On a smaller scale but just as enjoyable, the Napier Night Fiesta is back. It’s being held in Memorial Square on a weekly basis until the end of February, except for the week of the ever popular Tremains Art Deco Festival, which runs from Wednesday 15th February, until Sunday 19th February.

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What do these diverse events and experiences have in common? People. Thousands of them. It’s a great thing that so many people want to visit Napier, and I’ve heard comments from people, for example, may have come here to play sport, but vow they’ll be back, the next time with their families.

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Jane McLoughlin’s office at Napier City Council is a far cry to her former work space in Samoa. There are no tropical beaches and palm trees down the road, and coconuts can only be brought in the supermarket – but Napier was calling Jane and last year she followed her heart home.

“I worked as a transition project manager, establishing an international organisation in Samoa – including setting up the governance/legislative framework right through to setting up the HR/financial processes and logistics.”

“I miss working in the Pacific islands, but the call of my family brought me back to find a job in Napier,” Jane says.

“I have always known the benefits of living in Napier, having grown up here, and being involved in all the fantastic opportunities – from great schools, to music, and sports. In fact, during my years away from Napier, my friends have known me as an unofficial member of Napier tourism, as I am constantly promoting the benefits of living in Napier to everyone I meet!”

Now with her feet firmly under her desk Jane is enjoying leading the new governance team, which services over 80 governance meetings each year, including Council committees, Council meetings, and various hearings.

The team also manages official information act requests; organises Civic functions; meets legislative requirements of governance such as managing the Elections and representation review of electoral wards, through to drafting the Council’s governance statement. They also support the Mayor and Councillors in their important role of governance.

Jane admits balancing the high workload and time-consuming behind the scenes work across the organisation can be challenging.

“I like to let off steam on the tennis court at HB Lawn Tennis Club, and I can serve up a mean backhand! I also enjoy being out in the sun with my family and dog, gardening, and going to the beach and bushwalks too. After all, Napier has so much to offer!”

Jane McLoughlin

Napier Library now has its own funky outdoor pop up space. The rooftop garden accessed from Level One of the Library has re-opened, complete with carefully chosen plants, artificial turf and furniture including colourful bean bags.

The project grew out of feedback from a 2015 survey by the Library, asking patrons what they thought the 360 sq m space should be used for.

“The vision was for a tranquil and relaxed space, where visitors could read and re-charge, eat their lunch, and connect to our free wifi from their devices. Judging from the response so far, I think it’s going to be a hit,” says Libraries Manager Sheryl Reed.

The pop up park will be open between 9.30am and 4.30pm weekdays, depending on the weather. The plan is for it to be open during warmer months.

It was completed with the help of Janet McPherson Landscape Design Ltd, Supergreene Enterprises Ltd, and Turf ‘N’ Earth NZ Ltd.

The application of the turf was a specialised task conducted by Bay Reroofing Ltd, due to the constraints of the specialized membrane which seals the surface underneath the turf.

The plantings are a mix of New Zealand natives and aromatics, all chosen for their drought resistant abilities, attractive colours, textures, and smells.

There are also wall banners sporting literary and library-related quotations from various sources, such as Albert Einstein and Barack Obama, including an appropriate whakatauki (Maori proverb).

All library rules and health and safety considerations apply, including Napier City Council’s Sun Smart policy. Some sunscreen will be provided, but we encourage visitors to be sunsmart in other ways too, such as wearing hats. Children must be supervised at all times by an adult, and the roof garden is a non-smoking area.

The original rooftop garden was removed in 2008 for health and safety reasons.

NAPIER LIBRARIES FUN FACTS | Did you know?

- Nearly 60,000 items are borrowed every month from both the Napier and Taradale libraries
- Approx 35,000 members belong to our Napier Libraries
- There is an average of 12,000 will sessions recorded per month
- There are over 2000 searches of Napier Libraries’ Ancestry database per month
- At Napier Library, the visitor door count for December 2016 alone was 20,895. This is an average of 103 visitors per hour
Marine Parade’s attractions have undergone some dramatic changes over the past few years – now Napier City Council is seeing if improvements can be made to the roadway.

In April Council will be constructing a permanent roundabout at the intersection of Vautier Street and Marine Parade to facilitate the movement of traffic from one side of Marine Parade to the other.

Following this, both north and southbound traffic travelling along the Parade from immediately south of the Soundshell, to Vautier Street, will be directed onto the coastal side of the Norfolk pines. The portion of the roadway which currently carries the northbound traffic will become a slow zone parking precinct, exploring the opportunity of providing for other activities such as wider footpaths and café seating in the future.

The traffic trial is to test several things, says Director City Strategy Richard Munneke. “Marine Parade is popular with both locals and tourists, and we want to see how much of a difference this reconfiguration will have on making it more pedestrian friendly, and increasing the flow between the CBD and the foreshore.”

The proposed realignment for Marine Parade has been discussed with Napier Port and NZ Road Transport Association, who have both expressed their support for the project.

Council propose to review design elements within the study area and adjust over the duration of the project if required. There will also be a number of ways for the public to provide live feedback during the study, which will be promoted closer to the time.

Napier Sailing Club is to host the Lexus of Hawke’s Bay 21st Flying Fifteen World Championship.

From 22 February to 3 March, 50 of the world’s largest fleet of fixed keel dinghies will grace Napier’s waters as they vie for the New Zealand National title, and the coveted World Championship title.

Championship Convenor Graeme Robinson said that the two-person crews and their boats are coming from Australia, Canada, Great Britain, Hong Kong and all parts of New Zealand. Many visitors will arrive early to enjoy Art Deco Weekend events before the 10 days of sailing begins.

