrests

Earlier, Assistant Police Commissioner Richard Chambers said a total of 100 people had been arrested in relation to the Parliament protest’s violent end this week, with charges including arson, rioting and inciting violence.

An additional 11 people had been arrested yesterday, with a total of nine people charged with trespass or obstruction.

A significant investigation was now under way into tracking down those who committed unlawful acts, with police viewing hours and hours of livestream footage.

“The hard work continues.”

The investigation phase will last for as long as it needs to, to hold people accountable,” Chambers said.

Police said they had established a crime scene around Parliament grounds and the surrounding area.

Police investigations were also under way to determine those responsible for the alleged arson of tents.

Police added they would also check for hazards before the area could reopen to the public.

Protest spokesperson Leighton Baker was pepper-sprayed and arrested on Wednesday during the stand-off with police.

He was charged with obstruction and spent Wednesday night in custody.

The protesters were “mainly peaceful” he said, and police were not justified in using pepper spray and, he claimed, “hats” on the protesters.

“I just didn’t think that would happen in New Zealand.”

He confirmed that sponge bullets were fired at protesters.

The eight injured police officers admitted to hospital on Wednesday had all been discharged.

Their injuries ranged from bumps and bruises to bone fractures and head injuries.

Chambers thanked Wellington Free Ambulance for their support during the violent clashes.

Earlier, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said Wednesday’s violence on Parliament grounds was a sight she had never expected to see and the area was now something akin to a “rubbish dump.”

The grounds would be restored as quickly as possible and being able to return and enjoy the area would be quite symbolic for the public, she said.

In total, 600 police staff were involved and 50 firefighters.

However, 49 police officers were injured, including the eight admitted to hospital.

Ardern thanked police, fire and security staff, many of whom were abused by the protesters.

Earlier yesterday, police said they were continuing to maintain a high-visibility foot presence around Parliamentary grounds and the neighbouring streets.

Firefighters seeking inquiry

Meanwhile, firefighters were now demanding an inquiry into police commandeering fire hoses to use on rioters during the move to push protesters out of Parliament grounds on Wednesday.

“The Professional Firefighters’ Union said firefighters and their equipment should never be used as part of a police operation because firefighters must be seen as impartial and independent.”

The union’s national secretary Wattie Watson spoke to RNZ’s Morning Report, and said that while the scenes at Parliament were distressing, police should not used to resort to taking over firefighters’ equipment.

“Firefighters are not enforcers, they’re protectors — they’re people going into people’s homes, they turn up to rescue people, perform medical responses, rescue people, put fires out, help people out of crashed cars.”

“Really it’s important that the public has faith in the firefighters when they turn up, that they are there to help people and they are not the enforcers.” — NZ Herald, RNZ

See also page 9
Strike planned by health workers today called off

AUCKLAND — Strikes by health workers, one of which was planned for today, have been called off after an Employment Court ruled in favour of District Health Boards (DHBs).

However, health workers are angered by the the Employment Court’s decision to call off the two 24-hour strikes, which were planned for March 4 and March 18.

The Allied Union had already agreed to call off the Auckland branch of the strike amid the rising pressure on the city’s health system due to the Omicron outbreak.

Union organiser Will Matthews said it was unacceptable that DHBs did not speak with the union about cancelling the strikes and instead went straight to the courts.

Mr Matthews said a short-notice court decision was the last thing under-paid and overworked health staff needed.

The union had not ruled out strike action in the future.

Members were urged to wear the campaign’s colour — orange — today.

The strike action originally involved 10,000 workers.

A DHB spokesperson said Omicron was putting extraordinary pressure on DHBs and the focus of the whole system should be on caring for patients.

They said the DHBs wanted to settle pay talks quickly so they could address pay equity.

The Employment Relations Authority had set down facilitation between the union and DHBs for early next week.

Public Service Association (PSA) organiser Will Matthews said Auckland, Waitemata and Counties Manukau DHBs requested yesterday that the union not to go ahead with the strikes.

The PSA called the strikes for 24 hours at the country’s public hospitals after more than 70 groups voted in favour, following 16 months of failed talks over pay and conditions.

The PSA said its members were angry the strikes had been cancelled.

Earlier this week, DHBs went to the Employment Court to seek an injunction to halt the industrial action.

The two parties were due to meet in talks facilitated by the Employment Relations Authority next week.

The DHBs said the action would bundle pay equity and wage issues together at a bad time, as Omicron surged around the country.

The Employment Court began meeting yesterday morning to consider the case.

It said strikes by 10,000 allied health workers would have put pressure on hospital staff and patients.

The court’s decision said the strikes were illegal because it related to equal-pay negotiations, not to current pay talks.

Staff shortages among worst doctor has seen

AUCKLAND — An Auckland emergency doctor who is off work with Covid-19 says staff shortages are heading towards the worst she has ever seen.

There are hundreds of front-line staff off work across the city’s hospitals, and emergency departments in Auckland had been swamped with cases on some days.

College of Emergency Medicine New Zealand faculty chair Kate Allan worked in an Auckland hospital but was at home isolating with Covid this week.

Omicron was creating “incredibly significant” staff shortages every day, she said.

Three senior doctors were currently off work at the hospital.

However, the lack of nurses was what the hospitals were feeling the most, Dr Allan added.

That was because of existing shortages, made worse by the fact that nurses either had Covid-19 or were caring for children or family members who did and, therefore, those nurses could not come to work.

Departments were particularly missing senior nurses, who were critical to two key parts of emergency departments — triage and resuscitation.

Combined with doctors and other members of the health team, their absences were having a significant impact, Dr Allan said.

“It means there are longer waits . . . and people are getting angrier.”

Other parts of the hospitals were pitching in to help and staff were often working overtime or asking for help to ease the problem, she said.

“We just have to work out how we can do the best we can on any given day and get in as much help as we can from outside to help us deliver healthcare safely.”

503 in hospital with Covid, seven in ICU

WELLINGTON — There were 23,183 new community cases of Covid-19 reported in New Zealand yesterday, with 503 people in hospital, including seven in intensive care.

In a statement, the Ministry of Health said a new death of a New Zealander with Covid-19 had been recorded, with a person passing away in a Bay of Plenty rest home.

The person died of an unrelated medical condition while receiving palliative care, but had also tested positive for the coronavirus.

There were 1,463,572 known active community cases.

Yesterday’s new community cases were reported by District Health Boards in Northland (529), Auckland (13,237), Waikato (1,870), Bay of Plenty (1,322), Lakes (537), Hawke’s Bay (515), MidCentral (381), Whanganui (79), Taranaki (289), Tairawhiti (134), Wairarapa (94), Capital and Coast (1,487), Hutt Valley (642), Nelson Marlborough (277), Canterbury (1284), South Canterbury (63), Southern (615) and West Coast (16).

Speaking at yesterday’s media conference, the Director-General of Health Dr Ashley Bloomfield said that for the period of February 21-27, about 1 percent of the New Zealand population were active Covid cases.

— RNZ

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Te Whāngaroa-ā-Apanui

Te Whāngaroa-ā-Apanui
Robyn Rosie’s 20-year contribution recognised

Building at BoP school named in honour of former Gisborne principal

by Stuart Whitaker, Bay of Plenty Times

TE PUKE — The 20-year contribution Robyn Rosie has made to Otamarakau School has been recognised.

As well as a building carrying her name, Robyn now has a room specially created for the work she still does at the school.

The former dental clinic that had fallen into disrepair, has been refurbished to provide a space for learning support and a room for staff to use when they are not in class.

The building has been named the Rosie Rooms.

Robyn first came to teach at Otamarakau School in 2001 after 15 years as a principal in Gisborne.

She later became principal at Wharau Primary School, and is still remembered fondly in Gisborne.

Robyn helped out by tutoring students who needed a bit of help with their reading skills.

“They’ve made it into a little tutoring room and we’ve badly needed a space like that in the school, it’s super! I feel very humbled by it all.”

As well as working as a relief teacher in the classroom once a week, Robyn helped out by tutoring those students who needed a bit of help with their reading skills.

“Literacy assistance would be a good way of describing it,” she suggested.

The students were in good hands with Robyn, who was made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the 2015 Queen’s Birthday Honours in recognition of her 50-year contribution to education, sport, health and welfare.

She established some of the earliest reading-recovery programmes at Gisborne’s Te Wharau Primary School, and is still remembered fondly in Gisborne.

She said education had provided her with an amazing career.

Bay of Plenty Times picture

Bayleys Market Update

Following sustained value gains off the back of supportive fiscal policy and unprecedented demand, the new year heralds a change in market dynamics driving residential sales activity.

Bayleys investigates what’s in store for the year ahead.

Despite all the dampening measures deployed by policy-makers to control rapidly rising property prices, homes across Aotearoa have still risen some 40 percent in value since the start of the pandemic.

