Now was designed as a campaign. Something more permanent was required. We asked local designers to submit their logo ideas, and then worked with one graphics specialist and a Napier agency on developing the initial design into what you see now. Council produces hundreds of branded items - rates notices, signage, info screens, plans and reports our website and Facebook pages, business cards, name tags, vehicles, uniforms and publications - I could go on! So it was a very involved process to develop new templates for all that we produce. We believe the result is fantastic and I love how our famously Art Deco city is still referenced in our fonts and styles, while moving our city’s branding firmly into the future. I’d love to hear what you think too.

Onekawa/Tamātea ward councillor Annette Brosnan and son Daniel enjoying the reinvigorated Pirimal Park playground

WORD FROM THE MAYOR Bill Dalton

This edition, we have a fresh look. After many months of hard work, the team at Napier City Council unveiled a new logo and branding on 9 September.

The feedback so far has been overwhelmingly positive, with most residents expressing their delight at the colour palette and logo, which depicts the iconic Norfolk pines lining Marine Parade, and the Pacific Ocean at our doorstep. However some have questioned why updated branding was necessary.

The truth is, we wish we’d been able to do this sooner. Napier City Council’s previous logo has long been considered dated and tired, while the city itself has leapt ahead in terms of tourism, our arts and culture, food and wine, sporting excellence, and business growth.

While the potential amalgamation was still being decided, it was unwise to invest in a full rebrand - had we amalgamated, this would have been money down the drain. Instead, we created Napier Now as a branding exercise to invigorate residents and ignite the amalgamation discussion. But Napier Now was designed as a campaign. Something more permanent was required.

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MEET RHETT VAN VELDHUIZEN
Waste Minimisation Lead

Rhett van Veldhuizen is a long way from home. The Waste Minimisation Lead’s dialect is a constant reminder he hails from the Netherlands – the land of windmills, tulip fields, cycling tracks and also one of the most sophisticated waste minimisation systems in the world.

It is little wonder, then, that Rhett is passionate about waste minimisation. He studied environmental engineering (solid waste management and waste water treatment) at the Van Hall Institute in the Netherlands, but ended up working in IT.

Rhett made the move to Napier in 2006 with his wife, Saskia, who is also Dutch but grew up in Havelock North, and their one-year-old daughter, Morgan.

“I was lucky enough to get a job at Napier City Council, in IT development and support for the Works Asset Department, fairly soon after our move here,” Rhett says.

“I always made a point of showing interest in waste management and minimisation at work. Within my studies and working life in the Netherlands I had gained enough knowledge to contribute to discussions in this area.”

Want to know more? Go to www.napier.govt.nz keyword #prjiway

NAPIER PLAYGROUNDS
The Community at Play

There are plenty of places to play in Napier – and more playgrounds are on the way.

Two of the latest to be developed by Napier City Council are Tamatea Park’s Sit and Stay, and Pirimai Park. Annette Brosnan, Onekawa/Tamatea ward councillor, couldn’t be more thrilled with the progress that’s been made. “Back in 2013 I spent time door-knocking every house in my ward, and people told me it was such a shame the parks weren’t used as they could be. People wanted more of a community hub – somewhere to gather, sit, and talk,” says Councillor Brosnan.

Since then, with Council funding, both parks have been developed and improved.

Sit and Stay includes picnic areas and a pathway, while Pirimai Park has undergone a number of changes, many of them for safety. The car park entrance has been narrowed, and vehicle spaces more clearly defined.

Local input was important in deciding what Pirimai Park’s new features were going to be, says Natasha Carswell, Manager Community Strategies.

The park’s theme is family fitness, so it includes a track around the outside, a basketball half court, and a refurbished playground which has also had new features added. “The Destination Playground at Anderson Park is going to be amazing, but we want people to remember there are plenty of great play areas in other suburbs to enjoy too.”

Other areas which have been developed in the past year include the toddler playground at the Marewa Rose Gardens, near Kennedy Park Resort, and the Hardinge Road playground.