For many overseas competitors, it will be their first visit to Napier and they are enthusiastic about the many attractions that Hawke’s Bay offers.

The event will be based at the Napier Sailing Club, regarded as one of New Zealand’s best regatta venues because of its top notch club facilities, launch areas and access to great sailing waters.

Sailing fans have another special event to look forward to in 2017 - the Optimist National Championship in April.

Art Deco Festival 2017 has plenty of events for locals and visitors alike to enjoy.

Napier City Council is a proud supporter of this iconic world renowned festival, which has helped put our city in the spotlight.

Some of the ticketed events – of which there are many – have sold out – but it’s not too late to join in the fun. For more information, visit www.artdeconapier.com, or pick up a festival brochure from the Art Deco Centre, on the corner of Tennyson and Herschell Streets.

This year’s line-up of family friendly and free events includes:

**FRIDAY 17 FEBRUARY**

**Powhiri** - Official Maori opening for the Tremains Art Deco Festival, 8am 32 West Quay, Ahuriri, Napier.

**Sticky Buns and Ginger Beer** - The books children devoured during the Art Deco period. 7pm Seminar Room, Napier Library, Station Street, Napier. Proudly presented by Napier Library.

If you have ever read *The Famous Five*, *The Lone Pine Club*, *Biggles*, or *Swallows and Amazons*, you may like to hear Cheryl Paget, Arthur Ransome Society NZ Coordinator, who will be discussing why adventure novels for children really took off in the 1930s. Space limited, please book a spot by emailing info@napierlibrary.co.nz or phoning (06) 834 4180

**Brebner Print Memorial Flying Displays** - 7.45pm, Saturday 12.15pm, Sunday 2pm. Recommended viewing spots – Soundshell, Emerson Street, Marine Parade. Flying times weather dependent.

**SATURDAY 18 FEBRUARY**

**Dilmah Tea Lounge & Bar** - all day from 10am, Lower Lawn, Marine Parade.

**Vintage Car Parade** - 12.30pm, starts at Clive Square, travels along Emerson St, finishes at the Soundshell for the SHOW AND SHINE.

**Once Were Wild Ones** - 1.30pm. Listen to the thunderous roar of these 20s and 30s vintage motorcycles as they follow behind the Vintage Car Parade down Emerson Street. Then come for a closer look when they’re parked outside the Art Deco Masonic Hotel.

**SUNDAY 19 FEBRUARY**

**Soap Box Derby** - 10.30am Start line outside the Art Deco Centre, 7 Tennyson St.

Race rules, cart specifications, and entry forms are available from the Art Deco Trust and www.artdeconapier.com

**Gatsby Picnic** - 1pm-5.15pm, upper and lower lawn from Tom Parker Fountain to the Soundshell, Marine Parade,

(Associated event) Host a naval guest at the Art Deco Festival, 8am 32 West Quay, Ahuriri, Napier. Proudly presented by Napier City Council, Biggles, The Famous Five.

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**Help us show our friends at the Royal New Zealand Navy how great Hawke’s Bay hospitality is, by hosting an officer or a ship company member during the Picnic, for approximately 2 hours. To register your interest email festival@artdeconapier.com**
James Taylor and his All Star Band are returning to New Zealand, performing at Vector Arena in Auckland, then Church Road Winery, Napier, on 5 February. With a career spanning nearly 50 years since first signing to The Beatles' Apple Records in 1968, James Taylor's music embodies the art of songwriting in its most personal and universal forms. It resonates with people all over the world, and his warm baritone is among the most recognized voices in popular music. His songs such as Fire and Rain, Country Road, Something in the Way She Moves, Sweet Baby James, Carolina In My Mind and many more have had a profound influence on both songwriters and music lovers of all generations and from all walks of life. In 1971 James scored his first number 1 single with You've Got a Friend, written by long time friend Carole King and earning him his first Grammy Award for Best Pop Male Vocal.

In the summer of 2015 Taylor released *Before This World*, his first new studio album in 13 years, It earned him his first ever number 1 album on the Billboard Charts and he was nominated for a Grammy for Best Pop Vocal Album.

For complete tour and ticket information, visit: www.jamestaylor.com & www.livenation.co.nz or www.ticketmaster.co.nz

The world's biggest kapa haka competition is about to begin – in Hawke’s Bay. Ngati Kahungunu iwi is proud to host Te Matatini National Kapa Haka Festival for the first time in more than 30 years. More than 4000 performers, dignitaries and visitors will be officially welcomed for Te Matatini 2017 in a traditional Maori ceremony by 2000 kapa haka performers at McLean Park, Napier, on Wednesday 22 February.

The powhiri begins at 11am and will finish about 1:30pm. The general public is welcome to attend this free event. The competition itself, over the following four days, will take place at the Hawke’s Bay Regional Sports Park, which is being renamed Kahungunu Park for the festival’s duration.

Te Matatini is a family friendly festival and includes activities for children and teenagers, and more than 75 art and food stalls. Tickets at the gate are priced from $30 upwards, including one-day passes. Daily, four-day and Fan Zone tickets can be purchased from i-ticket.co.nz

There will be free buses running between the Napier and Hastings i-SITEs and Kahungunu Park from Thursday 23 February to Sunday 26 February. The schedule and bus route is available from www.tekahuoteamorangi.com

For more information, including the event programme, go to www.tematatini.co.nz

**What’s On**

See what’s happening in your city

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www.facebook.com/NapierCityCouncil