Cases reach new high

by Andrew Ashton

THE region has a record high number of new Covid cases today as Hasora Taiahwiti district health board looks to expand its isolation facilities.

There are 442 new cases today, with one person in hospital.  
“This is the highest daily case total we’ve had so far, which shows Omicron is still circulating freely in the community,” a Hasora Taiahwiti spokesman said.

Hasora Taiahwiti is looking to increase numbers by another 16 campervans.

The facilities at present include five flats, plus two dorms on site at Hasora Taiahwiti, six campervans, six units at Te Kuri a Tuatai Marae and six units in Flics Bay.

They provide about 80 beds and are running at 75 percent occupancy.

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TURANGA Heath will be providing rapid antigen test kits to rural communities this week.

“Turanga Health is going to do a “Rapid Around the Rural Areas” delivery of Covid RAT kits tomorrow and Thursday,” Turanga Health chief executive Reweti Ropiha said.

The Ministry of Health has made available several thousand test kits and these need to be in our rural areas rather than sitting in boxes in Gisborne.

“We are going to provide these to farming communities tomorrow and Thursday so people don’t have to make a trip to town.”

Pickups are at Muruwai Marae, Wednesday, 5.30 to 6.30pm; Matawai School, Thursday, 5.30pm to 6.30pm; Waihiraere Marae, Thursday, 5.30pm to 6.30pm.

See the advertisement on page 9 in today’s Gisborne Herald for further details.

Intermediate from 3.30 to 6pm for a kids vaccination drive-through, then at Elgin School at the same time on Thursday. Heaps of amazing prizes are up for grabs.

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The region’s supported isolation quarantine (SIQ) facilities, which cater for those unable to isolate at home, will be increased.

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CENTRAL School’s Rangi (senior syndicate) triathlon was held at Nelson Park on Friday.

The students took part as individuals or in teams over a course comprising an 800-metre run, 100m swim at the nearby Enterprise Aquatic centre and 1km cycle.

“It was a great day. The children challenged themselves and had fun,” organiser and teacher Campbell McNab said.

“Even though the inter-school event has been cancelled for the year, we thought it was important for us to run the event if we could. Unfortunately, this meant we could not invite parents down to spectate. However, we did our best to livestream each race.”

Team events were participation only.

Individual results — Year 5 girls: Sophie Phelps, 1 Isabelle McGhee 2, Merike La Grange (Y4 student) 3.

Year 5 boys: Tyler Sheldrake 1, Blake Pearse 2, Matthew Knudsen 3.

Year 6 girls: Sophia Castles 1, Charlotte Willoughby 2, Elke Higgins 3.

Year 6 boys: Henry Wallingford 1, Gus Kinsella 2, Tobias Smith 3.

Looking Ahead

FOCUS ON THE LAND
• Prices and comment from the monthly cattle fair held at Matawhero today — around 900 head on offer.
• Motu farmers Mark and Jane Johnson from Alcuin Station are in the 2022 Ballance Farm Environment Awards.
• The weekly AgriHQ report updates the strong export prices for lamb, and beef exports in February very similar to the past four years.
## Public input wanted on GDC growth strategy

By Andrew Ashton

As part of joint agency efforts to kerb the worsening housing crisis, Gisborne District Council is inviting the public to information and feedback sessions on its new growth strategy.

The council’s urban growth and development workstream lead, Shane McGhie, says the Future Development Strategy (FDS) is one of the tools to solve the demand for housing in Tairāwhiti.

“Almost half of the region’s population doesn’t earn enough money to buy or rent a house and this will get worse unless something is done about it,” he said.

“The FDS will outline where building can occur to enable planning projected housing and business growth in Tairāwhiti.”

The council is seeking input from the community at the start of this process, and last week launched a website where people can nominate a potential growth area. The website can be accessed at bit.ly/35qA9Nv

“The purpose of these sessions is to introduce the FDS project and show why it’s important, outline the methodology and seek input on potential growth sites,” Mr McGhie said.

“The council is asking the community to help verify their research on growth areas. These are areas where it might be suitable to build new houses over the next 30 years.”

“We’ve got a pretty good idea about suitable locations for growth but we know we may have missed areas, and we’d love input from stakeholders and community members. By working together, we can jointly develop a great plan for what Tairāwhiti looks like over the next 30 years.”

Webinar sessions will be held via Zoom. The sessions will be 30 minutes long and include a brief presentation, followed by a Q&A session with technical experts.

Thirty-minute webinars will be held at midday and 7pm on Monday, March 28, and at 12 noon on Tuesday, March 29, and Wednesday, March 30.

Join one of these sessions and find out more on the GDC webpage, or email the team at trmp@gdc.govt.nz with any questions.

Growth site nominations will be open throughout March with a full public consultation on a draft strategy due in September.

The council expects the strategy will be operational before the end of the year.

## RECORD HIGH MEDIAN

**House sales drying up at lower end of market**

by Andrew Ashton

The median house price in the district is now $715,000, eclipsing the region’s previous record of $695,000 set in February 2021 to 5597. (across New Zealand increased 13.5% yearly, from $780,000 in February 2021 to 8324 in February 2022)

That’s a stark difference from 56.4 percent in February last year. Last month, 41.3 percent of all sales were priced between $350,000 and $499,999 — a market altogether.”

“While there are less buyers out there, people are still able to get the cash so they can buy. "It’s still a good time to sell because we are still getting their hands on that money. So, they probably shouldn’t wait, they should keep coming. "They are taking longer for buyers to get their financial details together. "On the other hand, the middle and higher parts of the market were still rising. "Some properties are being given slightly higher prices because we are still getting their hands on that money. So, they probably shouldn’t wait, they should keep coming. "We’ve got a pretty good idea about suitable locations for growth but we know we may have missed areas, and we’d love input from stakeholders and community members. By working together, we can jointly develop a great plan for what Tairāwhiti looks like over the next 30 years.”

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## RECORD HIGH MEDIAN

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**From K Road bar to opening for the Fools**

FROM PAGE 1

by Jack Marshall

PUNK rock singer Lucy Suttor is used to screaming about terrible landlords and political inaction to a hundred people.

But come December her band, Dick Move, will be thrashing in front of 50,000 as a support group for Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inductees the Foo Fighters.

“You don’t want to stand there and look at the crowd so much, I might s.t myself,” said Suttor, who became the band’s frontwoman after leaving Grandma.

Dick Fools have locked in Amyl & the Sniffers and Dick Move to open for them at Wellington’s Sky Stadium on December 15 and 17.

At first, Suttor thought it was a joke.

By day, she shares her skills in Swedish relaxation and deep tissue massage at her studio, Nice Touch Massage, in Saint Kevins Arcade off Karangahape Road.

By night, a nondescript door and behind that is the basement of the Whammy!

“Blink and you’ll miss them,” said Lucy.

Tickets for the December 15 and 17 shows are on sale at frontiertouring.com/footloose.

Check out The Guide in Today’s Gisborne Herald for an extended article with Lucy Suttor of Dick Move.

**GIZZY GRINDER:** Young surf lifesaving athletes from across the eastern region converged on Gisborne at the weekend for a series of events to make up slightly for the national championships being cancelled. One event was the inaugural Gizzy Grinder — a run, swim, board and ski long-distance event modelled on Australia’s iconic Coolangatta Gold or the annual Mount Monster at Mount Maunganui, that included a jump off the railway bridge. STORY ON BACK PAGE

Picture by Keepa Digital
Both have received funding from Turanga Health is in Gisborne. Hot Springs Hospital while Hauora (NPH) are the two Māori of the Covid-19 vaccine and 63.1 district health board, 60 percent of vaccination rates for Māori in New outbreak continues.

"A worker spotted the fire and used a bucket of water to douse it," a senior firefighter said.

SUPPORT: TROTAK kaimahi are making sure those in isolation have what they need. From left, Athena Emmerson-Kapa, Sativa Walters, Kim Torrez and Ahorangi Chambers.

**Māori health providers doing the mahi across rohe**

by Matai O'Connor
Kaupapa Māori reporter

MĀORI health providers, social services and rūnanga are working overtime to increase vaccinations, support whānau in isolation and get rapid antigen tests to those who need them as the Oミcron outbreak continues.

Turanga Health has one of the lowest vaccination rates for Māori in New Zealand and one of the highest percentages of Māori with Covid. According to Hauora Tairāwhiti district health board, 60 percent of all cases in Tairāwhiti are Māori, while 87.1 percent of all eligible Māori have had their second dose of the Covid-19 vaccine and 63.1 percent have had their booster shot.

"We need whānau to share experiences, we need whānau to put their hands up. Without whānau doing this, agencies and providers can only do so much." Mr Ropiha hopes the outbreak will peak by the end of March or start of April. "Four to six weeks ago it was one positive case, then we got forecasts of 100 to 120, and now we are in the midst of it, we are seeing 360 a day. "If it’s going to peak it might hit 400 or 500 a day, but it’s a bit of a crystal ball situation.”

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We'd like to acknowledge Tania Raua and Kevin Pehatiwhairangi, who travelled to Kainga to deliver training in association with Toitū Tairāwhiti,” she said.

"Our ‘ninjas’ are constantly monitoring and all are in good health.

"We have a daily case update so whānau are fully aware of our status, and some whānau are freely sharing their own stories on their personal platforms.

"We remain mindful we are a whānau kōtahi and the arena being shown across the board is tangible."
Seed collecting gets the thumbs up from tamariki

by Avneesh Vincent

THE Gisborne Herald

by Avneesh Vincent

RERE School students got their hands dirty last week in an effort to enhance their learning and give back to the environment.

Last Thursday, the students, with the help of kaitiaki, collected eight species of seeds, including tawa, mahoe and kowhai, from Pouriwai Station.

School principal David Milne said after the Wharekōpae water testing activity last year, the school was keen to incorporate more outdoor activities in their curriculum.

By using local resources and help from the community, the school was taking a more proactive approach.

“it is a good opportunity for the children to learn to give back to the environment and know what they can achieve when they work together,” he said.

Kaitiaki and Women’s Native Tree Project Trust nursery manager Kauri Forno was on hand to teach the students about eco-sourcing.

Eco-sourcing minimises the risk of planting species that are not native to the area and could become invasive.

“It is good to have the children collect the seeds, train them to have ‘seed eyes on’ and teach them about when it is ripe to collect them from the trees,” Ms Forno said.

Seed collection was important as Tairāwhiti had lost a lot of its forest cover, she said. Since the region geologically has younger soil and it is crucial to have more forest cover to protect areas from slipping and contaminating waterways.

“We need to start getting native trees back, so my role is to find seeds from different areas and encourage communities to grow the seeds, look after the trees and ultimately plant more natives,” Ms Milne said the location was the ideal place to give back because the land that Rere School currently sits on was donated by the Kemps, who were the original owners of the 21 hectare station, about four generations ago.

The history resonates quite deeply here,” he said.

Station owner Jeremy Kemp said living, Seaweed is a great time for the school to come in for the collection as it was always nice to have more native bush.