Detailed designs have been completed for the Destination Playground, identified as one of the Council’s key consultation projects in last year’s Long Term Plan 2015-2025. These are expected to be presented to Councillors following the elections next month.

Staff will be reviewing the Taradale Skate Bowl area over the next year, too. Councillor Brosnan says her community is also discussing the idea of orchards and gardens for all to enjoy. “Seeing the community’s ideas come to fruition is great. People really love the parks!”

Rhett van Veldhuizen at the Green Sky Waste Solutions plant where Napier City’s kerbside recycling is processed.

Rhett’s passion for the environment doesn’t stop at work. He has built his own home (with the help of a builder) on a lifestyle block in Bay View where he and his family have a horse, two goats, five chickens, two dogs, three cats and a rabbit.

“Of course, there are always challenges and providing cost-effective services that cater for the needs of a large group of customers is one of those! Littering and illegal dumping are also challenges that all councils face and we are no exception.”

NCC GOES ELECTRIC
Sustainable Future

Napier City Council is planning for the future with the first of two fully electric vehicles in its fleet on the road now.

The site where the vehicles are charged is by the Napier Civic building and is also open to the public.

The Renault Kangoo vans used by the Council courier and parking staff have proved easy to run and to charge, says Council Chief Executive Wayne Jack. “Reducing the Council’s carbon footprint is an important part of our sustainable excellence programme, but it is only one part. We will also be looking at improving building efficiencies and reducing waste to landfill, among other things.”

The vehicles are clearly marked with the Council’s colours – however, although they are easily identified visually, the public needs to be aware that the vehicles are silent.

The vehicle fleet is regularly reviewed and ideally all Council vehicles should be low emission eventually, Mr Jack says.

Each vehicle can travel approximately 150km before needing to be charged, making the vehicles ideal for day to day Council activities. Charging to around 80 percent capacity takes 45 minutes.

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“I spend most of my spare time working on the lifestyle block – it’s not a life sentence at all,” he says with a wink.

Napier is now part of the iWay network, which started in Hastings. The first three off-road routes to be finished run alongside much of Georges Drive, through the Riverbend Road Reserve, and alongside Westminster Ave, from the Prebensen Drive end of Oreti Drive, alongside Park Island, to Yoga Ave, just across from Anderson Park.

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EAST COAST LAB  Life at the Boundary

Are you looking for something new to do these school holidays?
The National Aquarium of New Zealand has an exciting new exhibit – East Coast LAB (Life at the Boundary).
East Coast LAB was officially launched last Thursday. Agencies and organisations involved include Napier City, Hawke’s Bay Regional, Gisborne District and Greater Wellington Regional Councils, Hawke’s Bay Civil Defence Emergency Management Group, GNS Science, National Institute of Water & Atmospheric Research (NIWA), the University of Auckland, Massey University, and the Earthquake Commission.
So what is East Coast LAB all about? The focus is on improving the resilience of communities on the East Coast of the North Island to natural hazards associated with the Hikurangi plate boundary, which lies just off the East Coast.
The Hikurangi plate boundary is possibly New Zealand’s least understood – and most dangerous – hazard. Living on this boundary where the earth is constantly changing means communities from Gisborne down to Wellington can be affected by a number of natural hazards such as earthquakes and tsunami.

The Hikurangi plate boundary has the potential to produce large earthquakes and tsunami, as demonstrated by the 2011 magnitude 9.0 earthquake offshore of northern Japan.

Anyone living on the coast needs to be aware of the risks, how to prepare and respond to hazard events such as earthquakes or tsunami, and how best to cope during the recovery process.

There are some big players interested in our area of the world, including the US National Science Foundation. It has selected the Hikurangi plate boundary as one of only three places in the world where a large amount of research effort and money will be spent on understanding subduction plate boundary phenomena.

East Coast LAB will run alongside this research as well as national research being carried out by leading New Zealand geoscientists. Central Government is putting $6.5 million into this research to learn more about Hikurangi subduction earthquakes and slip behaviour at the plate boundary.

