

Newspaper Reading Club
Jana, Michala and Fiona
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Taylor's Mistake Road
Scarborough 8081

Mm, what have we got here? Senior keeper killed by a tiger. Oh, I so hate these animals being in zoos. Especially having seen them in Africa but that's not – anyway the senior zoo keeper was killed by a Sumatran tiger, Oz, at Hamilton Zoo on Sunday morning. She'd worked there for more than twenty years. It's so tough.

Yeah.

So tough I don't know that I even want to read the details there but having been to Africa, I will just leave that behind because I so love seeing animals in the wild.

Yeah.

Oh, this is all doom and gloom today. A dying teen sings with her idol. Deborah Barkley on stage with her idol singer, Hayley Westenra, who flew to Christchurch from England to fulfil the dying teen's wish. She's a lovely girl, Hayley Westenra. The fourteen year old had a wish to sing with her idol before she died and Westenra flew across the globe to make it come true. Diagnosed with metachromatic leukodystrophy – The headlines in the paper are always horrible. Then we have at the bottom, the family hails Luke's win with Japan. Former Silver Ferns netballer, Anna Thompson, says her whole family is proud of brother, Luke and the Japanese rugby team after their stunning Rugby World Cup victory over the Springboks. Very unexpected. Luke Thompson, playing in his third World Cup tournament, had a strong game as lock as the Brave Blossoms shocked South Africa thirty four to thirty two in Brighton, England, a result hailed as the greatest upset in Rugby World Cup history. Well, that's probably all I like to know about Rugby World Cup. I'm actually just going to go to the deaths 'cos I, I've got two people who I know who are – if I quickly just look through the names, I won't ring- read those out. No, they live for another day.

[LAUGHTER]

Yeah.

So what have we got here? We've got Victoria Square plan considered. The City, Christchurch City Council is being asked to approve a revised Government plan to restore Victoria Square. The latest plan sees the layout of Victoria – Victoria Square remaining largely unchanged and proposes repairs and restoration of existing features. The Christchurch Central Development Unit caused a public outrage last year when it announced plans to spend seven million redeveloping Victoria Square. People fought against the changes and decided to put the project on hold while it received public feedback. In July, it released a new restoration plan which heritage advocates described as a victory for the residents of Christchurch. So, we will be all very, very pleased if they, they leave it and just do it up as is. A head-on car crash early yesterday evening on the Main South Road near Dunsandel claimed the life of a twenty year old man. Look at the paper. Nothing but sadness as you open the paper and as I have twenty year old grandchildren, I always think it could be us. Then we have the random bet could net a million dollars for the lucky punter. A- Japan's astonishing Rugby World Cup win over South Africa means just one lucky punter remains from the forty seven thousand who took part in the TAB's one punt at a million. So, a twenty two year old, who is a part time security guard, has so far selected the correct result for every world cup game but he revealed he actually picked Japan by chance. To be honest, it was just a random guess. I picked them to win and that was it. If his predictions for the rest of the world cup are correct he will claim a million. Oh, a lot of predictions to get right. So here we have Erin Leighton, the complainant in a sexual assault claim involving a rat-bag couple. It doesn't say that there actually but – I'm glad she's, she's been allowed to name them because it's been in the paper a bit and she's been suppressed and suppressed and suppressed. She's really suffered. So a boy here was seriously injured at school by an electric fence stake -

Mm.

While playing with a friend at primary school. What's the o-, o -

It's not nice.

No, it's not nice, is it? I mean it's nothing but horrid things. He remains in a serious condition in hospital and hopefully he's gonna be all right. Puppies Returned. Two puppies stolen from a West Coast SPCA have been found by police and returned. Some time on Friday night the two mastiff puppies were taken from a secured yard at Hokitika SPCA. Oh. Arts Festival diversity enriched city culture. The Christchurch Arts Festival is a rich and diverse cultural fondue, writes arts reporter, Charlie Gates. If you go to the theatre in Christchurch you usually find yourself in an audience that is a sea of grey hair. True. In an older whiter city, the people who can afford theatre tickets and the fare provided for them tend over time to produce a pretty uniform theatre goer but one of the highlights of the Christchurch Arts Festival, which closed yesterday, was the experience of going to the theatre with a genuinely diverse audience. It felt great.

Cool.