The Gisborne District Council said the revegetation programme was part of a wider project, but is yet to provide further response.

Caring for our coastlines

by Avneesh Vincent

COMMUNITIES across Aotearoa New Zealand got involved in activities last week to raise awareness of the importance of the ocean and marine life.

“With our oceans in its 30th year, aims to reconnect Kowhai with the ocean and draw attention to an ecosystem that makes up about 93 percent of New Zealand’s territory and covers 71 percent of the planet.

“Seaweed is an annual opportunity to promote ways to learn about and experience the marine environment, and better appreciate the connections between land, sea and wellbeing,” Department of Conservation marine communications adviser Casey Spearin said.

Conservation events are often dedicated to be the specific issues such as deforestation and predator control.

“In Aotearoa, the ocean is vital to our way of life so it is important to have an event like this which focuses on the ocean,” she said.

One of the DoC’s goals was to increase the understanding of marine species, foster connections between the ocean and wellbeing and motivate people to engage in environmental volunteering such as beach clean-ups.

Last Friday, the Tairāwhiti Environment Centre (TEC) conducted a beach clean-up at Waikanae Beach as part of a Sustainable Coastlines Programme.

Sustainable Coastlines,

a charitable trust, operates nationwide to connect people with nature.

TEC hub support coordinator Stephanie Temple said the centre, along with eight volunteers, picked up rubbish along the coastline.

“Plastic is present in our oceans and it is affecting our aquatic life so it is important that we do our part of disposing of it before it becomes a hazard,” she said.

According to Greenpeace reports, researchers have found plastic in the stomachs of 44 percent of all seabird species, 22 percent of crustacean species, and in all sea turtle species.

Volunteer Amy Hardy said aside from picking up plastic bottles, she found a lot of broken-down plastics — micro plastics.

Ms Hardy, who is also the regional coordinator for Experiencing Marine Reserves (EMR) in Gisborne, said it was important to spread awareness of the micro-plastic problem.

“Just being able to get the community involved and make a connection with Amy and the wider public is important for informing change,” Ms Temple said.

East Coast MP and Minister of Conservation Kiri Allan was among the volunteers.

“In weeks like this it is crucial to celebrate or commemorate the role that the sea plays in our life as island dwellers and it does come with a big responsibility. We strive and continue to embody a culture of care for our coastlines.”

Ms Spearin said many rangers in our district had organised community events for Seaweed, from evening talks with ocean experts to needle felting 3D ocean creatures.

“Unfortunately, due to Covid, the Gisborne office decided not to host any events this year.

Typically, one thing that the local office does is support EMR’s community snorkel day,” she said.

DoC East Coast community ranger Trudi Ngawhara said that since life on earth was dependent on healthy ecosystems, in the ocean and on land, DoC’s objective was always to inspire the community to get out and enjoy the taiao (environment).

“If you love it, you will look after it.”

“For us ‘Coasties’, our moana is a huge part of our everyday life and it is so important to reflect on what an awesome things we have.

“Celebrate by being beside it, being on it, being in it,” she said.

There are also plenty of Seaweed opportunities to participate in online.

“Seaweed is a great way for the kids and some great webinars with leading experts in marine science.”

To head to https://www.seaweek.org.nz/whats-on
Mandate changes considered

WELLINGTON — Cabinet will this week consider “changes” to Covid-19 vaccine passes and mandates, according to Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern. “Over the course of this week and next, Cabinet will be considering the changes we’ve been discussing with mandates, vaccine passes, and the Covid Protection Framework,” Ardern said at her post-Cabinet press conference. “We’ll look to make announcements on these decisions next week.” The Government has been under pressure to justify mandatory vaccination for sectors of the workforce now that more than 95 percent of the eligible population is fully vaccinated with two doses. Violent standoff with police and more than 120 arrests.

Newshub revealed last month that more than 2600 workers had stood down across the Government’s sectors mandated to be vaccinated. Since then, the mandate for police and Defence Force has been quashed by the High Court.

“Growing certainty has already signalled the Government’s intention to roll back the mandates, and passports after the Omicron variant has peaked in the community.” At that point, if we follow the pattern of other countries, we’ll likely see a rapid decline, followed by cases stabilising at a lower level. That is the point when we can start to do things differently,” she said last month.

“Vaccine passes were a way of ensuring that within the relatively free system of the traffic lights, that people who were in high-risk places had some layer of protection. But once we come through a wave and peak of Omicron, that equation changes because many unvaccinated people will at that point have been exposed to the virus.”

While some experts warn it’s too soon to celebrate, the number of daily Covid-19 cases has been reducing. The Ministry of Health reported 15,540 on Monday and 14,948 on Tuesday compared with more than 20,000 on most days earlier last week.

Director-General of Health Dr Ashley Bloomfield has highlighted the importance of vaccination. “Citing research from January, Dr Bloomfield said last month: ‘Compared with being unvaccinated, the odds of contracting Omicron after receiving three doses dropped by 87 percent – two-thirds, and for Delta the risk declined by a stunning 93 percent.’

But National’s Covid-19 spokesperson Chris Bishop has been questioning the need for mandates now that the population is highly vaccinated. In Parliament last week he suggested that “the utility of vaccine mandates are considerably diminished, given more than 95 percent of the eligible New Zealand population has now had two doses of the vaccine, and the impact of vaccination on transmission under Omicron is nowhere near what it was under Delta”.

His comments came amid reports that unvaccinated Ministry of Social Development staff had been called to meetings to discuss their future. Police Minster Chris Hipkins said in Parliament last week that the Government kept under review “It is possible that some workforce will find those requirements removed before others and will do that based on public health advice and based on a proportionate risk assessment as we make those decisions.” he said last week.

Woods told Morning Report the Government had called it an energy crisis because the pricing of fuel was a crisis for many.

While it was a crisis of pricing, there was absolutely no crisis in the physical supply of fuel in the country”, Woods said.

She denied the cut was knee-jerk reaction to a bad poll.

“Vaccination is mandatory across the road user charge system was so complex he would “not even dare to do the necessary calculations” to work out how you would apply a 25 cents per kilometre discount... or the Government’s discount in this count.

There are 95 different categories across the road user charge levy system and as you can imagine if it is really complex when you are working with people who have had plenty of time to work through that process.” — Newshub
Islamophobia quadruples

CHRISTCHURCH — The Christchurch terror attacks embodied far-right extremists and have been followed by an increase in real world and online instances of Islamophobia, a new report has found. The third Islamophobia in Australia report was released this morning to coincide with the third anniversary of the shootings.

It outlined the shocking abuse and violence experienced by Muslims in Australia.

Online Islamophobia was reported 18 times as often in the immediate aftermath of the attacks and real-world Islamophobia quadrupled.

Just months after a terrorist stormed into two Christchurch mosques and gunned down dozens of worshippers, ultimately resulting in the death of 51, someone desecrated one of Australia’s oldest mosques.

A swastika was spray-painted on to it, along with a racial slur lifted from the Christchurch terrorist and a message referring to him as a saint.

The report’s chief investigator, Derya Iner, from Charles Sturt University, said 58 percent of Australia’s mosques were the target of violence ranging from graffiti and vandalism to arson.

It outlined the shocking abuse and violence experienced by Muslims in Australia.

In the wake of the Christchurch shootings, such attacks were even more terrifying for their victims.

“The person who is doing that vandalism, every time they attack, you never know if he will go further. So that trauma, especially after Christchurch, was really triggered and it has a long-lasting impact on the community,” Dr Iner said.

The report outlined some of the abuse endured by Muslims in Australia.

The cases showed anyone could be a victim.

“The reported incidents disclose that the perpetrator profile is diverse, ranging from homeless people and drug addicts to university staff and art gallery visitors. The reported cases indicate that anti-Muslim hate breaches social and professional hierarchies,” the report said.

“A person begging for donations on a university campus can shout at an Australian Muslim woman to leave her country. A patient in the chair of a Muslim dentist can call all Muslims terrorists. Physical cases also display that racist disrespect to Australian Muslims is normal social behaviour from ordinary people — fathers, mothers and children, and sometimes whole Australian families.”

However, the victims were overwhelmingly women (82 percent) and the vast majority of the perpetrators were Anglo men. Victims were often vulnerable, either women or children by themselves or in the company of other women or children.

Muslim women were often readily identifiable by their hijab, though there was also an underlying sexism behind many attacks, Dr Iner said.

“In some cases, the perpetrator is attacking a Muslim woman not knowing her husband is about to come, so the behaviour changes right away when male company approaches and confronts. The men who are perpetrators are looking for easy, weak, vulnerable targets.”

While the report dealt with Australia, the Islamic Women’s Council of New Zealand national coordinator Aliya Danzeisen said it was mirrored here, where Islamophobia was also on the rise.

“We have academics based in New Zealand saying that it’s increasing. We have intelligence and security saying that it’s been an increase, and in November they even issued a warning that there was a possibility of another attack. There is definitely a notable increase from where we were before March 15 three years ago.”

Just last month, three Muslim schoolgirls were attacked with one teenager suffering a concussion and having her hijab torn off by other students.

“This report emphasises why we as a nation need to get in front of this hate and not wait until it shows up on our front lawns or at the doors of our houses of worship and community centres to act,” Danzeisen said.

“The council urges the New Zealand government to put forward legislation to address harmful speech as recommended by its own Royal Commission and to consider legislation that will ensure digital platforms are not actively distributing and augmenting such hate and can be held to account if they do. Every day of delay is another day that the government allows the virus of hate to grow in Aotearoa.”

Real-world abuse and violence was fed by an online ecosystem of Islamophobia.

The report detailed some of the vile commentary which followed the Christchurch terror attacks including some who celebrated the murder of children.

Much of the hatred was based on the idea Muslims were inherently violent and deserved what occurred in Christchurch.

“Seeing Muslims as terrorists and killers was 12 percent in the first report when the ISIS threat was heavily reported in mainstream media in 2014-15. This proportion increased to 27 percent in the second report based on the 2016-17 reports. This number reached 40 percent in 2018-19 when ISIS was deactivated and no ISIS terrorism was recorded,” the Australian report said.

“The noticeable spike from 12 percent to 39 percent proves portrayal of Muslims as unconditionally terrorists and can be explained with the increasing influence of far-right extremist rhetoric and conspiracy theories, which justify extremist levels of anti-Muslim hate by demonising all Muslims as potential terrorists and killers. This narrative was one of the most popular post-Chirstchurch anti-Muslim narratives online.”

Australian Muslim Advocacy Network adviser Rita Jabri Markwell said the online community that helped create the Christchurch terrorist then celebrated what he had done.

“It’s not fair that ordinary people are being manipulated by disinformation to the point of feeling disgust and fury towards other members of the community, and that those bad actors are allowed to get away with doing that with impunity.”

“The New Zealand’s governments needed to enforce stronger regulations on social media platforms, forcing them to take a harder line on policing and moderating hate speech, she said.”

