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HOW BRIDGES WON AND WHY IT COULD MAKE LIFE DIFFICULT

Simon Bridges may have won the National party leadership ballot yesterday, but his challenge now is to unite his caucus and party. And that will mean finding top jobs for Amy Adams and Judith Collins. Multiple Caucus sources say his victory over Amy Adams was a narrow one. That has left her supporters wanting her ranked at number three and appointed Finance spokesperson. That would also restore the North Island – South Island balance at the top of the Caucus that National traditionally tries to maintain. But Bridges faces the possible disruptive presence of the self-proclaimed right-wing candidate, Judith Collins, who has a big following among the National Party membership. [CLICK TO CONTINUE READING](#)

TEACHER SHORTAGE

New figures the number of people enrolled in teacher training have dropped by 40% between 2010 and 2016 (the latest available figures), those enrolled in Initial Teacher Education (ITE) dropped by 5690, from 14,585 (EFTS) to just 8895. During this period, New Zealand's population grew by around 400,000. Those who completed ITE dropped by 5010 to 3665.

The information is published on the Ministry of Education's Education Counts <http://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/statistics/tertiary-education/initial-teacher-education-statistics>

PETERS DISARMAMENT MINISTER

The Prime Minister has reinstated the portfolio of Minister for Disarmament and

Arms Control “and appointed Winston Peters to the position.

FAMILY FRIENDLY PARLIAMENT

New Zealand Parliament will celebrate, Children’s Day THIS Sunday “with a range of fun, engaging activities for the whole family” according to the Speaker, Trevor Mallard.

He said of the celebrations, "making Parliament a more accessible and family-friendly place is something that is very important to me as Speaker. The Children's Day event is an exciting way to encourage families to learn more about our Parliament, and to give kids the tools to use their voice to contribute to our democracy."

Launching as a part of Children’s Day will be the new ‘Passport to Parliament’, an initiative that aims to enhance the tour experience for younger visitors while providing them with a memento of their visit they can take home. Participants can collect a ‘passport’ on arrival at Parliament, join a free, 45-minute, child-focused tour and tick off all the places they visit as they make their way around the buildings. The tour will visit all the key areas, including the debating chamber, while teaching tamariki about how they can have their say and be involved in what happens at Parliament.

AUSTRALIA NZ LEADERSHIP FORUM

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern will lead a delegation to Australia this week for the annual Australia-New Zealand Leaders’ Meeting.

Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull will host the meeting in Sydney on Friday. The delegation will leave early on Thursday evening. The Prime Minister will be accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister, Winston Peters, and seven New Zealand Ministers. A delegation of senior business leaders will also travel with the Prime Minister to Sydney and, during the visit, the two Prime Ministers will speak to business leaders from both countries at the Australia-New Zealand Leadership Forum.

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS RISE

New Zealand’s greenhouse gas emissions rose 24 percent in the past 25 years,

but grew more slowly than the economy in general, Stats NZ said yesterday. The first report of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounts shows the impact of what we are doing to the natural environment and what is being done to protect it, as well as the importance of natural resources to the economy. Economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions increased from 1990 to 2015 from 61 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent in 1990, to about 76 million tonnes in 2015, the latest available period. Carbon dioxide equivalent is a way of comparing how much heat a greenhouse gas traps in the atmosphere compared with carbon dioxide. New Zealand's emissions from economic activity (excluding emissions and removals from land-use change and the forestry sector) hit a peak in 2005, declined until 2009, and rose moderately after that.

“New Zealand is producing more greenhouse gases, but is being much more efficient in doing so,” environmental-economic statistics senior manager Michele Lloyd said. New Zealand's emissions amount to about 0.17 percent of the world's total. Agriculture, transport and storage, and electricity, gas, water and waste services accounted for 76.5 percent of industry emissions in 2015. Greenhouse gas intensity declined for all these industries over the 1990–2015 period. The agriculture industry's carbon dioxide equivalent emissions increased 0.6 percent a year, while its GDP increased 1.4 percent a year.

The report shows that primary industries, such as agriculture, forestry, fishing, and mining, accounted for 57.1 percent of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions in 2015. Goods-producing industries' share was 24.8 percent, and service industries 11.1 percent. Households accounted for 6.9 percent.

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT RESPONSES

State Services Commissioner Peter Hughes has published the Official Information Act statistics for the six months to December 2017.

Key findings

- 21,232 requests were completed in the six months to December 2017
- Nearly half (49.6%) of all requests were completed by three agencies: New Zealand Police (5650), Earthquake Commission (2980) and Department of Corrections (1906)

- Eight agencies completed more than 500 requests: New Zealand Police, Earthquake Commission, Department of Corrections, Fire and Emergency New Zealand, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, Ministry of Social Development, New Zealand Customs service and New Zealand Defence Force
- The number of requests to each agency ranged from 1 to 5650
- 20,236 requests (95.3%) were completed on time
- 996 requests (4.7%) were not completed on time
- 58 of 111 agencies reported improved timeliness, with 16 agencies reporting poorer timeliness
- 380 complaints to the Ombudsman were notified to agencies. This represents 1.8% of OIA requests (approximately 1 in 56)
- A total of 46 Ombudsman rulings were made against agencies, some of which relate to requests outside the six month period. This equates to 0.2% of OIA requests completed (approximately 1 in 462)

TABUTEAU BECOMES NZ FIRST DEPUTY LEADER

As suggested last week in POLITIK Fletcher Tabuteau has rolled Ron Mark as NZ First Deputy Leader.

There was no comment from Mark who was said by colleagues to be “grumpy”.

PAYROLL SUBSIDY TO CONTINUE

Revenue and Small Business Minister Stuart Nash says Cabinet has agreed to extend the subsidy for professional payroll intermediaries who manage an employer’s PAYE obligations, after the previous government decided to end the scheme in early 2018. Inland Revenue currently offers a payroll subsidy of up to \$10 per pay-run to listed PAYE intermediaries who manage the income tax obligations of eligible employers.

BOOK ON CONSTITUTION

Justice Minister Andrew Little last night launched a new book, This Realm of New Zealand: The Sovereign, the Governor-General, the Crown at Parliament this evening. The book has been written by Dame Alison Quentin-Baxter, a

distinguished public and international lawyer and former Law Commission president, and Professor Janet McLean, a University of Auckland professor of law. This Realm of New Zealand: The Sovereign, the Governor-General, the Crown is published by Auckland University Press.



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