**Living**

Anyone with a dog knows how much more fun it is to let them run and play off the lead. We tell you about some of Auckland’s best off-lead dog parks. We head to Japan to experience that country’s variety of summer festivals, and to Queenstown to explore the mountains on snowshoes. Cook Grant Allen does wonderful things with salmon, and in Sunday Homes we look around an ideal family home, complete with a hidden courtyard containing a heated pool and outdoor fire, perfect for toasting marshmallows on a still winter evening.

**Sunday Insight**

Since the much-loved comedian and entertainer Billy T. James died 2 years ago, many would argue no one has come close to filling the gap. Susan Pepperell reflects on his brand of hilarious brilliance and asks Kiwi comedians why there has been no successor. **Insight p31-32**

**Sunday Money**

The IRD is resorting to debt collectors to gather overdue tax take.

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By Andre Humber and Kieran Nash

**Expert says the New Zealand stock exchange will not be taking a hammering when it opens tomorrow morning despite new shockwaves after the United States was given its first credit ratings downgrade in dozens of years yesterday.**

Standard & Poor’s downgraded US Government debt to Aa3 from triple A. It came after a week of wrangling over America’s debt levels, which sparked a run of panic selling on sharemarkets around the world, including wiping more than a billion dollars from the New Zealand sharemarket on Friday.

News out of the US was not all black yesterday, with the number of unemployed down — a rare boost for President Barack Obama. That, and the fact New Zealand was one of the less significant sharemarkets, had given hope the NZX would not immediately dip.

New Zealand Shareholders’ Association chairman John Hawkins said: “It will have a sobering effect on markets until they can absorb the news and determine what impact it will have.”

“We’re one of the earliest sharemarkets to open but we take our lead on what happens on the other side of the world.”

It was unlikely there would be major movement until bigger markets such as Singapore and Sydney opened.

Craig Investments Partners head of private wealth research Gareth Morgan to a bigger theme park. But a judge in the Amsterdam District Court blocked the move, and ordered orca experts and conservationists to shift the orca to a bigger tank, and then hopefully freedom.

**Rescue**

Morgan must be moved to a bigger tank, where he would have more space and contact with other marine mammals.

Visser said it was “an incredible victory”.

“It’s unprecedented and shows how people can make a difference,” she said.

Visser’s report to the court said Morgan, 3.5m long and weighing 1100kg, was a prime candidate for rehabilitation and release.

However, Morgan’s physical fitness was a concern, because the tank was too small and shallow for exercise. The orca was also starting to show signs of boredom. — Northern Advocate

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**Weather**

Full forecast p 84

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**View**

With three big films due out soon, Emma Stone is Hollywood’s hottest IT girl. We review Fashion Week series Unzipped; reveal 900 007 and Indian Jones play in a western movie with a twist; plus we’re giving away Billy T. James prizes.

And Spyc has the exclusive details behind Kate Lynch’s demotion from Close Up to late-night news show Tonight following the thorough investigation conducted by TVNZ. Plus, check out Ridge’s little girl all grown up.

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**News in brief**

**Trams are back**

Trams returned to the Queen City yesterday at the opening of Auckland’s $120 million Wynyard Quarter development. Hundreds gathered at the new Karang a Plaza for the opening ceremony, but the two shiny red trams were the main attraction for graphic designer Duncan Jones and his 3-year-old son, Kaito. “He loves trains and trams,” said his father.

**Awhale of a victory for Kiwi expert**

A YOUNG orca in the Netherlands may escape a life in a theme park because of the effort of a team of conservationists, including a well-known Kiwi marine mammal lover.

Northland whale expert Dr Ingrid Visser was part of a team this week that won a landmark court case, blocking moves to shift an orca named Morgan to a theme park in Spain’s Canary Islands.

Visser, the face oforca conservation in this country, has been in the Netherlands for a fortnight, fighting with a coalition of orca experts and conservationists.

Morgan, rescued after being found alone and off the Dutch coast a year ago, has been held in a theme park in the town of Harderwijk, 50km east of Amsterdam.

Thought to be 3-4 years old, the female orca faced life in a tank too small and shal low — a move to a bigger tank would be a “very unlikely event”.

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**What will the dollar do?**

Some say we’re fine, some say we are okay, some say don’t. **Tomorrow we know.**

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**UP IN THE AIR**

The US was downgraded from AAA to AA+

Mark Lister said trading would be weak, but “in a real sense we look pretty good”. He said New Zealand’s economy was well placed with a stable government and good exports.

BNZ chief economist Tony Alexander said it was guess what the latest moves in the US would do to the dollar, but “if the markets crash, that would argue strongly against... raising interest rates.”

Finance Minister Bill English said New Zealand was better placed than many countries and, with our debt staying below 30 per cent of GDP, there was no need to panic.

“Businesses and households have lifted their savings — reducing their reliance on debt — and our banks are better capitalised and have more stable funding positions following regulatory changes.”

Labour’s finance spokes man, David Cunliffe, however, said the US’s problems could hit the cost of credit here.

The most scary prediction came from investment adviser Gareth Morgan, who said the US economy was “essentially moribund”.

“They were totally rooted when house prices were annihilated and need creditors to keep them alive. They are essentially in a debt trap.”

“If you take away the sweet spots, we don’t look as attractive as we did. It’s going to be quite tough — we’re looking at some hard yards”.

**Below**

Tonight

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**Insight**

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**LOTTO**

**POWERSPOT**

**WINNING WHEEL SERIAL NUMBER:** 16-1015549-20vux

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**NEWS HERALD ON SUNDAY AUGUST 7, 2011**

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**IN DEPTH**

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**Close Up**

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**LOTTERY**

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**Lotto Prizepool**

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**Draw 2621**

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**Power Ball**