VIGIL: People pay their respects for the Christchurch terror attack victims and place flowers during an Open Day at Preston mosque in Melbourne on March 17, 2019. AP picture

Together, we can slow the spread.

If you are feeling unwell, have health conditions or you are getting worse, please contact your GP or Healthline on 0800 611 116.

Difficulty breathing or emergency: 111 • Isolation advice: 0800 512 337 • Welfare support: 0800 559 009

If you have tested positive and need support, see https://covid19.health.nz/advice

Please keep our hospital’s emergency department for emergencies only.
Search for doctor continues

MISSING: Searchers have been combing Papamoa’s coastline after David Holland went missing.

by Laura Smith and Samantha Motion, Bay of Plenty Times

PAPAMOA — Friends of a missing Papamoa doctor have described him as generous, caring and active, saying his three-day disappearance is a shock.

Police say 31-year-old David Holland has not been heard from since Friday evening, when he told friends he was going for a swim near the end of Pacific View Road.

Holland later failed to come forward, which police said was unusual.

Police, assisted by other agencies, have been combing the coastline and searching by sea and air. The search was expected to continue today.

They have asked anyone who was on Papamoa Beach on Friday about 7.30pm and who may have seen Holland to come forward.

Friends say Holland worked as a doctor at Tauranga Hospital and was dedicated to his work.

It was understood he had been in Tauranga for about four years and was living with flatmates in Papamoa.

A friend said he was a “caring person” and a “lovely soul”.

“He’s all in shock he has gone missing, no one can believe what’s happened quite a while for the news to sink in.”

He said people who cared about Holland found themselves walking up and down the beach on Sunday, hoping to find some sign of him.

He said they hoped anyone who was in the beach area on Friday evening would come forward to the police.

“The hardest part is we don’t know, but we hope he’s OK. We hope that he is alive and we, as his friends, are sharing the news.

Shand described Holland as an avid surfer who was also “caring and full of life”.

He enjoyed playing board games and was a keen cyclist and outdoors man. It would not be unusual for him to swim alone.

“He is always doing something physical.”

Shand also relayed comments from another friend, who did not want to be named, but said Holland was the most generous, good and kind person they had ever met.

The friend said Holland decided to go into medicine after watching the “amazing medical team that supported his father during the last year of his father’s life”.

Despite being short on time due to the demands of his job, he always made time for his friends and he was happy to help in times of need.

The friend said the last time they heard from Holland was a call on the day he disappeared.

Holland had asked about the wellbeing of the friend’s family, seeing if they were OK amid the Covid-19 outbreak — an example of his caring nature.

Holland was an active member of Mount Maunganui Ultimate Frisbee.

His former coach, who did not want to be named, said he had one of the kindest souls, and hoped he was found soon.

“David is kind, genuinely kind, positive and a go-getter.”

“He is one of my favourite people to play frisbee with because he’s just a pleasure to be around. On and off the field he’s positive, works hard, is a bit cheeky and reliable.

“The police are conducting a search and we, as his friends, are sharing the message that David is missing in hopes someone comes forward that can help with his location.”

Police said yesterday at 7pm the search was finishing for the day, but teams would regroup today and continue.

The search had involved using drones to search the sand dunes, a flying aircraft searching land and sea, and a number of ground teams searching areas along the coast.

Surf lifesavers and Coastguard have been assisting.

“Police are reiterating our appeal to the public for any information which may help find David,” Mount Maunganui Lifeguard Service chairman Jamie Troughton said club members from Mount Maunganui, Omana and Papamoa joined the water search on Saturday morning.

“Conditions weren’t nice on Friday night and they were still challenging on Saturday, with a good swell running, but, until we know more, it’s a bit of a mystery and we’re all just hoping he’ll turn up safe.”

“The three clubs are working really well together and we’re hoping for some sort of resolution.”

He said the search came during one of the busiest summers on record for local surf lifesaving clubs.

“All our clubs are struggling to fill patrols because of Covid, but the water is still warm and inviting so we’re just reminding the public to take extra care — the occassional drink can take prisoners.”

A Coastguard spokesperson said one of the organisation’s two air patrol units flew down from Auckland to help.

The thinning of the warm air from the polar front has reduced the waves from about 1.82T about 4.5 nautical miles out to sea between Mount Maunganui and Katuna on Sunday afternoon, scanning the water from above.

This was expected to be repeated yesterday afternoon.

Police said they had searched the beach and surrounding areas but found nothing to point them to Holland’s whereabouts.

“We have people with information who are really keen, and where whereabouts should call 105 and quote file number 220312/6869.”

**Love affair with Labour over**

WELLINGTON — The National Party believes the latest polls show Mikirās’s “love affair” with Labour is over with many wanting to see something done about the cost of living crisis.

The Hui, with Horizon Research, carried out its first poll of the year, finding 37 percent of Māori voters remained with the party, while 17 percent have indicated some sort of switch away from Labour. It’s a significant decline from 54 percent support for Labour in 2020.

The decline for Labour was also reflected in the 1News-Kantar Public Poll released on Thursday night where Māori voters were in favour of National (39 percent) than Labour (37 percent), the first time the centre-right party

has taken the lead in more than two years.

National MP Dr Shane Reti feels the poll results show Māori care more about the cost of living crisis than Labour.

“I have to say, looking at the poll in my summary of this is that Māori’s love affair with Labour is over,” Dr Reti told The Hui on Monday.

“You know, a sausage in a piece of bread at Waitangi Day doesn’t cut it anymore. When food prices have gone up 13 percent since they came into government, rent’s another $160 a week and it’s $45 to fill the petrol tank in an average car.

And so this love affair is finished. And now, you know, we all need to button down and work on the things that matter.” — Newshub

**Kidney Disease Rates among Maori and Pasifika still alarmingly high**

AUCKLAND — More intervention is needed to prevent chronic kidney disease and premature death among Māori and Pasifika groups.

New research by the University of Otago has revealed they’re getting sick younger, and it’s having a huge impact on their families.

The mid-1990s the attacking duo Joeli Vidiri and Jonah Lomu were a force to be reckoned with. They also shared a battle on the field — both of them suffered nephropathic diabetes, a rare kidney disease. “Both were very young,” says Otago University kidney health expert Professor Rob Walker.

New research, co-authored by Prof Walker, has found that chronic kidney disease is alarmingly more prevalent among Auckland’s Māori and Pacific populations than previously thought.

The studies show that Māori and Pasifika have higher rates of kidney disease than non-Māori and non-Pasifika with the disease presenting from the age of 40 to 15 years younger than their counterparts.

These groups were also three to five times more likely to commence kidney replacement therapy than NZ Europeans. With kidney disease hitting Māori and Pasifika people in their 40s, it can have a huge impact on their children and reduce the number of premature deaths. — Newshub
Another defamation trial begins for ousted Conservatives leader

by Craig Kapitan, NZ Herald

AUCKLAND — In the months after his unsuccessful bid for Parliament in 2014, then-Conservative Party leader Colin Craig’s political career was on the verge of imploding due to allegations of sexual harassment by his former press secretary.

It was clear, Craig told a judge yesterday, that party board member John Stringer was intent on making sure that implosion happened — using his extensive political and media contacts and his own blog for what Craig described as “a persistent campaign of lies”.

“Going nuclear,” Stringer allegedly wrote in a text message at the time, which Craig cited during his opening statement in his latest legal stoush with Stringer.

“To time carpet bomb the Colin Craig cult compound, make sure this clown doesn’t come back.”

Both Stringer and the recipient of the text message, as well as various others, would later be sued by Craig for defamation. Many would counter-sue.

The current judge-alone trial, before Justice Neil Campbell at the High Court at Auckland, is the latest in a series that have spanned the nearly seven years since Craig was ousted from the party he helped establish.

Craig said Stringer had previously sought to call witnesses. Stringer has not yet given an opening statement or had an opportunity to testify at the current trial. Both sides have agreed to rely on her testimony at the current trial. Both sides have agreed to rely on her testimony at the current trial.

Craig traversed at previous trials — including his insistence that he never sexually harassed employee Rachel MacGregor. Two prior High Court judges, however, have ruled otherwise.

MacGregor resigned from the party in September 2014, two days before the general election. Shortly thereafter, she confided sexual harassment allegations against Craig to Taxpayers’ Union founder Jordan Williams, who later shared some of the statements with Stringer.

Craig said Stringer then took the allegations and embellished them as he spoke with media, sent an email to fellow board members and tipped off Whale Oil blogger Cameron Slater.

“Obviously, the crux of the trial is going to be the nature of the personal and professional relationship between me and Ms MacGregor and whether she was sexually harassed,” Craig said.

He pointed to a section of her LinkedIn profile in which she listed herself as a “storyteller” suggesting she “retrospectively used her skills as a storyteller” to recast the narrative of what he characterised as a consensual “emotional affair” and “mutually affectionate” friendship between the two.

MacGregor, however, will not be called to testify at the current trial. Both sides have agreed to rely on her testimony at three prior court proceedings.

Justice Kit Dougall, who oversaw Craig’s successful defamation case against Slater in 2015, ruled that Craig had engaged in “moderately serious” sexual harassment of MacGregor “on multiple occasions from early 2012 to 2014”.

Following a 2018 trial in which Craig and MacGregor each sued the other for defamation, Justice Anne Hinton found that sexual harassment had occurred. In addition, she ruled that the pair had defamed each other. Last November, MacGregor was awarded $400,000 in damages.

This week isn’t the first time Craig and Stringer have faced off in court.

Stringer had previously sought more than $3.5 million in declarations, damages, aggravating damages and seemingly punitive damages against Craig and others. Justice Matthew Palmer in April 2020 ruled against all of Stringer’s claims, describing the suit as “misconceived”.

Palmer had also initially dismissed Craig’s efforts to countersue, although that decision was later overturned on appeal. “Enough is enough,” the judge said at the time.

Both Stringer and Craig are pursuing each other for defamation. Stringer’s claims, describing the suit as “misconceived”.

“Enough is enough,” the judge said at the time.

Both Stringer and Craig are representing themselves at the current trial. Stringer has not yet given an opening statement or had an opportunity to call witnesses.

AUCKLAND — A young woman who saw a man fatally hit by a car on a dark rural road says she’s traumatised by the grisly accident scene and can’t get the sound out of her head. “I’m going to need a huge amount of therapy,” I saw way too much,”

Police believe the victim was struck by four separate vehicles north of Tirau on Saturday night. The woman was just metres from the man during the final “horrid” collision. It’s understood the fourth vehicle was the only one to stop immediately after hitting the man, who is yet to be identified by police. “It just doesn’t feel right,” the woman told The New Zealand Herald.

“How the hell can three vehicles hit this man and no one stopped?”

The woman, who the Herald has agreed not to name, said she was travelling from Auckland to Tokoroa on Saturday with her ex-partner.

The pair’s car broke down in Mercer but a man travelling south in another vehicle with his six-year-old son stopped and offered them a lift. At about 8.30pm the group was driving through Paire, north of Tirau, when the two men commented “that looks like a guy on the road”.