However, ongoing global pressures exacerbating pandemic disruption and the result of the free-flowing fiscal stimulus that was set to keep us afloat during the dark, early days of COVID uncertainty are coming home to roost, and commentators expect the factors driving housing market activity to look a bit different in 2022.

Investigating the impact of market dynamics by near, mid and long-term realities, Bayleys examines the aspects influencing housing market activity for the year ahead.

The latest Consumer Price Index (CPI) data saw inflation hit a 31 year high at the close of December 2021, with the 5.9 percent figure well above our central bank’s target band of one-to-three percent.

Broad-based inflation pressures are likely to persist throughout 2022, meaning Kiwis will keep paying more for goods, services and assets owing to a variety of factors beyond domestic control.

International manufacturing disruption, fragmented supply chains and the rising price of oil and transport cost against strong consumer demand, meaning businesses are easily passing cost increases on to their customers.

For housing, inflation is likely to impact the near-term market in several different ways.

While the OCR, and mortgage lending rates remain at historically very low levels (remember the 9.9 percent one year rate in 2008?) rising interest costs are expected to see more Kiwis reassess their finances.

An estimated 60 percent of existing home loans will need refinancing at higher rates throughout the year, and we expect Kiwi households to tighten the purse strings in reaction to a lower level of discretionary spending.

For property prices, this doesn’t detract from underlying demand dynamics, however, we expect to see value growth moderate from double-digit monthly gains to a more manageable level in the near term.

Enacted on 1 December 2021, new lending regulations have had a swift impact on borrowers’ ability to secure a loan, with commentators calling for a softening of the new legislation.

Original intended to stop unmanageable high-interest rate debt, financial institutions have had an interesting interpretation of the Credit Contracts and Consumer Finance Act (CCCFA) which has been widely criticised by industry pundits as far too restrictive.

While banks combed through would-be borrowers’ spending history as they assess suitability for a loan, pressure mounts on Parliament to intervene in the new policy, criticised as disproportionately impacting first home buyers and those with unsecured income.

In the mid term, there is potential for these rules to be softened, in addition to an ongoing focus on getting first home buyers a foot in the door.

Looking ahead, all eyes and ears are on the hunt for any snippets of border information, with any relaxation of rules expected to increase demand for housing.

Despite population growth from migration turning positive in the three months to November 2021 for the first time in nine months, migration today remains at extremely low levels.

This means one of the key drivers of historical housing market activity has been conspicuously absent during the boom period of the last 18 months.

Where property performance has bucked the pandemic trend, transcending intervention to note astronomical value growth, we expect a variety of social, financial and regulatory factors will continue to underpin a high level of demand through this new year.

Housing inflation will moderate from the some 30 percent per annum recorded in 2021, though we expect the approach to disqualified investment will endure, with values underpinned by 2022 by strong employment prospects, and the defining fact the majority of Kiwi household wealth is tied to residential assets.

Information sourced from: bayleys.co.nz/news/residential

Hamilton City Council reduces services as Omicron starts to bite

HAMILTON — Hamilton City Council is struggling to keep its services operating with burgeoning Omicron cases.

The Central Library would temporarily close from tomorrow due to staff shortages, and yesterday food-scraps collections were also suspended.

General community manager Helen Paki said the council had pitied staff shortages, but not to this extent.

“Our current use of staff in other roles to support the front-line team is no longer able to cover the shortages,” Ms Paki said.

“Closing the Central Library allows us to spread our staff, who are still able to work, through our other five community libraries and keep library services open to as many Hamiltonians as possible.”

Staffing for the libraries would be reviewed within a week, while the food-scraps collection would be reinstated as soon as staffing levels allowed for it.

Rubbish and Recycling Manager Trent Fowles said the shortage in staff also meant there would likely be delays for glass collections for the next couple of days, but the team were working hard to do what they could to continue to collect food scraps.

“If you have capacity, food scraps can be stored in a freezer, or be home composted (excluding meat bones and shells). If none of these options work, you can put food scraps in the red rubbish bin,” Mr Fowles said.

Contractors were short on staff and, as a result, glass would not be sorted at the kerb, but would instead be recycled as mixed coloured glass, he said.

“Completion of the connection of new drinking water, stormwater and wastewater services, had also been delayed due to the outbreak.” — RNZ
Wellington — Small groups of anti-mandate protesters were still lingering around Wellington this morning after being cleared out of the Parliament precinct on Wednesday.

However, the disparate collection of groups and individuals who took part in the protests were divided about what should happen next.

Police were telling them to go home, and some protest groups like Voices for Freedom had told people who live on the edges... there's no doubt that things like social media and the algorithms that form the content we access have contributed to a lot of what's happened here.

Williams said everyone had a role to play in helping some of the more "disaffected" protesters reintegrate into society.

However, she said there was no excuse for the disrespectful and intimidating and threatening. But what I want to see going forward is a real conversation and dialogue about how we, as a country, can... include people more, so that they don't feel like they're not part of the picture we are painting as a nation.

Williams said the protesters who remained on Wednesday were the most disaffected and violent.

She said police were actively monitoring other protest activity around the country and would act very quickly if things got out of hand.

It was not the first time a politician had pointed the finger at social media for violence.

In the aftermath of the Christchurch terror attacks, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern joined forces with French President Emmanuel Macron in an effort to tackle the use of tech platforms to distribute and find extremist violent content.

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Russian expat shocked by Putin’s Ukraine war

by Nikki Preston, NZ Herald

AUCKLAND — A Russian expat living in New Zealand is horrified by the war on Ukraine and says his own brother is desperately trying to escape their home country as the fighting escalates.

Despite living on the other side of the world, the war between Russia and Ukraine is playing heavily on Auckland-based Igor Anany’s mind and his eyes are glued on overseas media for updates.

In the past week, hundreds of Ukrainians had died since Russian forces launched a massed assault by land, sea and air on its European neighbour.

The 36-year-old, father-of-two, is in constant contact with scared friends and family in both Ukraine and Russia and his Russian-based brother had been locked out of his savings due to the sanctions.

He was now in the process of trying to leave Russia and, for the first time ever, wanted to follow in his brother’s footsteps and emigrate.

Mr Anany, 36, moved to New Zealand with his partner, Saha, 10 years ago and was completely shocked by what was happening.

“I’m horrified . . . I hope it will be the end of the Putin era. He should go, he should be gone already and someone else should take the Russian political situation under control.

“All the Russians I know here are shocked, they are all horrified, they are all against it. Seriously, I don’t know anyone who would be for it.”

His friends and family in Russia also opposed the war on Ukraine, but faced jail time if they publicly spoke out against it.

“Everyone is afraid of doing it, but they still protest and go out on the streets,” he said.

Mr Anany only ended up in New Zealand to escape Russia, but had since fallen in love with his new home.

“I never regretted that decision to come here.”

His two children were born in New Zealand and he now ran a successful technology company here.

He had only been back to Russia once, preferring to meet up with family members in other countries instead.

“We wanted to have kids, we wanted to have a different lifestyle, we wanted to have a business and stuff like that, and in Russia it was very scary to do all of those things.”

Rhys and Taika pair up for hilarious new comedy series

AUCKLAND — Two of New Zealand’s funniest men have reunited for a TV comedy that is as witty as you would expect it to be.

Famed director Taika Waititi and fellow Kiwi comedian Rhys Darby are no strangers as colleagues, but now they are sharing the screen for the first time in Our Flag Means Death, which is a period comedy about a wealthy man who abandons his charmed life to become a pirate.

Darby, 47, helms the series as Stede Bonnet — a real-life 1600s figure known as the “gentleman pirate”, who becomes the captain of his own ship Revenge, but his earnest nature struggles to earn the respect of his crew. That is, until Bonnet’s fortunes shift when he encounters Waititi’s Captain Blackbeard.

The eight-episode series is ridiculous, hilarious and even emotional at times. You will be laughing about 30 seconds into it. And Darby said it was the same experience for those on set. “I do try and hold it together — certainly when there’s a scene where the cameras are on me. I’m pretty good at holding a straight face and laughing on the inside,” Darby said of trying to stay in character.

Darby said a good chunk of his scenes — particularly with Waititi — were built around improvisation. “When it’s just Taika and I, no one tells him what to do or me what to do,” Darby said, laughing. But, actually, for once he was probably being serious.

The funny duo had worked together before, Darby said a good chunk of his scenes — particularly with Waititi — were built around improvisation. “When it’s just Taika and I, no one tells him what to do or me what to do,” Darby said, laughing. But, actually, for once he was probably being serious.

Darby said they had worked together before, particularly with Waititi — who turned out to be a straight face and laughing on the inside,” Darby said of trying to stay in character.

