

Newspaper Reading Club  
Di, Michala and Fiona  
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91 Peterborough Street  
Christchurch Central, Christchurch 8013

Wow, healing sculptures for city revealed, gosh. Um, oh, so it's, it's, if I could put my glasses on.

Yeah.

[LAUGHTER]

I can read the title but not the content.

[LAUGHTER]

That's bad. Permanent work called STAY will be, it's great, great name for a-

[UNINTELLIGIBLE]

Will be installed in the river near the corner of Gloucester Street and Cambridge Terrace this week as part of the SCAPE Public Art Festival. Oh great, here's STAY, a computer generated image showing how Antony Gormley's STAY sculpture will look on the surface of the Avon River in central Christchurch.

[LAUGHTER]

North Canterbury farms still in drought. I'm from a farm in-

[UNINTELLIGIBLE]

Can, I just must think the weather Gods are against him. The hardened farmer received about one millimetre of rain on his drought stricken North Canterbury property at the weekend despite solid falls being predicted. Oh, I've given up on trusting the forecast, he said. Oh gosh, that's tough. Can I break in? Um -

Yeah.

So, ah, I can do this? Just skip? Low, um, a, it's a low boredom threshold?

Yeah.

Exactly.

[LAUGHTER]

Oh.

Um -

[UNINTELLIGIBLE]

It's breezy I suppose.

Yeah.

Yeah, a bit of a.

[UNINTELLIGIBLE]

I'd read those ones.

Yeah.

Council's ongoing changes constantly. Christchurch City Council spent more than one million dollar cutting jobs-

[UNINTELLIGIBLE]

Before the new CEO, Karleen Edwards arrived at the start of the-

[UNINTELLIGIBLE]

Ms Edwards announced a plan to cut sixty jobs on top of a restructure carried out with the Council's Acting Chief Executive Jane Parfitt in late 2013 and early 2014. Gosh, Parfitt spent one point twelve million dollars restructuring after Tony Marryatt, wow. The restructure was questioned at the time because it seemed likely whoever became the permanent chief executive would want to make their own changes. Parfitt and Dalziel argued the time was right. Wow. And consultants have been paid three hundred and twenty eight thousand nine hundred and forty eight dollars for their advice, wow. I get management, management, oh, it's tedious isn't it. Oh well, not the most exciting paper today I must say. I'm not really interested in Dotcom. Gloriavale. Oh yeah a woman in my office went to go over there, she got so frightened she couldn't get outta the car.

What's that?

Gloriavale.

Oh right.

A remote West Coast religious group's Victorian era schooling has prompted calls from the Green Party for an education review that would insist children had access to a broad range of subjects. Oh, that would be daunting. Gloriavale Christian Community based at Lake Haupiri, inland from Greymouth-

[UNINTELLIGIBLE]

The school's children-

[UNINTELLIGIBLE]

Gendered topics. Boys learned trades and farm work while girls learned domestic skills. Few peoples progress beyond Year eleven and the limited settings-

[UNINTELLIGIBLE]

Wow, which century are we in? Green Party Education Spokesperson Catherine Delahunty said information released through the OIA showed girls at the school were being taught a Victorian era agenda of domestic servitude that should not receive government funding. Though the school operated within the law she hoped a proposed review of the Education Act would ensure children had access to a range of subjects whether they were home schooled, private schooled or otherwise. That's important. She said school, schooling was more than just learning to read and write, it's about being exposed to different ideas and assessing information. Education should give people a broad world view so you can make up your own mind about where you want to go in life. Gosh, they get two hundred thousand dollars annually in state funding. They receive public, oh, yeah, gosh. That's incredible. Right, here, dairy deal stalled. Negotiators are a long way from settling a dairy dispute in secret Trans Pacific Partnership talks, Key says. Trade Ministers expected to meet in Atlanta at the end of the month to get the stalled deal back on track ahead of Canadian elections. Key will also make a pitch to the US president when they meet at the UN Leaders Week in New York. But he's not confident the pact to deepen economic ties between twelve pacific rim countries is close. Oh that's great. We don't want it to succeed. Hopeful. Oh, no, no, that was.

Where's that?

I don't know how far to go. It's-

[UNINTELLIGIBLE]

Yeah.

Oh, it's hard.

Oh.