As the vehicle slowed, the woman jumped out and ran back up the road, fearing someone could be hurt, but said she couldn’t see anything in the “pitch black”. Suddenly a vehicle roared past and struck the man lying in the middle of the road. “I witnessed everything. I was unfortunately pretty much next to the guy when he was run over.”

Police and volunteer fire crews arrived and closed the road. Bites of another car were found at the crash site, the woman said. — NZ Herald

For more information, visit: www.healthclick.co.nz
‘Absolutely devastating’
Principals shocked at proposed ban on international students

TAURANGA — Bay school leaders are “up in arms” about a Government proposal to prohibit enrolment of international students under Year 9.

Principals in the region say the move would have a “huge impact” on school culture and result in the loss of millions of dollars in revenue.

The Ministry of Education has proposed to restrict enrolment of international fee-paying primary and intermediate-aged students for state, state-integrated and private schools.

It applies to both individual and tour group students under Year 9.

The ministry’s consultation document said 9225 primary and intermediate-aged international students contributed more than $295 million in revenue in 2019.

This figure did not include tour group students that stayed for up to three months.

Korean Times director Hyun Taek Yang said in 2019 there were about 300 primary and intermediate-aged Korean students living in Tauranga with a parent. This equated to roughly $4 million in school tuition fees for the primary school sector.

Schools International Education Business Association executive director John van der Zwan said it would be “absolutely devastating” for the schools if the restrictions were implemented.

“We were decile four when we set up our school in 2000,” he said.

“Schools are up in arms. There is a huge amount of concern, frustration and anger at the Government,” he said.

He said revenue from fee-paying students went towards “world class pastoral care” and also helped fund English language support for both international and domestic students who needed language support.

Tauranga Intermediate principal Cameron Mitchell said any restrictions placed on enrolment would have a “huge impact” on the school culture.

“I see students who are working towards ‘world class pastoral care’ and also helping fund English language support for both international and domestic students who need language support,” he said.

The school’s international director Annemieke Hart said the school was fielding inquiries from “many” overseas families about the possibility of studying at the school.

Yang from Korean Times said Tauranga was the “most popular” New Zealand destination for Korean children.

Seventy percent of Korean international students in Tauranga were aged between five and 12, he said.

A submission on the proposed changes written by Taek Yang said the agency now firsthand “so much evidence” of the benefits of having international students under Year 9 in Tauranga.

About 70 to 80 international students under Year 9 were expected to come to Tauranga if the borders reopened.

He said tuition fees for students attending public schools cost about $15,000 annually.

Another $60,000 was spent on living costs between a student and their caregiver.

Education Tauranga regional relationship manager Melissa Gillingham said the proposed changes could be “detrimental” to the region’s international education sector.

She acknowledged proposed restrictions may have a “minor pipeline impact” for students who needed language support.

Another $60,000 was spent on living costs between a student and their caregiver.

Gillingham felt “very strongly” the proposed restrictions were “not the right approach” for the recovery of international education.

International student Seunhye Park moved from Korea to Tauranga about five years ago.

The 11-year-old student felt children from other countries should continue to have the opportunity to study in New Zealand and enjoy the outdoors.

“It is really good to have international students who come to New Zealand. They get to play and be free.”

Ministry of Education manager of policy Shelley Robertson said the review was requested by Education Minister Chris Hipkins and no decision had been made at this stage.

As part of the review it was looking at issues including diversion from domestic students, inequality between schools, resourcing and wider migration pressures.

The review was in line with the Government’s Immigration Rebalance, which proposes changes to visa and entry requirements.

Robertson said international students under Year 9 contributed to “promotion of global citizenship and the economic contributions”, but most were at high decile schools and in the Auckland region.

“This creates an inequitable distribution of the educational and immediate economic benefits across school deciles and regions.”

Border closures had meant schools adjusted to “reduced international revenue” during the pandemic, she said.

And to mitigate further loss in revenue students already enrolled would be able to continue their education if changes were implemented, she said.

She acknowledged proposed restrictions may have a “minor pipeline impact” for international education enrolments at secondary level. — NZ Herald
EV, hybrid sales going ‘gangbusters’

WELLINGTON — Hybrid and electric vehicles are flying out the doors of used car dealerships, with motorists looking to slash their fuel bills as prices rise.

NZ Automotive Investments (NZAI), which owns the nationwide chain of 2 Cheap Cars, said hybrid and electric vehicles (EVs) now make up nearly half of its sales, up from an average of about 20 percent.

The increase has mainly come over the past fortnight, the company said.

Chief executive David Page said sales of the EV/hybrids were going “gangbusters” as the price of petrol and diesel climbed following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and the subsequent economic sanctions on Russia.

“Kiwis are really interested and concerned around fuel prices and I think that shows with the decisions they are making around purchasing cars,” he said.

Despite the increasing demand, Page did not believe the prices for used EV/hybrids would also increase.

“I think people are still sourcing them at similar prices. However, there are a lot of other factors at play so we have to see what happens,” he said.

The rising cost of fuel was described as an “energy crisis” by Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern yesterday, as the Government announced it would reduce the fuel escape duty and road user charges by 25c per litre, for three months.

However, petrol prices are expected to continue climbing, meaning motorists would keep paying well above average.

Page believed hybrid and EVs would remain popular in the short to medium term, because motorists had become more conscious of the environment and they wanted to buy.

The country’s borders reopening would have a positive and negative impact on the IT and technology sectors.

As the majority of the sectors’ workforces were aged between 25 and 35, a lot of those people would be heading overseas as soon as they could.

On the other hand, New Zealand was seen as a destination for a lot of young professionals throughout the world and these people would be trickle into the country when travel restrictions allowed.

Shane Page, 2 Cheap Cars Dunedin general manager, saw a “huge demand” for staff in Dunedin’s IT sector, but potential candidates were not wanting to move around the country.

People wanted to work from home a lot more now and stay in one place.

If organisations were willing to be flexible, it would open up a massive talent pool, Sweeney said.

‘Watch-this-space scenario’

Recruiter warns of impending NZ worker exodus

by Riley Kennedy, Otago Daily Times

DUNEDIN — A Dunedin recruiter is warning New Zealanders’ reducing the tax on fuel provided a reprieve for the battered and volatile tourism sector.

The S&P/NZX 50 index turned upwards soon after Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced that excise duties and the price of fuel would be slashed by 25c a litre from midnight.

Public transport fares would also be slashed by 25c a litre each from midnight. Public transport fares would also be slashed by 25c a litre each from midnight.

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People wanted to work from home a lot more now and stay in one place.

If organisations were willing to be flexible, it would open up a massive talent pool, Sweeney said.

“On the other hand, banks will be operating in a better environment with the increased interest rates and they will get some margin expansion,”

Solly said changes in the S&P and FTSE global indices will create further volatility later this week as investment managers rebalance their holdings. Ebus Group is going into the FTSE Global All Cap index, while Contact and Meridian have been removed from the MSCI All Cap Global Clean Energy indices but that growth slowed in the last week, removing some of the buying support.

Contact Group, which went ex-corporate last week, was down 5c to $7.88, while Meridian was up 3c to $15.14, Ebus Group climbed 9c to $5.21 percent to $37.50. Silvercorp Holdings was down 15c to 2.78 percent to $5.24 as it was disclosed to the market late on Friday that its chief executive David Mair sold 700,000 of the company shares for a return of $3.872m.

Mair reduced his holding from 5.5m shares to 4.8m.

Online travel provider Serko, up 6c to $4.77, had its shares listed on the market late on Friday that its chief executive David Mair sold 700,000 of the company shares for a return of $3.872m.

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Govt moves to change narrative

First up on Sunday morning, Nanaia Mahuta admitted mistakes over her controversial Three Waters reforms. The Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern reframed much more empathetically her denials the previous week of a cost to living crisis, on her regular Monday morning slot on TV Three's The AM Show. She also signalled a major move to alleviate those cost pressures — which came later in the day with a 25c cut to fuel taxes and road user charges, and a halving of public transport fares — and said a timeframe for reopening the border to tourism was imminent.

There’s nothing like a mid-term election to make a Government reassess its priorities and try to soften some of the hard edges. Her performance last week.

Mahuta told Jack Tame on Q+A that she underestimated two another soon on easing restrictions programme — how much the public already knew about water management and the trade-offs in council spending decisions, and the “high level of sensitivity from local Government overall” on a $3.3m advertising campaign that depicted a range of water failures, and laid the blame on councils.

The Minister of Local Government acknowledged decades of underinvestment in water infrastructure and said “...perhaps the advertising campaign wasn’t the best way to tell the message”.

Speculation remains that the role might change hands, with a new Minister seeking more consensus from the sector on what everyone agrees is an area that needs reform. Ardern meanwhile has changed her tune on the cost of living crisis, while maintaining that the drivers of inflation are coming from abroad and are not her Government’s fault.

In Magic Talk yesterday, listeners were asked to comment on how, in their view, the Ministry of Health should be reporting New Zealand’s Covid death toll. Should the number of deaths WITH CiVid be included with deaths FROM Covid? Quite clearly, they should not.

The public is interested to know what’s happening in the country and they can only gauge this from knowing that the reported deaths were caused directly by Covid. For the ministry to talk in terms of “Covid-related deaths” and are thus more likely to be worrying about their infecukuiousness, is spreading it around. 

March 14.

Just the other day, Ardern was unprepared to be asked directly. She was unreflective, github, not worrying about the community infecting people. Vaxxed sufferers are still infectious, but have mild or no symptoms

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March 14.
LVIV, Ukraine — Russia and Ukraine kept a fragile diplomatic path open with a new round of talks on Monday even as Moscow's forces pounded away at Kyiv and other cities across the country, in what Vladimir Putin's forces have launched more than 900 missiles but that Ukraine's airspace has created “nothing short of a nightmare” for civilians.

Meanwhile, a convoy of 160 civilians left the encircled port city of Mariupol along a designated humanitarian route, the city council reported, in a rare glimmer of hope a week and a half into the lethal siege that has pushed homes and other buildings and left people desperate for food, water, heat and medicine.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the negotiators would discuss higher-level officials from the two countries took “a technical pause” and planned to meet again on Tuesday.

The latest negotiations, held via video conference, were the fourth round involving higher-level officials from the two countries and the first in a week. The talks ended without a breakthrough after several hours, with an aide to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy saying the negotiators took “a technical pause” and planned to meet again on Tuesday.

The two sides had expressed some optimism in the past few days.

Mykhailo Podoliak, the aide to Zelenskyy, tweeted that the negotiators would discuss “peace, ceasefire, immediate withdrawal of troops and security guarantees.”

Previous discussions, held in person in Belarus, produced no lasting humanitarian routes or agreements to end the fighting. Overall, nearly all of the Russian military offensives remained stalled after making little progress over the weekend, according to a senior US defense official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the Pentagon’s assessment. Russian troops were still about 15 kilometers from the center of Kyiv, the official said.