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**Call for more certainty about maritime border reopening**

**WELLINGTON** — The cruise ship industry is urging the Government to pick up the pace and provide more certainty about reopening the maritime border.

A lack of certainty means that, Ia Ara Aotearoa Transporting New Island, executive Kevin O’Sullivan said the clock was ticking down as cruise lines needed three to four months to begin preparations.

But they needed to make decisions before then, he said.

“Realistically speaking, March is the month when decisions need to be made that the cruise lines can look at the dates, the border opening and begin to make preparations.”

**BOOKINGS STRONG**

“Of course without the maritime border, without ships, there will be no season. But I’m forever optimistic about the future and the fact that these lines with various government agencies, and they’ve been as helpful in progress as it is for any other industry. But it is the slow process and it needs to speed up.”

The industry could not afford to lose another summer season, he said.

He did not rule out the prolonged border closures and uncertainty having an impact on cruise line company’s decisions in the future.

“Their decisions are made because of New Zealand — which as a cruise economy and cruise industry is really critical for the world.”

**NEW ZEALAND CRUISE ASSOCIATION**

Unlimited’s head of visitor economy Anne Dundas said the loss of cruise ships had been a blow for the city.

“It’s been pretty harsh. I mean we have lost $200 million in revenue in that sector per annum, and that’s pretty hard to come back from.”

“We as a city are looking to welcome those tourists, provide for those passengers who had been able to travel and they also get out and about across the region.”

**P&O CRUISES**

P&O Cruises Australia recently cancelled 21 cruises scheduled to leave from Auckland port.

“Not only the cruise lines, but the travel agents, the tour operators, the food and beverage suppliers across the board, the hotels and cafes and restaurants and transport providers who provide for those passengers before and after their cruises.”

“It’s delivering “two out of 10” packages on time, with some delays by one or two days.”

**NEW ZEALAND POST**

New Zealand Post chief executive Colin Massey said it was operating “very close” to normal with only minimal disruption.

It had worked hard to minimise the effects of Covid-19 and had so far managed to limit the cancellation to a few across-town shunts in Christchurch and Auckland.

Mainline services had been able to maintain the service by adjusting some services.

There were no Covid-19 associated delays to Interislander ferries, but it was a “dynamic situation” and Ashton admitted its operations might suddenly be affected if cases in the crew occurred.

Jon Adams, chief executive of Toll Global Express, which has four depots in New Zealand, said like other businesses it was being hit by delays but was mitigating the impact wherever it could.

The S&P/NZX 50 Index was strong all day, rising 1.79 percent to 33,891.35; S&P 500 was up 2.44 percent to 4,520.87; and FTSE 100 was 2.44 percent higher to 7,741.86.

**WELLINGTON** — Two-thirds of people are worried about house prices, and are increasingly concerned about the economy.

The latest Financial Services Council (FSC) Financial Resilience Index has found 68 percent of 2000 survey respondents were worried about house prices, 65 percent were worried about interest rates, 78 percent were concerned about inflation and 43 percent were not confident in the New Zealand economy.

FSC chief executive Richard Klipin said: “After two years of the pandemic, how New Zealanders are feeling about their future is shifting, and this is reflected in their concerns about the economy, house prices and interest rates.”

“The volatility of global and local markets as a result of Russia’s recent invasion of Ukraine is likely to continue, and New Zealand’s economic prospects will remain uncertain in the short term, with potential effects on the global economy, global share markets and the local housing market.”

**Sharemarket yesterday**

**WELLINGTON** — Blue-chip stocks rebounded and pushed the New Zealand sharemarket to a 1 per cent gain as investors took heart that interest rate rises may not be as rapid as expected because of the uncertainty caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

The S&P/NZX 50 Index was strong all day, picking up 122.65 points or 1.01 percent to 12,193.39, from 12,070.74, with 37.5 million shares worth $163.9 million changing hands.

Andris Gruntmanis, investment adviser with Hamilton Hindsin Greene, said there has been unusually low turnover, but this has been driven by the war in Ukraine.

“Commodity price pressures are coming through — wheat prices have hit their highest in nearly 14 years — and there may be slower economic growth globally. This will cause central banks to revise their interest rate rises.”

“The United States Federal Reserve told financial markets it would still go ahead with its 25 basis point rate hike in March, so they may now strike later this month but the rise would more likely be 25 rather than 50 basis points.”

This certainly gave the markets more confidence. The Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 269.56 points or 0.81 percent to 33,891.35; S&P 500 was up 105.15 points or 2.55 percent to 4,239.5; and Nasdaq Composite increased 1.62 percent to 13,752.02.

The price of crude oil surged to $US122 a barrel, compared with $US57 a year ago. And gold is rebounding back to nearly US$2000 an ounce.

“Another, some of the more volatile stocks later were up again. Ryman Healthcare rose 28c or 2.93 percent to $9.83 after falling 48c or 4.79 percent the day before; and Auckland International Airport was up 22c or 3.1 percent to $7.32. Market leader Fisher & Paykel Healthcare increased 23c to $82; Ebor Group gained 52c to $32.90; Mainfreight rose 52c or 2.44 percent to $22.45; Spark was up 6c to $4.96; and Freightways collected 30c or 2.47 percent to $12.47.”

**Air New Zealand**

Air New Zealand was down 2.5c to $1.50; Seek declined 5c to $0.51; and AFT Pharmaceuticals shed 9c or 2.59 percent to $3.86. Infratil, named Company of the Year in the Deloitte Top 20 Awards, increased 10c to $2.22.

Broadcast and publisher NZME, winner of the Most Improved Performance category in the Deloitte awards, climbed to a new high, rising 16c or 3.78 percent to $4.65.

Andris Gruntmanis, of Hamilton Hindsin Greene, said the Best Growth Strategy category in the same awards went to Greenfern Industries, which in 1995, Vulcan has 29 distribution and processing facilities in Australia and New Zealand.

Greenfern Industries is writing the clinical trial protocols for a low dose cannabinoid (BBD) medication for sale in pharmacies, and its share price was up 0.050c or 2.5 percent to 20.5c.

TruScreen Group rose 0.009 or 13.04 percent to 0.083 after telling the market it has received national pricing approval in China for its cervical cancer screen system and it has sold 10,000 units to the Zimbabwe National AIDS Council to complete a pilot project.

Transportation technology company Eroad, up 1c to $3.73, has renewed its contract for 5500 units with its largest New Zealand customer, Downer EDI, through to December 2025.

**NZ Herald**
Put talents to good effect

Tanith I applaud your obvious literary talents and admire your multi-lingual talents. However, I am concerned you are wasting your readers attempting to rewrite/redress history. Perhaps if you offered your talents to our Foreign Minister you could help her respond to the history being made in today’s world. You could point out to Mr Putin that in spite of his opinion of himself, a hard Bruce Willis wannabe, future historians will remember him as a barbaric, power-mad madman. The opinion Cook, a clever navigator and explorer, had of himself is an example of this. A mere 250 years later he is now considered a murderous invader, who thought killing a few people to serve his ends was just collateral damage. I mention this because it had not been Cook who explored NZ, the world and our species would have evolved to what we have today. Russia would still remain an invader, Ukraine and the deaths and misery would again be considered collateral damage to nourish a so-called leader’s power lust. If you really want to make a difference, put your talents to working change what you can change (the future) and show us how we can live with the mistakes of the past.

PHILIP NEWICK

On testicular fortitude

Re: Back at game, March 3.

This is more of a Sitzkrieg than a Blitkrieg. But in the words of my uncle Tutekawa ... you have significant “testicular fortitude” and the bards will sing of your gallantry. Cue the whistling ...

Clive Bibby has only got one ball, Kevin Ovenden has two but they’re too small, Poor old Ron Taylor has no balls at all.

TANITH WIRIHANA TE WAITOHOTANGI

He Kei is that really the best you can do Tanith? I am perfectly comfortable knowing that I have done my bit contributing to the continuation of the Bibby family dynasty — irrespective of your ridiculous attempts to portray me as someone deficient in that important department. Your lies can’t defeat the truth but it might be an appropriate time to draw the editor’s attention to the defenestrates one he allows to escape his editorial scalpels.

CLIVE BIBBY

We’re sick of all the muddling and the mess you’ve made,
You’re gone and stuck your fingers in the marmalade,
So now you’re going to get a big surprise,
You’re nothing but a basket full of lies!

TANITH WIRIHANA TE WAITOHOTANGI

 wasn’t it?

Re: It’s a war zone*, March 3 story.

Trust me Mrs Brown it’s nothing like a war zone, so unless you have been in one please don’t talk to me.

DENNIS WEIR

Put talents to good effect

HARAWA CRAGG PEARELLIS

Overjoyed with show of love from Tairawhiti

On behalf of the Tairawhiti community, we would like to thank the Tairawhiti businesses and community for all the love you have shown us. We were overwhelmed with the support that came our way during our Tairawhiti Tonga Relief Effort and we are happy to share that our 108 donors have arrived successfully in Auckland filled with many donations.