Yeah. The audience for Hamlet, The Video Game was full of teenagers who applauded at the end of every scene and whooped at every obscure video game reference. It gave an energy that is often missing from most theatre audiences. Similarly, the opening night of

Scribe bio-play, The White Guitar, attracted a more ethnically diverse theatre crowd than I normally see. It felt good because I love theatre and want to enjoy it with as diverse an audience as possible. Hear, hear. It also proved that if you put on shows that can be embraced by broader audiences, people will buy tickets. I would like to think they would reduce the price for them too. The average age of Christchurch audiences was even noted by kiwi, Trygve Wakenshaw, who brought his hit, Kraken show, to the city. After his opening performance he tweeted, tonight I did not change the course of New Zealand theatre history but I did entertain a whole lot of septuagenarians. Seventy year olds, is it? Well, be great if we get the young ones there.

Yeah.

Young ones like to be in it rather than watching, it seems. Here we have the lovely picture of Mt Hutt, I imagine.

Beautiful.

Isn't it? Where a bumper ski season at the Canterbury fields. So much snow and they just had it says another twenty centimeter of new snow which is wonderful for the school holidays for those who can go. Oh, here we have, not sure if they're a Chinese couple but on, they've lived through two quakes eighty years apart. Wow, they must be old. On her first day at school, five year old, Ivy Lei witnessed the worst natural disaster in New Zealand history. It was 1931 -

Wow.

On a beautiful day in Napier until the earth moved. There was a man on a motorbike riding along the road, the road opened up, he went into the ground and it closed over.

Jesus Christ.

He's my friend too.

Oh, really?

Mm. At the K-mart for Jesus Christ.

Oh.

[LAUGHTER]

It became her only memory of that earthquake which killed two hundred and fifty six people and destroyed a city. Almost eighty years later, Lei was living in Christchurch. She was sitting in the car returning from a funeral when she felt a familiar rumble. This quake, now the second worst natural disaster in New Zealand history, damaged her house and put her husband in hospital.

Mm.

Wow. So here we have a very fit-looking cyclist who has completed the Alps to the ocean in one day. He rode from Mt Cook village to Oamaru on Saturday -

Wow.

That's a long way. He rode across Alps to ocean trail's - cycle trail's finish line just before midnight after cycling the entire three hundred kilometre track that day.

Wow.

Starting at the Hermitage Hotel at seven am, he crossed the Tasman River by helicopter to begin the second leg of which took him through Twizel. Fresh snow sat on the supporters' cars on Saturday morning but Casson said some fresh head winds in the Waitaki Valley was as bad as the weather got during his ride.

Oh. Lucky.

Animals proved more of a challenge. Casson said he had a standoff with a wandering Highland cattle beast, beast and he ran over a slow moving possum's tail near Duntroon.

[LAUGHTER]

A Hokitika event organiser had anticipated that the final fifty five kilometres from Duntroon to Oamaru would be difficult. I would have thought that the whole thing was very difficult but, and down at the bottom it tells us that there are fears that the Kingston Flyer will be taken off the heritage register. That's a pity. It's a train that goes round by the lakes, down by Queenstown and obviously not enough people have been going on it. The Kingston Flyer advocate, Karl Barkley, says, those who want to keep the steam train in the area have to save it from being removed from a heritage list. Doesn't Adrian love s-?

Yes.

Loves steam trains.

Mhm.

Barkley said the Queenstown-Lakes District Council has removed the two steam locomotives and seven wooden carriages from the heritage register in the 2015 District Plan. How sad. If the proposal went ahead, any new purchaser could remove the steam train set from Kingston ending its forty three years' history in the area. It's the last chance. If it's up for grabs it will be removed. Well, that would be a pity. Redcliffs is just where we've been through and yesterday they, um, the crowds flocked to Redcliffs Fair so they must – the Redcliffs School is no longer open but the crowds braved the cold and flocked to the Redcliffs School Fair yesterday.

Nice.

Seven hundred people turned out.

Wow.

They are actually hoping to open it.

That's nice.

Over here we have, oh, interesting, Jesus Eclipsed by Noah for the Kids.

Yeah.

Move over Jesus, Noah's the real rock star. Interesting. When it comes to kiwi kids, a Neilson study commissioned by the Bible Society has found one third of kiwi children do not know the story of Jesus Christ's birth. However, Noah, who built an ark and saved some of the earth's animals from a flood, was a household name, the study found. Somewhat surprisingly, the most well known biblical character among New Zealand is not Jesus. The real celebrity is Noah.

Ha.

Good on you, Noah. Noah has become a very popular name here. Goodness gracious, over here we've got London's Selfridge's Department Store opening its Christmas shop on August the third. We're three months away, I can't bear it.

