

I've just been handed The Press. Front page. Awesome, we have rugby and sex.

[LAUGHTER]

Rugby World Cup wall chart inside so you can plaster the World Cup across your bedroom – what everybody wants, ah, and an apology, thirty two years after nude Miss America scandal.

Wow.

Both in Section B so, yeah, interesting alignment there. It's a big red banner at the top of The Press. Clearly this is what The Press thinks is important today. Um, below that, um, above the fold – couple will sell twenty million dollar property and give all the money away. Kind of interested to see where the money's going to go.

Wow.

Um, and a gang link, link to screen washers feared. Ah, so those roadside, those roadside window washers that, ah, never really sit that well in Christchurch. It's always kind of an objectionable weird thing, I don't, I feel, I don't like it, it makes me uncomfortable.

Don't like what?

I don't like being approached at lights by window washers.

Oh, the, ah, window washers.

[LAUGHTER]

I don't have, I mean New Zealand, isn't, it always confuses me, New Zealand doesn't carry change. New Zealanders don't carry cash, largely. Some people do but it's, if you're younger, very few times do you carry cash. And in this city, parking? You don't really have to pay for it you just have to kind of find a vacant lot.

Right.

So you know, it's one of those things, I always just find it kind of confrontational and uncomfortable.

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Yeah.

It's a, um, goes into your personal space.

Yeah, yeah, it does. And the car for me is very much about autonomy.

Yeah.

And individualism, it's one of the few kind of areas where I act like a bit of a pain in the arse and a hoon and generally an anti-social member of society. Ah, so let's have a look. Christchurch couple who own a twenty million dollar-plus property will sell it and give away all the proceeds. Where is it? Okay it's a commercial property?

Looks like it.

Yeah. Ah, there's an inset box and an image, ah, what the Gama Foundation has done. Regenerated six hundred hectares of Christchurch Port Hills native bush in three blocks and given them to the Department of Conservation and the Summit Road Society. So who's the Gama Foundation? Marilyn and Grant Nelson are selling their commercial site on the corner of Blenheim and Curletts Road which they own through their charitable trust, the Gama Foundation. The self-made and publicity-shy couple have already given millions of dollars of rental income to conservation, research, disability and educational causes –

Oh.

And were awarded Queens Service Medals for their philanthropy in 2011. Grant Nelson has been blind most of his life. Okay, so we can't exa-, this is obviously going to be good news story for the day, um, nothing against that per se but it's kinda like, okay so where is it, what's happening and how does it affect me?

[LAUGHTER]

Um, I'm just gonna skip through – they also fund research into bipolar disorder, conservation and improving access to civil justice and have protested issues ranging from inequality to water use. I think I'm a little bit in love with this couple right now.

Yeah.

The two point one hectare block they are putting up for sale this week is on the corner of Blenheim and Curletts Road and has been owned by the Trust since it was formed in 1995. The block contains a newly expanded store and warehouse leached – linked – leased to Target Furniture. The premises of fitness gear retailer Number One Fitness and gardening equipment supplier Parkland Products plus a new building leased to office goods business, OfficeMax. The tenants will stay on under existing leases after the sale. So we've actually, they've actually got a development that has built-in kind of rental.

Yeah.

So is ongoing, yeah. Worth together twenty million dol-

lar. Okay. Is it-

[UNINTELLIGIBLE]

Yeah. It doesn't really – okay so it kind of sets up what they do, they're gonna sell it and they're gonna give it away probably to a range of similar organisations.

Ah.

Okay. I feel reasonably good about that.

Yeah.

Kinda nice to know that there are people like that out there in the world still.

Yeah.

I wonder where, yeah.

Don't get, um, who don't get talked out of it.

Yeah, who don't get talked out of it, who don't get, um, yeah, capitalised out of it, haha. And, yeah. I dunno where, I dunno where we went to or where we went wrong. Second page, oh, yeah, we got an image of Turnbull, hot topic apparently, Australian changing Prime Minister. Apology for racial slurs. Insurers cautious in repair approach. Efforts to curb pollution defended. Wheelie bin collection mm. Efforts to curb pollution defended. Owners of a Canterbury High Country station in the midst of a landmark legal battle over environmental controls say they could not do anything more to protect the property from pollution. Okay so the Resource Management Act involved here, that's interesting to me. Farming, dairying, pollution. Ah, oh – lovely quote here: we are not environmental terrorists, quite the opposite, Grasmere Station owner Pete Morrison says. My initial instinct is, God you have no media training. You would never – why would you ever say that?

Yeah.

It's like the biggest sound byte that somebody's gonna pick up on. And always now you'll be referred to as the not, not environmental terrorists.

Do you have media training Jo?

Um, I worked for a small media management company in Wellington, ah, when I first kind of decided to not complete my university.

Yeah.

When I was like twenty, um, and they did, ah, media training for a lot of the political parties.

Yeah.

Karen Barnsley who is Ewart Barnsley's wife, um, and a few other, um, people who'd obviously had quite reasonable journalistic radio credentials. Um, I remember, ah, having, ah, ACT Party members in, um, including, ah, Donna Awatere Huata and Rodney Hide, and finding them actually quite abrasive. Um, yeah, I got referred to as girl, the entire day they were in. Told to sort of kind of you know pick up, clean up, a-, which is, largely was my job but –

Yep.

You know in a way that kind of, ah –

Yeah, was not on camera.

Denoted hierarchy –

Yeah, yeah.

And status, um, and, and a certain level of you know attitude that we, you know we, we talk about p-, judging people on how they treat servers, how they treat –

Yeah.

Their waitresses or waiters and it was a very similar kind of thing, it's like I don't have any respect for you any more and probably never will and I'm twenty years old and you've lost me.

[LAUGHTER]

Um, yeah, and they would, they would write press releases for Pharmac, Creative New Zealand, the Ministry of Health –

Yeah, yeah.

Yeah. It was really interesting.

Super interesting.

It was really interesting, um, I think actually probably then – I've always been a bit of a sneaky kinda person – I was the kid that found the Christmas presents, like two weeks before Christmas.

Yeah.

And that, I like knowing information that people don't generally know I suppose.

Yeah.