PAULI MAAFU (QSM)

A refreshing interlude

In a world of too many minds:

It was channel flicking on Wednesday — like so many others likely, watching tragic scenes unfolding globally and in our own country — and paused on the live channel feed from Parliament. Witnessing the best of MMP in action was very heartwarming. The Harmful Digital Communications (Unauthorised Posting of Intimate Visual Recordings) Amendment Bill had just been introduced and was a contentious topic in the spotlight. The bill and its positive publisher we have needed at this time.

GEOFF MEADE

Infected too many minds

Footnote from Ed: The three officers sprayed with an “unknown substance”, believed to be acid — footage shows it was likely a mixture of positive vibes we have needed at this time.

CLIVE BIBBY

Doubtful police claims! Really, Jeremy, that’s another lie. Why on earth would you open yourself up to accusations of denying the truth? Can only be because you too suffer from this overwhelming sense of infallibility.

ALICE MILNE

First day was just to act

While it was pleasing to see the end of the riot in Wellington, one must ask why the police did not act in this way in the first 24 hours. I think the Police Commissioner should be charged with gross incompetency in failing to do his duty as an enforcing law, by allowing people to continually and blatantly break the law for three weeks. If he had stopped the protest on day one, he would have saved it from escalating until violence and police injuries occurred. It would have stopped about 1000 police being unnecessarily up there for three weeks and saved the taxpayer several million dollars in damages and police wages. The protesters/rioters have made no sense of their cycle helmets and seat belts, so why not accept a mandate that protects not only themselves but their family, friends and all citizens?

On the spreading of Cov amongst the protesters the police and others who have accused the protesters of being unhygienic and anti-vax. Always. Their lies have infected too many vulnerable, disenfranchised minds. They should be listed as terrorist organisations.

Re: Horrible scenes but relief it has ended, March 3 editorial.

I don’t believe it was ever about the mandates. And they were never there to negotiate. We all knew it would end in violence. Voices for Freedom and other groups have always been anti-vax. Always. Their lies have infected too many vulnerable, disenfranchised minds. They should be listed as terrorist organisations.

AIMEE MILNE

Letters to the editor, online comments

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PAULI MAAFU (QSM)

The Gisborne Herald  •  Friday, March 4, 2022

OPINION

PUTIN’S WAR GOING BADLY, ESCALATING

Vladimir Putin insists his war on Ukraine is going to plan. It isn’t. It is day eight now and the might of the Russian army has only managed to take one major city, Kherson in southern Ukraine.

Putin and his army believed their own propaganda, starting this invasion of a “territory” he said was really “part of Russia” and not a real country with botched helicopter attacks and raids by lightly armed units, thinking Ukraine would implode. Instead they met determined resistance and a population that has rallied around their army and their president. Ukrainians have shown they would rather die for the idea that they should be able to choose their own destiny.

Terror and crimes against humanity is heavy casualties and is suffering logistical problems. There is evidence of low morale in the army, soldiers, many of whom are conscripts who will be wondering why they are attacking their Slavic brothers and sisters.

Kyiv remains in government control and the Russian armoured convoy has stalled on its approach to the capital, apparently due to the lack of food, fuel and spare parts, and getting stuck in mud with tyres that are not up to the task.

The world powers aligned against Russia and Putin has managed to take one major city, Kherson in southern Ukraine.

RE: HORRIBLE SCENES BUT RELIEF IT HAS ENDED, MARCH 3 EDITORIAL.

I don’t believe it was ever about the mandates. And they were never there to negotiate. We all knew it would end in violence. Voices for Freedom and other groups have always been anti-vax. Always. Their lies have infected too many vulnerable, disenfranchised minds. They should be listed as terrorist organisations.

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PAULI MAAFU (QSM)
Ukraine, Russia agree to make safe corridors

KYIV, Ukraine — Russian forces battled for control of a crucial energy-producing city in Ukraine’s south on Thursday and gained ground in their bid to cut off the country from the sea.

It came as Ukrainian leaders called on citizens to rise up and wage guerrilla war against the invaders.

The fighting at Enerhodar, a city on the Dnieper River that is the site of the biggest nuclear power plant in Europe and accounts for one-quarter of the country’s power generation, came as another round of talks between the two sides yielded a tentative agreement to set up humanitarian corridors inside Ukraine to evacuate citizens and deliver aid.

While the huge Russian armoured column threatening Kyiv appeared bogged down outside the city, Vladimir Putin’s forces have brought their superior firepower to bear over the past few days, launching hundreds of missiles and artillery attacks on cities and other sites around the country and making significant gains in the south.

The mayor of Enerhodar said Ukrainian forces were battling Russian troops on the city’s outskirts. Video showed flames and clouds of black smoke rising above the city of over 50,000, with people streaming away from the inferno past wrecked cars, just a day after the UN atomic watchdog agency expressed grave concern that the fighting could cause accidental damage to Ukraine’s 15 nuclear reactors.

The Russians announced the capture of the southern city of Kherson, a vital Black Sea port of 280,000, and local Ukrainian officials confirmed the takeover of the government headquarters there, making it the first major city to fall since the invasion began a week ago.

Heavy fighting continued on the outskirts of another strategic port, Mariupol, on the Azov Sea, plunging it into darkness, knocking out most phone services and raising the prospect of food and water shortages. Without phone connections, medics did not know where to take the wounded.

Cutting off Ukraine’s access to the Black and Azov seas would be a crippling blow to its economy and allow Russia to build a land corridor to Crimea, seized by Moscow in 2014.

Zelensky calls for meetings with Putin

KYIV, Ukraine — Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelensky has challenged Russian President Vladimir Putin to sit down for talks while urging the West to offer a stronger military assistance to Ukraine to fight the Russian invasion.

In a sarcastic reference to a long table Putin used for his recent meetings with foreign leaders and Russian officials, Zelensky said: “Sit down with me to negotiate, just not at 30 metres,” adding, “I don’t bite. What are you afraid of?”

During Thursday’s news conference, Zelensky said that prospects for another round of talks between Russian and Ukrainian negotiations don’t seem promising, but emphasised the need to negotiate, adding that “any words are more important than shots.”

He said the world was too slow to offer support for Ukraine and prodded Western leaders to enforce a no-fly zone over Ukraine to deny access to the Russian warplanes. The US and NATO allies have ruled out the move that would directly pit Russian and Western militaries.

Zelensky charged that if the West remains reluctant to declare a no-fly zone over Ukraine, it should at least provide Kyiv with warplanes.

Overall, the outnumbered, outnumbered Ukrainians have put up stiff resistance, staying off the swift victory that Russia appeared to have expected. But a senior US defense official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss military matters, said Russia’s seizure of Crimea gave it a logistical advantage in that part of the country, with shorter supply lines that smoothed the offensive there.

The second round of talks between Ukrainian and Russian delegations was held in neighboring Belarus. But the two sides had little common ground coming into the meeting, and Putin warned Ukraine that it must quickly accept the Kremlin’s demand for its “demilitarisation” and declare itself a neutral state, appearing to have expected. But a senior official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss military matters, said Russia’s seizure of Crimea gave it a logistical advantage in that part of the country, with shorter supply lines that smoothed the offensive there.

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EUROPEANS UNITE

Exodus exceeds one million as neighbours welcome refugees

PRZEMYSL, Poland — Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has forced more than a million people to flee the war in just a week, an exodus so swift it almost matches the number of people who sought refuge in Europe in a whole year during the 2015 migration crisis.

Seven years ago, hundreds of thousands of Syrians fled their strife-torn country, which Russia also bombarded. Together with people escaping fighting in Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere, they headed west, with thousands dying at sea trying to reach a continent where many didn’t want them.

The arrival of about 1.3 million people sparked tensions among European partners as they squabbled over how many refugees and asylum-seekers to accept, and bolstered far-right populists, some of whom were friendly to the Kremlin.

But as Russian forces inflict massive destruction on a neighbouring nation today, Europeans have united in extending a helping hand.

In one week, they accepted more than 2 percent of Ukraine’s 44 million population, according to the United Nations refugee agency, UNHCR.

The operation has gone relatively smoothly thanks to an enormous mobilisation of volunteers near and far who have gone to the borders to help — some from as far away as the United States.

The European Union decided on Thursday to grant people fleeing Ukraine from as far away as the United States temporary protection and residency permits.

Johansson pointed to Poland’s promise at least 500 million euros (NZ$800 million) in humanitarian aid for the refugees. Johansson called the quick adoption of the protection rules a “historic result” and said “the EU stands united to save lives”.