The official said that Russian President Vladimir Putin's forces have launched more than 900 missiles but that Ukraine's airspace has created “nothing short of a nightmare” for civilians.

Overnight, air raid alerts sounded in cities and towns around the country, from near the Russian border in the east to the Carpathian Mountains in the west. Fighting continued on the outskirts of Kyiv. Ukrainian authorities said two people were killed when the Russians struck an airplane factory in Kyiv, sparking a large fire.

The Antonov factory is Ukraine's largest aircraft plant and produces many of the world's biggest cargo planes. The Antonov factory in Kyiv, sparking a large fire. The Antonov factory is Ukraine's largest aircraft plant and produces many of the world's biggest cargo planes.

A Russian artillery fire also hit a nine-story apartment building in the northern Obolon district of Kyiv, killing two more people, authorities said.

And a Russian airstrike near a Ukrainian checkpoint caused extensive damage to a downtown Kyiv neighborhood, killing one person, Ukraine's emergency agency said.

A town councilor for Bravyi, east of Kyiv, was killed in fighting there, officials said. Shells also fell on the Kyiv suburbs of Irpin, Bucha and Hostomel, which have seen some of the worst fighting in Russia's stalled attempt to take the capital, local authorities said.

Airstrikes were reported across the country, including the southern city of Mykolaiv, and the northern city of Chernihiv, where heat was knocked out to most of the town. Explosions also reverberated overnight around the Russian-occupied Black Sea port of Kherson.

Nine people were killed in a rocket attack on a TV tower in the western village of Antonivka, according to the regional governor.

In the eastern city of Kharivka, fighters defused the smouldering remnants of a four-storey residential building. It was unclear whether there were casualties. — AP

BRIEFS

Cyclone kills 15 in Africa

MAPUTO, Mozambique — Cyclone Gombe has flooded large areas of northern and central Mozambique, killing 15 people, officials said on Monday.

The death toll included the same family in the Angoche coastal area of Nampula province, Governor Metty Gondola said. The 15-year-old boy was killed when the Russians struck an asphalt plant.

Meanwhile, two administration officials said that assessment had been relayed "to most of the town. Explosions also reverberated overnight around the Russian-occupied Black Sea port of Kherson."

The OVD-Info website that monitors political arrests identified 34 of the 41 persons taken into custody on Monday.

"What is going on is a crime," she said. "Russia is an aggressor country and Putin is solely responsible for that aggression." — AP

LVIV, Ukraine — Russia and Ukraine kept a fragile diplomatic path open with a new round of talks on Monday even as Moscow's forces pounded away at Kyiv and other cities across the country, in what Vladimir Putin's forces have launched more than 900 missiles but that Ukraine's airspace has created “nothing short of a nightmare” for civilians.

Meanwhile, a convoy of 160 civilians left the encircled port city of Mariupol along a designated humanitarian route, the city council reported, in a rare glimmer of hope a week and a half into the lethal siege that has pushed homes and other buildings and left people desperate for food, water, heat and medicine.

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A Russian artillery fire also hit a nine-story apartment building in the northern Obolon district of Kyiv, killing two more people, authorities said.

And a Russian airstrike near a Ukrainian checkpoint caused extensive damage to a downtown Kyiv neighborhood, killing one person, Ukraine's emergency agency said.

Kateryna Lot said she was in her apartment as her child did homework when they heard a loud explosion and ran to take shelter.

"The child became hysterical. Our windows and the balcony were shattered. Part of the floor fell down," she said. "It was very, very scary."
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PARIS — France lifted most Covid-19 restrictions on Monday, abolishing the need to wear face masks in most settings and allowing people who aren’t vaccinated back into restaurants, sports arenas and other venues.

The move had been announced earlier this month by the French government based on assessments of the improving situation in hospitals and following weeks of a steady decline in infections.

It comes less than a month before the first round of the presidential election scheduled on April 10. But in recent days, the number of new infections has been inching up, raising concerns from some scientists it may be too soon to lift restrictions. The number of new infections have reached more than 60,000 based on a seven-day average, up from about 50,000 a week before.

Starting from Monday, people are no longer required to show proof of vaccination to enter places like restaurants and bars, cinemas, theatres, fairs and to use inter- regional transport.

“The so-called vaccine pass has taken effect at the end of January,” a restaurant owner in Paris, Laurent Negri, praised a “return to normality.”

“We got used to these restrictions and complicated protocols so we will enjoy work more now. So it’s good news,” he said.

Patrician Bartholome Laisi, 23, said “it’s a good thing because people will be able to get more freedom of movement. But we need to be careful and monitor it, to avoid another (virus) wave right after.”

In hospitals and nursing homes, unvaccinated people must provide a recent negative test or proof of recent recovery to enter.

Wearing masks is no longer required in schools, businesses and offices. They remain mandatory on public transportation and at hospitals and other health facilities.

Jocelyne Muller, living near Paris, was still wearing her mask on Monday in the streets of the French capital as she was just getting out of the suburban train.

“It’s a relief to be able to remove it even though the mask does not bother me out of the suburban train. It’s a relief to be able to remove it even though the mask does not bother me particularly,” she said. “Now we just hope that it will bring back people in the cinemas, theatres and all artistic places.”

More than 92 percent of people age 12 and over are fully vaccinated in France, which has a population of 67 million. — AP

LONDON — The British Government has launched its Homes for Ukraine scheme for those wanting to register to host refugee, with 25,000 signing up in the first three hours.

Housing and Communities Secretary Michael Gove said the UK had a history of “supporting the most vulnerable during their darkest hours.”

He said there would be no limit to how many Ukrainians could enter the UK under the visa sponsorship scheme.

Each household housing a refugee will be offered £300 a month, tax free.

They will not be expected to provide food and living expenses but can choose to offer this.

People who wish to offer a rent-free space in their home or a separate residence, for at least six months, can register their interest from now.

They will be able to individually sponsor a Ukrainian national’s visa from Friday.

Those initial applications will rely on the applicant knowing a named individual from Ukraine they want to help.

But Ukrainian refugees with no family or other links to the UK can and will be hosted as part of the scheme, Gove said.

He said the sponsorship scheme was initially only between people who are already known to each other so it gets “up and running as soon as possible”.

The scheme will be expanded with the support of charities, community groups and churches who can help with matching refugees to hosts.

No time scale has been announced for when this will happen but Mr Gove said it would expand “rapidly”. — BBC

LONDON — Britain’s Supreme Court on Monday refused Wikileaks founder Julian Assange permission to appeal against a decision to extradite him to the US to face spying charges.

The court said it refused because the case “didn’t raise an arguable point of law.”

Assange, 50, has fought for 10 years to avoid a trial in the US on a series of charges related to Wikileaks’ publication of a huge trove of classified documents more than a decade ago.

The case is now expected to be formally sent to British Home Secretary Priti Patel, who will decide whether to grant the extradition.

A British district court judge had initially rejected a US extradition request on the grounds that Assange was likely to kill himself if held under harsh US prison conditions. US authorities later provided assurances that the Wikileaks founder wouldn’t face the severe treatment that his lawyers said would put his physical and mental health at risk.

In December, the High Court overturned the lower court’s decision, saying that the US promised were enough to guarantee that Assange would be treated humanely.

Monday’s news narrows Assange’s options, but his defense team may still seek to take his case to the European Court of Human Rights.

Nick Vamos, the former head of extradition at the Crown Prosecution Service, said Assange’s lawyers can also seek to challenge other points that he had lost in the original district court decision.

Barry Pollack, Assange’s US-based lawyer, said on Monday that it was “extremely disappointing” that Britain’s Supreme Court is unwilling to hear the appeal.

Mr Assange will continue the legal process fighting his extradition to the United States to face criminal charges for publishing truthful and newsworthy information,” he said.

Assange’s British lawyers, Simberg Peirce Solicitors, said they can make submissions to the Home Secretary within the next four weeks, ahead of her making any decision.

American prosecutors say Assange unlawfully helped US Army intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning steal classified diplomatic cables and military files that Wikileaks later published, putting lives at risk.

But supporters and lawyers for Assange argue that he was acting as a journalist and is entitled to First Amendment protections of freedom of speech for publishing documents that exposed US military wrongdoing in Iraq and Afghanistan.

They argue that his case is politically motivated. If convicted, Assange’s lawyers say he could face up to 175 years in jail in the US, although American authorities said the sentence was likely to be much lower than that.

Assange’s partner Stella Moris, who has two young children with him, said on Sunday they have been given permission to marry in prison later this month. — AP
NEW YORK — William Hurt, the Oscar-winning actor whose roles ranged from acclaimed 1980s dramas to Marvel films, has died at the age of 71.

Hurt was one of Hollywood’s most respected and versatile performers, known for his emotive performances in films such as “The Accidental Tourist,” “Lost in Space,” “The Big Chill,” “Gorky Park,” “Body Heat,” “Broadcast News,” “The Spider Woman,” and “Children of a Lesser God.”

He was born on May 9, 1948, in New York City, and began his acting career in the 1960s, appearing on stage and in television and film roles. His breakthrough came in 1980 with his performance in “Ordinary People,” for which he won an Oscar for Best Actor.

Hurt went on to star in a number of critically acclaimed films, including “The Big Chill,” “Gorky Park,” “Body Heat,” and “Broadcast News.” He also received nominations for his roles in “Contagion” and “AI.”

He was most recently seen in the Marvel Cinematic Universe in 2018’s “Ant-Man and the Wasp,” where he portrayed the character of Hank Pym.

Hurt was married three times and had two children. He was known for his generosity and commitment to his craft.

“William Hurt was a consummate professional who was loved by all,” his family said in a statement.

“William Hurt was a truly brilliant actor,” said New York Mayor Eric Adams.

“William Hurt was a true icon of Hollywood, and will be missed by millions of fans around the world,” said President Joe Biden.

The Dutch government said the timing of the actor’s death, the day before his 72nd birthday, was a “tragic coincidence.”

The actor was also known for his philanthropic work, including his support for the Endometriosis Foundation of America.

William Hurt is survived by his wife, actress Kathleen Turner, and their daughter.

AP
Hawke's Bay chemists speak out about struggles

by Sahiban Hyde, Hawke's Bay Today

HASTINGS — The manager of a pharmacy serving as a collection site for rapid antigen tests (RATs) says staff are coping abuse and “ratty behaviour”, while another pharmacy had a brick thrown through its window.

Hastings Unichem manager and pharmacist Alex Chan said he had opted to be a collection site for RATs as it was a service they could provide for their customers.

Mr Chan said on March 4, when the phone went off auto answer, the demand for RATs had increased and then it increased, and had been a constant since.

“We had to continuously service customers collecting the subsidised RATs outside the pharmacy with non-stop phone calls about them — on top of our usual workflow. Being on the front line and dealing with “ratty people” was unpleasant on top of having to wear full PPE, “drenched in sweat”, trying to help out, he said.

Upon appeal, the Hawke’s Bay district health board (DHB) provided the pharmacy with two administrative staff to help out, along with a security guard.

