We’ve finished the year on a high here at Napier City Council, with the opening of our latest asset, Bay Skate. Even if you’re not someone who carves, ollies, and airwalks, you can’t fail to appreciate the magnificence of this venue - its position right on the foreshore with spectacular views from the old Marineland grandstand, the up-to-the-minute facilities, and the return of world-famous-in-Napier ice-cream store Lick This!

We’re encouraging all residents and visitors to come and have a look through Bay Skate. Spectators are free of charge, and don’t forget there is gear to hire if you want to give skating a go. Bay Skate is also available to book for your event, gig or party.

Christmas is often when we pause to reflect on the year, and I must say that 2016 has been another cracker! Our local body elections saw four new councillors around the table - I firmly believe this sort of turnover is healthy, and a positive for Napier. The new crew are settling into their roles well. This year we’ve also made great strides ahead for the region with the launch of Matariki: Hawke’s Bay’s Regional Economic Development Strategy. Expect to see the action plan in practice from next year. We’ve got stuck into the Marine Parade redevelopment project, continued working towards improved sport, recreation and playground facilities for our community, launched the Splash ‘n’ Play and extended the wonderful cycleways for which we are so envied.

Take time this summer to relish everything we have on offer in Napier - tis the season after all! A very merry and safe Christmas to you and your families.
The old saying “Find a job you love and you’ll never work a day in your life” rings true for Napier City Council rosarian, Jo Rhodes – she’s living the dream.

Based at the Kennedy Park Rose Gardens, Jo is charged with caring for approximately 4,370 roses spread over about a hectare of Council reserve land in Storkey Street. Jo started her role in the spring of 2015 after managing a backpackers’ in Franz Josef – quite the contrast to managing roses you may think, but as Jo explains, it was always meant to be.

“Gardening is in my blood – it’s a passion for me,” Jo says. “Mum had a lot of roses. From the age of five or six my job was to dead head them. They say the rose is the ‘queen of flower blossoms’ so I feel very privileged to be tasked with looking after them. I work very hard to get them to bloom as often as possible. Last year I got six flushes and this year I’m aiming for eight.”

Jo says the most rewarding part of her job is seeing the public get so much enjoyment from the roses too.

“Sometimes Jo is given cuttings from members of the public. Jo will grow them in the Council nursery for two years, let them bloom then put them into the ground. “I’m excited to see those varieties planted,” she says.

Bay Skate has opened its doors just in time for Napier’s summer season to the edge of Bay Skate.

This stage includes water features, sculptures, furniture and landscaped areas inspired by Maori mythology and the environment.

It has been designed in such a way as to strengthen the link between the foreshore and the central business district.

Bay Skate has been developed in consultation with Napier’s roller sports clubs and skate park designers from around the world to meet the needs of all wheel sports, including skateboarding, scootering, in-line skating and creative skating. It will also be used for events, with the old Marineland grandstand revamped for spectator seating.

Entry fees are $4 for members of affiliated clubs or Bay Skate ($25 annual membership), $6 for members of affiliated clubs or Bay Skate ($25 annual membership)

Bay Skate has opened its doors just in time for Napier’s summer season.

Sunday also signaled the welcome return of one of Napier’s favourite icecream parlours, Lick This.

The car park on the south side of Bay Skate is ready to go, but there is still work to be done on the car park on the northern side, which is part of Stage Two of the Marine Parade redevelopment.

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Entry fees are $4 for members of affiliated clubs or Bay Skate ($25 annual membership), $6 for members of affiliated clubs or Bay Skate ($25 annual membership), $9 for adults. A family pass for two adults and two children costs $16. Spectators are free, as are children up to three years of age.

For more info, go to www.bayskate.co.nz

Stage Two of the Marine Parade redevelopment project is due for completion early next year. The overall development runs from the Sunken Gardens ready to roll?

Bay Skate is shaping up to be one of Marine Parade’s most popular attractions this summer.

Napier’s newest facility officially opened its doors last Saturday with a special free Open Day.

Guns n Roses Roller Derby, the Bay City Rollers, Napier Sharks inline hockey, MGP Scooters and local musicians were all part of the opening festivities before the general public were let loose on the skate rink and bowls.

ZEAL’s Music Box was also on site for the day, temporarily filling the space where the brand new ramps will go, sometime in 2017.

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7 quick facts about the Kennedy Park Rose Gardens!

- Kennedy Park Rose Gardens were a gift to the public of Napier from George Edward Howell, a founding member of the Rose Society
- There is a total of 140 beds of roses
- It takes Jo two and a half days to feed all the roses
- The oldest rose was planted in 1951
- A rose bush, tended to, can last anywhere between 80 and 120 years
- There is a new playground at the gardens and soon there will be drinking fountains for humans and dogs

LIFE HACK | Did you know?

Our dog registration tags, once snapped on, are not able to be removed. So when registering your dog, a great idea is to pop the tag onto a key ring, and attach that to the collar. That way, if you're planning on changing your pet's collar part way through the year, you can easily move the tag too.

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CIVIL DEFENCE VOLUNTEER AWARDS

The time and effort Civil Defence volunteers put into building, maintaining and sharing their skills, expecting nothing in return, is admirable. And it is these skills that help our communities be more resilient in the event of a natural disaster.

Some of our volunteers received well-deserved recognition and thanks at a Civil Defence Volunteer Awards evening recently, held at the National Aquarium of New Zealand.