The UN refugee agency predicted the war could produce up to four million refugees. Johansson said “the EU has united to save lives”.

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SYDNEY — Around 500,000 people in Sydney and its surrounding area were told to evacuate or prepare to flee flooding as torrential rain lashed an extraordinarily long stretch of the Australian east coast.

Rivers were rising in Australia’s most populous city’s home to five million, with New South Wales’ State Emergency Services Minister Steph Cooke warning of “treacherous weather conditions” over the next 24 hours.

Floodwaters were also rising in Brisbane as severe thunderstorms struck.

Extraordinarily heavy rain brought flash flooding to the Queensland state coast last week and a south-moving low-pressure system had since brought the rain south of Sydney.

Perrottet urged residents to take the orders seriously.

“We do believe that things will get worse before they get better,” Perrottet said.

Minor flood warnings were also issued for coastal communities as far as 200 kilometres north of Sydney.

Major flooding was expected along several rivers in and around Sydney. Dozens of suburbs were on high alert.

The State Emergency Service issued evacuation orders to 200,000 residents and evacuation warnings had been sent to another 300,000.

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The flooding has claimed 14 lives in Queensland and neighbouring New South Wales since February 22, when the body of a 63-year-old woman was recovered from a submerged car at Bell Park, north of Brisbane.

In New South Wales, a 54-year-old man was found on Friday in a submerged SUV in Matcham, 90 kilometres north of Sydney.

Most recently, a man in his 70s was found in his flooded apartment on Wednesday in Lismore, New South Wales. Four people died in the town of 28,000.

Several Brisbane suburbs remain flooded after the river that snakes through the city centre peaked on Monday.

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services Assistant Commissioner John Cawcutt said hundreds of people were calling for help in Brisbane — home to 2.6 million people — and its surrounds with heavy rain causing flash flooding.

“We have got high winds and of course we have got the potential for flash flooding because of the already soaked ground out there,” Cawcutt told Nine Network television.

“Because of the saturation, creeks are rising very, very quickly — drains, stormwater areas, water is bubbling up from below ground so it’s right across Brisbane,” Cawcutt added.

He described the dangerous weather extending north of Brisbane and south of Sydney as an “enormous event”.

Bureau of Meteorology forecaster Laura Boekel said thunderstorms brought the chance of more flooding, extending 450 kilometres north from Brisbane to Bundaberg during the next day or two.

“This is a very dangerous and potentially life-threatening situation for southeast Queensland,” she wrote.

We had no idea how big the show would become and how passionately viewers would take it to heart.”

Hon Kiri Allan
MP for East Coast

Minister of Conservation, and Emergency Management
Associate Minister for Arts, Culture & Heritage
Associate Minister for Environment

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(08) 863 5085
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Parliamentary Office:
(04) 817 8860
info@opdgisborne.co.nz

FLOODWATERS RISING: Half a million people were ordered to evacuate or prepare to flee as parts of Australia’s southeast coast are inundated by the worst flooding in decades.

AP picture

Neighbours cancelled after 37 years on air

MELBOURNE — Long-running Australian TV soap opera Neighbours will come to an end after 37 years.

The announcement follows the news that UK broadcaster Channel 5 was dropping the show from its schedules.

That decision left producers with a funding gap, as the British network was a key broadcast partner in the series.

Writing on the programme’s official Twitter account, producers said they were “so sorry” but had “no option but to rest the show”.

“We are so sorry to say that after nearly 37 years and almost 9000 episodes, we have to confirm that Neighbours will cease production in June,” they said.

“Following the loss of our key broadcast partner in the UK and despite an extensive search for alternative funding, we simply have no option but to rest the show.

“Too our amazing loyal fans, we know this is a huge disappointment, as it is to all of us on the team. We thank you for all your messages and support and promise to end the show on an incredible high.”

Neighbours aired on Channel 5 for more than a decade, and was previously broadcast on the BBC.

When it was announced earlier this year that the show’s future was under threat, singer and former Neighbours star Jason Donovan said the soap had “changed the Australian television landscape”.

His on-screen partner, Kylie Minogue, reminisced about her time on the programme in a tweet mourning the cancellation.

“I’ll be forever grateful for the experience and the friends I made on Neighbours,” she wrote.

“We had no idea how big the show would become and how passionately viewers would take it to heart.”

COMING TO AND END: Neighbours helped launch the careers of Kylie Minogue and Jason Donovan.

Picture supplied

Viewers were quick to voice their disappointment about the show’s cancellation on Twitter.

“Noooo, Neighbours has been a constant in my life since I was five years old,” wrote one.

“Can’t believe it’s the end. It’s escapism from all the (bad) stuff that goes on in the world and unlike every other soap it’s not all doom and gloom.”

Set and filmed in Melbourne, Neighbours was first broadcast in Australia in 1985 and launched on BBC One a year later.

It became a huge hit in the UK and in Australia, and helped launch the careers of numerous stars, including Donovan, Minogue, Guy Pearce and Margot Robbie.

Channel 5 previously said it knew its decision to axe the show — which attracts more than one million viewers per day in the UK — would disappoint many.

But it added its “current focus is on increasing our investment in original UK drama, which has strong appeal for our UK viewers”, — BBC

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4317-04
You will love these
Captive poetic prose

LEARWIFE by JR Thorp
published by Canongate Books

William Shakespeare's tragedy King Lear has one notably absent character—his wife, and mother to Goneril, Regan and Cordelia.

In Learwife, JR Thorp's debut novel, she has devised a tale of what happened to the Queen of Britain.

The start of the novel takes place at the moment the famous play ended. The word has come that he is dead, now, and the girls. And that it is finished.

Our nameless Queen is narrating her story from a nunnery where she was banished to 15 years earlier. The reason for her exile is unknown to her but will become revealed in time.

As sickness takes hold, so does chaos, and a fight breaks out between the nuns as to who will become their new abbess. Told as a stream of consciousness, we are trapped, like our narrative, but inside her head.

The prose is poetic, beautiful to read, but it can make the story lag in places. One needs to know how this story will end. — CP

Told in short, rhythmic, almost poetic writing, this is an exceptional novel for young readers.

— KP

NORTHWIND by Gary Paulsen
published by Pan Macmillan

Sadly the world of children's literature and last one of their best authors last year.

Gary Paulsen, author over 200 books and renowned for his coming-of-age adventures, was possibly best known for his adventure novel Hatchet, which is used as a text for primary and intermediate schools in New Zealand.

This latest novel Northwind is his last and it is superb.

Leif is a young Norwegian boy, 12 years of age. He was orphaned at birth and grew up on the kindness of people in his little fishing village.

However, as soon as he could he threw a rope he was pressed into work on viking ships and fishing boats, cooking and cleaning for the men and being treated worse than a dog.

On one trip, he was left in a cove with a small group of older men to dry a vast amount of fish while the boat went searching for more.

Another boat came into the cove, but this one carried a terrible plague, a sickness that topped all the old fisherfolk Leif was working with.

Leif also fell ill, but didn't die, not quite. Instead he was alone at sea, paddling north, away from the sickness, away from men and boats.

He rediscovered his rough dugout canoe and out of fords, catching salmon and eating berries, learning about whales, dolphins and bird life.

He learned about the sea and all its moods, and discovered it was a good idea to stay clear of bears, both black and brown.

Told in short, rhythmic, almost poetic writing, this is an exceptional novel for young readers.

— AR

New titles for Autumn reading...

The First Astronomers by Deanna Hamel and Jobie Hobbs
Indigenous Elders read the stars, look at the vast astronomical knowledge held by the First Nations people and how it was passed down to them from generations before and used to understand the natural world.

The First Astronomers

Dancing With The Machine by Jo Morgan
Taking up mountaineering in her later years, Jo Morgan's remarkable biography is often breathtaking and occasionally tragic. An extraordinary and unconventional story.

Dancing With The Machine

Breathless by Amy McCulloch
A nail-biting, exhilarating thriller set on a dangerous climb imitate the world's tallest mountains.

Breathless

I, Mona Lisa by Natasha Solomons
This is the story of Lisa De Cioscindo, from Leonardo da Vinci's studio in Florence, through five hundred years of history, the French courts at Fontainbleau and Versailles and into the twentieth century. A deliciously vivid and illuminating historical novel.

I, Mona Lisa

Beasts of a Little Land by Juhee Kim
published by Oneworld

Set in 1917 during Japan's occupation of Korea, a Korean hunter stumbles across a tiger in the snowy mountains and is captured by a lost squad of Japanese soldiers.

The novel then skips to Pyongyang, 1918, where Jade's poverty-stricken family send her to work as a laundrymaid for Madame Silver.

Madame Silver, who runs a school for courtesans, has filled the position but offers to take Jade as a courtesan apprentice. Despite her young age, Jade knows what the women do.

