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THIS MORNING

LATEST Teens charged with burglary

Three teenagers were arrested after a burglary at Pills and Thrills, on Dee St, Invercargill, at 4.30am yesterday. Senior Sergeant Maggie Windle said police found three boys, aged 13, 14 and 16, near the scene, with the stolen property. The 14-year-old and 16-year-old were charged with burglary and would appear in the Invercargill Youth Court today, while the 13-year-old was released into Child, Youth & Family care, she said.

Dominican nun dies

New Zealand's oldest Dominican nun, Sister Mary Imelda OP, one of the last to wear her order's distinctive cream-and-black habit, has died in Invercargill. Following a Vigil last night, her long life will be celebrated in a Requiem Mass at the Calvary Chapel today at 1pm. Born Katherine Windle at Riversdale on October 13, 1913, she died aged 98, in the 80th year of her life as a Dominican teaching sister. She was professed Sr Mary Imelda in Dunedin on April 2, 1953, and taught at Catholic primary schools from Helensville to St Patrick's in Invercargill. After her years of teaching, she joined Teschemakers retreat and conference centre near Oamaru. She returned to St Catherine's Convent in Invercargill in 1988, after a spell with the Dominican community in Queenstown, until moving into care at Calvary in 2005. She was loved for her drive, energy, humour and patience.



ODD SPOT

A deliberately shocking ad campaign for the anniversary of Victory Day in World War II sparked anger as it urged Russians to survive in wartime conditions. The ads displayed on billboards ahead of today's celebrations describe wartime privations with the slogan: "Our grandfathers could. You try!" The hardships named include sleeping on bare earth for five years and surviving on wartime rations of one piece of bread, one lump of sugar and a cup of water per day. The slogans prompted black humour from bloggers, who pointed out that the economic downturn, low pensions and rising prices made the scenarios too close to home.

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ARMED OFFENDERS SQUAD CALLOUT

Man pulls out gun in bar Duckshooter to face firearms charges

Mark Hotton and Scot MacKay

A 24-year-old duckshooter will appear in court on firearms charges today after allegedly pulling a shotgun on a man at a Gore bar on Saturday night.

Senior Sergeant Maggie Windle said the Gore man and friends had been duckshooting and drinking earlier in the day before heading to Trafffers.

About 11pm, he had an altercation with another man in the

bar. "The offender has then presented a double-barrelled shotgun at this male, which caused all patrons to flee from the bar."

No shots were fired and the man left the hotel with his friends in their vehicle.

The Invercargill armed offenders squad was sent to Gore and a search was carried out at a property in the town, where the man was found and arrested, while several firearms were also seized, including a loaded double-barrel shotgun, Ms Windle said.

It is understood the man has connections to Gore gang The Firm, but police would not comment on that yesterday.

There also appeared to be some confusion about the events at the bar yesterday, with one woman who was "one of the few sober people in the bar" saying the altercation was a fight outside and that people had not fled.

The woman said it was the bouncers who ran inside when the gun was pulled out from a nearby four-wheel-drive vehicle, but few

other people realised what was going on.

However, there had been fights going on at the bar "all night".

"It was not the only fight that was happening at the bar and there was a lot of really intoxicated people - there was little tussles going on all over the place."

"It was just aggro," she said.

The man, who remained in police custody yesterday, will appear in the Invercargill District Court today to face charges of

unlawfully presenting a firearm, unlawfully possessing a firearm, and being intoxicated while in control of a firearm.

Trafffers manager John Christie declined to comment when contacted yesterday, referring comment to Matura Licensing Trust general manager John Wyeth, who was unaware of the incident when contacted yesterday afternoon and unable to comment.

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Chef to showcase Kiwi kai in New York

Sue Fea in Queenstown

An award-winning British chef from Queenstown has been invited to showcase some classy Kiwi kai in New York this month.

The Rees hotel's True South Dining Room executive chef Ben Batterbury has cooked up a storm in triple rosette restaurants around the United Kingdom, but it is the Flavours of New Zealand that he will be using to tantalise American taste buds with, on May 19. Mr Batterbury will cook for restaurateurs, high profile chefs, media personalities, food writers, and food-related television show producers at the prestigious James Beard Foundation, a US nonprofit culinary institution in New York.

The Rees general manager Mark Rose said it was a coup to have the foundation make room for Mr Batterbury to showcase New Zealand food, and the hotel had partnered with New Zealand Trade and Enterprise and New Zealand food producers to make it work.

He would prepare an NZTE-sponsored four-course lunch hosted by the New Zealand Consul-General Paul Gestro for about 50 people, as well as a six-course fundraising dinner hosted by the foundation for 80 guests.

Kiwi wine expert Jesse Webster, of New York's AvroKO Hospitality Group, would be the wine speaker, addressing the top selection of New Zealand wines, some from Central Otago, that would accompany Mr Batterbury's menu.

Featured on the menu will be everything from cured New Zealand king salmon with pickled rhubarb, vanilla and avocado to Southland's highly acclaimed Blue River Curio Bay pecorino with jazz apple, as well as lamb and cervena.

"Ben will take guests on a culinary journey across New Zealand. They'll be a top influential bunch coming... it's a real New Zealand thing and all the food producers have bought into it so quickly... it's a great thing for NZInc," Mr Rose said.

He would accompany Mr Batterbury to New York tomorrow where it would be all hands on deck to showcase the best New Zealand had to offer.



Well done: The Rees general manager Mark Rose (left) toasts the success of Flavours of New Zealand with his executive chef Ben Batterbury, who will showcase New Zealand to 80 high-profile guests in New York on May 19. Photo: SUE FEA 625317756



Waiting, waiting: Te Anau duckshooter Dianne Drysdale waits, and waits, and waits, for her prey at the weekend. Photo: BARRY HARCOURT 625319524

Clever ducks means slow start to season

Scot MacKay and NZPA

Wily ducks meant kill numbers were low in Southland at the weekend as experience kept them out of the line of fire.

Fish and Game officers said there was a mixed bag of kill reports with many shooters getting barely any ducks, while others came close to filling the

daily limit of 15. Fish and Game Te Anau officer Bill Jarvie said the weather in the region had not favoured the shooters.

"It was, unfortunately, a typical settled day with not much wind."

Bird numbers were down across the region because of the spring snowfall and, not only were there fewer "naive" birds, but a higher proportion of educated birds who had been through a previous hunt-

ing season, which made it even harder for shooters. Duckshooter Richard Bulleid, who was shooting in the Benmore area, said he and three companions shot only 10 ducks for the weekend.

Te Anau duckshooter Charlie Drysdale said the weekend was "bloody pathetic" and the worst he had experienced in 55 years, but it was still a fun challenge.

The low duck numbers meant

there were few "silly" young birds, while the older ones were experienced and harder to fool with decoys, he said. "There are probably some of them carrying a pellet in their ass from last year too."

In Otago, Fish and Game spokesman Ian Hadland said the season looked promising with reports of the occasional hunter getting a limit bag.

Fish and Game officers across the two regions reported good compliance numbers with few problems, but police did issue a firearms safety warning after a hunter was killed near Auckland.

The man, believed to be in his 50s, was shot while out hunting with a group just before 6pm yesterday in Karioitahi, a rural area near Waituku.

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TODAY'S WEATHER

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