#### Wahine disaster tribute

A wreath-laying ceremony off Steeple Rock at the entrance to Wellington Harbour has paid tribute to the 51 people who died when the Wahine sank 45 years ago. The wreath was cast into the sea from the new CentrePort tug, the Tapuhi, at the end of its month-long delivery voyage from China. The new tug shares its name with a World War II-vintage tug, the crew of which tried to aid the Wahine as it sank on April 10, 1968. But the tug was too light to be of any real help. The new tug's first task after its voyage from China was to honour those who died in the disaster, most of whom were dashed on the rocks on the eastern shores of the harbour.

### Blenheim Lotto win

An East Coast family has won the latest \$6 million Powerball jackpot, while a Blenheim family has claimed its \$10.8m prize from three weeks ago. The Blenheim family waited to consult financial prize. A family spokesperson said: ''Mum's a bit of a practical joker, to say we'd won the big one, I thought yeah right. It's not until I realised that she was actually in the Lotto shop that I started to believe her." The Blenheim family. who wish to remain anonymous, were now "starting to think about new houses and new cars and all those exciting things''.

### Leadership 'blackmail'

The war of words over the Maori Party leadership has broken out again with Pita Sharples accusing challenger Te Ururoa Flavell of "a kind of blackmail" for



co-leader before the 2014 election. Speaking during the prime minister's trade mission to China, Dr Sharples said the party would have acted if its national body was not in "chaos". He said Mr Flavell's time as leader would come and he did not rule out the two being co-leaders – a matter he has discussed with the MP.

### Accused denies murder

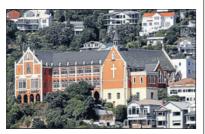
A man has admitted the burglary and arson of a house in a Christchurch suburb but denies the murder of 13-year-old Jade Bayliss who was found dead inside. Jeremy George Edward McLaughlin, 35, entered his guilty pleas as his four-week trial began in the High Court before Justice Graham Panckhurst and a jury yesterday. McLaughlin was charged with murder over the November 10, 2011, incident at the house in Somerfield where emergency services discovered the girl's body after being called to the fire. The trial was adjourned until Thursday.

### Drought economic impact

Treasury says if the drought doesn't intensify it will slice 0.7 per cent off economic growth in 2013. In their latest monthly reports, the boffins expect the impact to be felt mostly this year, rather than 2014. Soil moisture content has been the driest in at least 40 years and milk production over the season is set to be about 1 per cent down "at best" on last season. But meat slaughter is well ahead, offsetting some of the negative impact in the March quarter, leaving the worst to show up in June quarter GDP data.

#### Appeal for monastery

A public appeal may be launched this year to raise money to strengthen one of Wellington's best-known landmarks: St Gerard's monastery and church. The heritage-listed Gothic-style red-brick complex on the lower slopes of Mt Victoria has been assessed as earthquake-prone. The buildings have been yellowstickered by the Wellington City Council, to be strengthened or demolished within 15 years.



Fated: St Gerard's in Wellington must be quake strengthened or demolished within 15 years.

## Pizza funds book on Italian immigrants

Sasha Borissenko

Italian enthusiasts can look forward to authentic Italian pizza this Sunday in celebration of Nelson City Council's Heritage Week.

Club Italia is hosting a fundraiser for a forthcoming book by local historians Karen Price and Karen Stade that showcases the early Italian settlement.

"We are very excited about the event because it is the very first book about the Nelson Italian community," said Club Italia committee member Pauline Esposito. "There will be great pizza and

music that will make for a lovely atmosphere. We also have a lovely outdoor area at the club - it's our hidden secret that's not so secret any more," she said. Author and president of the Nel-

son Historical Society, Mrs Stade said the event would be an opportunity to tell members of the Italian community, and the wider Nelson community, about the book they had worked on for nearly two years. Co-author and graphic designer

Mrs Price said they had not yet come up with a title for the book,



immigrants who came to Nelson, dating back to the 1860s.

the wave of tomato growers in the ning," she said.

which told the story of the Italian 1920s, the post World War II-period in the 1950s, and lest we forget those who randomly came over for "The chain migration included the gold rush in the very begin-

The pair will publish the book through Mrs Price's graphic design company, Contexto, and Sunday's fundraiser is the club's contribution to the project.

Italian descent, both have been affiliated with the Wood, an area tomato growers.

Viva Italia:

Karen Stade,

Karen Price,

right, with

Esposito, of

Club Italia,

fundraiser

forthcoming

history book

on Nelson's

community.

DE RUYTER/

**FAIRFAX NZ** 

promote the

club's Italian

Authors

left, and

Pauline

Harvest

for a

Italian

historically known for its Italian "The club offered to help us with a fundraiser to promote our book and it tied in nicely with

While the writing duo are not of

Heritage Week and its autumn harvest theme," Mrs Price said. The monetary goal for the proiect was yet to be established, and

the current estimate had "gone all topsy", Mrs Stade said. "That's the way with history, you don't know what you are go-

ing to unearth. However, it's a story that's worth telling." Nelson's Heritage Week starts

on Saturday.

Mrs Stade will also be speaking at the Women's Club next Wednesday about the history of Nelson's landmark, the Church Steps. Her other book, Meet You at the Church Steps: a history of a Nelson landmark, will be published in September.

Tickets to Sunday's fundraiser evening cost \$20 and include pizza. Available from Romano's, 31 Trafalgar St.