The girls at the school, including Madame Silver's two daughters Luna and Lotus, are highly educated in the five arts of a courtesan — arithmetic, languages, singing, dancing and painting.

A terrible event occurs one evening and Madame Silver arranges for Luna, Lotus and Jade to flee to her cousin Dan's courtesan school in Seoul.

That same year, orphan Nam Jung Ho lost his father and came to Seoul from the country. Incredibly poor, Jung Ho makes a living on the streets. He befriends some street children in order to survive, and soon becomes the chief of all longRo street children.

When Jung Ho and Jade's paths cross they become fast friends, although Jung Ho isn't a socially acceptable companion for Jade. As they come of age, Jung Ho is pulled into the revolutionary fight for independence and Jade becomes a sought-after movie star and courtesan in Seoul.

Jung Ho and Jade fall in love with men from very different upbringings, their love and loyalty not always returned.

In Beasts of a Little Land, we don't just follow the political and historical changes, but also one woman's life and how it was shaped based on her gender and societal position at that time.

Along with all of these restraints and expectations, we see her struggle for survival, happiness, love and purpose.

This is an absolutely beautiful debut novel, both entertaining and educational.
NZ ‘raising the danger’ of drug-resistant bugs

Scientist calls for change as over-use of antimicrobials continues

by Jamie Morton, NZ Herald

WELLINGTON — New Zealand’s continuing over-use of antimicrobial medicines (which includes antibiotics, antifungals and antivirals) is raising the danger of drug-resistant superbugs and making standard operations and treatments riskier — prompting our top scientist to call for a raft of changes.

In a major report released yesterday, the prime minister’s chief science advisor Professor Dame Juliet Gerrard warned the country remained one of the developed world’s biggest users of antimicrobial drugs in both healthcare and agriculture.

As we prescribe these medicines, which largely happens not in hospitals but through GPs and pharmacies, microbes such as bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites have been evolving to fight back. That means infections are becoming harder to treat — and even common medical procedures, like cataract sections, hip replacements and dental surgeries, are growing harder to carry out safely.

Globally, around 7,000,000 people die each year as a result of an infection caused by a drug-resistant pathogen — a toll predicted to reach 10 million by 2050. Here in New Zealand, there are 145,000 GP and pharmacy prescriptions for antibiotics every year.

That threat was underscored by the damage wrought each year by the superbug MRSA, which infected nearly 1000 people in New Zealand in 2021, including 33 who died, while infections with other superbugs, like MRSA, have also increased in recent years.

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“Pick a chemical, any chemical,” said Dr Kim. “It affects the environment, you’re releasing into the air, water, soil — it’s a systemic response.”

“You may need to find out rapidly what’s been used — and where. And if you haven’t got the information, your investigation is hobbled from the start,” he said.

No one was keeping track, and they must start now, he said.

“The greatest challenges are understanding what we know about what’s going on in the environment, knowing that you’re tracking over time, and also working in a system that’s disjointed,” he said.

“Most countries in the world are facing this problem. It’s a matter of rolling up our sleeves and getting it done”. A further $10m into rheumatic fever research, through the Strategic Research Endowment Fund, and another $36m to infectious disease research, through the Strategic Science Investment Fund, and a further $10m into rheumatic fever research, which included efforts to develop a vaccine.

However, the report noted much more work was required, with changes and improvements required every step — both within and outside the clinical space.

“Combatting the rising tide, Prof Gerrard said, was a matter of rolling up our collective sleeves and getting it done.”

One major recommendation was to beef up New Zealand’s antimicrobial stewardship across human, animal and plant health, through improving data, building expertise and reviewing processes and access to the drugs.

Another was to set up a new surveillance system that would bring together and share information around the new data collection and access to the drugs.

“More broadly, the report found more work was needed to prevent infections occurring in the first place, as well as better health literacy among the public and more equitable access to primary healthcare.”

“The greatest challenges are to focus on infection prevention rather than waiting for people to get sick and then being forced to focus on treatment and curing inappropriate use of antimicrobials through more judicious use when infection inevitably occurs,” panel chair Dr Matire Harwood said.

At the same time, the Government also needed to “drastically reduce” unnecessary antibiotic use in patients, said panel member Associate Professor Mark Thomas, of the University of Auckland.

“Many years, we have lacked national leadership to reduce unnecessary antibiotic use in New Zealand.”

“Prof Thomas, head of a minister needed to take specific responsibility for the issue, while groups could be set up to work between clinicians, GPs, pharmacists and the wider community.”

Last year, Assoc Prof Thomas called on GPs to cut the amount of antibiotics they prescribed by around a third, after finding a drop-off amid 2020’s Covid-19 response did not actually result in more patients turning up at hospital.

Policies and research, the report said, could be set up to improve the health of our people, animals and environment.

“They are all equally important. It’s time to stop talking and act,” she said.

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Lack of mechanisms to govern chemical use in NZ — Commissioner

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WAS $24,990
NOW $18,417
From $120pw

2007 HONDA CRV
2.4 litre, auto, tints, alloys, very roomy SUV
WAS $42,990
NOW $12,340
From $100pw

2011 MAZDA AXELA
1.5 litre, auto, economical, sporty looking hatch
WAS $42,990
NOW $12,145
From $100pw

2017 NISSAN PATHFINDER
3.5 litre, 4WD, auto. Tinted, full leather interior, Bluetooth, alloys, towbar
WAS $33,990
NOW $31,358
From $190pw

2017 MAZDA BT-50
3.2 litre, turbo diesel, manual, towbar, deckliner, grunty ute
WAS $26,990
NOW $33,131
From $205pw

2012 HYUNDAI i45
2.4 litre, petrol, tints, AUX, alloys
WAS $41,890
NOW $9425
From $225pw

2016 TOYOTA CAMRY
2.5 litre, auto, late model sedan, Bluetooth stereo, alloys
WAS $48,990
NOW $11,930
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Queensland targets in the offering for Rudyard

**Queensland —- A Queensland winter campaign could be in store for promising juvenile Rudyard after his impressive debut victory in the Maclean's Accountant 7YO (1215m) at Aarat Park on Thursday.**

"It was a good win on debut. He is a horse we have always had plenty of time for," Tony Pike said.

The Walker’s hoop sat patiently on his charge before producing him down the straight where he ran away to a three-quarter of a length victory over Marvelous, with a further 2½ lengths back to Rotorua and third.

"He was a little bit slow out today, but it was a good win for a two-year-old," Pike said. "I think he has a good future as a progressive horse with a promising future."

The son of Charm Spirit will likely have more than two runs before his trainer decides whether to head across the Tasman with him.

"We were hoping to get him to the Karaka Million but he went ahin sore the preparation before. We have just looked after him and he is still very green," Pike said.

"He was a little bit slow out today, but it was a good win for a two-year-old," Pike said. "I think he has a good future as a progressive horse with a promising future."

The son of Charm Spirit will likely have more than two runs before his trainer decides whether to head across the Tasman with him.

Unfortunately, we couldn’t quite get one to the Karaka Million but there is plenty of ammunition in store for the tail end of their two-year-old season and into their three-year-old season."

In the meantime, Pike is looking forward to Saturday with fellow cols syndicate partner Tukalaka who will contest the G1 Vodafone New Zealand Derby (2400m).

"I have been really happy with his work this month," Pike said.

"It is an awkward gate (11) again, but there doesn’t seem to be much speed in the race and we will probably put him in the race on Saturday."

"I think it was a bit of a negative rail start and he just had too far back in a slowly run race. If he turns up in his best form then he is going to be a strong winner." — NZ Racing Desk
NEW Zealand squash player Paul Coll has again showed his fighting qualities to clinch his first tournament victory as world No 1.

The West Coast Olympian won the Windy City Open in Chicago on Thursday (NZ time), fighting back from two games down to outlast up-and-coming Egyptian player Youssef Ibrahim in a 96-minute final.

Coll eventually won the match 7-11 10-12 11-4 11-7 11-4 and for his fourth tournament victory in the space of a year.

After earlier in the tournament, becoming the first New Zealand male to claim the top ranking, the 28-year-old said it was a satisfying to lift another title in the space of a year.

“It was a fantastic way to finish 2021 and then I had a pretty good Christmas present to get this drive. “Not many people get a second chance but I’ll certainly take it with both hands and try to run with it and see whether we can get some runs on the board.”

Whether Holdsworth and the rest of the Supercars grid gets much on-track action this weekend is in the hands of the weather gods.

Rain is forecast for both Saturday and Sunday at Sydney Motorsport Park with up to 50mm predicted on Sunday.

Holdsworth, who said the uncertainty is a minor concern compared to those suffering flooding in Queensland and NSW, said wet conditions will make racing for unpredictable

March 4, 2022

The Gisborne Herald

PENRITE RACING DEBUT: Lee Holdsworth will be racing in the No.11,532 for two practice sessions before a 77-lap race under lights on Saturday evening and a second 77-lap race on Sunday afternoon.