Meanwhile, the pharmacist at Westshore Pharmacy, Karen Ng, said her pharmacy opted out of being a collection site when they realised how much pressure they would be put under.

“The roll-out of free RATs to the general public was a disaster from the beginning of our pharmacy’s point of view,” she said.

She said they agreed to a very specific contract, which included critical workers with close-contact exemptions, who were vaccinated and asymptomatic.

“Controlled, documented and barely paid $0 cents — but a necessity to keep the country moving,” Ms Ng said.

And then, last week, all hell broke lose, she said.

“What was worse than the public showing up first thing — before our doors even opened — to demand their free tests with no documentation and then abusing us for it, was that there was zero warning to us that a procedural change in RATs’ collection points was coming.

“Suddenly they were being ‘abused’, the phone was ringing off the hook and people were ordering multiple tests, with zero proof they needed one,” Ms Ng said.

“After that first day, I went home crying and I immediately opted out of being a collection site.”

Ms Ng said she and some of her colleagues had experienced abuse and threats from members of the public.

She claimed one pharmacy had even had its window broken by a customer, who threw a brick in when the pharmacy had run out of RATs to give out that day.

“Some pre-planning, DHB or city council involvement is crucial to ensure your primary healthcare workforce — especially vaccinating pharmacies — should not have to bear the full weight of this roll-out, as we were already so close to burning out and striking,” the Ministry of Health responds

A Ministry of Health spokesperson said it was “ultimately a business decision” for each pharmacy whether they opted in to be a RAT collection site or not.

“During the shift to RATs as our primary testing modality, DHBs offered pharmacies the opportunity to become RAT collection sites through an expression-of-interest process.

“The ministry always engages with national pharmacy sector organisations and DHB representatives ahead of any changes.”

There was a need for work to be completed at pace due to the rapid spread of Omicron, but the Ministry of Health said they would not acknowledge the malice that was being carried out by pharmacies at this time who were supporting the public health response.

“Given the high demand for testing, the Ministry of Health is continuing to ask the public to be patient and to be kind to staff who are distributing the RATs.”

Gees’ Pharmacy coping, so far

Collection site Gee’s Pharmacy in Taradale said they had not had a bad experience yet, but they could also understand how the demand could get overwhelming for some pharmacies.

Owner Chris Marshall said he and his wife had the capacity to carry out the service because they had enough staff to be a collection site.

“The majority of people have been really good.

“In the past 10 days or so, we have handed out approximately 2000 RAT kits.”

Russians in NZ facing bullying, abuse at school

by William Hewett, Newshub

AUSTRALIA — Russians living in New Zealand have been experiencing a rise in bullying and abuse from some New Zealanders following the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Dennis Vlassin, a Russian living in New Zealand, told the AM show yesterday that he knew several kids who were being bullied at school because they were Russian.

“My own kids are too young to go to school, but I’ve heard from some of my friends that Gazprom kids are being bullied because they are Russian, and they are being asked questions like, ‘Why are you so aggressive?’ ‘Why are you attacking us?’

“And, they are being called bad, and also some really rude words,” Mr Vlassin told the AM Show.

“Children have been coming back home in tears and saying they are being bullied at school,” he said.

“They have had conversations with principals and teachers and it’s kind of a really bad thing that is happening to Russian children in NZ now.”

Mr Vlassin said a lot of Russians moved here because of the decisions (Russian President) Vladimir Putin had made.

He told the AM Show that many Russians in New Zealand were trying to support each other right now, but they were also really wanting to show their support for Ukrainians.

“We never voted for this government, but we still feel kind of responsible for it.”

“But I’m not sure if that is correct to feel like that anyway,” he said.

“We are trying to support each other through different groups. Plenty of Russians are going to friendly protests alongside Ukrainians — the ‘Stop the war in Ukraine’ marches, for instance.

“We’re supporting each other all the time, we’re sharing information and we are trying to do as much as we can,” Mr Vlassin said.

Mr Vlassin is the founder of Kiwi Education, an online platform that will help people move overseas to settle in New Zealand.

He said the number of inquiries from people in Russia had increased significantly.

“People want to come here, they have been planning to come here to New Zealand for some time, but now they want to speed up that process — obviously. They want to come here desperately, both Russians and Ukrainians.”

Pedestrian dies near Tirau

TIRAU — A pedestrian died after being struck by four vehicles near Tirau at the weekend.

The person was walking on State Highway 1 in Pairakeke, near Tirau, when they were hit by a vehicle at about 6.30pm on Saturday night.

Police said the victim was then run over by three more vehicles.

Police had identified two of the subsequent vehicles, a car and a ute, which had been described as a flat-deck ute.

Police received several calls from motorists in the area around the time that the person was run over.

Anyone with any information that could assist police probing the incident, or who were hit up to the incident was urged to contact police, quoting the file number 220313/9231. Alternatively, information could be given to Crime Stoppers anonymously by calling 0800 555 111. — NZ Herald
RACE TO THE LINE:

From left, Jhurnee Swann, Macy Jacobs, Ruby Carr and Indie Neshausen put their best feet forward in the run leg of the Central School Triathlon age 9 section at Nelson Park.

Picture by Rebecca Grunwell

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

DRUCAPONLEGUMESBVNRAGUSKROPASTAESJPSTEAMEDGRVFLCMNDAHSERFZHBITSSEOIHHEERFTAEBNPPSMENTXTSNJRRAIRHEACUATPSAEEURROCCLTWTEEMEELOITNTTOIBRHGWGYLLTECIHXHVAIWARIOANISZEUCWCLTOTTIDCUNBGNCBRATAAISELBATEGRIVEDFLNIORLJBWESOTCALACNNBMHSSIFFAOLNRLIEXREDDECUDERASOGURYAAALAEREBCREADMXYCTHFCHOLESTEROLSBALANCEDAIRYGRILLEDMEATSTEWBEANSDIGESTHEALTHNUTRITIONSUGARBREADDISHHEARTORGANICVEGETABLESCALCIUMFAT-FREEIRONPASTAVITAMINSCALORIESFIBREJUICEPROTEINWATERCARBOSFISHLACTOSEREDEUCEDWHEATCEREALFRESHLEANRIPEWHOLESOMECHEOLESTEROLFRUITLEGUMESSALTYEASTCURDGRAINSLOAFSTEAMEDZINC

SUDOKU

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

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WORD-FIT

Fit all the words into the grid to create a finished crossword.

3 LETTERS
- ATE
- BAR
- EAT
- ERA
- EYE
- MOP
- NAP
- ORLE
- RAC
- RAT
- SIR
- TIR
- YOU

4 LETTERS
- PRO
- PR
- RED
- SAD
- TREAT
- SNAIL
- STILL

SUDOKU

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

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Last week's solutions

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TRIO

These four words can be completed using the same three-letter sequence. Can you find it?

H___

___N

PR___R

___RA

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

526431
413256
251913
635142
342615
165224

TRIO HAS

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**Nga Hapū ō Tokomaru Ākau (NHOTA)**

The mandate hui was held on Saturday, 26 February 2022, at Tuatini Marae. On 26 February 2022, a further mandate hui took place via Zoom.

Mandate hui kaupapa

1. Update on NHOTA’s Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011 on behalf of Te Whānau ā Ruataupare and Te Whānau ā Te Aotūwairangi. On 10 June 2017, NHOTA representatives were mandated to represent Te Whānau ā Ruataupare at a publicly notified hui held at Tuatini Marae. On 26 February 2022, a further mandate hui took place via Zoom.

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**ONLINE VOTING DEADLINE EXTENSION**

TE WHĀNAU ā RUATAUPARE

Ngā Hapū ō Tokomaru Ākau (NHOTA) filed applications in the High Court in 2017 pursuant to the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011 on behalf of Te Whānau ā Ruataupare and Te Whānau ā Te Aotūwairangi. On 10 June 2017, NHOTA representatives were mandated to represent Te Whānau ā Ruataupare at a publicly notified hui held at Tuatini Marae. On 26 February 2022, a further mandate hui took place via Zoom.

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**MANDATE HUI – ONLINE VOTING**

**DEFENDANT**

The mandate hui was held on Saturday, 26 February 2022.

If you were unable to attend, you can still vote online. Please email meerah@tamakilegal.co.nz for a registration form, information packs, voting information and a voting form. If you do not have online capacity, please phone Meerah at 028 8516 5964 or on 0800 37 10 37.

**You must return your voting form by 5pm, Monday 21 March 2022.** Due to unforeseen circumstances, there has been an extension to the original online voting deadline.
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NOW $39,952
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2017 SUBARU FORESTER
2.5 litre, 4WD, auto, NZ new, Bluetooth stereo, alarys, great looking SUV
WAS $42,990
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
2.5 litre, 4WD, auto, NZ new, full leather interior, Bluetooth, alloys, tints, towbar
WAS $33,990
NOW $31,358
From $190pw

2017 MAZDA 6
2.5 litre, turbo diesel, 4WD, auto, canopy, running boards, towbar
From $230pw

From $31,585

2012 HYUNDAI i45
2.4 litre, petrol, tints, AIX, alloys
WAS $44,990
NOW $39,942
From $225pw

2019 ISUZU D-MAX
1 litre, manual, turbo diesel, 4WD, trusty ute
WAS $39,990
NOW $37,672
From $115pw

2007 NISSAN X-TRAIL
2.5 litre, 4WD, petrol, reverse camera, ample boot space
WAS $42,990
NOW $19,941
From $100pw

2016 TOYOTA HILUX SR5
2 litre, auto, great looking ute
NOW $38,990
From $105pw

2016 NISSAN NV350
2 litre, auto, economical, late model, great value
WAS $43,990
NOW $12,643
From $200pw

2019 NISSAN NV350
2 litre auto, economical, late model, great trade van
WAS $33,990
NOW $31,565
From $80pw

2016 FORD RANGER XLT
2.2 litre, 4WD, Bluetooth, reverse camera, very economical, great value
WAS $39,990
NOW $36,517
From $235pw

2017 NISSAN X-TRAIL
2.5 litre, auto, 7 seater, reverse camera, Bluetooth stereo, alloys, sharp SUV
WAS $48,990
NOW $17,526
From $105pw

2016 SUZUKI SWIFT
1.3 litre, auto, very economical, late model, great value
WAS $42,990
NOW $11,576
From $75pw

2012 MAZDA CX-5
2 litre, auto, economical, very popular, great looking SUV
WAS $49,990
NOW $18,942
From $125pw

2014 MAZDA ATENZA
2.5 litre, auto, sportswagen, full leather interior, Bluetooth stereo, alloys
WAS $48,990
NOW $17,648
From $115pw

2011 SUBARU FORESTER
2 litre, auto, AWD, economical, roomy SUV
WAS $19,990
NOW $12,643
From $105pw

2013 NISSAN NOTE
1.2 litre, auto, very economical, great value hatch
WAS $44,990
NOW $10,787
From $225pw

This year we have been voted #1 for Highest Quality Service throughout New Zealand for the Used Dealership category.

