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## 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-leash 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 20 years ago, many would argue no one has come close to filling the gap. Susan Pepperell looks back on James' 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 payments, as it looks for new and innovative ways to increase the tax take. *Money*, p51

## Sunday Sport

Is a New Zealand-Australia rugby World Cup final the best solution for the sport? Gregor Paul argues the game desperately needs to win more sponsors and capture more hearts and minds – something it failed to do in 2007. With rugby's appeal and growth at stake he suggests fans need a memorable showpiece. *Sport*, p82-83

## View

With three big films due out soon, Emma Stone is Hollywood's hottest IT girl. We review Fashion Week series *Unzipped*; reveal 007 and Indiana Jones together in a western movie with a twist; plus we're giving away Billy T. James prizes. And Spy 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 Ridgey's little girl all grown up.



## Weather Full forecast p54

|           |  |                 |  |
|-----------|--|-----------------|--|
| Whangarei |  | Rotorua         |  |
| Auckland  |  | Napier/Hastings |  |
| Hamilton  |  | New Plymouth    |  |
| Tauranga  |  | Wellington      |  |

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**LOTTO** DRAW 1261  
**LAST NIGHT'S OFFICIAL RESULTS**

**LOTTO PRIZEPOOL \$3,341,613**

Division 1: 2 win \$500,000  
Division 2: 21 win \$17,216  
Division 3: 514 win \$731  
Division 4: 1585 win \$56  
Division 5: 22,555 win \$34  
Division 6: 35,653 win \$21  
**POWER BALL: 0 win jackpot**

**WINNING WHEEL SERIAL NUMBER: 168-10155549-20xx**

This draw's Winning Wheel Winner from Gisborne spun and won: \$200,000

## What will the dollar do?

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

By Andre Hueber and Kieran Nash

EXPERTS ARE saying 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 the US Government's credit rating to AA+ 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 decide 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.

Craigs Investment Partners head of private wealth research



**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 a 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 spokesman, 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 forgive them," he said.

"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".

Down and counting, p42

## A whale 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 of orca 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 emaciated 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



**RESCUED:** Morgan the orca is moving to a bigger tank, and then hopefully freedom.

bigger theme park. But a judge in the Amsterdam District Court blocked the move, and ordered the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Agriculture to investigate whether proposed scientific research in Spain was genuine, or merely a guise for exporting the orca.

The judge also ruled that

Morgan must be moved to a bigger tank, where she 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

## 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 Karanga Plaza for the opening powhiri, but the two shiny red trams were the main attraction for graphic designer Duncan Jones, pictured, and his 3-year-old son, Kaito. "He loves trains and trams — anything with wheels."



## Auckland on the up

Auckland is one of the world's most liveable cities, according to international

affairs magazine *Monocle*. Its latest annual quality of life survey placed Auckland up seven places to 13th — ahead of Barcelona and just behind Paris. Mayor Len Brown was chuffed, but said his ultimate vision was to bump Finnish capital Helsinki off the number one spot.

## Elderly pair die together

An elderly couple lay dead for two days in their Nelson home before they were found. Bob and Betty Jackson, aged 88 and 84 respectively, died in an apparent double suicide. Police were alerted by a visitor to the house that the couple were not answering their door and meals left at the address had not been taken inside, Nelson police said. The couple were members of Exit International, a voluntary euthanasia group.

## Honda begins recalls

Honda will know tomorrow how many New Zealand vehicles are part of a global

recall of 2.49 million cars due to a software problem. Honda Motors said software in some of its cars, small SUVs and minivans, including the popular Honda Accord sedan, could have a problem that could damage the automatic transmission. Honda NZ chief executive Graeme Seymour said car owners should have no worries about safety. It would be a "very unlikely event that can cause any problem".

## Kate goes late

TVNZ reporter Kate Lynch is understood to have been "demoted" from current affairs show *Close Up* after being publicly accused of plagiarism. Lynch will begin working for late-night news show *Tonight* from tomorrow, after an internal investigation reportedly found her responsible for copying a report from an American affiliate network.

See Spy, p30