

## LOMU OUT OF HOSPITAL

AUCKLAND - Former All Blacks legend Jonah Lomu's health has improved and he's now out of Auckland Hospital.

An Auckland District Health Board spokesman confirmed to NZ Newswire that Lomu was discharged from Auckland Hospital on Monday, just over two weeks since his admission for kidney failure.

The DHB spokesman could not add anything further to news media following requests from the family.

Lomu was admitted 16 days ago "in really bad shape" after a flare-up with his kidney disorder, called nephrotic syndrome.

He had security posted outside his room and only family members were allowed inside.

Little information has been available apart from a Woman's Weekly story deal which reportedly was worth \$10,000.

Lomu was diagnosed with nephrotic syndrome in 1995 and received a kidney transplant in 2004.

## No review of SAS role: govt

WELLINGTON - The government won't review the role of the SAS in Afghanistan even though a UN report has revealed evidence that prisoners have been tortured, Defence Minister Wayne Mapp says.

The Green Party's defence spokesman, Keith Locke, earlier on Tuesday called for a review because the troops operate with the Afghan Crisis Response Unit (CRU).

He said it was likely some prisoners captured in joint operations had been handed over to agencies which tortured them.

But Dr Mapp told NZ Newswire he had no information that anyone arrested by the CRU had been mistreated or tortured.

"I don't think there's a need to review the deployment, although the issue of detainees has always concerned me," Dr Mapp said.

"As far as we can tell, people who were arrested by the CRU were not interviewed by the UN."

Mr Locke said the UN report detailed torture in the National Directorate of Security's Department 90-124, which specialised in interrogating suspects captured by special forces.

Dr Mapp said the CRU had not transferred any prisoners to Department 90-124.

# Oil spill gets worse

WELLINGTON - The stranded container ship is listing further in a heavy swell with up to 300 more tonnes of oil leaking from the stricken vessel aground on Astrolabe Reef in New Zealand's biggest maritime environmental disaster. The government says the clean-up could take weeks.

Maritime New Zealand salvage unit manager Bruce Anderson says a storm on Monday night damaged the ship by causing it to move on the rocks.

MNZ estimates this damage caused 200-300 tonnes of oil to leak into the sea and this is due to wash ashore on beaches and islands from Wednesday morning.

Fist-sized "patties" of oil first washed ashore on Monday, five days after the 236m Liberian-flagged container ship ran aground 12 nautical miles off the coast of Tauranga.

Environment Minister Nick Smith said the oil spill was inevitable. "I want to acknowledge that this event has come to a scale where it is New Zealand's most significant maritime environmental disaster," he said on

Tuesday.

"The advice I'm receiving is that the amount of oil is five-fold what was released in earlier periods. This operation is going to be a marathon, not a sprint."

The ship's list has worsened to about 18 degrees to starboard, MNZ said in a statement.

Maritime New Zealand national on-scene commander Nick Quinn said significant amounts of oil was set to come ashore in the next 24 to 48 hours between Mount Maunganui and Maketu, and there were "days to potentially weeks of effort we're going to be involved with".

The clean-up of polluted Mount Maunganui beaches began on Tuesday and will continue on Wednesday with teams to be helped by 100 New Zealand Defence Force personnel.

Transport Minister Steven Joyce said the cost of recovery was already into the millions.

He said the government could grant extra funding for the recovery but it hadn't got to that stage yet.

## Missing teen back home

AUCKLAND - Porirua teen Kimberley Korad has returned to New Zealand after getting as far as Sydney in a bid to see an American man she met online. She planned a trip to Los Angeles.

Ms Korad, 17, was reported missing from her home on Friday, shortly before she flew out of Wellington.

## Govt vows solution for quake zone homes

WELLINGTON - Homes in Christchurch's orange zone suburbs are presenting myriad complexities the government says as it promises to find solutions to earthquake damage as quickly as possible.

The orange zone houses have an uncertain future and Earthquake Recovery Minister Gerry Brownlee says he understood their owners' growing frustration.

"What we're dealing with now are areas where the majority of residents are still in their homes, and whether cost and time effective remediation solutions exist to enable them to safely stay," he said on Tuesday.

## Houdini escapes again

AUCKLAND - A prisoner dubbed a Houdini for his serial jail escapes has broken out again to "stick one up the administration", not to taste freedom, a criminologist says.

Notorious escape artist Aaron Forden became the first inmate to break out of the new Mt Eden Corrections Facility on Monday, working with another prisoner to flee through a service way.

The second man was captured but Forden got away, probably in a waiting vehicle.

It was a third escape for the criminal and one likely to have been motivated by arrogance and a desire to beat the authorities, said University of Canterbury criminologist Professor Greg Newbold.

## Potatoes 'not so bad for you'

AUCKLAND - Potatoes may not be the fat-gain ogres that many dieticians claim, a New Zealand study has found.

Foods like potatoes and white bread with a high glycemic index (GI) are absorbed quickly by the body, triggering a spike in blood pressure, and are often painted as villains for dieters.

 WEATHER

	Max	Min	rain
Auckland	19	13	rain
Christchurch	20	9	rain
Wellington	20	9	sunny

But a study by researchers at University of Otago found that when you eat these carbohydrates as part of a meal of meat and vegetables the effects are barely felt.

 SPORTS NEWS

## Donald gets up to speed

AUCKLAND - Stephen Donald's past involvement with the All Blacks has given him confidence he can make a swift transition from whitebaiting to potentially playing in a Rugby World Cup semi-final.