Not necessarily for sel-, there's I spose there's a slightly self-serving – it's just nice to kind of – but it's also, I think it's about how things tick and like when I read The Press it's about right so where are the lines and what's in between them? It's not what they're saying –

Yeah.

It's what's not said sometimes for me.

Yeah, yeah.

Um, so, yeah.

Sorry to interrupt.

No, it's all good.

It's really interesting.

Um, Morrison and his wife Liz-

[UNINTELLIGIBLE]

Want the Environment Court to clarify the right of their company B&E Limited to irrigate next to Lake Grasmere on State Highway seventy three east of As – east of Arthurs Pass. Environmental – Environment Canterbury, ECan, has called the case a test of its controls on nitrogen, phosphate and pathogens entering sensitive high country lakes. Yep, these are all important things. Kayakers – as a kayaker I get affected by this stuff and how rivers are healthy or not. Irrigation from the Cass River will lead to more contaminants in Lake Grasmere. I don't quite, yeah, yeah. So Lake Grasmere's rated moderate levels of nutrients and algae, it was clear and blue when testing started in 2004 so they wanna keep it that way. Sensitive high country lake prone to pollution from intensive farming and birds. What we're trying to do is how – halve any decline that is happening. So it'll be ECan training manager Brett Aldridge and just skimming, yeah, okay, so that's interesting, that's a situation that'll develop, I'll see what happens when it develops. It doesn't seem that – it's basically just setting it out for some kind of judgement later on. Insurers cautious in repair approach. Um, EQC at the moment big issue. Yep. Kind of insurers appear to be more cautious than the Earthquake Commission in their approach to quake repairs, yep. Kinda know what's going on with that. Second page, methamphetamine raids in Auckland and Christchurch. Booze ban sought for Cup Day. Which is really interesting seeing as the Government's just allowed bars to stay open for all hours serving alcohol for the Rugby World Cup.

What in New Zealand?

Yeah, yeah.

Is this while it's on in England?

Yeah, yeah, um, against, um, the advice of a whole range of people and basically the consistency of alcohol licensing laws and all of this kind of stuff so, yeah, bars'll be pretty much able to open when the games are playing over there so at sort of you know for extended hours and also open at odd hours and be able to serve alcohol. And it was, yeah, so I just find it really ironic, that they're seeking a booze ban for Cup Day. It's on, it's on the streets around Riccarton which is, yeah, understandable but it just, it just, it's just kind of like you read the title and it's like, oh, yeah, but we've just had a government allow it for you know Rugby World Cup. Um, I spose they're just tryna put, um, this is just tryna put external kind of on the public event whereas the pubs are expected to, um, maintain their own standards insides, inside their businesses.

Right.

Whip lined with metal. Harness racing driver Mike Stratford is free to drive tomorrow despite admitting possession of a modified whip containing a metal rod. Awesome. Horse abuse, brilliant. Moving on. Medic Remembered. Jacinda Baker killed in Afghanistan in 2012. And had a new medic award in Iraq named after her. Nice. Ferrymeal lights emitting continues. Ads. Report calls for rethink of social services – come back to that. Huge gas explosion kills contractor, Auckland. Oh, that's interesting, we had a gas leak here, um, about a week and a half ago, walking to work, coming round the corner of Cathedral Square, can smell it from a block away. Walked to the corner of, um, the intersection just up from work and, ah, there's like I'm walking straight past fi-, like fifty cm away from a hissing gas main while contractors stand around either talking on their phone or looking anxious. No crowd control whatsoever. Get to work and they go, so I think there's a gas main leak.

Yeah.

Everyone was like, oh, are we safe here? I was like, I dunno, I just walked past it. Next thing –

What time of the morning?

Ah, nine, ah, just before nine, so eight forty five, something like that and like within like five minutes of me being at work suddenly there's like three, ah, fire engines and the Police are cordoning it off and my other colleague couldn't get through Cathedral Square, he had to go round the block. Um, he was like –

So frightening.

Just, just, they made me laugh, it was just like what the – like this guy just, like you know you see something like see like that huge gas explosion kills contractor and I'm like – awesome. So I just got a little, you know I allow, I was allowed to walk past a massive gas leak –

[UNINTELLIGIBLE]

In the central city while contractors in their hi-viz just stood around looking anxious basically wringing their hands doing no crowd control whatsoever, um.

Yeah. It's still, I just, ah, I can't believe it's all still going on at this level. Like you know when I first came down here five a good -

Yep.

Five years ago with you I, I was like, oh this'll be like a couple, I just can't believe it's still, it's just begun.

[LAUGHTER]

Yeah. It's quite funny, my flatmate's dad was down in the weekend and apparently he managed to find somebody, um, in, in an information booth to go, what's going on here, these roads are the same as they were when I was down here forty six years ago and Napier managed to sort itself out in like five years and you guys are nowhere near that, what's going on? And I was like, oh, the poor information people.

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

But it's like, yeah, I mean it's –

Telling them what to do, I know.

I think also the thing that I noticed the most is I had a couple of friends down one week from Wellington and the, um, it was only through their eyes that you kind of reappraised the situation –

Yep.

Cos most of the time this is just your lived reality –

Right.

And you've adjusted to the speed of change.

Right.

It's like this stuff's gone up so quickly, the stuff round the corner from work's gone up so quickly in the last sort of six to eight months –

Right

And every time you look out it's like, oh, there's a new wall.

Right.

And in some ways it's a little sad like I was biking around a few weeks ago thinking, actually I'm gonna be a bit sad when this period in time's gone because it was freer –

Yeah.

And it was less constrained by you know proper societal mean-, modes of acting and –

Interesting.

Being in public space or.

Right.

Well actually, how do you define public space?

Yep.

I mean in the immediate, coupla years after the earthquake you just walked down the middle of the road.

Right.

You'd cycle wherever you wanted to, there wasn't any risk.

Right.

You'd do whatever you wanted to, um, and to some extent a lot of us I think still carry that forward but it's slowly getting kind of you know –

Really.

Curbed out of you literally as they build – rebuild the curbs, as they –

Yeah.