*All finance contracts are subject to finance company approval and responsible lending obligations. The weekly payments are indicative only and are not offered via the Act. Actual payments depend on buyer's circumstances. Total payments under the finance contract are therefore not ascertainable. Weekly payments shown are based on a no deposit loan over 5 years and an interest rate range of 7.95% to 19.95% depending on the borrower's circumstances. A $250 establishment fee and $300 on diesel/Euro/turbo vehicles (does not apply to taxis, couriers or rentals). The weekly payments include a 6 month warranty. All information, prices shown, products or specifications are subject to change at any time without prior notice. This offer expires 5pm 17/03/22.

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From $80pw

The Gisborne Herald • Tuesday, March 15, 2022
South Waikato races at Matamata Wednesday

**1 Team Wealleans** 1.47

Race 4: ROCK TO THE BOSS, $8500, non-winners mr40 to mr45 stand, 1.25

1 Brosnan Passing Lane Trot 1.25

Manawatu greys at Palmerston Wednesday

**1 Red Snapper Seduced, C/12.21 3,350,000, 1.25**

**2 Happy Valley Handicap 1.40**

Melbourne races at Sandown Hillside Wednesday

**1 Ladbroke Handicap 4.30**

**2 Ladbrokes Switch Plate 5.05**

**3 Ladbrokes Blended Bets 5.40**

**4 Ladbrokes Bet Tickler 6.15**

**5 Ladbrokes Double Switch Plate 7.05**

**6 Ladbrokes Double Challenger 7.25**

**7 Ladbrokes Double Aspiration 8.15**

**8 Ladbrokes Double Trust 8.25**

**9 Ladbrokes Double Science 8.35**

**10 Ladbrokes Double Step 8.45**

**11 Ladbrokes Double Honor 8.55**

**12 Ladbrokes Double Success 8.65**

**13 Ladbrokes Double Independence 8.75**

**14 Ladbrokes Double Expert 8.85**

**15 Ladbrokes Double Entrance 8.95**

**16 Ladbrokes Double Rule 9.05**

**17 Ladbrokes Double Runner 9.15**

**18 Ladbrokes Double Suspense 9.25**

**19 Ladbrokes Double Extension 9.35**

**20 Ladbrokes Double Association 9.45**

**21 Ladbrokes Double Guide 9.55**

**22 Ladbrokes Double Experiment 9.65**

**23 Ladbrokes Double Solution 9.75**

**24 Ladbrokes Double Concern 9.85**

**25 Ladbrokes Double Endeavor 9.95**

**26 Ladbrokes Double Argument 10.05**

**27 Ladbrokes Double Assurance 10.15**

**28 Ladbrokes Double Venture 10.25**

**29 Ladbrokes Double Initiative 10.35**

**30 Ladbrokes Double Objective 10.45**

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**32 Ladbrokes Double Directive 10.65**

**33 Ladbrokes Double Direction 10.75**

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QUICK CROSSWORD

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:
Joel Embiid, 28; Judah Friedlander, 53; Lauren Graham, 55; Victor Garber, 73.

Happy Birthday: Read between the lines, and you’ll figure out how to get the most out of whatever you pursue. Choose options that offer satisfaction and joy, not stress and regret. Adjust your lifestyle to fit your budget, and use your attributes to serve you instead of those using you for their gain. You are strong enough to stand up for yourself. Your numbers are 14, 22, 25, 34, 47.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20):
Put in the work, and you’ll reap the rewards. Reach out and make a difference because that is what truly makes you happy. Don’t let inhibitions or fear get in your way. An unexpected change is on the horizon. It can be a positive surprise.

SOLVED CROSSWORD:

ACROSS
1. Witty remarks about English animals (8)
4. Harvesting (6)
5. Observe (4)
6. Saw (7)
8. Painter (6)
9. We will shortly find a way to put this sports event to bed (7)
10. Like the greatest very popular animal? (7)
11. The lady is twice a roundabout (6)
13. The coat man on the road (13)
14. Closest Eastern European country? (6,7)
15. Refer to a student (8)
16. Astonishing (7)
17. Business anxiety? (7)

DOWN
1. Corporeal (8)
2. Cheer (7)
4. Our town could be old-fashioned (8)
5. Our town could be old-fashioned (8)
6. Our town could be old-fashioned (8)
7. Our town could be old-fashioned (8)
8. Our town could be old-fashioned (8)
9. Slow down; spontaneity will get you in trouble. Bide your time, put your energy into something that excites you. You can accomplish a lot, but don’t rely on others for help. A unique approach to an old plan will be successful.
10. ARABIC
11. The last word in astrology
12. English animals (8)
13. The coat man on the road (13)
14. Closest Eastern European country? (6,7)
15. Refer to a student (8)
16. Astonishing (7)
17. Business anxiety? (7)

SOLVED CRUCIAL CLUES:

CROSS
1. Witty remarks about English animals (8)
4. Harvesting (6)
5. Observe (4)
6. Saw (7)
8. Painter (6)
9. We will shortly find a way to put this sports event to bed (7)
10. Like the greatest very popular animal? (7)
11. The lady is twice a roundabout (6)
13. The coat man on the road (13)
14. Closest Eastern European country? (6,7)
15. Refer to a student (8)
16. Astonishing (7)
17. Business anxiety? (7)

DOUBLE CROSSWORD

SOLUTIONS TO PUZZLE 11,541

ACROSS
1. Camel (8)
2. Mix (7)
3. Pale (6)
4. Sextet (6)
5. Observe (4)
6. Saw (7)
7. Support (7)
8. Painter (6)
9. Church recipes (4)
10. Instant (5)
11. Naad (4)
12. Wreath (6)
13. Back (7)
15. Business anxiety? (7)

DOWN
1. English animals (8)
2. Cheer (7)
3. Apparel (7)
4. Stern (7)
5. Observe (4)
6. Wrest (4)
7. Stern (7)
8. Painter (6)
9. Church recipes (4)
10. Instant (5)
11. Naad (4)
12. Wreath (6)
13. Back (7)

SUDOKU

SOLUTION IN NEXT PUBLICATION.

2022 EAST

SUDOKU is a logic puzzle made up of 81 squares on a 9x9 grid. To solve the puzzle, each row, each column and each 3x3 grid within the larger grid must end up containing each number from 1 to 9, and no number can appear once in a row, column or box. A sudoku grid has a single unique solution, which can be reached without using guesswork.

The 26-year-old will have surgery and is likely to be out of contention for six to eight weeks. — NZ Herald

Johnson joins experienced winger Andrew Walker in the club’s list.

The 26-year-old will have surgery and is likely to be out of contention for six to eight weeks. — NZ Herald

You’ll receive an unexpected opportunity. Don’t hem and haw when action is called for. A move is on the horizon. It can be a positive surprise.

Three to four weeks. — NZ Herald.

You’ll receive an unexpected opportunity. Don’t hem and haw when action is called for. A move is on the horizon. It can be a positive surprise.

Double Crossword answers also fit the large grid.

QUICK CLUES

ACROSS
1. Camel (8)
2. Mix (7)
3. Pale (6)
4. Sextet (6)
5. Observe (4)
6. Saw (7)
7. Support (7)
8. Painter (6)
9. Church recipes (4)
10. Instant (5)
11. Naad (4)
12. Wreath (6)
13. Back (7)

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1. English animals (8)
2. Cheer (7)
3. Apparel (7)
4. Stern (7)
5. Observe (4)
6. Wrest (4)
7. Stern (7)
8. Painter (6)
9. Church recipes (4)
10. Instant (5)
11. Naad (4)
12. Wreath (6)
13. Back (7)

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1. Witty remarks about English animals (8)
4. Harvesting (6)
5. Observe (4)
6. Saw (7)
8. Painter (6)
9. We will shortly find a way to put this sports event to bed (7)
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DOUBLE CROSSWORD

SOLUTIONS TO PUZZLE 11,541

ACROSS
1. Camel (8)
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9. Church recipes (4)
10. Instant (5)
11. Naad (4)
12. Wreath (6)
13. Back (7)
SPORT

RADYIG

THE Covid-hit Hurricanes are confident they will be able to play their Super Rugby Pacific game against the Chiefs this weekend, despite limited preparation.

Last weekend’s match against Moana Pasifika was postponed as they were unable to field a side because of the virus.

There is a chance that this weekend’s game against the Chiefs in Wellington will be pushed back until Sunday.

The game is scheduled for Saturday night, but the Hurricanes coach assist Chris Gibbes said there are discussions about delaying it a day.

“From our perspective having an extra day with the game on Sunday would be massively beneficial for us so hopefully we can get that across the line,” Gibbes said.

“The challenge is going to be from a training perspective that we get enough time and the Sunday game gives us an extra day but if it’s Saturday we’ll deal with it.

Gibbes said his players are back training in small groups, however he concedes they are still likely to have some players unavailable.

“That’s the focus for the next few days, we have guys at different stages coming back, but we’re confident we’ll have a team for this weekend.”

He said preparing for a game when you don’t even know what players you will be able to field is a challenge.

“We have trained together as a whole group for a while and the guys that have come in have been very professional about the way they go about their learnings, so we’re confident that the game plan will still roll the way we want it to and guys will be able to pick it up.”

Gibbes said their main priority is player welfare and that’s all they’re focused on.

“We’ve got to make sure we give guys the opportunity to get ready, if you try forcing teams and guys that aren’t quite right you’re not putting them in the centre of the conversation.”

“If I was a betting man (which I’m not) I’d say that we’ll be sweet (to play) but you just never know it’s a day-to-day thing with this Covid and you can’t get too far ahead of yourself, but we’re confident as a group that we’ll be able to roll.

“We’re desperate to play, we want to two wins from each of their three games so far.”

The Hurricanes and Chiefs have two wins each from their three games so far.

The game is scheduled for Saturday night, but the Hurricanes coach assist Chris Gibbes said there are discussions about delaying it a day.

“It was always going to be tough.”

To qualify for Saturday’s preliminary final, Galaxy World Gisborne Boys’ High School needed to beat Horouta with a bonus point in 50-over premier-grade cricket at the weekend.

Even then, they needed Central Cricket OBR’s net run-rate to dip against Bollywood Stars High School Old Boys. The Central Cricket OBR won by six runs in the competition with only one win.

Neither the HBHS-Horouta game nor the HSOB-OBR game in Round 7 was

REBOUNDs ARE MINE: OklahoMa city Thunder forward Isaiah Roby (left) shoots in front of Memphis Grizzlies centre Steven Adams. Adams claimed seven offensive rebounds of his team’s 20 to secure the win. AP picture

HURRICANES take Eady gEaT

RADUCANU OUT OF INDIAN WILLS

US Open champion Emma Raducanu has blown her chance to advance to the round of 16 of the Indian Wells Masters.

Raducanu served for the match in the deciding set against Petra Martic but could not finish the job, losing 6-3, 7-5, 7-6 (7-5).