Donald is the second back-up first five-eighth, following Aaron Cruden, to be drafted into the New Zealand squad, after Dan Carter and Colin Slade's tournament-ending groin injuries.

The 22-cap pivot, whose previous Test was last November, was catching whitebait on the Waikato River on Monday when he got the call.

He is unfazed about the challenge of being sufficiently prepared, should he be needed to face the Wallabies on Sunday.

"I've been in the environment before so I've got a lot of our basic calls and that down pat," he said on Tuesday. "It's just a matter of refreshing on that the next few days. I'm sure I'll be up to speed."

Along with Donald, winger Hosea Gear also joined the squad on Monday to replace Mils Muliaina.

The veteran fullback's All Blacks career ended with a fractured shoulder against Argentina last Sunday in his 100th Test.

## Five new caps for Kiwis

WELLINGTON - Five international rookies will make their Test debuts for New Zealand in Sunday's one-off rugby league international against Australia in Newcastle.

Kiwis coach Stephen Kearney confirmed on Tuesday that Warriors fullback Kevin Locke and clubmate Russell Packer, named as a starting prop, will be part of the run-on 13.

North Queensland's Kalifa Faifai Loa is on the wing, while the Brisbane duo of Gerard Beale and Alex Glenn will also make their debuts, Beale lining up in the centres and Glenn in the second row.

## Erakovic regathers for doubles win

WELLINGTON - New Zealand No 1 Marina Erakovic regained her composure after an early singles loss to win her first round doubles match at a WTA tournament in Linz, Austria.

## SAME AGAIN FOR FRANCE

AUCKLAND - France became the first of the four teams left at the World Cup to name their semi-final line-up, with coach Marc Lievreumont breaking new ground here on Tuesday.

For the first time since he took charge three years ago, Lievreumont named an unchanged starting line-up ahead of Saturday's clash against Wales.

Australia, meanwhile, have fitness concerns ahead of their semi-final clash at Eden Park on Sunday.

The Wallabies are sweating on the availability of Kurtley Beale, with the attacking full-back rated no better than "touch and go" for the weekend as a result of hamstring trouble.

"He (Beale) will be a massive loss for us, because Kurtley provides so much to the team, not only in attack but just in the mood and excitement of the group," said Australia utility back Adam Ashley-Cooper. "We certainly have our fingers crossed for Kurtley."

Erakovic, ranked 61st in the world, combined with world No.53 Elena Vesnina (Russia) to beat wildcards Tamira Paszek (Austria) and Czech Lucie Safarova 6-4 6-2.

The fourth-seeded pair face Annabel Medina Garrigues of Spain and Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova (Russia) in the next round.

On Monday, Erakovic's steady return to form hit a hiccup in the singles when she was beaten 6-1 6-4 in the first round of qualifying by Russian Vitalia Diatchenko, ranked 130th in the world.

## Black Ferns eye England

WELLINGTON - Eight new caps and a new coach give the New Zealand women's rugby team a fresh look going into next month's three-Test series against England.

The Black Ferns are looking to develop their international base after winning last year's women's Rugby World Cup 13-10 over England.

Auckland's Victoria Grant will captain the side following the retirement of Melissa Ruscoe. Grant, who captained the Black Ferns once last year, has been in the side since 2006 and has 14 caps.

The Black Ferns have several new caps including four from national provincial championship winners Auckland - Eloise Blackwell, Rawinia Everitt, Kalani Matapo and Hazel Tubic. They are joined by three new faces from NPC runners-up Wellington in Muteremoana Aiatu, Shakira Baker and Katarina Whata.

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Tel: +44 151 236 4124 (UK)  
and +1 954 492 2292 (US)  
E-mail: news@headlandmedia.com  
Website: www.headlandmedia.com

 FINANCIAL NEWS

## NZX50 DRIFTS HIGHER

WELLINGTON - New Zealand stocks staged a mild rally in trading on the NZX after a shaky start to the week. The NZX50 index of leading stocks rose 0.7 per cent to 3,396.154.

Within the index there were 34 gainers, six stocks fell, and 10 were unchanged, with turnover of 30.98 million shares for a value of \$79.48 million.

Leading gainer was OceanaGold Corp, which rose 5.48 per cent to \$3.27, a day after announcing a "very robust" one to two year payback on its Didipio gold project in the Philippines, and a gold price rally to \$US1,682 an ounce as equities, currency and commodity markets ticked up on promising news of a euro-zone bank recapitalisation plan.

The kiwi dollar was little changed at 78.21 US cents at 5pm from 78.25 cents at 8am, and up from 77.28 cents on Monday.

## Francois boosts Southern Steel roster

WELLINGTON - The Southern Steel continue to recruit young talent, adding 20-year-old midcourter Stacey Francois to their roster for next year's trans-Tasman netball league.

Francois, a national under-21 representative, has been earmarked as a player to watch. She last week earned a spot in Netball New Zealand's accelerant squad, a group highlighted as having the potential to compete for a place in the Silver Ferns over the next two or three years.

The Southern Steel are currently in a rebuilding phase after losing long-standing coach Robyn Broughton to the Central Pulse, as well as a clutch of players including Silver Ferns Leana de Bruin, Liana Leota and Paula Griffin.

Daneka Wipiiti, Te Huinga Reo Selby-Rickit and Natasha Chokljat have also left the franchise.