What? Oh, for Christmas?

Yes.

Jesus.

That's so early.

Mm. That seems just too soon to be getting out there with all that razz and pulling on the strings of mothers and things to spend money. Retail New Zealand will step efforts to persuade shoppers to do their shopping locally rather than through overseas websites as the Christmas shopping season approaches. Gosh, things are changing, aren't they, with people buying things online?

Yeah.

Did you know I ticked the box the other day and got six tee shirts instead of one, did I tell you that?

No. Where were you, on the, on, like, Sports cra-?

Sportscraft.

So funny isn't it.

[LAUGHTER]

And they didn't question, they didn't say – It's like, oh, yeah, she'll be wanting six tee shirts and then they turned up and you're like, "Oopsies."

So I've had to send five back.

Uh-oh.

Call to phase out light bulbs. What are we gonna have instead? Where's that – Consumer New Zealand is calling for the Government to phase out incandescent light bulbs saying there is no reason kiwis should still be using them.

It's true.

But the Government said it was up to consumers to make the choice. Are these the old ones that used to use a lot more power?

They use, like, twice as, yeah –

Yeah.

Yeah they use twice as much energy.

Okay, I, I'm, I'm all for doing away with those.

Yeah.

In Denmark they're illegal.

They're illegal?

Yeah, are they, they phase them out.

It's great.

If they wanna - that's good, it's the only way to do it.

Yeah, it's really good.

People will buy the thing in front of them in the supermarket so you've just got to remove them.

Sometimes the, the old kind of light bulbs, they do make nicer light.

They do.

I know they do. I know they do.

Mm.

But they're getting better and better at tuning it.

Yep.

Yeah, like the LED.

But quite honestly if people, if there isn't a choice, and if they're not there, people will move on very quickly.

Yeah, exactly.

So I think it's the only thing to do for the planet.

Yes.

Move on and, call for tax on Baches. I wonder if these are the baches out here? No, no. This is suggesting that people, um, have an extra tax on a holiday house, is it? Lots of cars, overcrowded rooms, booming noise, the Motel Association says these are just some of the problems faced by neighbours of holiday homes offered for nightly rental. More and more bach owners are opting to rent their properties on a per night basis through websites such as Bookabach, holidayhouses.co and International Accommodation, Air –

B&B.

Yeah. Air B&B. What's B&B, bed and breakfast?

Bed and break-, yep.

Mm.

Opportunities Sky High in Indonesia. Who wants to go and live there, in Jakarta?

[LAUGHTER]

I don't know, bit hot for me. Jakarta's Ciputra World boasts opulent apartments, a hotel, theatre, mall and art gallery within its whopping seven hundred and fifty thousand square metres. Yes, it seems the rich get rich, that's right and the poor get poorer. Alphabet spells Google's future. How? Oh, it's a company. I didn't even know Alphabet was a company.

I thought, um, Google's, ah, started a new, another company so, like, now they'd –

Called the world's greatest money maker – what?

Alphabet is the name of their new company.

Is it? Oh.

So like before everything was, um, ah, like under the umbrella of Google and now it's gonna be under the umbrella of Alphabet.

Oh.

Interesting.

Mhm.

Oh. I might not be able to read all that. Is that gonna alter things for me with a computer?

Nope.

No. Well that's –

I don't think so.

That looks rather nice and relaxing there, she might be having a massage. The champions in our midst. Not all well-off people are flashy with their money. In Christchurch in the past week there have been two illustrations of how some choose to use their riches to benefit more than just themselves. Hooray. For those of us with less money who have to use it carefully, it is easier to grab onto a convenient and rather lazy generalisation that wealth automatically equals ostentation. Even in a small country like New Zealand there are some very wealthy people. Ours is not the equal society we might like to think it is. According to this year's National Business Review Rich List there are now one hundred and eighty kiwi individuals and families worth fifty million dollars or more. Well, I do love it because Bill Gates actually has been very generous with his money, hasn't he?

Yeah.

Yeah.

And, ah, yeah, there's only so much we can all use. Gun Control. That has to be a hot topic for the, um, American election, doesn't it?

Mmmm.

One should hope.

Oh, I c-, I simply can't believe that people all want to have their own guns.

Mm.

It just doesn't work, does it?

Nah-ah.

I don't think I'm gonna read it though. Into the River. Ted Dawe reading his now banned book, Into the River. Has this been banned, this book?

It looks like it.

