



**SOFA SNACKS**  
FOOD FOR RUGBY  
COUCH POTATOES

ZEST LIFTOUT



**RUGBY HEAVEN**  
QUADE COOPER'S  
WAR ON McCAW

B1-B4



RUGBY WORLD CUP



**Patriotism rules:** Christchurch pharmacist Miriam Tillman, centre in black, with other rugby-mad crew who are following television coverage of the World Cup while aboard a Mercy Ship hospital ship off West Africa. Photo: LIZ CANTU

One in five evacuated elderly die

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A fifth of rest-home residents evacuated from Christchurch after the February earthquake have died, health board figures show.

By last week, 104 people out of 520 residents moved because of damage to their Christchurch rest homes had died.

Of those, 54 had been moved to homes outside Christchurch, including some in the lower North Island. Fifty were moved within the region.

Canterbury District Health Board planning and funding general manager Carolyn Gullery said it was not surprising the death rate had risen.

"We know that if you move people who are already frail, the chances of them dying increases, and that's why we do not move people unless there's no other choice."

She said the death rate was returning to a normal level.

The February 22 quake affected 600 residential care beds in eight Christchurch facilities.

Latest board figures show that 88 residents relocated outside of Christchurch had returned home, 81 had elected to remain away and 67 were still to return.

Age Concern Canterbury chief executive Stephen Phillips said the death rate "did seem rather high".

"It's difficult to know really, but people are obviously concerned about it."

A report commissioned by Eldernet, which co-ordinates rest-home bed vacancies, examined what aged-care providers had learnt from the earthquake.

In the report, released last month, independent researcher Dr Sue Carswell said more investigation into the deaths was needed.

"Several facility managers said that a higher number of evacuee deaths had been experienced than would be considered normal, and further analysis would need to be conducted to see if this is so," she said.

Eldernet operations manager Esther Perriam said it was only anecdotal evidence that suggested the deaths were linked to evacuation.

"There is no definitive relationship between the earthquake and the rate of



**Long separation:** Malcolm Burt and wife Vande - away from friends and family for more than six months, and still waiting. Photo: MAARTEN HOLL

Quake couple in Lower Hutt limbo

A Christchurch couple never expected to be away from home for more than six months.

Malcolm Burt, 95, was evacuated from his Christchurch rest home after the February earthquake.

He and five other residents from the Churchill Retirement Complex in Richmond were moved to Lower Hutt. Burt is the only one from the group who is still alive.

"It's been a real struggle and I'm just very glad that [Malcolm's] health is good," his wife, Vande, 72, said yesterday. She moved to Lower Hutt to be close to her husband.

"We really want to come back but there just isn't a bed," she said. "In some ways it feels like we're waiting for someone to die, which is really horrible."

"When Malcolm was evacuated, I didn't really think about how long we would be away for, but I don't think I thought it would be this long. There's not a lot we

can do about it, so we have to be realistic."

More than 600 residential-care beds were affected in the earthquake. Burt said the Canterbury District Health Board had helped her with accommodation costs for the first two months.

A board spokeswoman said the board paid for people to make weekly visits to relocated residents, as well as one night's accommodation. Burt said that because she decided to relocate instead of flying to Wellington weekly, she did not qualify for further financial assistance.

"I pay for my board up here and I still have to pay for the power and phone bill and the rates on my house in Christchurch."

She said the Lower Hutt rest home "was absolutely fantastic", but it was not home.

"I've got friends and family in Christchurch and I miss them all dearly... and we've got a great grandchild, so that's another reason we want to go back," she said.

death, and while people anecdotally believe that there is, there hasn't actually been any research into that," she said.

Meanwhile, the board spending on older persons' health was \$480,000 above budget for July.

Gullery said most of this money went on in-home support.

"Post-quake, we've increased our home-based support to compensate for less beds in hospital and less beds in rest homes," she said.

Money had also been spent on buying vacant beds in Canterbury to help boost capacity.

The board was also continuing to pay for people to visit relocated residents, she said.

Kiwi among 'fever sufferers' on hospital ship

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Rugby World Cup fever has reached a Christchurch All Blacks fan volunteering in West Africa.