SQUASH

MOTORSPORT

GOLD COAST — Granted a second chance as a Supercars full-time driver, Lee Holdsworth is determined not to waste the opportunity.

The 28-year-old will make his debut for Penrite Racing in this year’s championship at the season-opening Sydney SuperNight event this weekend.

A regular on the Supercars grid for the past two decades, Holdsworth was without a full-time seat in 2021.

However, just weeks after being Chaz Mostert’s co-driver in the pair’s Bathurst 1000 triumph last year, his deal with the two-car Ford outfit in 2022 was announced.

It’s a career lifeeline Holdsworth is revelling in.

“It’s amazing to be back on the grid,” he said.

“I’ve been out of it for the last year and a bit and it felt like it was a long time ago. “It was a fantastic way to finish 2021 and then I had a pretty good Christmas present to get this drive.

“Not many people get a second chance but I’ll certainly take it with both hands and try to run with it and see whether we can get some runs on the board.”

Whether Holdsworth and the rest of the Supercars grid gets much on-track action this weekend is in the hands of the weather gods.

Rain is forecast for both Saturday and Sunday at Sydney Motorsport Park with up to 50mm predicted on Sunday.
CRICKET by Ben O'Brien-Leaf

It’s been proven that he’s human: but he’s still No.1.
Previously unbeaten Senior B competition leaders Ngatapa but to defending champion Boys’ High School Old Boys’ President on February 19 go into tomorrows match with the Gisborne Boys’ High School second 11 at red-hot favourites.

The Round 13 clash on Harry Barker Reserve proved that it will be Boys’ High’s last hurrah, with this being the last week of regular season play; they have no chance of a semi-final berth. The Wellington Premier competition’s Campion College first 11 has a mathematical chance of fourth spot, if they beat OBR on HBR 4 with a result there will put in print that the Prep School Old Boys’ Presidents on February 19 yet go into yesterday’s play as a relative.

Previously unbeaten Senior B competition leaders boys Graeme Gray is more than useful while the point of interest, with his return to the course where he for seven-time New Zealand Open champion Chris Tickle, his the equal of Harmanpreet Gill for the president’s side. Needham and Jeff Chambers sit at 35, a strokemaker the equal of Harmanpreet Gill.

A WEEK ago, for the Boys’ High second 11 to Ngatapa Green caps: Mike Gibson (c), Riker Rolls, Caleb Taewa, Dylan Worthington, Mike Tapp. OBR: Craig Christophers (c), Thom Berry (wk), Deavan Gray, Johnathan Gray, Jack Holden, Matt Lataru McIntyre, George Reynolds, Mana Taumau, Lloyd van zyl, Phil Viljoen senior, Aaron Whatuira, Johnathan Gray.

Golf NZ handicap website shows that in round one. — AAP

Joyce-Ennis and James Todesco expect the NRL will experience a reduction in blowout scores since a tweak to the conference’s rules.

The NRL launched its 2022 season at a low-key event earlier this month, with the 16 clubs when premiers Penrith take on Manly. And the game’s administrators are hopeful of avoiding another year of one-sided games.

The reason for the increased blowouts in 2021 was both the introduction of a revised finals series again rule.

Teams would be given a six-game rather than eight-game head start when they were locked into the post-season. The till of defusing led to some teams conceding a large margin of victory in the first week when the following week was considered soft under previous iterations of the rules.

Smarter teams, meanwhile, would opt to give penalties early away in the tackle count to defend their offensive line time to reset. — AAP

Storm skipper to isolate

MELBOURNE’s rollovercoaster NRL pre-season campaign for the Storm was officially put on hold with reports that skipper Cameron Munster and Michael Cheyko is in a COVID-19 bubble after returning with minor flu-like symptoms and returning positive Rapid Antigen Tests, the club said on Wednesday.

A subsequent PCR test also returned a positive result, allowing Munster to do double-duty in the seven-day period and return a negative test before returning to the club.

The Storm did the rule them out of the round-one match against the Rabbitohs in Brisbane Friday night, according to The Australian. Munster is in doubt for the clash with his former club with a hamstring tightness which kept him out of their final match trial against North Queensland last Saturday night. — AAP

Injury-hit Reds face Force

The borders are open, the Sea are blue as per, the Covid threat is still very real. Andlet’s do one more job in the Opens and add some mystery to the Super Rugby milestone at HBF Park on Friday night.

The Reds have endured a torrid lead-up to Friday showdown with the Force after reporting minor flu-like symptoms and returning positive Rapid Antigen Tests, and a delayed flight into Perth all added to the Reds’ troubles. Queensland made eight changes to their matching 3-15, with handback Tate McDermott (ankle), Lam Wright (shoulder), Angus Scott-Youngh (knee) and hooker Alex Maff all injured.

While Reds players were at an airport hour for Thursday morning, Force players were celebrating the opening of Wests Tigers’ new club’s a hard border after almost two years. — AAP

Philby debut show for Harden

MUCH like his bushy beard, James Harden is starting to grow on the Nets.

Harden had a packed house in a frenzy from the moment he was introduced as “making his Philadelphia home debut,” then flashed his MVP-form with 28 points, nine assists and nine rebounds in a 114-105 win over the New York Knicks on Wednesday night.

Superstar Joel Embiid had 27 points and 12 rebounds. Tyrese Maxey scored 25 points. But Harden was the star of the show, and he seemed to relish the moment.

The Nets moved to 3-0 with Harden in the lineup and his dynamic duo hook up with Embiid was a sight to behold, and Harden as legitimate contenders in the Eastern Conference, where he swatted the ball on a 3-23 record despite Simmons not playing all season. — AAP

 Presidents ‘favourites’

Last hurrah for Gisborne Boys’ High

Reserve’s perseverance pays off

FROM BACK PAGE

HOROUTA PRESIDENTS: Ollie Needham (c, wk), Nicholas Armour, Simon Blaker, Jeff Chambers, Niall Quinno, Luke Ramsey, Jason Lines, Nathan Quinno, Jarrod Renouf, Grant Walsh.

NGATAPA GREEN CAPS: Mike Gibson (c), Riker Rolls, Caleb Taewa, Dylan Worthington, Mike Tapp. OBR: Craig Christophers (c), Thom Berry (wk), Deavan Gray, Johnathan Gray, Jack Holden, Matt Lataru McIntyre, George Reynolds, Mana Taumau, Lloyd van zyl, Phil Viljoen senior, Aaron Whatuira, Johnathan Gray.

OBR: Craig Christophers (c), Thom Berry (wk), Deavan Gray, Johnathan Gray, Jack Holden, Matt Lataru McIntyre, George Reynolds, Mana Taumau, Lloyd van zyl, Phil Viljoen senior, Aaron Whatuira, Johnathan Gray.

HOROUTA TE WAKA have worked long, hard and smart to get to where they are on the table. They have been both a team to watch and a team to fear. They have been consistent over the past two seasons, with an unassailable 152 runs to their name and a real chance of winning the competition with only one win away.

Knutt wants Horouta to be positive, but their attacking bent is a real Clinical-GR. With a win in the final against Northern Spirit, off-spinner Tel Mee Knight with slow leftie Mike Tapp bowling well - his team took 14 and bowled Midi Mose 3-3 to the Blue and Royal Victory of batsman, Aman Kambij (79 runs at an average of 30), a strokekaker the equal of Hommagez: 60 runs (out to compete) or Chaitanya Sambarde (86 or 7) have made a powerful side.

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A WEEK ago, for the Boys’ High second 11 to beat Hope Cup holders Horouta Presidents was a pipe dream.

But Lukas Fry led the team to their first win of the season last Saturday and they will field their strongest team to date in their last outing. Big left-hander Jarrod Ormiston showed stickability for the GBHS first 11 on Monday evening and more true grit on Tuesday morning as the hosts drew the traditional two-day game with Napiers.

On Thursday, the GBHS first 11 will face McNaught (wkp), Zac Borrie, Richard Briant, Tom Cooper (Waikanae) 77, 79; Robert Lewis has also played club rugby for the GBHS first 11 on Monday evening and more true grit on Tuesday morning as the hosts drew the traditional two-day game with Napiers.