It's hard. Young musicians-

[UNINTELLIGIBLE]

Fayer Waynon, eight, and Charlotte Baroski, Bo-, Bolcofski, nine, at Redcliffs School Fair at Van Asch in Sumner on Sunday. Wow, lovely. Oh wow, it's a bit limited the paper today.

Mm.

I must have missed something important. Good faith bargaining.

Ring.

Sounds good doesn't it?

Red flag.

[LAUGHTER]

Last week I provided some advice to a young employee seeking to negotiate a new employment agreement with his, his intended employer. The employer, a large company presented a contract which, in my view, contained some fairly harsh terms. I suggested the employee pick his fights by just focusing on the provisions that were really one sided rather than raising too many issues. So he did. And the employer's response? The company responded with the, within the hour saying that the contract was a standard one that they offered to all new employees and was not negotiable. Basically if the employee did not like it he could go somewhere else. Wow, I was momentarily incensed, what sort of negotiation is that? This lead me to the conclusion that a column on good faith bargaining was in order. Oh right. The Employment Relations Act provides that an employee and employer bargaining for an individual employment agreement must deal with each other in good faith.

Mm.

Good faith requires the parties to be active and constructive in establishing and maintaining a productive employment relationship in which both parties are, among other things, responsive and communicative. It also requires the parties must not mislead or deceive each other. We've got good legislation haven't we? Wow, that'll do for me.

[LAUGHTER]

It is good isn't it?

Yeah, it is. We do have some great, ah, oh, Victoria Square win for the people. If you watch very carefully it's possible to see the little hand of Victoria Square's floral clock creeping out the hours, wow. Not for it, the hectic pace of life measured out by the minute hand that ticks super confidently around the dial flattening, at least temporarily, those plants that are in its way.

[LAUGHTER]

In the redevelopment of Victoria Square there are parallels to the clock, involving on one side the people of Christchurch, and on the other the Christchurch Central Development Unit. Gerry's unit. Those who want to push ahead quickly and recklessly and spend seven million dollars with disregard to the broader sentiment of the city have lost out, while the people who preferred the steady as she goes, little change option, for a place where you can linger a while, kick back and slow down have been victorious. That's good. The people's campaign that has forced the bureaucrats to leave Victoria Square largely untouched takes another step forward this week. City Council will on Thursday be asked to approve the unit's revised restoration plan following public feedback. The staff are recommending plans be endorsed by Councillors. Just a formality.

[UNINTELLIGIBLE]

Was an initial lack of consultation, yeah. And threats by Vicki Buck to lie in front of bulldozers being started up to remodel the square, after that the final sign off lies with Nicky Wagner. Oh well, that's, that's great, it's great isn't it?

Yeah.

[UNINTELLIGIBLE]

How we going? Nutrient run off. Yeah, that's what I've been negotiating this morning.

Where at?

Mackenzie Country farmer Martin Murray claims that's it's unfair he has to abide by ECan's new nutrient run-off limits into rivers and lakes because of plans for more intensive farming. Yeah, he did complain. This follows his voluntary freeholding of four thousand five hundred hectares of formal Crown owned, lease-hold land under tenure review. Land reform deals which usually significantly disadvantage the public interest in favour of the farmer. Despite Mr Murray's and others farmers complaints the Press recently reported that many high country lakes in the Mackenzie and elsewhere are now steadily deteriorating in water quality cos of irrigation and intensified farming. Maybe pastoral farming is actually the only genuinely sustainable land use in the high country. Mm, does he mean extensive grazing? Pastoral farming, mm, and tenure review is yet another environmental mistake, nevertheless it seems farmers are now pushing back to soften environmental bottom lines. If their production looks like it could be trimmed because of nutrient run-off controls to protect New Zealanders lakes and rivers, the same kind, oh must of missed a word, the same kind of pressure to shift the environmental goalposts also appears to be going on in the Hurunui Waiiau District, using behind the scenes advisory notes under ECan's water management strategy. These activities perhaps give new meaning to the word collaboration long after a water management plan is signed off by ECan. A G Talbot, St Albans. Oh, it's complex. Not that easy to understand in that letter.

Mm.

Wow, tricky. Complicated subject.

Yep.

Yeah.

