



Two New Zealand children die in fire **July 24, 2006**

Two children living in a bach (a small holiday home) in Motueka, New Zealand died in a fire on Saturday night. The two children who perished in the 10.25 p.m. fire were an 11-year-old girl, Charna Maria Baileys Edwards and a 12-year-old boy, Whetumarama James Edwards.

The New Zealand Police say that the cause of the fire was ashes taken from a log fire and then placed in a plastic bucket. The ashes then reignited.

Also injured in the fire was the children's grandmother, 54-year-old, legal guardian to the two children, and an uncle, 34. A firefighter also received minor injuries. They are all being treated in Nelson Hospital and are in a stable condition.

Grief counsellors have been sent to Lower Moutere School where the two children went to school. Eric Davies, principal of Lower Moutere School, told National Radio "The families of the classes that the children were in have been contacted and asked if they could discuss it with their kids."

Kevin Whitlow, a witness to the fire, told The Press "It was horrendous knowing there were two children stuck in there and there was nothing you could do because it was already too late.

The woman just kept saying, 'Save my grandchildren, my grandchildren are in there'."

New Zealand man arrested for murdering teacher **July 25, 2006**

A 23-year-old Tokoroa man has been arrested for the murder of a school teacher, Lois Dear. Dear's body was found on July 16 (Sunday) in her classroom at Strathmore Primary School, one day before term three of the New Zealand primary school year was to start.

The accused murderer, who cannot be named for legal reasons, was arrested on Monday night at a camp and appeared in court today.

A large crowd of media personnel and onlookers gathered outside the packed courtroom. Twenty to thirty people had to remain outside. Many of the people who had gathered outside the courtroom abused the accused man as he walked to the courtroom. One said "You'll never make sentencing." Armed police also were deployed to protect the alleged murderer.

One person, who did not want to be named, said she "had come to let people know who had been arrested." She shouted the name out as the accused walked by.

The accused was remanded and is to appear back in court next week.

Murray Kendrick, principal of

Strathmore Primary School, said that he "knew an arrest was imminent, and is relieved it has happened so quickly."

Police are not ruling out anyone else taking part in the murder.

Toll to cancel Overlander train service **July 26, 2006**

Toll New Zealand has said that it will cancel the Overlander train service from September 30, 2006. The train runs from Auckland to Wellington, and is the only passenger train service that does.

The North Island Main Trunk line has been used in New Zealand for passenger services for 97-years, beginning in 1909.

Toll said it had been running the train service at a loss for many years now and was no longer viable to continue running the service. They also say that they approached the New Zealand Government for help so they could continue the Overlander but "after working through with the Government both parties concluded there was not the passenger numbers to justify keeping it running. Significant investment would also have been required to replace the aging carriage fleet," David Jackson, Chief Executive of Toll New Zealand, said.

Only 50,000 people used the train each year compared to the

200,000 people who use the Tranz Alpine in the South Island.

It was cheaper and shorter to catch a plane, between NZ\$100-\$282 for an one-hour flight, compared to \$158-\$170 for a 12-hour journey.

The New Zealand Green Party is disappointed by the news. Co-leader of Greens, Jeanette Fitzsimons, said "I predict that as oil prices continue to rise further we will need The Overlander again."

Man shot in New Zealand gun shop July 27, 2006

A man wielding a machete entered a Penrose, Auckland gun shop, Small Arms International, this morning at about 10.00 a.m. The man was shot in the stomach by a pistol, he is now in a stable condition after being taken to hospital for surgery.

Allegedly the shooter was the store manager, who is the son of the owner of the gun shop. The owner, Ray Carvell, said that his son "feared for his life. [My] son was clearly terrified and acted in self defence."

New Zealand Police are speaking to four witnesses.

Simon Scott, Detective Senior Sargeant, said "police have yet to decide if there is any criminal liability."

New Zealand National Party only wants immigrants of "bedrock values" July 28, 2006

The New Zealand National Party leader, Dr. Don Brash says that they only want immigrants who accept the "bedrock values" of

New Zealand society. Brash said to the Association for Migration and Investment: "New Zealand should not welcome those who want to live here but reject core aspects of the country's culture."

Dr. Brash says that the following are the "bedrock values":

- Acceptance of democracy,
- The rule of law,
- Religious and personal freedom,
- Legal equality of the sexes
- Speak English, or learn it quickly

"If you don't accept these fundamentals then New Zealand isn't the place for you. Many migrants to New Zealand in recent times have come from cultures that do not share the same 'bedrock values'," said Dr. Brash.

David Cunliffe, Immigration Minister, said: "The National Party leader's comments are pejorative and insulting."

All Blacks retain Bledisloe Cup July 29, 2006

The New Zealand All Blacks have defeated the Australian Wallabies for the second time this year and have retained the Bledisloe Cup, winning 13-9. All Black winger, Joe Rokocoko scored the only try of the match in the first half, beating several defenders on his way to the line.

Earlier in the week Australian coach, John Connolly, stated that the new All Blacks haka Kapa O Pango should be banned, causing much controversy, citing that the throat slitting gesture at the end is a bad example.

Stirling Mortlock kicked 3 goals.

Daniel Carter 1 conversion, 1 penalty, 1 dropped goal.

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