Rebuild bike lanes which are segregated, which is great for safety but again it's kinda like, oh, yeah, so we have to educate drivers about how to deal with cyclists but no well, we actually need to give segregated bike paths, which is I mean internationally shows that it's great but there's always that kind of like, oh, yeah. It's, this, it's just all about attitude, it's all about culture.

Absolutely.

Um, and there's a th-, you know, the supported ethos in New Zealand at the moment and suddenly you know you've got Turnbull like what does he say, that it's about the individual in the market, that's what he's gonna be supporting is the individual in the market –

Right.

And I'm like sitting here looking at this going, yeah, cos the individual in the market's working so well here.

Right.

In fact everything that Christchurch is known for is not the individual and the market is not, like in, in, in the art of recovery I think it was, it's either Warwick Isaacs or Gerry Brownlee's quoted as saying, oh, well you know we've got, we're excited because we've got Vodafone coming into the Innovation precinct. This is the Innovation precinct we're sitting in.

Right.

I'm sorry Vodafone? Vodafone's innovation? Sure they do some really interesting stuff –

Right.

But they're not like, you know, what most of us would think of as you know fostering a hotbed of innovation.

Right.

It's like, cool okay another big tenant back in the central city, we need more people in here using the city day to day.

Right but let's just call it what it is like.

Yeah. It's not, it's not innovation.

Yeah.

And like what this actually means, I mean you've got restaurants and cafes and an art gallery and, you know, very little other, you know like there's a co-working space over there, um, next to the Dux's.

That's cool.

And I mean to me this is exactly what it should be. It's like you call it a precinct that's innovation but you've actually got this hugely diverse mix of tenants.

Right.

And there's project managers up the road and head of-fices for construction companies and –

Right.

You know, and actually this is what a city should be, it shouldn't be defined by this concept of a precinct which groups together these supposedly aligned –

Right.

Organisations. It's a small enough city that you don't need that. You could, you know, it's like okay so you know this innovative company that I wanna go and talk to because we're an innovative company, they just happen to be two blocks away.

Yeah.

Right, right, right. But it's just, I guess it's like the accelerated pace in which things need to happen and they wanna have this overarching plan for the city –

Yep.

And they're looking at models of like how to make a functional healthy cittle, city and those are coming from voices, the like business, in the business world, rather than the original like you had Ian Athfield coming down and proposing things that are more like –

Oh, Gehl Architects –

Right.

Even pre-earthquake, Gehl who were here and who did planning, you know –

Right.

Um, talking about a, a liveable city, um, and Charles Montgomery who's been here recently talking about the Happy City, his book the Happy City, um, you know about that it's actually based around people.

Right, right.

Um, but the problem, for me – and this isn't, I, this is not my original thought, it's coming from, um, other people in my circle of friends, is that the positioning of Christchurch as an international city – it's not. It's never going to be.

[LAUGHTER]

So why are – why? Why did we, why did we think that we had to be all things to the, you know, the world basically, why did we have to kind of you know this sparkly art trail, this, you know, world class facility here, this conference centre that's taking over the like massive two and a half city blocks, um, and cutting off a road, um.

It's just like the whole thing's becoming the Casino right?

Yeah, yeah, well the kind of, yeah, there is that feeling that a lot of these kind of like, you know, the stadium and the conf-, and the idea of a conference centre that nobody, especially the conference centre, nobody who does anything to do with cities has said it's a good idea.

Right.

Um, they are lost leaders. They don't bring the kind of, um, culture and attitude and vibrancy that you want. They get people in –

Right.

But that's – you put them somewhere so they are forced – and what we've got here is supposedly a conference centre that has a hotel and other facilities, eating facilities and all this, all in one –

Right, it's like a money thing, it's just like a, yeah.

So it's like, why do those conference people ever have to leave the confines of this like cake tin and actually explore the city?

Haha.

Sure they might but you're actually, to me it's like you're actually basically saying, well if you're not inclined and you're agoraphobic then you can quite happily sta-, come fly in, go to your conference and fly out and never see the city.

Yeah.

And just, you know, design wise they're, you know, you're inside a box, you're never looking out, they very rarely have, um, windows, cos you're tryna focus peoples' attention, um, and they look inwards.

Right.

They don't, by their design they look inwards to themselves, um, it's not that we, ooh, the thing it's not like anybody here says we don't need these things, we just don't necessarily need them on that scale right now in that location.

Right.

Yeah.

It's like the pragmatism of how we get to a better city seems to have been lost behind this kind of idea of being a, a global city that –

Yeah.

Everybody in the world will want to come to and we'll, you know, it's like can't we just be the best Christchurch that we can be and that'll be enough?

Yeah.

And that starts with people, doesn't it? Yeah. Um, Brownlee dismisses inquiry, heard about that on the radio. No Royal Commission into EQC basically. Serco's razor fines excused, ah, that'll be Serco privatising of jails, awesome. DOC concerned by emaciated state of seals. Well the world's looking great today. Hundreds have say on Council job cuts, ooh, that's interesting cos I work for Council.

[LAUGHTER]

I'm always interested to see what actually makes it into The Press.

Yeah.

Oh, that's good, yeah. I mean with an organisation that large you can't expect this, cos Council's just going through a massive restructure – they've disestablished one hundred and seventy roles and they're re-establishing one hundred and fiftenn new ones. And then there was a period where all of the staff got to feedback on the proposal and that closed last Thursday. But you know with what, I think there's like six or seven hundred people over in the civic offices. You can't – and I mean I don't think they have an expectation, you can't control the mes-, you know the what's gonna, people are gonna talk about to the press in particular, so, yeah. So it's just, it's feeding back on the number of reviews, so hundreds, and hundreds of people did basically feedback on the restructure and had things to say about how it affected them personally or how the teams were affected and units, yeah. The community has told us that it's sometimes very difficult to deal with the Council. We can be overly bureaucratic or not responsive enough. Council needed to be an agile organisation with clear accountabilities. The final decision was due to be announced in late October. Yep. So they've cut middle management and actually some senior management. They've not touched frontline staff.

Right.

Um, but for a lot of people they didn't, they didn't see it coming, you know.

Oh.