Oh, Harewood Library, so fifty percent increase. I watched my life de-, wife deleting books she'd ordered from the Christchurch Libraries. When I offered to find extra funds she stated that-

[UNINTELLIGIBLE]

But not three dollars. Extracting the recent fifty percent increase for anyone's privation to do so, from pensioners or anyone on a fixed income is simply impractical. Gosh, I didn't know you paid three dollars to get a book.

Yeah?

[UNINTELLIGIBLE]

Ten dollars between us with books we'd ordered. Oh, he musta ordered one in. Next week it'll be six dollars, the following nothing, it's simply beyond our resources. We've read the local library out and rely on imports or other branches.

Oh.

Now that's in an end, it's a rather bleak outlook. We realise the Council needs to make ends meet and a flash new central library will warm the hearts of those who live in the central city, but to extract the cost for the, from those who can least afford it suggests a lack of values. Oh, that's tricky isn't it?

Yeah.

You can get them from the other side of town.

Yeah, great.

Yeah. Yeah, oh interesting. Mm, now, even old bearded white guys can have thin skin. Oh, jeepers.

[UNINTELLIGIBLE].

[LAUGHTER]

National loves the right, not the centre. Oh, that's tricky isn't it? John Key's proud of his government's performance twelve months on from the 2014 General Election his message to the people of New Zealand is characteristically upbeat. Yeah, I got an email from him last night, I was so surprised.

Oh.

What do you mean?

Like I mean the, the John Key email wa-, one year on from the elections, aren't we going well?

Funny.

I, I s-, don't know why I would get an email.

[LAUGHTER]

Certainly not a supporter. Families are also being helped by an economy which is continuing to grow. The Prime Minister enthuses in his anniversary media release there were over forty nine thousand new jobs created nine months to June, 2015. The average wage is up one thousand five hundred dollars. Mm, and the tourism sector has seen thirty five months of straight growth. But what's the environmental cost, you know, what's the cost of all this? You can't just have more

people, cos they'll just be on about more people. Okay, well drive around-

[UNINTELLIGIBLE]

Fulminate as they might against his government's deficiencies, Key's opponents have no effective answer to the argument advanced by the opinion polls. Oh, after seven years in office the Key led government is still wracking up it's percentages in the high forties, low fifties, popularity skills without precedent in New Zealand's political history. Small wonder then that conservative leaders, most notably the new prime minister of Australia, Malcolm Turnbull, sing his praises. Ah, a journalistic consensus has grown up around the indisputable success of Key's ministry. The prime minister, it is argued, has forged a bond with middle New Zealand, which to date has proved indissoluble. Hundreds talk about John Key's enduring love affair with centrist New Zealand. These are the-

[UNINTELLIGIBLE]

But is the fourth estate telling us the truth? Good question. The proposition that the New Zealand National Party's a centrist political institution is hard to stand up. It can be asserted, some National Party Prime Ministers, Keith Holyoake and John Key-

[UNINTELLIGIBLE]

Mate, they'll just-

[UNINTELLIGIBLE]

Their political vessel into the sheltered waters of bi-partisan agreement. At its ideological core however, the National remains a party of the right without the reliable support of that part of the New Zealand electorate which identifies itself as right wing. National-

[UNINTELLIGIBLE]

Be able to find any sort of stable government. Yeah, the litmus test for just how right wing National's always been and remains is in treatment of the trade unions.

Yeah, yeah.

Employment Contracts Act, ah-

[UNINTELLIGIBLE]

Like all-

[UNINTELLIGIBLE]

Parties it strives to pay its salaries, a natural ally of aspirational members of both the working and middle classes, even so, getting ahead will never count for as much in the National Party circles as looking after those who got ahead long, long ago. Yeah, these people are very clear about the direction flow, National's job is to make sure it keeps flowing their way forever. It's why the welfare state remains the National Party membership's big political, particular-

[UNINTELLIGIBLE]

Yeah. Like a normal-

[UNINTELLIGIBLE]

It captures wealth that would otherwise come to them. Yes, I'll just email Chris that. Yeah.

[UNINTELLIGIBLE]

New Zealand National Party's-

[UNINTELLIGIBLE]

Stand up.

[UNINTELLIGIBLE]

Bank notes, more bank notes.

[LAUGHTER]

Oh, was that enough?

Yeah, sure.

More than enough.