It’s been another huge month for us! We’re very lucky to have 20 new bright and beautiful Sea Walls: Murals for Oceans art works gracing our city and have welcomed the buzz that comes with the visiting artists who travel from near and far to take part in the event. It’s the second year the festival has been supported by Council and it’s clear that it’s been another runaway success. What a talking point the murals have become – and I enjoy hearing the stories about environmental sustainability, ocean pollution, and wildlife preservation that are behind each one.

Another talking point in town is, of course, the re-opening of the Napier Conference Centre on Marine Parade. This development is something the city can be truly proud of – what other regional centre offers a wedding venue, trade show space and conferencing facilities smack bang on the foreshore, with million dollar views stretching all the way from Mahia to Cape Kidnappers? Opening week saw foodie extraordinary Annabel Langbein host our first Napier City Council Business Breakfast for 2017 – which sold out with three weeks still to go! We managed to comfortably squeeze 350 of you into the venue and you seemed to really enjoy the tales Annabel told about her journey to the top, developing her brand and selling her TV show and numerous cookbooks around the world, in many languages. If you’d like to hear more about our quarterly business breakfasts, you can join our mailing list by emailing your details to comms@napier.govt.nz

We’d also strongly encourage you to come to our Conference Centre Open Day on Saturday April 1st – take a look around, soak up the views and learn more about how this wonderful facility could suit your future needs. See you there!
Marcus Hayes-Jones shares his knowledge with locals

Do you know if your property is in a “red zone”? For more information, visit http://hbhazards.intramaps.co.nz/IntraMaps/MapControls/HBHazards/EasiMaps/index.html

Would you like to know more about emergency readiness in Napier? Contact the Napier Emergency Management Officer on 834 4162 or napiercd@hbemergency.govt.nz

Napier City Councillor Tania Wright has always been community minded.

At the age of 12 she was on her first committee raising money for a children’s hospital. From then on she has been a strong advocate for her community, and a representative on many local and national boards and committees.

She credits her grandmother, former Mayor of Upper Hutt Doris Nicolson for the attribute.

“It’s in my blood,” Tania says. “I get a great deal of satisfaction from being involved in the community. I like to make things happen.

“I felt that being a city councillor was just an extension of my commitment to Taradale and the wider Napier community. I have also worked for three local MPs which gives me a good understanding of the issues in our community.”

A recent Safe As Houses event for Meeanee Quay residents was the first of its kind dedicated solely to emergency planning.

Safe As Houses is a Safer Napier initiative led by Napier City Council Community Services. It aims to improve safety in the home via a variety of methods and is supported by many organisations, including Civil Defence Emergency Management.

The Safe As Houses event was held for Meeanee Quay residents whose properties lie in what is known as a ‘red zone’ – at risk from inundation in a local, regional or distant source tsunami.

Remembering the ‘long or strong, get gone’ message and having an evacuation plan for themselves and their families is important for everybody, even more so for ‘red zone’ residents, says Napier Emergency Management Officer Marcus Hayes-Jones. “We should all know what to do in the event of an emergency, and not wait for an official to give instructions. We should all know where to go if we need to evacuate, and having an emergency kit ready to go is key to being prepared.”

Residents who attended the Safe As Houses event also received a ‘starter’ emergency kit, with a list of suggested items they may wish to include.

Tania first became a Napier City Councillor in the 1990s when she served one term. In 2005 she served the Taradale ward for nine years before taking a break to deal with a health issue. Now back and stronger than ever, Tania believes she still has lots to offer.

“I tend to take on roles that reflect my experience so I’m currently Deputy Chair of Community Services. All my other roles and responsibilities are allocated around tourism, arts and culture.”

Tania says ensuring everything Council pursues is affordable and sustainable and takes into account the impact on future generations is challenging but fulfilling.

“Driving around Napier and watching locals and visitors enjoying our lovely city, and benefiting from projects that I have helped bring to fruition is hugely rewarding.”

While she doesn’t have time for it these days, Tania was once pretty good at dancing Argentinian street tango – who would’ve thought?! Now, when Tania isn’t wearing her Council hat, you’ll find her walking, reading and spending as much time as she can with friends and family, “especially my two gorgeous grandchildren.”

Napier City Council Community Services has held two workshops this month, one for people with lived experience of disabilities, and the other for disability service providers.

The feedback from the workshops will help shape a Disability Strategy for Napier, which aims to support disabled people to participate fully in Napier life. The strategy will focus on Council’s services, activities and facilities. The draft strategy will go out for public feedback later this year.

Did you know?

You are happier than ever to recommend Napier as a place to live to your friends. Results just in from our 2016 Service Delivery Survey show that 61% of you would give Napier a nine or 10 out of 10!
The new-look Napier Conference Centre has only just officially re-opened its doors after a multi-million dollar redevelopment but it’s already hosted a sell-out Business Breakfast with celebrity cook Annabel Langbein, a cocktail party and a three-day international conference.

Napier City Council Venues Manager Glenys Fraser says the redevelopment has created a unique and beautiful venue, the only one of its size in Hawke’s Bay, so it’s no surprise forward bookings are strong.

More events are planned to celebrate the centre’s re-opening including the public Open Day on 1 April (10am – 3pm). It’s everyone’s chance to check out the changes, like the enlarged foyer for pre-function events, a soaring purpose-built exhibition hall that can accommodate up to 25 trade stands and an extended ballroom with panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean.

Just a bouquet’s throw from the beach, Napier Conference Centre is a wonderful setting for waterfront weddings and other celebrations year round, too.

Perhaps it’s time to plan a party, or something more serious in one of the cool new spaces? The centre’s in-house event planners can talk you through the various options and take care of the hard work during the planning stages and on the day of your event.

Investing in the Napier Conference Centre upgrade was supported by many submitters to the Long Term Plan 2015-25. Refurbishment was originally scheduled for 2023, but an earthquake strength report prompted a rethink by Napier City Council, and it was decided to combine earthquake strengthening, extensions and refurbishment work into one major project during 2016-2017.

Now the work is completed, Napier Conference Centre is set to be a significant community asset bringing people together for business and pleasure.
More than 200 young sailors aged seven to 15 will be out on Hawke Bay over Easter putting their skills to the test in the 2017 Toyota National Optimist Champs. From the 14th to the 18th April two fleets of optimist boats will be competing in our waters; the Open fleet, experienced sailors searching for a National title and New Zealand honours and a newer, younger, Green fleet out to test the water and move up to the Open in the future.

On Sunday 16th April the public can get up close to the sailing when a Teams racing day is held just off the beach at East Pier. This is a seriously fun day for the competitors with plenty of action on the water and the closest yacht racing seen off the coast. The competition, hosted by the Napier Sailing Club, has also attracted some international attention - 19 sailors are coming from Australia, six from Tahiti and four from New Caledonia.

**Sailing action in Napier**

**Interested in volunteering?**

The Faraday Centre, Hawke's Bay's fascinating museum of technology, is looking for more volunteers for two important roles; museum hosts, to welcome customers and share their knowledge of past technology, and museum tinkerers, who are able to help out with painting and preparing old machinery on Saturday mornings.

If this sounds like something you’d like to do, the Faraday Centre is hosting an Open Day on Wednesday 5 April between 4pm and 6pm. The Faraday Centre is located at 2a Faraday Street, off Carlyle Street, Napier. For more information, visit www.faradaycentre.org.nz

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