“This event is our way of showing how much we value the hard work and commitment of our volunteers, along with recognising the number of years they have dedicated to the service,” Napier Civil Defence Emergency Management Officer, Marcus Hayes-Jones says.

Longstanding volunteers Diane Gempton and Brian Kirk received Long Service Awards for 15 years of dedication, while Larry Morgan received a Long Service Award for five years of service.

“Whether they have been a volunteer for one month or 20 years, we are grateful to each and every one of our volunteers.

“Our organisation relies on them to staff civil defence centres and our emergency operations centre. They undertake regular training, perform duties that maintain the organisation on a daily basis and commit themselves to being available during times of community crisis as well as during times of preparation in the community as ambassadors for Civil Defence,” Marcus says.

Marcus adds that it’s been another busy year with intense training and real-life experiences for the volunteers and he’s looking forward to a great year in 2017 with increased community resilience work, providing vital training for outreach operations during disasters.

HAWKE’S BAY SUMMER CYCLING CARNIVAL

The Summer Cycling Carnival is back for its second year. It’s a true celebration of cycling, combining elite and amateur cycling events.

Carnival action begins with fun events for kids, families and recreational riders and ends with the Elite Road National Championships and the Legends of Cycling Dinner. The Carnival truly has something for everyone!

With loads of events from professional road cycling, to a dress your bike competition, fun rides, kids’ rides and hard core challenges, it’s cycling all the way!

New to the carnival programme this year is the iWay Fun Ride - a return trip to Te Awanga Estate Winery from the Hawke’s Bay A&P Showgrounds - and the Legends of Cycling Dinner.

Australian former professional cyclist Robbie McEwen will be a drawcard for participants in both events, with the chance of seeing other cycling legends along the way.

For more information and to register for events visit www.summercyclingcarnival.co.nz

SERIOUS

5 days of seriously competitive racing

ELITE & U23 ROAD NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

FUN

5 days of seriously fun events

HAWKE’S BAY SUMMER CYCLING CARNIVAL

THE TOP 10

Bay Espresso Family Fun Ride
Wednesday 4 January, 4-5pm
The Soundshell, Marine Parade, Napier

Black Barn Vineyards Criterium
Wednesday 4 January, 5:30pm
Marine Parade, Napier

iWay Fun Ride
Thursday 5 January, 11am start.
Leaves from A & P Showgrounds (Farmers Market area), Hastings

Traffic Design Group Flying Lap
Friday 6 January, 9am
Church Road Winery, Church Road, Napier

Tineli Gran Fondo Ride
Saturday 7 January, 10 - 11:30am
Assemble outside Hog’s Breath Cafe, Marine Parade, Napier

Avanti Dress Your Bike Competition
Sunday 8 January, 11:30am-12:30pm
Tom Parker Fountain, Marine Parade, Napier

Elite Road National Championships, Church Road Time Trials
Saturday 7 January, 10am
Church Road Winery, Napier

Elite Road National Championships, Women’s & U23 Race
Saturday 7 January, 10am
Marine Parade, Napier

Elite Road National Championships, Men's & U23 Race
Sunday 8 January, 9am
Marine Parade, Napier

Legends of Cycling Dinner
Sunday 8 January, 7:30pm
Church Road Winery, Church Road
Clive Square is the site of an exciting new lunchtime event this summer. Every Thursday until 9 February, subject to fine weather, local musicians playing a variety of music will perform for an hour from 12.30pm.

This initiative is part of the City Vision: small city, BIG ideas project, led by Napier City Council. “Clive Square is so close to the city, and with its sheltered gardens and contemplative spaces, it’s a real gem with untapped potential,” says Wiki Murphy, Planning Student Assistant. “Although many people pass through, our hope is that with acoustic musicians performing at regular times it will encourage more people to relax here on their lunchtime breaks. It’ll be a great way to catch up with friends and support some local talent.”

City Vision incorporates different ideas on city vibrancy, heritage, design and transport with the aim of creating an energetic, memorable and attractive city that is easy to get around and a pleasure to be in.

City Vision is also behind several funky pop-up spaces that have appeared in the Napier CBD over the past 18 months, which include Urban Oasis in Market Lane, and the “parklet” on Tennyson Street.

If you’re looking for a fantastic way to see in 2017, head down to the Soundshell on Marine Parade on New Year’s Eve. Just after midnight the traditional fireworks display will light up the sky, but there will be plenty of musical fireworks before then.

Three of New Zealand’s finest singers – Tina Cross, Suzanne Lynch and Jackie Clarke, aka The Lady Killers – will be on stage, ready to entertain.

The dynamic trio’s sound defies pigeonholing, covering everything from pop to R&B, jazz to gospel, country and a whole lotta rock. The songs they sing reflect their wide range of musical tastes, including classics by Queen, The Beatles, Neil Young, Neil Finn and Dolly Parton.

This free community event is proudly presented by SmokeFree, Napier City Council and PM Management.

Please remember only non-alcoholic drinks are allowed on site – there is a total liquor ban and police and security will be keeping an eye on things. There will be a gold coin collection on the night for a local charity.

For the latest on Napier New Year’s Eve Celebration 2016, go to www.facebook.com/napierNYE

Corporate Hosting Opportunity

ANZ INTERNATIONAL CRICKET SERIES

Don’t miss out on our first-class entertainment packages available for the ANZ International Series, brought to you by Central Districts Cricket and catered by Orton Tailored Cuisine.

Limited single tickets and corporate tables of 10 available.

Don’t leave it too late! For more information and to book contact pete@cdcricket.co.nz