Pharmacist Miriam Tillman, 28, is one of several crew from opposing World Cup nations taking in the rugby action on the world's largest non-governmental hospital ship, the Africa Mercy, in Sierra Leone.

The volunteers, who spend 10 months a year providing charitable medical work in developing nations, can view

games live via satellite, and a "rowdy" group watched the cup kick off at Auckland's Eden Park last Friday.

Tillman, who has been on the ship since January, said she enjoyed watching games with the opposition supporters, although the five Kiwis are outnumbered by Australians.

"It is always great fun hassling the South Africans or Australians, especially when there are a few Kiwis around to back me up. Of course, they manage to give back in kind, but in the end it is the score that really matters," she said.

As the television signal is shared by the ship's 450-strong community, watching the All Blacks' games can be challenging.

Each crew member is allowed four hours viewing time a week.

"I am planning on stealing all my friends' TV hours to book out the channel for the whole World Cup."

"There will be many an early-morning sitting with my All Blacks shirt on," Tillman said.

She described the opening ceremony as "very Kiwi" and thought the All Blacks were

"awesome" in their first-up effort against Tonga. "It was funny because [the feed] was South African TV. The commentators at the end of the game were saying [the result] just wasn't convincing. "It was convincing enough for me."

Springboks supporter Murray Crawford, the ship's assistant purser, said it was special to watch on the Africa Mercy because "you really see the patriotism of the crew come out in a big way".

"We'll don our rugby jerseys, get our national flags, paint our faces, sing our

national anthems and watch together," he said.

Australian purser Tim Benson said avid supporters turned out no matter which country was playing.

"Some of my good friends and colleagues on the ship are South African and New Zealanders, but as soon as the rugby is on its every man/woman for his/her country, and everyone else is your 'enemy'," he said.

"Throughout the game there is cheering and jeering, laughing and crying, but at the end of the day we are all friends again."

Waterfront ruling 'a shock'

Belinda McCammon

A senior Auckland city councillor says he is "gobsmacked" by the Government's decision to seize control of Auckland's waterfront after Friday night's transport debacle, but says the council had failed to take control of its role in the tournament.

In a shock move the Government yesterday announced it would use special powers under Rugby World Cup legislation to take control of the Auckland waterfront set aside for the celebrations during the tournament.

Rugby World Cup Minister

Murray McCully said he would call up reserve powers under the Rugby World Cup Empowerment Bill, today.

It has been revealed McCully has ordered Government officials to write a new plan to manage the waterfront beyond its own fanzone at Queen's Wharf, without the knowledge of Auckland's Mayor, Len Brown. His media announcement came before he had spoken to Brown, who received the news only a short time before the news was made public, by email.

Brown said there had been no warning from the Government and he had felt they had

worked well together. At a press conference at the Auckland Town Hall yesterday he put on a brave face, refusing to be drawn into point-scoring over McCully's actions, only admitting "we could have done this better".

The move comes after thousands of fans were stuck on stalled trains and others were stranded on Auckland's North Shore after ferries were shut down to cope with massive crowds that swamped the Queen's Wharf terminal on Friday night.

Brown sidestepped questions on whether he thought the Government was under-

mining his leadership. But he said he was due to speak to Prime Minister John Key last night and had a clear message for him.

Among the steps the Government will take is the closing of Quay Street, one of the main streets that runs near Queens Wharf, on Friday and Saturday night.

Brown denied there had been a lack of council governance of the tournament.

But councillor Sir George Wood, of the Centre-Right political group Citizens and Ratepayers, said the move by the Government was a clear vote

of no-confidence in the Auckland Council. "I'm gobsmacked. I can't believe it's happened. You'd think there would be some discussion," he said. He felt the move was not warranted.

Independent councillor Cameron Brewer said he believed the Government did not have any choice. Fairfax NZ

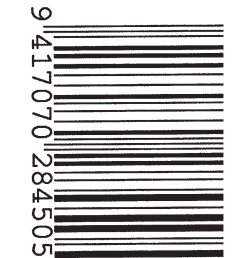
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» Benefits A15

» Cartoon A18

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