Some, some staff did but, and they knew that it was gonna happen and jobs were gonna be combined into more responsibility but a lotta people didn't see it coming. It's been –

Pretty sad.

Um, yeah, it was a, it was, when it was announced it was, it was interesting being around that and how people were processing that information, um, and also how actually everybody was really sensitive to the fact that nobody was unaffected because you knew people, like our unit manager's role was disestablished.

Right.

Um, and everybody was very sensitive to that and everyone was like you know just be careful and just be cautious of people over the next few days as they process this information. But they've been through like three or four restructures in the last couple of years, some of these people.

Right.

Oh.

And it's like nobody has any faith that any of these kind of things actually do what they, they say they're going to do.

Right.

Um, and it's like I –

Just another layer of trauma.

I don't, I think it sorta feels like it's, it's been, information's been given about what people do but that's still there are still things that have been missed out, crucial aspects.

Right.

Um, and how you actually communicate that in a meaningful way –

Yeah.

That people actually listen to and it's, it's that whole thing, it's like that disillusionment actually isn't gonna be listened to.

Yeah.

Actually what if, what ability do we have to effect change. Which kind of just ties into other things in the city which I think, I dunno, in some ways I'm quite positive about that because you know they're, we don't have a, you know a dead set innovation precinct, um, Cashel Mall was supposed to be these massive sort of 7000 square metre developments and it's gone back to owner-led development now cos they couldn't make it work and –

Okay.

It was just you know, so in lit-, in little, and we saved the Town Hall, you know?

Okay.

Um, friends of mine actively saved the Town Hall. They've been campaigning for three years to save the Town Hall. I was in the Chambers when that happened and it was one of the most beautiful things to watch Lianne, politicking at its best. Asking questions, drawing out information from her advisors that the press would have to listen to and acknowledge –

Right.

And the biggest thing that came out was that the whole way through there's been this perception that the performing arts precinct and all of those kind of, um, venues that were gonna support The Court Theatre –

Right.

And support the CSO and all of that were being jeopardised by people trying to save the Town Hall.

Right.

Mmm.

But they never were. The line in the programme was, if the Town Hall cannot be restored –

Right.

Then the performing arts precinct will be developed.

Ahh.

And the whole way through it's been like, well are you trying to save the Town Hall's jeopardising all this money and as it turns out the most cost effective thing to do is to actually save it.

Right.

Because you get the full insurance payout that way.

Right.

And the value of actually, that Council's putting in in terms of the actual top up to get it to be fixed, for what you get, you would never get anything like that new.

Right, right, right.

Ahhh.

It's a beautiful, beautiful building.

Yeah, it's like one hundred and twenty four million dollars, um, and people are saying, oh, we'll get world class facilities for one hundred and twenty four million dollars. A concert hall of that quality would cost you a minimum of \$300 million and probably six to eight years. We're going to get that for basically insurance plus a top up of something like fifty million dollars–

Yep.

Um, I think, I can't remember, um, and it's gonna take three years. Probably four if you factor in the, that's nicely optimistic three years but 2018 we're s'posed to have our, our Town Hall back again.

Yaah.

And it's a, you know it's an awarded building, it's, it's –

[UNINTELLIGIBLE]

I, you know I, I struggle a bit with the exterior of it in some respects, Brutalism. I I-, I love other aspects of it but, um, yeah, but it's, I still understand its significance and its, and actually just its value.

Yeah.

Even in an economic sense its value.

Yeah, yeah, totally.

Yeah.

And that'll be where your offices will be right?

No.

[LAUGHTER]

But, um, yeah, I mean Civic'll stay where it is and where we – the other thing is where Rebuild Central goes, it'll probably go back to the Civic offices.

Yep.

Um, at some point I suppose.

Right.

It's a bit, it's a bit interesting actually cos my team's, there's a, there's a kind of thing that happens when you're sort of away from these large floors of large people –

Right.

And it's a little bit more intimate I think in some ways –

Right.

And I think a lot of us will miss that.

You can feel it. It, it feels, it feels like –

Yeah.

All the good stuff that you're describing like –

Yeah.

People working with what's at hand and what's in front of you and, it's got a nice –

Yeah, it is.

Contingent feel to it.

Yeah and also because it had been–

[UNINTELLIGIBLE]

Beginning to try and make things happen.

Yeah.

The kind of, um, attitude towards the way structures are is to investigate them rather than just accept them.

Right.

Yeah.

It's to, okay so this is how this is not working out for something that we think should be you know, and so that's how LIVS came about.

Yeah.

You know, it was like well how do we get people to you know – which works on a new, or you know the same sort of model as Renew Newcastle, but it's like you know well of course we wanna make this easier and it's best if it's kept at arm's length and they can you know do these standard kind of licences and things like that and you know this idea that, um, maybe that they'll be that LIVS – Life In Vacant Space – will have a more active role as well in helping to, um, support public space and its uses and broker that on behalf of Council so that that's actually one less thing that they have to worry about.

Right.

Um, and it's, it's, the economies of you know funding in somebody else to do something that actually we couldn't do, the Council couldn't do for twice the cost, in some respects.

Yeah.

Um, yeah.

Ah, I love the advertising. I think this is the old retirement village but like I look at this stuff, there's these like you know massive kind of buildings and I just think, oh, great, yeah, the new subdivisions, Christchurch's new subdivisions. People wanting their own little patch and this idea of density and, um, how New Zealand, this, oh. We have an east frame that's basically not going to be dense and it's going to be six hundred thousand dollars to buy an apartment in there and there's no kind of scale of affordable housing and, yeah. I don't think the people at the top of the food chain here making these decisions understand what true den-, true density means in terms of –

Ah, ah, yeah.

Architecture and how that might actually be beneficial. They get told by you know you see these things, oh, no that's not marketable.

Right.

Um, where people won't want that. People, like people want their garage, you know. People want to be able to park a car off road. It's like do they really? I dunno do they? I, yeah, and then that's the thing it's like actually when are we gonna start challenging that as a, as the, the discourse is that.

Right. Cos it's an opportunity to do that.

Yeah.

Yeah.

Actually you know if somebody offered you an option and we left you alone to sorta think about this for a couple months and you had a chance to talk about it, and this is this whole thing, you know community engagement actually takes time.