Want to know more? Pop into the National Aquarium and make sure you visit the LAB exhibit for some interactive learning, such as practicing a “Drop, Cover, Hold” drill or taking part in some of the science projects.

POWERFUL PERFORMANCE in The White Guitar

Love, loss, laughter and creativity come together in the amazing story of one Kiwi-Samoan family. The White Guitar takes the stage at the Napier Municipal Theatre on 8 October as part of the Harcourts Hawke’s Bay Arts Festival.

For the Luafutus, it’s not just a story though. It’s real. And every time they set foot on stage to perform in The White Guitar, they’re reliving some of the best and worst moments in their lives.


Matthias is the one who kickstarted the play, but it wouldn’t exist at all if John hadn’t captured his life story in A Boy Called Broke. Begun while John was in jail and finished on the outside, Matthias, who trained at Toi Whakaari, handed a copy of John’s book to his tutor Tom McCrory as a parting gift.

Almost a decade went past before they caught up again, at which point Tom told Matthias he had read it several times and thought it would be a great piece of solo theatre. Matthias was working in a glass factory in Auckland at the time, not acting, and missing theatre a lot. “I couldn’t do it without asking my father and brother.”

But the process was far from easy. “It was very cathartic. It was the first time we got to speak about what pained us growing up and certain memories… it was the first time our father got to hear and see this.

During that first rehearsal we did a lot of stopping to recollect ourselves,” recalls Matthias.

A white guitar did exist – it was a gift to Matthias’ Nanna Pepe – and anyone who sees The White Guitar will realise it represents much more than just a physical object, says Matthias.

Matthias remembers his Nanna always played songs and sang – the music has flowed on from generation to generation of the family, most of whom are still based in Christchurch. Matthias describes his dad as a musical genius and reckons his brother will give audience members a few surprises too.

Matthias has been able to give up the factory work and the acting jobs are starting to pick up again.

Both he and his Dad will appear in the Scarlett Johansson feature Ghost In The Shell, filmed in New Zealand and due out early next year.

He’s looking forward to seeing how far they can take The White Guitar, which premiered at the Christchurch Arts Festival last year. The one-off Napier performance is part of a six-centre regional tour.

“For me I feel I let a little bit go each time. The response from the audience… for some people it can be an eye opener. But that’s very rewarding for me – both the response and what I get back from the audience each time.”

www.hbaf.co.nz
WHAT’S ON
See what’s happening in your city

Court in the Bay, Hawke’s Bay
30 September & 1 October

Court in the Bay is a brand new, two-day netball festival, run by Hawke’s Bay Netball with a focus on fun. Come and watch teams compete in several categories – men’s, women’s and mixed – together with social and competitive classes.

For anyone with a love for netball, ambassadors Irene van Dyk and Catherine Cox will be a real drawcard for the festival, which will be based at the Hawke’s Bay Regional Sports Park in Hastings.

www.courtinthebay.co.nz

Showgrounds Hawke’s Bay
19 - 21 October

It’s almost showtime again and it’s a great way to start the long Hawke’s Bay weekend.

Showgrounds Hawke’s Bay will be filled with more animals than have been seen here for many years, with alpaca, beef and dairy cattle, dog trials, equestrian, pigs and sheep as well as shearing, wood chopping, poultry and home industries. Alongside these competitions will be more than 240 trade displays, Animal World, Mahons Amusements and sideshows, and plenty of homegrown entertainment. In other words there will be something for everyone to enjoy.

www.showgroundshb.co.nz

Business Breakfast
with Mike Taylor
7 October

Fanatical about the stock market from a young age, Mike Taylor founded Pie Funds in mid 2007, with $200,000 of capital and all the positivity in the world. Little did he know he’d be heading into the Global Financial Crisis soon after. How did he survive? Learn how to maintain your customers’ trust when the going gets tough, what true passion looks like, and the hallmarks of business success.

The cost is $20 per person and registrations are due by 4 October at www.napier.govt.nz, search keyword: #businessbreakfast