season can be longer, and we’ll be attracting some of the very top games available to us in New Zealand. We’ll have the best provincial ground in the country, no question, with an updated lighting rig and a fantastic drop-in wicket adding to the park’s list of attributes.

I’m sure you’ll agree that having this facility improved to such a high standard, 1-2 years ahead of when it might have been otherwise upgraded, is a wonderful thing – and something every cricket fan will be encouraged to hear. NZC is committed to bringing all the excitement of one of this country’s top sports back to McLean Park, and we can’t wait.

One of two fairy prions being released into their ocean habitat last week. Pictured is Christine Tah, Wildlife Technician from Wildbase Massey University Veterinary Teaching Hospital, on board the National Aquarium of NZ boat.

Meet Fiona Fraser

Annabel’s Fresh Approach

Horse of the Year

Marvellous Murals

What’s On

February 2017

Word from the Mayor

Bill Dalton

It’s fair to say that February has had its fair share of disappointments. I was as gutted as anybody that the scheduled BLACKCAPS v Australia cricket match at McLean Park was abandoned due to a combination of factors – rain, on top of an ageing turf, on top of a prolonged dry spell, on top of outdated drainage that could not release the volume of moisture needed just to keep the grass from dying. Neither New Zealand Cricket, nor Napier City Council, could have predicted this confluence of events – and the seriousness of the problem that lay deep beneath the surface of our ground. It took a team of experts to drill down and discover that the organic matter several layers below had matted together and could not be repaired.

So, now we are bringing forward our existing plans to fully replace the turf and drainage at McLean Park. The ODI scheduled for next week cannot go ahead here, and I’m very sorry that this has happened. We know how disappointed the fans – especially the ardent Hawke’s Bay supporters - and the players are. However, the vastly improved grounds will mean that next summer, our cricket season can be longer, and we’ll be attracting some of the very top games available to us in New Zealand. We’ll have the best provincial ground in the country, no question, with an updated lighting rig and a fantastic drop-in wicket adding to the park’s list of attributes.

I’m sure you’ll agree that having this facility improved to such a high standard, 1-2 years ahead of when it might have been otherwise upgraded, is a wonderful thing – and something every cricket fan will be encouraged to hear. NZC is committed to bringing all the excitement of one of this country’s top sports back to McLean Park, and we can’t wait.
Local government communications and marketing is a far cry from managing the glossy pages of a national women’s magazine – one is like working with your sensible older brother, while the other is a fun-loving younger sister.

However, former New Zealand Woman’s Weekly Editor, Fiona Fraser, doesn’t regret swapping her glamorous role based in Auckland, for the Manager Communications and Marketing position here at Napier City Council. “Being the Editor of New Zealand Woman’s Weekly was definitely a childhood dream fulfilled!” Fiona says. “Life was all about deadlines along with long hours, long lunches and plenty of love stories.”

“A personal highlight was probably attending Dan Carter’s Marlborough wedding to Honor Dillon as the exclusive magazine partner, and tapping out my story on a laptop from the kitchen at the venue in order to meet a midnight deadline – high stress but also heaps of fun!”

Having dedicated 13 years to celebrities and sales figures, Fiona, her husband, Scott Towers and their son, Salvador, began seriously considering a move to Hawke’s Bay after spending several summer holidays here. They eventually made the move in May 2016 and haven’t looked back.

“I’ve been here a little while now and I’ve quickly learned how dedicated and determined this Council is, I find the people here refreshingly ideas-driven and highly creative, which I love. My challenge is communicating all the good work that Council is doing to the community. “I love it when our team gets together to workshop ideas. It’s amazing what comes out of those sessions! I was also really proud of the way the entire Council team handled the recent e.coli readings at the Enfield reservoir.”

In her personal world, Fiona says she’s “very fortunate to be married to a great man and we have a fantastic son. My husband is a musician who plays saxophone for Fat Freddy’s Drop and our family shares a huge love of music.”

“Aside from my wedding and the birth of our son, my other life highlight was seeing Prince live in concert in Auckland last year. In a previous and long ago life, I spent time as a DJ playing mostly soul and disco (lots of Stevie Wonder and Sister Sledge) at bars, weddings and parties so music is very close to my heart. My husband and I have tried DJing together in the past but we always end up arguing, so I tend to leave the ‘wheels of steel’ to him now.”