Yeah.

And it's hard work and it involves a lot of iteration.

Right.

And this is a disaster zone so it's a balance.

Yeah, yeah.

But Council's definitely trying to actively do more than that.

Ah, more rugby. Cameron Slater – Jesus, not interested in him. Ah, rescue helicopter? Ah, saw a para-, saw a paraglider getting rescued on the weekend from the Port Hills.

Ah.

Which was, um, disturbing cos a friend of mine put himself into the Port Hills last year.

Ahh.

Blossom Festival begins with a bang. Oh, yeah, cherry blossom time. We know it's spring in Christchurch when the cherry blossoms are out. And they're out for what, like a week, and that's it.

[LAUGHTER]

But that's that, that, I love that-

[UNINTELLIGIBLE]

Cos I did my, I did some of my honours study around Japanese aesthetics.

Ooh.

And so you have 'aware' which is the kind of pleasing sadness at the passing away of things. Enjoying being a bit melancholy about -

Yeah.

- and acknowledging that things you know don't last. And what you're sponse to do in Japan is that you go to the cherry blossom festivals and you lie under the trees while the cherry blossoms kind of rain down on you and -

Ooh.

- decay basically onto you and you have parties and under the trees with your friends and it's a really big thing and it's, um, yeah. It's kind of I, I, I, every time I drive down there when the cherry blossoms are out I think of that and then I think about how people just see it as a kind of mark of spring here rather than actually some kind of -

Where, where are the cherry blossoms?

Ah, down, um, Deans Ave on the edge of Hagley Park.

Okay.

Yeah.

I think that's near where -

We were yesterday.

Yeah, I think they're coming out at the moment. I saw something the other day. Ah, Mainland, Business Day, no, I usually skip those. Not really interested in business – I'll go back to it. It's kinda one of those things you get through and you go back to it -

Yep.

And you go, oh, yeah, actually there's something really interesting about the stock exchange or dairying and -

Yeah.

And you didn't, it's, it's in the Business, and that's, it's actually really interesting how that happens, it's in the Business section and you go back and -

Right.

You go actually that's got bigger effects than that and it's like two inches.

Yeah.

And you're like, hm, people are not making the connection. And there is that whole thing that the journalists here as well are quite young and we've lost some really senior -

Investigative people.

Investigative, and there's, and th-, it seems to be the way The Press is just generally moving is away from investigative -

Yeah.

Ah, more tabloid.

Yeah.

It's, um, yeah. I, I find The Press a bit of a challenge in that respect is that, um, you know front page that, you know rugby and sex.

Yeah.

Get their attention and then maybe deliver something good somewhere in there.

[LAUGHTER]

Yeah.

It's just tryna find it. Um, yeah, really interested about Turnbull, this is gonna be interesting. He's no, he's no different politically. He's just probably a better person.

Yeah.

Tony Abbott's not a good person for all his Christian values. My God the man is just ideological and you know so hard, it was just, I can't imagine running a government the way he did, it was so partisan and just petty

and, um -

They threw the prime minister out of Australia.

Personality based.

Yeah.

They call it a spill. I like the terminology around these things. They call it a spill.

Ha.

It's like, it's basically a coup.

Right.

And for some reason they call it a spill, like oh, look he slipped on the banana and he spilled his milk or -

[LAUGHTER]

I dunno, it's just kind of odd. But, yeah, cos it's all over Facebook cos I have friends in Australia and they're all just like, ding dong the witch is dead, but a lot of them are really quite clear that it's no different politically.

Right.

It's just perhaps somebody that's actually a bit nicer and maybe isn't so against gay marriage and, um, you know, restricting the rights of women to have autonomy over their bodies, um – cos he would've, he would've, he would've outlawed abortion if he had the choice.

Oh.

Right.

Yeah. He's one of those.

He's not media trained.

Oh, he's just, he's a loose cannon. He's been a loose cannon for – he's got nobody else to blame but himself. But, um, you know, Turnbull's quoted as saying that he, um, thinks that Key is an, John Key is an example of, um, you know leaders that he looks to that are capable of, um, explaining complex intellectual things in ways that the general public can understand and getting their buy-in, ie sweeping economic reforms.

[LAUGHTER]

Actually hold on a second Australia, can we have a wee chat?

[LAUGHTER]

Um, people, you know, it's like, it's like sheep. I can't understand how we got from Greenpeace activism, apartheid, protesting apartheid even under Labour and Helen Clark, this sense that actually we needed to protect the weakest in our society, to the individualism in the market.

Yeah.

Um, when, you know, there are challenges in, you know, sc-, Scandinavian countries definitely around immigration-

[UNINTELLIGIBLE]

Societies, but overall they work better in terms of equality. Everybody's, and everybody is apparently happier. I don't know.

Debatable?

Yeah? Debatable.

Debatable. Yeah, there's a lot of very, ah -

Yeah.

A lot of-

[UNINTELLIGIBLE]

The past ten years.

Yeah, neoliberalism's over, yeah.

It's really about.

I wonder though I kind of, maybe everybody thinks this, yeah? You know that you're living through the end of times in some respects.

Yeah.

And I'm like, there's this thing called, um, I think it's called elite panic, and it was raised as maybe an example as to why we ended up with the kind of huge anchor heavy project, big project, you know, kind of thing that there's this idea that they have this responsibility and they need to protect and they, so they just come in with a heavy hand, um, and I kind of was talking to somebody this morning about there's this feeling that maybe the elite have been doing this on a kind of a worldwide scale, it's like, okay we, we've got this coming, you know forthcoming disaster, climate change -

Right.

Um, but we can insulate ourselves from that. We, of course we can, you know we've got money.

Right.

Um, and I wonder if we're at that kind of tipping point where things are gonna get so bad that they realise that actually money's not gonna protect you. But I always wonder what that level has to get to and that worries me. How bad do things actually have to get for people,

people actually go, yeah, nah, you can't spend all your money on building yourself a bunker away from the world you know.

Right.

Literally or metaphorically, um, yeah. Just makes me ill, money, the idea of it. Tasman dream team. Wealthy, successful, a political moderate, Malcolm Turnbull is Australia's John Key. Ooh.

