



DIANA
WICHTEL

Jim Hickey's contributions to meteorology included a punishing a capella assault on *Bad Boys*.

Cloudy with a chance of te reo

Maori language in the weather forecast – a storm in a teacup rages.

Life is fragile. The future is uncertain. So it's nice to have a relentlessly upbeat person pop up during the news hour to assure you that should you be fortunate enough to see another day, there will be a sloppy, shallow low hanging over your corner of existence.

The weather: there are sound evolutionary reasons that people seem obsessed with it. There doesn't seem to be any sound reason that the presence of a few words of te reo in te forecast should cause a small fracas. But 3 News's new weather presenter, Kanoa Lloyd, has been hearing from some disgruntled viewers about her use of a smattering of Maori words in her sunny, sure-footed reports.

All Lloyd says is "kia ora", "Aotearoa" and occasionally reminds us that the less prosaic names for the North and South Islands are Te Ika-a-Maui and Te Waipounamu. Good on her. It's not like weather presenters haven't regularly gone off piste in the line of duty. For a while, being a capering loon in slacks seemed to be part of the job description. Jim Hickey's immortal contributions to

meteorology included the odd "Kapow!" and a punishing a capella assault, thanks to some delinquent rain showers, on *Bad Boys*: "We're out in the Tasman and we're comin' for you!" Tamati Coffey once presented the weather in Elvish.

Happily, Lloyd has largely been applauded, though the angry people of cyberspace are unlikely to be mollified. The comments seething like toxic waste beneath Kerre McIvor's supportive *Herald on Sunday*

the triumphantly unarguable response from one punter.

Meanwhile, in 21st-century Aotearoa, life goes on. The other morning on *Breakfast*, Renee Wright's weather script included, along with some sloppy lows, a reference to Aotearoa New Zealand. This was not a case of Je Suis Kanoa. Renee regularly mixes it up, says TVNZ. Now Kanoa's mixing it up more. Kia kaha, weather ladies.

recovering bodies; Summer Olliver, who survived being trapped in the PGC building; and Richard Austin, whose wife, Susan, died in the CTV building. "We had blankets wrapped around us. We were just basically looking into hell," says Austin of his agonising vigil at the CTV building. The life and death decisions they had to make continue to haunt some of the rescuers. "There's a few things that plague you, I guess," says an ambulance driver.

There's journalist Olivia Carville, who escaped the munted *Press* building and hit the streets with a fellow journalist on camera to deliver shocked, raw reports.

The documentary uses carefully impressionistic reconstructions but fronts up to real, graphic, invasive images. "Have some respect," says a worker, fending off the cameraman at the scene of a fatality. There's a fine line between testimony and intrusion on people in extremis. The film-makers were prepared to take that precarious walk.

You can imagine this might be too painful for many of those who lived through these events to watch. For the rest of us, it's essential viewing. Early in the documentary, as shocked people gather in ruined streets, a voice can be heard yelling for people to help. "Have a look around!" says the unseen man. "Do something!" Programmes like this answer that call. ■



Kanoa Lloyd, left, and Renee Wright: telling it like it is.

column contained these trenchant arguments: "There is no such country as 'Aotearoa New Zealand'"; "We should be able to get robots to read the news more efficiently"; "NOT proper".

McIvor suggested the complainers should switch over to Jurassic British sitcoms on UKTV. "There is no NZ weather report in 'Are you being served', so your suggestion isn't relevant" was

Christchurch: it's a story that can't stop being told. Fortunately, exceptional storytellers keep stepping up. TV1's documentary, *The Day That Changed My Life*, delivers the earthquake of February 22, 2011 like a punch in the guts. There's extraordinary footage never before seen, quite a lot of which you won't want to see again.

At the heart of the documentary are interviews with six Cantabrians, including Pete Riley, who spent two weeks