Fiona is relishing her new laid-back lifestyle and with more free time on her hands (and a lot less traffic to battle), she has already made the most of what Hawke’s Bay has to offer, acquiring a puppy called Ellie and some sheep and chickens, exploring Maha, hosting “truckloads of Aucklanders... and sampling all of the wine!”

Meet Fiona Fraser
Manager Communications and Marketing

Free guided walks of Napier’s Sea Walls murals are a brand new part of Seaweek 2017, which runs 26 February to 5 March.

“Everyone knows something interesting about Antarctica or the Amazon River, but closer to home the natural world can be a mystery,” says National Aquarium of New Zealand Educator Jake Brookie. Mr Brookie has teamed up with Napier based mural artist Cinzah Merkens to lead the walks in Napier’s CBD and Ahuriri.

Napier hosted New Zealand’s first Sea Walls: Murals for Oceans festival in March last year. Sea Walls events, founded by the Hawaii based non-profit PangeaSeed Foundation, are held all over the world and use contemporary art to raise awareness of ocean environmental issues.

The next Sea Walls: Artists for Oceans festival in Napier is on next month.

“I’m excited to work with the National Aquarium and give a little insight into this amazing body of work. Our artists had an incredible time working with the community and volunteering their time, gifting these works of art to our city. The works beautify Napier and also convey powerful messages about the issues currently affecting our oceans,” says Merkens.

Mr Brookie will also lead a walk around the Ahuriri inner estuary, speaking about the animals and the habitat along the way.

Seaweek is held annually to raise awareness of the ocean’s biodiversity as well as the need to protect it. This year’s theme is Tōiora te Moana - Tōiora te Tangata - Healthy Seas, Healthy People.

The National Aquarium, supported by Napier City Council, is acknowledged as an official supporter of Seaweek.

The Napier CBD Seaweek walk will be held at 2pm this Sunday 26 February. The Ahuriri walk will be at 2pm on Sunday 5 March. Meet at CAN (Creative Arts Napier), 16 Byron Street for the CBD walk, and Perfume Point for the Ahuriri walk.

The estuary walk will be held at 11am on Saturday 25 February. Spaces are limited. To book your place on a tour, contact the National Aquarium.

For more information about other local Seaweek events and activities, which include Napier Library programmes and beach clean ups, go to www.seaweek.org.nz

Top Tap Tip #1 in your backyard

Brown grass is dormant, not dead. It will grow back once the weather cools and rainfall increases, so embrace brown – it’s the new green!
We’re absolutely thrilled to be welcoming the wonderful Annabel Langbein to the beautifully refreshed Napier Conference Centre for next month’s Business Breakfast.

Tickets are now on sale for this exciting event on Friday 24 March – just $20 for a light breakfast, tea and coffee courtesy of the Conference Centre’s brand new caterers Dish, and the opportunity to mingle with Hawke’s Bay’s business professionals (and probably a fair few foodies!)

Most New Zealanders will already be familiar with Annabel as a popular cookbook author and TV personality. However, not many know the story of the visionary and tenacious business person who has shaped her career by embracing opportunity and new technologies and brokering deals on her own terms.

Annabel was a Director of Kapiti Cheese and had a successful marketing company prior to deciding to self publish her range of books, and co-produce her own TV series. She has gone on to author 25 cookbooks, which have won numerous international awards and sold more than two million copies globally. She has plenty to share with her Hawke’s Bay audience, including her career highlights, lowlights – (it’s true, she once worked at KFC) – and why she has decided that taking control of her own destiny is the best way forward. There have been lean years along the way - plenty of times she “didn’t really make any money” at all from cooking but did it because it was, and remains, her one true passion – and lots of quirky tales too.

Annabel’s most recent success is her entry into the US market – her TV shows are airing there currently and her books have sold out on Amazon. All this from a woman who started out as a possum trapper on the East Cape.

Prepare for a few “a-ha moments” and lots of laughs - maybe even a recipe – as Annabel shares her pathway to international business and explains how she built a globally relevant brand – what it takes, what she’s learned, and what’s next for this Kiwi powerhouse. Tickets available from www.napier.govt.nz keyword #businessbreakfast

HORSE OF THE YEAR 2017

It’s nearly time for New Zealand’s premier equestrian event – the 2017 Horse of the Year show.