[LAUGHTER]

On paper the trans-Tasman leaders are a political dream team. Fuck me. Politics does not always follow a matchmakers' rule book however. Opposites often attract – take Helen Clark and the conservative John Howard, Key and former Labour Prime Minister Julia – Julie Gillard. Julia. It's not Julie. It's Julia Gillard, isn't it? Key and Turnbull's predecessor Tony Abbott. Yeah. Key and Gillard were at the opposite ends of the political spectrum. Abbott and Key might have worn the same political stripes but on a personal level they were poles apart. Haha. Abbott the gauche pugilistic leader despised in equal parts by voters and in particular Australia's business community. This guy, like he limits solar investment. He like actually actively used the government to restrict investment in solar development in Australia.

Ohhh.

I'm like, he's like so blind to the way the world is moving.

Hahaha.

Yeah.

It's just like, it's like dude, your country relies on coal at the moment. Seriously, coal.

Hahaha.

I hate climate change deniers. It's like seriously guys, get with the programme. Ahh. Key and English also want to gauge the extent to which the change in leadership has restored plummeting economic confidence of Australia. The thing is I can't get through this stuff. It's like I, I, should and I will at some point but at the moment it's just like there's no, this is no solution it's just, you know it's kind of like this is this point where everybody's just kinda capitalising on the salaciousness of it.

Yep.

And it's like you know, I don't know what to do with that stuff. And it's kind of, it's that thing where you know reading the paper actually is depressing.

Yeah.

Ha. Oh, yeah, there's this new documentary about, um, Keith Richards coming out. Ha, I actually think I'd enjoy seeing that. There's nothing quite as delightful as a guy who is not acting his age. Like quite like literally has made his life out of not acting his age.

Right.

Yep. And actually still seems to have managed to retain his marriage, you know.

Yeah.

And from, from all, from what I've seen so far it's like the film's actually a bit of a riot. Ah, oh, yep, Electric Avenue coming, regist-, pre-register for tickets on that, big music day in Hagley Park next year.

Excellent.

Yeah, it's like one of those things actually you kind of – everything's an event here.

Yeah.

Anything and everything that comes, it's like, but then nobody knows about it. Cos everything happens on like Facebook. Unless it's really big. It's like promoters-

[UNINTELLIGIBLE]

Because nobody actually is in the central city so how do you actually advertise to the masses in the suburbs?

Right, right.

It's like FESTA last year it's like there were still people who were like, um, I would've come. I would've come if I'd known about it. How come I didn't know about it? It's like, oh, God how do you actually, yeah, how do you convey information to people. I have no idea what's going on with this paper now.

[LAUGHTER]

Easy.

Oh this, this, see this annoys me cos I, I like things to be neat.

[LAUGHTER]

Which is actually an interesting statement for me living in the city really rather isn't it?

Yeah.

I like things to be neat.

Hahaha.

Yeah, okay. So summary of the front part. Kind of nothing new. Yeah. Nothing particularly new or exciting. That's always the thing about The Press, or any press.

It's always like three hours behind Facebook or the internet.

Haha.

Yeah.

You know, in the morning it's like half of these articles I'd already seen pop up on my Facebook feed.

Yeah.

Um, I still actually really enjoy holding the paper though and reading it. There's, um, and in some respects I sponse if you, if, when I have lunch I sit down and I actually would pick an article to read and read properly and read it deeply and something about the process of reading a physical object as opposed to a screen makes – it's the same with writing, ah, note taking, I don't take notes to re-read them afterwards, I take them to make my brain retain the information better.

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Yeah.

And it's the same way with this kind of stuff. Uum. Okay. Oh, Zest.

Hahahahahaha.

Yep. Just skip The World, skip, well Property's not even gonna get a look in. Some crappy advertise, advertorial brochure from Sydney. Ooh. Oh, was awesome.

Hahaha.

Oh my God. Advertising. Ballantynes. Jesus how much must they have paid for that? I mean the booklet alone but then actually getting it inserted into The Press, that costs you, like this is thousands of dollars.

Yeah.

And it's you know it's like mum clothes.

[LAUGHTER]

And, and summer hats, and, oh, God no, just can't even look, no. All right Zest. Let's talk about food and drink, oh, coffee but not as you know it, well yeah, I drink decaf these days, it's all a bit depressing. Everybody makes fun of me. Freezer saves the day. That reminds me, I've got shitloads in the freezer that needs to be eaten before it kind of goes past its best by. Café chat. Pies go to Oxford. Oh, yeah, famous Sheffield pie shop. There's always, and these are, you know these, all, ah, this is how I, ever, whenever I travel, this is how I remember places is by those little food joints that people told me to go to.

Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Yep. and I would totally if, if somebody was in there it would be like, okay so you're going out through Arthurs Pass, you have to stop at the Sheffield pie shop.

Oh.

Yep.

What is it called?

Ah, the famous, it's literally called The Famous Sheffield Pie Shop.

Cool.

Yep. Um, and it says, has long boasted the best pies to be had for miles around – this is true. And the pit stop for travellers has always been a welcome one. This is true.

Mm.

The latest news is that the shop is opening its second location in Oxford. The new pie shop is moving into the old Seagers on Main Street right next door to Pink Sugar, a bit of a refit is underway in Seagers but the pie shop should be open soon. Great news. I'm always a bit conflicted when they start branching out.

Yeah.

There's this idea that you have this little, um, thing that's kind of unique and special and it's very -

Dependent on that mode of production.

Yeah, but also like you'd never know that this was like, it just looks like a pie shop from the outside -

Yeah.

And the pie warmer inside and it's kind of just a bit of a rough paintjob in an old kind of converted building on the side of the road as you head into Sheffield. Um, and it probably won't be that in Oxford.

Not at all.

No. And it's just like, oh, it's just kind of like, yep. Too many people in the world and globalisation and you know that kind of narrowing down of discovery, that, the accidental discovery or -

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

That things are kind of have a nostalgic value and the erasure of that. Whitebait – don't eat the stuff. Nostalgia, run by friends of mine, know that. Empire opens. We all know that bam-, oh, God, restaurant names, man, Bamboozle. It's an Asian restaurant. Bamboozle. Gimme a break. Yeah, no. There's pretty pictures. Creamy soup. Tinned tomatoes. Feel like mussels? No I don't like mussels. This is actually not making me very

happy.