The British 11th-seeded Raducanu and 54th-ranked Martic kicked off the opening round of the Indian Wells Masters with successive games to prevail in two hours and 46 minutes. “I’m happy that I stayed calm when I was not playing so good,” said Martic in her on-court interview. The match had been an eventful one. With Raducanu struggling to find her rhythm with a break in the first set but Raducanu quickly turned things around to lead 5-3.

MONFILS DEFENDS MEDEDEV

Daniil Medvedev will meet the Indian Wells Masters in the third round to give up his world No.1 ranking.

Medvedev appeared on track to reach the last 16 after he won 6-2, 6-3, 6-2 over Gael Monfils but the French ace roared back to seal a surprise 4-6 6-3 6-1 victory. Monfils clinched the win on the sixth match point in front of an adoring California crowd with a backhand that was out of reach.

The match had been an eventful one. With teenage sensation Carlos Alcaraz, “I’m quite happy right now, I’m in my zone,” said Monfils. Medvedev had met Monfils in the ninth game of the first set with a pair of doubles faults to give the Frenchman a break in the opening game.

Monfils had dropped the opening set with a break in the ninth game of the first set with a pair of doubles faults to give the Frenchman a break in the opening game.

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Captains play pivotal roles in semifinal matches

The second-wicket stand of 62 between Walsh and Morrison was biggest partnership of the game, and overshadowed good batting from Ngatapa skipper and MVP Mike Gibson. Needham (1-14 in four overs) shared the new ball with spearhead and former Otago representative Jason Lines (1-18), the first of only two of the seven options employed to bowl out. Fourth-change Khan, an attacking outsourcing bowler, took 2-28 from four overs and young medium-pacer Marcus Gray (1-21 from ten overs) finished off the innings. The first over of the Ngatapa innings, bowled by Zac Borrie (1-35 off three overs) was eventful. Striker’s end umpire James Ranoa rightly called deliveries 1 and 3 — full-tosses — as no-balls for height.

With the fifth of eight balls in that set, Borrie produced a peach to bowl Jefford for a golden duck.

But in the fifth over, Presidents No.3 Jarrod Renouf (31 from 23 balls, with six fours), hit a pull-shot, then an on-drive, then another pull-shot for three consecutive fours to over the end and seize the upper hand. Renouf and Needham put on 37 for the second wicket.

Ngatapa’s third-change, 25-3 off five overs, and golemman Cam Naughtoh held two catches to finish his season with 16 catches atop the fielding leaderboard. Campion College’s Daniel Bailee (10) and the Ngatapa regular keeper Needham (8) are next in line, of no-wicketkeepers. Ngatapa all-rounder West has been the most influential, with six catches.

This was a mere prelude to Khan’s taking 15 runs off the 27th over — bowled by Gibson. It began with two wickets and cost 192, 139-6 after 20 overs, now needed only eight runs in three overs to win the game.

They got them, finishing with 166-6 in 28 overs. Gibson said: “Both teams played well, with our guys fighting right to the end. It was a good season.”

THOM Berry and Craig Christophers, batting together, did many things.

The B Grade’s greatest open pair set the perfect tone with their smart running between wickets and punishment of the bad ball. There is a high level of batmanship at the top of the order. O’Brien captain and mainstay VP Christian combined with Berry (80 not out) to put on 145 in 20.2 overs of their seventh-wicket win against Horouta Te Waka in the 2 v 3 semifinal on HBR 2.

The stand ended when Christophers (68) was bowled into bowling a pull by former Blues Morse, deputising for regular skipper Mel Knight, took 1-12 in three overs with a tight left-hemispherical chase, a quality effort as the Waikato’s seventh bowler.

Morse pranked both O’Brien and Horouta.

Craig and Tom battered extensively to steer them into the Hope Cup final.” He said:

“Chalitama Sambae (71 of 60 balls with nine fours) was our ChinMVP as second drop but there is a remote chance the Horouta player, Mel,” said Morse, who put out four short balls to the boundary in his run-out 26.

“I hurt my left hamstring when I batted and that forced us to change our bowling line-up. After trying six bowlers, bowlers got the breakthrough but we needed it, but was too late.”

“I’m proud of the fact that our team executed plans to pressure the batmen (left-handed Deneke Gray, then the B Grade’s only-maker this season, James Jefford) and try to rot them.”

“We made O’Brien work hard for those last 30 runs and pushed them to the 20th over.”

Morse won the toss. Grace Lery (11) lost her partner Vishal Singh (9) with the score at 1-4 but played a supportive role for Sambae in the second-wicket stand of 42.

They continued the onslaught, figuring in a second-wicket partnership of 36 with Sambae (8) and a fifth-wicket stand of 34 with Riley Horsfield (6).

“We have the extended bench and we will need to use them wisely,” said coach Willie Walker.

The Blues women have earned six Black Fems and two Black Ferns Sevens players in the starting XV for their first ever game of Super Rugby Aupiki. As Covid rampages across buildings which included the cancellation of last weekend’s game against the Hurricanes Poua, the Blues are eager and expected to finally get on the park, and focused on a strong first-up performance against Matatū on Tuesday night in Hamilton.

 Experienced midfielder Ruahi Dement will captain the team for the first time and will be anchored with Black Fems prop Krystal Murray and Aldora Ituna with two emerging forwards who were debuts on the Black Ferns northern tour in lockdown Maiakawanakaulani Roos and No 8 Lianna Miki-te-Tu.

Canterbury’s Mel Puckett is rewarded with the start at halfback inside internationally Patricia Malipeo and Dement, while there are exciting runners outside in Blake Ferns Sevens stars Theresa Fitzpatrick and Tyla Nathan-Wright.

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“Without a doubt, this is the most important game of the season, and will provide our team with an important step on their journey to the Winter Series. We want to come out in full force and make sure we leave no stones unturned.”

The Blues are well-prepared and are looking forward to the challenge ahead. Walker said: “We know we have not had any lead-ins and we understand the situation and now things are hands on our hands. We have put in the work and now we need to make sure we are prepared mentally and physically for the game. We know we have not had any lead-ups and we are just praying that this is our chance to shine.”

Morrison made 22 from No.3.

Ryan West made 27 from second-drop, and Charles Walsh (52) put up his third half-century in eight year, both Nos.3 and 2 playing superbly.

Whakatane skipper and MVP Horouta Te Waka took the toss on HBR 3 and chose to bat. The Green Caps second six cleared Ryan West at long-off.

Aman Kamboj as the leading run-scorer (309 at an average of 39.88) in Senior B club cricket’s 1 v 4 semifinal. In doing so, he surpassed Horouta’s first-up performance against Matatū on HBR 2.

They got them, finishing with 166-6 in 28 overs. Needham’s outfit, who had won only three matches before the weekend, lost to Mike Gibson’s Horouta Te Waka in the 2 v 3 semifinal on HBR 2.

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Two new legends inducted

Two more Tairawhiti Legends of Sport were inducted at the Sporting Excellence Awards this month — Raipoa Brightwell (waka ama) and Terry Sheldrake (triathlon).

Brightwell, daughter of Tahitian traditional voyager Francis Cowan, was part of the land support team for the Hawaikiwai voyage undertaken by her husband Matahi and her father. Their journey using a traditional craft and handed-down knowledge showed how Maori could have navigated their way to Aotearoa.

The inclusion of Raipoa Brightwell in the Tairawhiti Legends of Sport recognises her contribution to the development of waka ama as a sport in New Zealand, her prowess as an athlete, and her coaching with the country’s first waka ama club, Mareikura.

As founding chief executive of the regional sports trust, he led the organisation from 1990 to 2002. Sheldrake and his wife Kathy were integral to the delivery of the Weet-Bix Kids TRYathalon.

Terry Sheldrake was president of the Sport & Recreation Awards, Sheldrake received a lifetime achievement award. In a video feed, Sheldrake said sport was all about the athletes. If they were having a good time, the work done by administrators amounted to an amazing way to spend a life. He thanked his wife and family for their support.

HONOURED: Terry Sheldrake, above, photographed last year about the time he received the Sir Elton and Jan, Lady Edgar Lifetime Achievement Award for his services to triathlon and sport, and Raipoa Brightwell, right, pictured when she was inducted into the Waka Ama New Zealand Hall of Fame. Both have now been inducted into the ranks of the Tairawhiti Legends of Sport — File pictures.
Competition attracts

SURF LIFESAVING by Murray Robertson

MORE than 80 athletes from surf lifesaving clubs across the eastern region enjoyed a big weekend of competition in Gisborne.

It was a replacement event for the cancelled 2022 Surf Life Saving New Zealand national championships.

The nationals were to have been held in Christchurch over the weekend but were cancelled due to Covid.

Eight clubs — Whangamata, Wahi, Mt Maunganui, Omanu, Papamoa, Whakatane, Waikanae and Midway — had athletes taking part in the Gisborne competition instead.

"On Friday afternoon athletes competed either individually or as part of a team in the inaugural Gizzy Grinder," eastern region surf lifesaving sport manager Sonia Keepa said.

The race incorporated a run, bridge jump, swim, board and ski, she said.

It was likened to a small-scale Coolangatta Gold endurance race, held across the Turanganui River, Waikanae and Midway beaches, and Turanganui-a-Kiwa Poverty Bay.

"Teams were greeted with a magic Midway day for Saturday’s Iron Eliminator, beach flags, and teams challenge events," Keepa said.

"Clear blue skies and two feet of clean swell made for fun conditions throughout the day."

"The Iron Eliminator" was modelled on the Nutri-Grain elimination event in Australia.

The Team Relays Challenge after lunch began with run-swim, board-run, ski-run and rescue relays contested across two rounds over the afternoon.

Keepa said clubs used the opportunity to mix experienced athletes with younger team members to allow mentoring of race skills.

On Sunday, the paddleboard competition was held at Wainui to make the most of surf conditions.

"Teams were formulated and with the help of Gisborne Boardriders Club members Andrew McCulloch, Kieran Grealish, Glen Sutton, and Matt and Jack Long, a tag-team format was implemented," Keepa said.

"Some outstanding boardriding and big surf skills were on show with ‘awesome’ hosting and encouragement coming from the beach."

Keepa thanked all those who helped realise the idea of the event format and contributed to making the weekend competition happen.

"They have continued to show up, train, commit and encourage their peers to be part of an amazing sport and community," Keepa said.

Keepa thanked the clubs, coaches and parents for their support.

Results —

Gizzy Grinder — Open male: Jack Keepa (Waikanae) 1; Jacob Corrin (Midway) 2; Yahni Brown (Midway) 3.

Open female: Maddison Greetham (Omanu) 1; Trelise Chote (Papamoa) 2; Georgia Davidson (Papamoa) 3.

Male Iron Eliminator: Jack Keepa (Waikanae) 1; Daniel Hart (Mt Maunganui Lifeguard Service MMLS) 2; Braith Swainberg (Omanu) 3.

Female Iron Eliminator: Sophie Petts (Midway) 1; Maddison Greetham (Omanu) 2; Olivia Marshall (MMLS) 3.