From Tuesday 7 March until Sunday 12 March the Hawke’s Bay A&P Showgrounds in Hastings will be transformed into a city of trucks, trailers and campervans, housing riders and spectators.

About 3000 riders and horses compete in HOY, as the Horse of the Year show has come to be known. It has been a Hawke’s Bay attraction for nearly two decades, and with thousands of visitors coming for the event, pumps millions into the local economy annually.

Equestrian as a sport is one of only a few where all ages, genders and levels compete on a fair playing field, producing an impressive diversity and range of competitors.

It’s not just for equestrian enthusiasts though, there’s plenty for the general public and families to do and to see. The Hawke’s Bay Farmers’ Market will take place in the early evening on day one, Tuesday 7 March.

There will be a new al fresco living area in the shopping and food precincts, plus a thorough shopping and food sites present, thanks to local, national and international companies.

Tuesday is Horse of the Year’s Schools Open Day. Students will be able to view their banners from the Resene Schools Horses in Hawke’s Bay Art Competition on display as well get a taste of what the show is all about.

Visit the Horse of the Year website www.hoy.kiwi for more show information or to purchase tickets, or follow HOY on Facebook.

MARVELLOUS MURALS

Twenty extraordinary artists descend on Napier next month for the second Sea Walls: Artists for Oceans festival in Napier.

The PangeaSeed Foundation, in partnership with the Napier City Council and Alternative Arts Initiative is excited to announce it is bringing Sea Walls back to Napier, between March 19 and 26. Artists from the US, Brazil, Russia, Portugal, France, Germany, Australia and New Zealand will take part in the project and paint large scale murals that address pressing ocean environmental issues.

This year the works will also include sculpture and installation.

PangeaSeed Foundation’s New Zealand coordinator Cinzah Merkens says he’s excited to grow Napier’s existing collection of public art with this new line up of 20 of the world’s top contemporary artists.

“This year we’ll branch out into new mediums such as sculpture and installation based works, and provide the opportunity for local Hawke’s Bay up-and-coming mural artists to be part of the festival,” he says.

Napier will boast 49 strong public works of art following this year’s event, that will surely inspire the community to become better stewards of the sea, he says.

The festival will also provide some great opportunities for families to participate, such as a scavenger hunt that promotes ocean awareness, organised by US organisation Bowseat, and an art exhibition of the participating artists’ work.

The painting will take place over five days – March 20th to 24th – and the artists welcome the opportunity for locals and visitors to stop for a chat about their work and the cause.

Napier Mayor Bill Dalton says the existing murals have been a wonderful addition to Napier’s streetscape, and he’s heard many positive comments about them since last March.

“I’m really looking forward to seeing what this year’s group of artists produce. Napier is very lucky that the PangeaSeed Foundation has chosen us once again to showcase this unique blend of art and environmental awareness.”

For those who want to hear more from the artists themselves about their work, PangeaSeed and the role of mural art in raising awareness about the environment, there will be an artists’ panel discussion on Saturday, March 25 at MTG Hawke’s Bay.

For more information, visit www.pangeaseedfoundation.org
WHAT’S ON
See what's happening in your city

MISSION ESTATE WINERY CONCERT - ONLY NZ SHOW!
DIXIE CHICKS
SATURDAY 8 APRIL 2017
MISSIONCONCERT.CO.NZ OR TICKETEK.CO.NZ

OUR HOUSE
HURRICANES VS BRUMBIES
FRI 21ST APRIL 7.35PM

TICKETS ON SALE 20TH MARCH
TICKETDIRECT.CO.NZ | McLEAN PARK, NAPIER

BOSTOCK New Zealand
Edible Garden SHOW
Sat 25 & Sun 26 March 2017
from 10.00am to 4.00pm
Waikoko Gardens
Showgrounds Hawke’s Bay

Free entry to the National Aquarium for one child 14 years and under with one paying adult. Children’s activities and prizes at the aquarium to celebrate Children’s Day.
Aquarium admission prices apply. www.nationalaquarium.co.nz

Children’s Day at The National Aquarium of New Zealand
Sunday 5 March from 9am – 4pm
Free entry to the National Aquarium for one child 14 years and under with one paying adult. Children’s activities and prizes at the aquarium to celebrate Children’s Day.
Aquarium admission prices apply. www.nationalaquarium.co.nz