No.

There's nothing – wake up to cold coffee, cold drip, that's nice. Whole bunch of friends that are obsessive about that stuff. Ah, that opens tonight, Dux.

Oh.

New Dux arises. Ah, and that was where, um, I used to work when it was The Twisted Hop.

Ahhh.

And that was where I was working for at the September earthquake and where I lost my job within about three days of the February earthquake.

Ohh.

Ohh.

Um, and one of the things I was trying to do on February which was, I was a little bit further down that way, I was doing a temping job was actually I tried to get back to here cos my colleagues, my friends that I'd been working with for six months and, yeah, and I can remember coming round the corner and seeing half the facades off and cars crushed and, um, yeah, not really getting much further and then kind of just having to wait for hours and kind of doing the cordon a little bit till I could get my car out.

Oh, my God.

Yeah.

It's so frightening.

So it's weird it's like, it's, this, that's been empty for that long.

Yeah.

That's been empty since the twenty second of February 2011, so, and there's the co-working space in the front and the building's been properly restored. It had had some basic earthquake strengthening and now Dux is opening tonight. Yay. Cos like we lost Dux as well.

Right.

Like Dux suddenly over, it was like the kind of studenty -

Yeah.

Pub over on the corner of the Arts Centre, it had this big courtyard out the back, was quite sheltered -

Yeah.

Um, this really weird kind of vegetarian plus fish restaurant, um, and made its own beers and was just kind of a bit quirky and a bit odd and you d-, you're always kinda like, yeah, it's okay but like the food's average, sometimes it's okay but you'd always just keep going there -

Yeah, yeah.

Cos it has this great courtyard, and the guy who ran it was just like a thorn in the side of the Arts Centre so he never got to go back again, basically they weren't gonna lease it out to him after the earthquakes.

Ahh, right.

And he set up a, he set up a Dux Dine over on Riccarton Road which from all effects is actually better food.

Yep.

Um, and a Dux, mm, Dux Live which was basically in a, um, kind of a, one of those industrial units on the edge of Addington basically kind of double height and just corrugated iron clad and not a particularly nice environment but fulfilled a need.

Right.

Um, and everybody's been like well we'd really like Dux to come back again so, yep, opens tonight at eight pm. That's gonna be – w, I'm gonna try and, I think I'll go down. That'll be worth. Oh, oh, yeah, paving. Hahaha. It's quite funny actually, this paving's all just slotted in, none of it's like fixed. It's like you lift it up at the kerb and then it all just falls apart like a jigsaw puzzle -

Yeah.

It's quite cool. Wedding, there's all so many advertorial, oh, God there's a whole wedding section in here oaaargh. Oh, no, no. Haha. What you were wearing. I always love this. It's kinda like there's always somebody that goes to the mall and takes photos of people at the mall. Hm, hm, it's Christchurch and malls man.

Yeah, it is.

It's just ridiculous. And I don't know where they find these people. I nev-, never see anything particularly out there. They all look like, you know, they care about clothing, they care about how they look. They have something to say about it. But, yeah, yeah. Wasn't it somebody said, I think somebody came, wasn't it some French guy came to New Zealand and said that it was one of the most sartorially desolate places he'd ever been to, these women wearing like these clodhopper shoes with like -

[LAUGHTER]

Hey were wearing sneakers with their skirts to get to work, you know, it was just like, yeah, it was like, such a French male kind of -

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

You know, attitude. More clothing, a whole feature on red clothing.

Hahahaha.

I don't buy any new clothing anymore so this is, um, quite interesting. I've only bought second hand, I bought one new dress for a friend's wedding earlier this year but I haven't bought anything new in a just over eighteen month months.

Wow.

Um, shoes occasionally cos they're kinda the thing that's a bit difficult, um -

Yeah.

And proper sneakers for running and things like that -

Yeah.

But, um, other than underwear and socks, nope.

Interesting.

Yeah, just go to SaveMart or other second hand stores. I love it. Totally, totally changed my, um, relationship with, um, consumerism.

Yeah.

Yeah.

I don't, like I look at that stuff and I'm like, well I'm not gonna buy it.

Right.

That's interesting, it's like interesting to see a shape but I look at it in terms of does that shape suit me, not is that in fashion or is that necessary to my life for whatever weird reason.

[UNINTELLIGIBLE]

I don't, I think it was definitely like that was me in my twenties more anyway and that was definitely something I was getting out of but, um, I've always been quite fascinated by fashion as a form of personal self-expression.

Yeah.

Um, and how that's also something that's easily judged by people. And you get categorised and I remember my time in Auckland where you'd go out to some of the bars on Ponsonby Road and the first thing they do is look at your shoes and look at and see what, how valuable your watch was.

Argh.

I was like-

[UNINTELLIGIBLE]

Yeah.

And it always just seemed such an arbitrary thing that you had to have some kind of knowledge for. I'm just gonna trash that advertising stuff, it doesn't interest me in the slightest. Ah, property, no I'm never gonna get on the property line, I work the ladder, I work in the arts. Um, hahahaha. And housing here man, it's gone up. It's ridiculous. It's just, yeah. It's not. Oh, that was, um, there we go, we've got the sex and rugby section now. Oh, that was talking about Vanessa Williams. I remember that. Oh, this Pope. I like this Pope.

Yeah.

Pope says popularity didn't work out that well for Jesus. Jesus that's awesome.

[LAUGHTER]

This is literally his quote. Jesus also for a certain time was very popular and look at how that turned out.

[LAUGHTER]

I like this guy man. I don't think he's gonna do everything that I want him to do but J-, he's good. As he prepares to address huge crowds in Cuba and the United States the Pope has played down his popularity by comparing himself to Jesus Christ and pointing out how the Son of God was despite his following – hey, how are you?

Where was I? Ah, by comparing himself to Jesus Christ and pointing out how the Son of God was, despite his following, crucified.

