

AZ Herald
TOMORROW



Ralph Norris on Australia – and Australians on him

Plus: A new column from Deborah Hill Cone

Chris Rattue meets cricket's irreverent commentator



Brian Rudman: Don't even think about charging road tolls

AZ Herald

THE POWER ISSUE

Who has it, who doesn't and who's losing it fast

SundayExtra

Coming out on Topp

By Rachel Glucina

TODAY JOOLS Topp is bracing herself for one last round of chemotherapy. But on Friday night, she sang in public for the first time since she was diagnosed with breast cancer in August.

"She still sounds pretty good to me," twin sister Lynda Topp told the *Herald on Sunday*.

"Jools is fine. She's good. She's doing pretty good — Monday is her last chemo."

The public appearance — the first time in eight months the Topp Twins have appeared on stage — was to raise money for other breast cancer patients.

It follows Jools Topp's own gruelling fight against the disease. She found a lump while having a shower in January last year. A mammogram then gave her the all-clear, but Jools felt something was wrong and went back in July for a second test, which showed the cancer. She had a mastectomy early October.

The 48-year-old's left breast and lymph nodes were removed in the operation, which was followed up with about three weeks of "aggressive chemotherapy".

Jools told the *Woman's Weekly* she had a scar stretching from under her left arm to the middle of her chest — and she would wear it proudly.

"This is who I am now... If that helps other women, so be it."

Lynda and Jools have signed an exclusive deal with a women's magazine, meaning Jools was not allowed to speak to media last week, her agent said.

But Lynda says Jools has been making a good recovery.

"It knocks you round a bit, but she's still out and about, riding her horse and things."

The sisters were on stage at the



YEEHA: Lynda and Jools at the Auckland Museum.

Auckland Museum for 10 minutes, performing to raise money for the Louise Perkin Foundation. Jools appeared frail — she lost 10kg during the chemotherapy — and most of her hair had fallen out.

But she vowed she would survive, emphasising the importance of healthy eating, rather than relying on doctors or drugs.

She did thank the doctors and nurses at Auckland Hospital's oncology unit, many of whom were in the 300-strong crowd that gave the twins a standing ovation.

"It was great, yeah," Lynda says. "It has been an experience — we've always been fundraisers in New Zealand, and we've always been part of the whole awareness of breast cancer."

"I suppose it makes it a bit more personal. I now know what it's like to be a support person. We've got our badge of honour to do these things now."

— Don't miss SPY in Sunday Extra



POSITIVE:

Jools has vowed to fight the cancer.

BRADLEY AMBROSE

Porn-convicted principal registered

By Catherine Woulfe

THE ACTING principal jailed last week for downloading "horrific" child porn on a school computer was re-registered by the Teachers Council weeks after the porn was discovered.

Norman Foote was sentenced on Friday by Wellington District Court judge Cecilie Rushton, who said the 1045

pictures all showed sexual abuse of children, ranging in age between babies and 10-year-olds.

"Horrific images of sadism and bestiality" had also been downloaded on to the Lytton High School laptop, at Foote's home in Gisborne.

Judge Rushton said Foote's wife and colleagues had warned him, but he had ignored them and carried on.

Foote's lawyer, David Sharp, said the 59-year-old had a stroke, which began a period of anti-social feeling.

After pleading guilty to 20 charges last year, he was jailed for 10 months but given leave to apply for home detention.

According to the Teachers Council website, Foote is fully registered to teach, with no restrictions, until 12 July 2009.

This means he was rubber-

stamped to teach on July 12, 2006. A computer audit "a couple of weeks before that" had exposed the child porn collection, a source told the *Herald on Sunday*.

The source said Foote did not come back to school on July 16 for the start of term three. He was suspended by the school from that point on.

Teachers Council director Peter Lind said police vets

happened at least four weeks before certificates were renewed, so Foote's check had probably been clear.

The council normally let criminal investigations run their course before acting to deregister a teacher, Lind said.

"[Foote's] would be one that would be deregistered by the council," he said.

— catherine.woulfe@heraldon.sunday.co.nz

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