It makes you want to read it just –

To see, yeah.

[LAUGHTER]

To see why, why it's banned.

Yeah.

But, um, if you read The Luminaries, then you will know that it's a substantial book. Well, it is. Radio New Zealand National joked that it is a book that gets better after page four hundred. Well it has to start getting better after page ten for me. I'm not quite one for persevering for four hundred pages till it gets better.

Yep.

So I don't know what Into the River is, um. I'm just thinking there isn't looking anything that grabs my eye here. Act's David Seymour really thinks stressed students need to harden up.

[LAUGHTER]

And he's, he's looking, yeah, I don't know. I doubt that the student is -whether he's meaning them financially, I'd have to read it but, um, I think it is. He thinks they have to harden up.

Mm.

Well I would think it's a pity if it stops other people doing less financially maybe doing the things. Oh, that's interesting. Rose of Noosa asked, why do our eyes weep when we run in cold air? And an ophthalmologist from the Otago School of Medicine says we need tears to maintain our eyes in a healthy state because technically our eyes are still at the fish phase of evolution.

Mm.

Oh. Tears provide oxygen to the cornea –

Mm.

And contain small quantities of anti-microbial compounds.

Fish eyes.

Mmm, well I have a lot of tears so my eyes should be so well oxygenated should be able to see very well. Shouldn't need glasses. Cold weather, in particular, cold wind can cause the ducts to constrict. This is the most likely explanation for the weeping eyes that you've experienced when running on cold days. Oh. A community that was torn apart by fear has found healing as their story has been adapted as a musical for film. At first glance, a real life story about the strangling murders of sex workers and the effect it has on a local community isn't a natural fit for the musical theatre. But then London Road isn't your usual stage musical. Written in response to the killings of five women in the red light district of the normally sleepy English town of Ipswich in 2006, London Road married the technique of verbatim theatre, a journalistic form that takes the words of the interview subjects, and places them on stage with those of musical theatre to create what was hailed as the, at the time, as ground-breaking dramatic experiment. Now the big screen version of the musical made by BBC films is about to be released in New Zealand, a no less innovative project that reunited the original stage production's creative team. Well, that'll be interesting. London Road, girls, look out for London Road. Might be interesting. Oh, I know what bit I haven't looked at. Mondays we have just to keep the adventure bug going. Suggest where to go to nex-, Asia –

Singapore

[UNINTELLIGIBLE]

Unspoilt is quite unlike any place you know about. That's Rudyard Kipling. So where are we going? Well, that doesn't look like Asia. It looks like the Rocky Mountains to me. It is, too. Oamaru's case-, coastline, that doesn't look like Asia, either. The Tiwi Islands. They're just further north of Darwin and we were going to go to the Tiwi Igin-, Islands a couple of years ago but they were banned at that time from going to.

Oh.

But now it says, getting here from Darwin is relatively straightforward these days. Oh, so then I'll have to go back. And apparently it's the culture of the Aborigines there, it's just amazing to get there and just be amongst them. Um, visiting this remote community on a one day tour is an eye-opening experience, discovering the oldest culture in the world. English is a second language here and Aboriginal tradition a way of life. That's exciting that they've opened it up again.

Mmm.

Very exciting.

Why was it closed?

Um, they wouldn't let anyone fly. There'd been trouble with the Aborigines and I don't know, I mean, we'd, we'd booked a long way ahead to do it and we're told no one can go there when we got to Darwin which was a bit of a pain but obviously the trouble has now settled down. I think it was political. Beautiful island there in Fiji, Treasure Island. Ah, here we are, Asia's most unspoilt destination, where is that? Before we fly to Yangon to take a boat up the Irrawaddy River, I'm sent a copy of Burmese Days by George Orwell. First published in 1934, Orwell's book tells of waning British colonialism when Burma was ruled by the British and his time as an imperial policeman. The book is a good primer. Even now you can see Orwell's Burma in the crumbling grand old buildings in Yangon and the refurbished, very colonial hotel, The Strand, where you can sip gin and tonics under slow moving ceiling fans. Wow look at it. Myanmar, formerly called Burma, is going through yet more change. Sanctions are lifting and since Aung San Suu Kyi has been released from the house arrest, the country is experiencing a tourist boom that's still undergoing growing pains. While a numbingly civilian Government has been installed and political prisoners released, Myanmar is back in the news for the mistreatment of the Muslim majority and it remains one of the poorest countries in Asia yet there are things I saw there that I will never forget. It sounds lovely. The sunset over the temples of Bagan as seen from a hot air balloon, a candlelit dinner on the riverbanks of the Irrawaddy, the chaotic and colourful streetlife in the capital, Yangong. Rudyard Kipling was right when he said, this is Burma. It is quite unlike any place you know about. That would be a good place to visit.