[LAUGHTER]

Asked about his mass appeal during a Portugese radio interview broadcast yesterday he answered, Jesus also for a certain time was very popular and look at how that turned out. God he's, he's good. The Pope is expected to address two million people in Philadelphia on September twenty seventh, the climax of an eight day trip to Cuba and the US. Michael McCaul, the chairman of the US House Committee on Homeland Security, oh, this is interesting, he said the Secret Service had already blocked a threat against him. He said the Pope's habit of mixing with crowds was a large security risk.

[LAUGHTER]

Imagine.

Yeah, no shit Sherlock. Um, in his interview the Pope said Rome was at risk from ISIS terrorists -

Oh.

Just four hundred kilometres from Sicily is an incredibly cruel terrorist group so there is a danger of infiltration. Mm. Wow. I feel like I went for like this huge emotional roller coaster ride on that really like very brief -

Short article.

Yeah, yeah, cool.

I was like, I love this guy, he's awesome, oh, my God, Homeland Security, oh, actually terrorism is a real thing for the Pope.

Yeah.

Yeah, oh.

Oh.

[UNINTELLIGIBLE]

So isolated, so safe here in New Zealand.

But he looks pretty fresh right.

Yeah.

He looks like he can live for a while.

I hope he keeps going for a while.

Cos they, the, the old one, he, he looked like

Mm.

You know, death's door, ah. So I guess he's still alive. Is he still alive?

[UNINTELLIGIBLE]

Who? The old Pope?

Yeah.

Yeah, um, Benedict?

Cos he – yeah.

Yeah I think so.

Yeah, right.

Yeah.

He sort of stuck round.

You forget about him don't you, you just -

Yeah.

Kind of skip over and go from you know Pope John Paul II

Yeah.

To, to this guy, Francis, and -

But he was also . . .

Forget about Benedict.

Benedict was sort of, um, like middle period dude right.

Mm. Yeah, he didn't do so well -

Nah.

He wasn't that successful. Stability key theme for new PM. Well we'll see, they haven't exactly had much stability in the last four or five years, have they. Oh, Amal Clooney. Of course now that she's married to George Clooney she's interesting. Instead of actually being interesting for being a human rights lawyer.

Yeah.

Ah, anti-hunting vegan lands environment role. Oh, that's interesting. In Britain. No, not so interesting. If it was, if it was here it'd be interesting. Ha. Still limits on the new defence rules. Nah, what's the world briefs? Rocket ultimatum. South Korea's warned that the satellite rocket launched by North Korea would be considered a ballistic missile test and a serious provocation. The usual. South Korea, North Korea, backwards, forwards. Wonder if it's ever gonna isolate, ah, escalate. Killer isolated. Ah, shooter funds seized. Quieter navy. Water free Europe unravels in the face of refugee crisis. Yeah, that's actually quite interesting.

Yeah.

You know, what's gonna happen, yeah, with the EU and the lack of border control. Yeah, they've just put it back in haven't they?

[UNINTELLIGIBLE]

Two decades of frontier free travel across Europe have unravelled as countries re-establish border controls in the face of an unprecedented influx of migrants which has broken the record for the most arrivals by land in a single day.

Ah.

I don't understand how this isn't bigger news. How people don't actually understand that this is on a par with like you know refugee issues around the world wars.

Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. I would say that in European news -

Mmm.

It's, it's a very, it's like the, the issue, it's like-

Yeah.

Oh, there's like fifty percent of all stories are about that.

Yeah. I mean we've, we've , we've had quite a bit of like ribbing – or not even ribbing, it's been a bit more kind of brutal than that, kind of like you know what we let seven hundred refugees in a year -

Hahaha.

New Zealand. It's like we're one of the lowest per head of capita in the world.

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

And it's like, it's not like we don't have space, ah, and we actually have capacity in our organisations that support refugees, they say they can manage it, so why are, you know -

Yeah.

And then it's like, oh, yeah, so we'll get this one off of what is another one thousand two hundred or less than that or something, yeah. And olive oil may help prevent breast cancer. Yeah, okay. And? I, I just, I hate that kind of stuff, it's like science reporting in the news is crap.

Hahaha.

It's crap. It's like, it's like okay so I've read that, I'll go and look it up. I'll go and look up, I'll probably go back and look up on the internet, you know that, what the study is. And actually go back to something that I think's actually more reputable. That, so actually what, what's the by-line on that one? Telegraph Group. Telegraph's an okay paper. Cos that's the other thing. It's like once you get into the world section all of this is by, you know Reuters.

Exactly

Ah.

It's all Reuters. Telegraph Group, you know sometimes you get Guardian articles, things like that. People I don't think even notice that.

Right, right, right, that's true.

You know and that can be a way to establish you know.

Even, yeah, I mean even regional, local like, just the papers here are an amalgamating and not having the same, ah, budgets for basic, you know, for local journalists.

Yep, yep. Ah, the stars. That's always funny. No, ah, comics, meh. I just kinda want something in here to be interesting and it's actually, it's kinda not. It feels like a low news day in some respects.

Haha.

Like it's not like I want something bad to happen.

No, no, nah.

I just want something that actually is, yeah. I dunno, front page news, actually that was pretty good. Actually those people are pretty good, yeah. Funny isn't it, I opened this up here and there's like the first thing I notice now of course is the Christchurch City Council advertising its September meetings and the Riccarton Racecourse Bill.

Right. Exactly, you keyed in -

Yeah. Sports section, Rugby World Cup. Yeah. I quite like this though, um, I don't not, it's like pressure can spoil Ko's walk to glory. I'm like okay fine but she's a woman and she's doing bloody well. Good for her.

Haha.

I like seeing, yeah. I like seeing more, um, of you know the women who are doing as equally well as men in their fields get the prominence and the acknowledgement that they do because generally they don't.

Yeah.

It's because, you know mens golf is, mens golf is more than women's golf.

Ah.

Mens sport is better than women's sport, you know, mens rugby is much more interesting than our New Zealand women's rugby winning their world cup.

Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

And all of that kind of stuff. Um, yeah. Okay. Front page and Pope.

[LAUGHTER]

That pretty much was it for me. Yeah. It was front page and Pope.

Thank you.

Amazing.

Thank you so much, that was great.