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Olympics

Russian Para team barred
IPC reverse decision to let them compete after one day

Paralympic Committee, in response to the political pressure of other countries against Russia, decided to bar Russian and Belarusian athletes from the Winter Games. The IPC, in a statement, said the decision was made due to the "right decision had been made" and that it was "a strong message of inclusion." The IPC's decision was supported by the paralympic committees of Britain, Italy, and other nations. The BBC reported that this was a "disgrace for the International Paralympic Committee." The IPC's decision was reversed by the Paralympic Village in Beijing. "The atmosphere in the Games village is not pleasant," Parsons said. "The situation there is escalating and has now become untenable..." The Games are not about gold, silver, and bronze, but also about sending a strong message of inclusion. Parsons said the IPC was likely to face threats from other countries. The IPC's decision was supported by other Paralympic committees. The German Paralympic Committee's president Julius Beucher said the IPC had followed the desire of the majority of the national committees and the athletes, who "exerted great pressure" to reverse the initial decision. "This is a strong sign of democracy within the Paralympic movement," Beucher said. The Czech Paralympic Committee chairman Zdenek Sykora said: "Athletes should have the opportunity to show their best performances at the top event, but in this case we take the elimination of Russia and Belarus as another opportunity to put pressure on Russian President (Vladimir) Putin." — RNZ

French Open: Hopes boosted

Novak Djokovic's hopes of playing at the French Open have been given a major boost with the news that France is suspending its vaccination pass this month. The French Sports minister announced in January that all athletes would need to be vaccinated in order to compete on French soil, throwing Djokovic's defence of his Roland Garros title into severe doubt. But, with the latest wave of the Covid pandemic now subsiding, Prime Minister Jean Castex revealed the current restrictions will end on March 14. The news also means that Djokovic, who is the only man in the top 100 who is unvaccinated, can play in the Monte Carlo Masters beginning on April 10, which could well be his next tournament. — AAP

Life line for Paddon

Hayden Paddon's ongoing hopes of a return to the World Rally Championship have received a boost in the form of a homegrown New Zealand team. The one-time WRC event winner was set to take the wheel as the Hyundai New Zealand Rally team entered the second-tier WRC2 championship last year. Paddon and longtime co-driver John Kennard would contest three events in 2022 in the Hyundai i20 N Rally2 car, before moving on to the World Rally Championship next season. The team's 2022 schedule would start in Estonia in July, before moving on to Finland in August and then concluding with the WRC's return to New Zealand in late September. Paddon, who spent five seasons driving for Hyundai in the WRC before losing his contract at the end of 2018, said he was looking forward to the challenge. "We have been trying so hard over the last 25 years to get back to the WRC. It's been tough with everything going on in the world." Together with Hyundai New Zealand we decided to take matters into our own hands, and launch a Kiwi team to take on the WRC. — RNZ
Time running out to make impact

CRICKET by Jack Malcolm

PREMIER cricket teams have an ever-shortening runway to extend their season, with just two weeks of regular-season cricket remaining this summer. A changed IU Barry Cup competition format means the second- and third-placed teams play off in a semifinal to decide who will play the regular-season winners the following weekend. With a perfect four-win record, Bollywood Stars High School Old Boys have all but secured their spot in the final, to be played on March 26. They can only be unseated by Coastal Concrete OBR, who with a 3-2 record need results to go their way while they also fend off Galaxy World Gisborne Boys’ High School and Horouta.

Boys’ High have an uphill battle tomorrow as they take on the in-form HSOB. Despite a win last weekend, they are eager to continue building momentum into the final. To be played on March 26. They take on the in-form HSOB. Despite a win last weekend, they are eager to continue building momentum into the final. To be played on March 26.

"GBHS have lots of kids who have a lot of talent that can have big impacts, and they have been improving throughout the season, batting and bowling, and we won’t be taking them lightly," said captain David Situ.

With several of their players, such as Teghib Singh and Bruno Judd, finding their stride with both the bat and ball, they will be confident in their abilities and need to focus on their execution.

Horouta captain David Situ said it was a "must-win" game in their campaign for the semifinals.

"We need to tighten up our fielding and also be more solid with the bat," he said.

"We should be at full strength tomorrow, which will help," he added.

HSOB bowlers have experienced problems such as Josh Adams and Ian Loffler, who are looking forward to it!

"We need someone in the top five to make sure we can control the middle overs and get them out," he said.

"This is a big game for us. We need to bowl and field well, and batting 50 overs is crucial."

They’re hoping they can repeat the form they showed in their upset victory over OBR six weeks ago. They come into the game with the added incentive of its being the business end of the season.

"We need to improve on our performance from last weekend and bat their overs," he said.

HMBC have a team of dangerous batsmen, such as Josh Adams and Ben Loffler, who have a proven track record of game-winning performances with the bat. It will be a good game, and I know the boys are looking forward to it!

TEAM UNDEFEATED: High School Old Boys’ Jak Rowe bowls down the barrel against OBR. HSOB have won all their games, which gives them some security about making the final. They would play the winners of tomorrow’s game between the second- and third-placed teams.

| **RZ SITUATION** | Auckland | fine | 29 | 0 | 10 | 10 |
| | Hamilton | fine | 29 | 0 | 10 | 10 |
| | Taumarua | fine | 29 | 0 | 10 | 10 |
| | Taupō | fine | 29 | 0 | 10 | 10 |
| | Napier | fine | 29 | 0 | 10 | 10 |
| | New Plymouth | fine | 29 | 0 | 10 | 10 |
| | Palatinate North | fine | 29 | 0 | 10 | 10 |
| | Wellington | fine | 29 | 0 | 10 | 10 |
| | Christchurch | fine | 29 | 0 | 10 | 10 |
| | Dunedin | fine | 29 | 0 | 10 | 10 |

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| | Taumarua | fine | 29 | 0 | 10 | 10 |
| | Taupō | fine | 29 | 0 | 10 | 10 |
| | Napier | fine | 29 | 0 | 10 | 10 |
| | New Plymouth | fine | 29 | 0 | 10 | 10 |
| | Palatinate North | fine | 29 | 0 | 10 | 10 |
| | Wellington | fine | 29 | 0 | 10 | 10 |
| | Christchurch | fine | 29 | 0 | 10 | 10 |
| | Dunedin | fine | 29 | 0 | 10 | 10 |

**TODAY IN HISTORY** 2014 – Heavy rain over two days caused considerable flooding throughout Christchurch and surrounding areas. A number of Christchurch schools were closed due to the flooding. It was reported that at least 100 homes in Woolston, Richmond, St Albans and Mairehau had been inundated with water.

For the latest weather info including winds, rain, sun, temperature, evapotranspiration, sunshine and more, visit www.metservice.com
Teenage rampage

GOLF by Chris Taewa

FEILDING High School student Ryan Rooney has professional aspirations. And those who witnessed his performance in qualifying at the Emerge and Hathaway Poverty Bay men’s open on the Awapuni Links course yesterday would not be surprised if he achieves them.

The 17-year-old tore apart the Bay track in probably the finest scoring in the 91-year history of the district’s premier men’s golf tournament.

Manawatu-Wanganui representative Rooney went birdie ballistic in his rounds of 2-under 70, then 5-under 67 for a 36-hole strokeplay total of 137.

It was almost certainly the lowest qualifying scoring in Poverty Bay Open history, surpassing the 139 of Alex Tait in 2003 and Landyn Edwards in 2011.

Rooney’s return was the highlight of a day when plenty of other players also took advantage of friendly conditions — weather-wise but for a bit of wind and course-wise courtesy of six-inch placing, receptive and smooth Bay greens and pin placements that encouraged attacking golf.

The cut-off for the top-16 matchplay that will decide the Keiha Cup champion was 157 — the equal-lowest this century.

Six players recorded sub-par rounds, including an outstanding 68 from home-course member Glenn Morley as he qualified third on 144.

Ahead of Morley, and five adrift of Rooney, was Electrinet Park member and Tairawhiti Golf Association president Anaru Reedy, who followed up a morning 72 with 70 — a combined score that will decide the Keiha Cup champion.

Reedy played with Rooney and was receptive and smooth Bay greens and pin placements that encouraged attacking golf.

“It was almost certainly the lowest qualifying score in the 91-year history of the tournament. Rooney had 13 birdies over the two rounds of strokeplay and shot 70, 67 to earn the No.1 seeding in the championship 16. It is believed to be the lowest qualifying score in the 91-year history of the tournament. It was almost certainly the lowest qualifying score in the 91-year history of the tournament. It was almost certainly the lowest qualifying score in the 91-year history of the tournament.

BIRDIE MACHINE: Feilding teenager Ryan Rooney tees off the first hole on qualifying day at the Poverty Bay men’s open.

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Defending champion and Poverty Bay greenkeeper William Brown followed, also on 147.

Brown, who started on the 10th tee in the morning, went crazy in his second nine. He followed up an inexplicable bogey 6 on the first hole for a man of his distance with birdies on 2, 3 and 4, a chip-in eagle on 5 and birdie on 6.

Three shots behind him on 150 was Neighbourhood Pizzeria owner Marcel Campbell, who did not play an official round of golf in 2021 and but for a handful of rounds this year has been isolated to hitting balls on Watson Park.

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