Yeah, it would be really interesting.

Wouldn't it?

Mhm.

The best time to visit is in the dry season between October and February. Fly – to get there fly to Bangkok then seventy five minutes to Yangon. New Zealanders require a visa to get there. Are you a tourist or a traveller? Mmm. When travelling, feel free to call yourself whatever you want. Travel isn't a competition. There's plenty that's great about the world of travel but all that's wrong with it, however, considered the manufactured distinction between travellers and tourists. That's a division some people like to draw, usually those who want to believe they fall into the former category. I'm a tourist, not a traveller, as they pull out their selfie stick but there are plenty who like to say the opposite. It's ridiculous to claim that one is better than the other. It's a badge of honour to consider yourself a traveller. You can be convinced that you're learning and giving back to the world if you move around it as a traveller rather than a person who just goes to an all-inclusive resort and drinks cocktails from coconuts. Of course, this is a complete delusion. How true. Everyone has a guide book whether you're a traveller or a tourist, yeah. Just seeing where else I'm going. Oh, top ten glamping experiences. I could – I hope they mention here, um, going to Jo Jo's place.

Yeah.

But I don't think they do. I'm just skimming through to see but they're not suggesting that we go glamping here. Wow, what a smarty in Botswana. They do look rather fun though, don't they. I'm too old for tents as such, I like my shower.

Yeah.

Occasionally. Now, discover France. I love France. But I don't think I'm gonna go there on a bike.

[LAUGHTER]

Which is what it's suggesting. Bike and barge, that would be quite good, putting your bike on the barge at the end of the day and then, um, I imagine sleeping on the barge and only getting off to do small bike rides. How are we going for time?

You can just read for as long as you, you're interested.

Oh, I might rather talk to you girls.

Mmm.

That's real. That's, a, whatever you, there's no, um, no, um, just whatever you feel.

Oh.

Yeah.

I'm here on a mission. I have to do the right things.

[LAUGHTER]

Oh, it's nice to hear the waves.

Isn't it? I hate this page, this is, you know, all about the Syrian refugees and but they're – it's not just Syria, it's just everywhere, this crisis of trying to find somewhere to live.

Mhm.

Isn't it, it breaks your heart.

Yeah.

Oh, we always have a little bit about Donald Trump in here. He seems to be the only one standing in America for politics at all. He's the only one who gets in a New Zealand paper, anyway.

Hahahaha, yeah.

We don't have very much about, um, Hilary Clinton but we have Donald Trump every day.

Yeah.

I'm not sure if that's a, um, our reporters, 'cos I can't imagine if you're in America it would all be just Donald Trump. So Kissinger has - but he changed his name so it didn't look like – what was Kissinger's name? It was a horrific moment that persuaded young Heinz Kissinger, a German-born Jewish refugee turned American serviceman, to transform himself again and become Mr Henry, setting him on the path for becoming an international peacemaker. So he was Heinz and became Henry Kissinger. The twenty one year old came face to face with the holocaust when he and other members of the eighty fourth division stumbled upon a small concentration camp not much bigger than five stables surrounded by barbed wire at Ahlem, eight kilometres west of Hannover. Oh, you just cry, it was one of the most horrifying things in his life. I think so. So Washington here is softening the call for Assad's exit. Are they making a way for him to leave Syria? Or what are they – America softened its demand yesterday that Syria's dictator must step down declaring that the timing of Bashar al-Assad's departure was open to negotiation. John Kerry, US Secretary of State, retreated from the earlier US position that Assad's removal must be the first step towards resolving Syria's civil war. I think it's a bigger picture than just Assad. Science. A hi-, sci-, sci-fi blockbuster. I don't know, I don't like hi-, sci films, do you? You probably do.

Oh, sometimes, yep.

Do you? Yeah, no, not mad on those. Another freeway

shooting, there's always something. New – if it's bad, it's news. Have you ever been to the, um, Beerfest in Munich?

Mm mm.

No.

No.

No.

Won't worry about doing the code cracker at the moment. Quite like the code cracker. And there I am on to the sport which I turn over very fast.

[LAUGHTER]

Yeah, that's all that's in the paper, there's nothing in there.

Great, thank you, Jana.