See nelsoncitycouncil.co.nz for the Heritage Week programme.

# Chinese visitor totals to rise

#### Hamish Rutherford in Shanghai

Chinese visitors could rise fivefold to 1 million in the next five years without additional marketing, Prime Minister John Key

That will lead to China rivalling Australia as our largest source of

It is already the fastest-growing source of international tourists, rising 35 per cent to 200,000 last year. – Mr Key said comments from Chinese president Xi Jinping suggested this would increase substantially in the coming year.

President Xi, who took office last month, told the Bo'ao Forum that he expected the number of Chinese travelling overseas, about 82 million last year, would rise to 400 million in five years.

From this, Mr Key believed that Chinese visitors to New Zealand could easily climb to 1 million over that period, to rival Australia as New Zealand's largest source of overseas visitors.

"This is a massive market potential," Mr Key said.

"The question is, could we do even better than that, and I think it's arguably possible. I know it's a real stretch, but it's a very big market and we're a very attractive destination."

In the year ended February 2013, 1.16 million Australians visited New Zealand, compared with 208,000 Chinese.

ceremony at the China Southern Airline headquarters in Guangzhou, where parties re-signed an agreement that gives qualifying visitors speedy access through border controls. Under the agreement, China

Southern's Gold and Silver frequent-flyer card-holders do not have to produce evidence of sufficient funds to support themselves, as long as they can show their flight records over the previous two years.

Immigration New Zealand said almost 100 travellers have used the scheme since it came into effect in November last year and no compliance issues have emerged.

The scheme has been contro-

Mr Key made the comments at a versial, with concerns raised that those on the visas may never return to China. "This is clearly an abuse of both

New Zealand's border controls and the visitor visa system," New Zealand First leader Winston Peters said in November after revealing that a deal for the visas was in the pipeline.

But Mr Key said yesterday that those with the visas were typically business people who had travelled extensively in recent years "with very high degree of probability to be returning to China".

The scheme came as Mr Key met travel agents participating in a new scheme to try to attract tourists from China who would stay longer and spend more.

While the growth in tourist numbers had been strong, the majority of those who come here are those on short-stay shopping holidays which are typically part of a trip to Australia.

Late last year, Tourism New Zealand launched the Premier Kiwi Partnership (PKP) scheme, under which it helps with the marketing costs for agents selling longer holidays which travel to a wider range of destinations.

Tourism New Zealand chief executive Kevin Bowler, who is also in China as part of the trade delegation, said the first visitors under the scheme came to New Zealand for the Chinese New Year celebrations about six weeks ago.

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### Critics take aim at protest law make high-seas arrests, fines to be im- implications", its high-profile opponents

Government moves to criminalise protests at sea have aroused high-profile opposition, with former prime minister Geoffrey Palmer, lawyer Peter Williams, QC, and Dame Anne Salmond among

The group has a legal opinion which "finds that the proposed amendments to through the usual processes, avoiding a Squadron founder George Armstrong. the Crown Minerals (Permitting and select committee hearing where public Crown Land) Bill would breach international law in a number of respects".

Under late changes promoted by Minister of Energy and Resources Simon Bridges, protesters who intentionally damage or interfere with mining sites or vessels outside the 12-mile territorial limit risk up to a year in jail.

That would allow the Defence Force to

posed of up to \$50,000 per person or \$100,000 per organisation, and there would be fines of up to \$10,000 for breaching no-go zones of up to 500 metres around mining vessels. The late amendments will not go

submissions are made and there will be no Bill of Rights Act vet by the attorneygeneral.

The proposed law was "a sledgehammer designed to attack peaceful protest" and was "being bundled through Parliament without proper scrutiny, despite its significant constitutional, democratic and human-rights said in a joint statement. Among the other signatories were Greenpeace, World Wildlife Fund, Forest

& Bird, Rikirangi Gage, of Te Whanau a Apanui, Sir Ngatata Love, the New Zealand Council of Trade Unions and Peace The amendments "breach inter-

national law, and attack our democration freedoms", the group said. Breaches of international law include:

■ Interfering with the freedom of navigation.

■ Breaching human rights by prohibiting peaceful forms of protest, enshrined in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

### Injunction served 'to halt leaks'

The Earthquake Commission claims to have served an injunction on two parties allegedly releasing information from its notorious leaked email, but the parties were still waiting last night.

The High Court in Christchurch yesterday granted EQC an interim injunction "to prevent any further dissemination of confidential information" from the email accidentally sent to EQC critic Bryan Staples last week.

EQC announced the injunction about 5pm yesterday, saying it had been served on Mr Staples, Earthquake Services di-

rector and the blogger known as EQC Truths.

However, neither Mr Staples nor the blogger, whose identity Fairfax has agreed to keep confidential, had been served with the injunction when contacted last night.

Mr Staples said he would see what the injunction said when he received it, but he could not control the many people who now appeared to have access to the email. "This is just more bullying from EQC. After all, this information belongs to the homeowners.

The blogger said he respected the law but "in a way I feel that if EQC want a

public fight I will give it to them". EQC chief executive Ian Simpson said the move was necessary as neither party had authorised access to the information and both were actively engaged in disseminating it.

"I have said earlier that EQC is determined not to add to any distress caused by the mistake by seeing the information spread further by third parties, and that has necessitated the intervention of the courts.' Fairfax NZ



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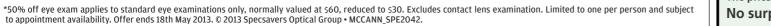
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