It’s been a terrifically busy time for us here at Council as we welcome new faces to our table. The last week or so has been an opportunity for our new Councillors to meet their colleagues, acquaint themselves with our processes and procedures, learn about governance, and have a good old snoop around the Council buildings!

Api Tapine, Larry Dallimore, Tania Wright and Claire Hague are brimming with enthusiasm for their new roles, and I’m looking forward to seeing what talents and skills they bring to the city of Napier.

Of course, the excitement of the elections is often tinged with sadness and this term was no exception. We said farewell to outgoing Councillors Michelle Pyke, Mark Herbert and Mark Hamilton. All three were outstanding Councillors, and I’ve no doubt that they will continue to contribute to their communities in many significant ways over the coming years.

From time to time we hear people express doubt on the motives of our Councillors. And while those in the public eye will never completely avoid criticism (and nor should they) I do have something to say on this matter.

Those who put their hands up to lead do so because they truly feel they have something to offer. They make themselves available to their communities – often in addition to other pressing work and family responsibilities, after hours, and in the weekends – and they provide those communities a voice. They give their time willingly, they spend long hours preparing for and attending meetings, and they become public property, in a sense, which isn’t always easy.

I hope you take the time to get to know your new Council - because they are here expressly for you and your family.
Oh how times have changed!
Gone are the days of 9 til 5 business hours. Technology has enabled the world to connect 24 hours a day and now councils across the country are going the same way.
The man tasked with leading Napier City Council into 21st century technology is Duncan Barr. The manager of information services, along with his team, supports the IT requirements of Council’s 500-odd staff as well as 20 networked sites. He also coordinates the city’s free Wi-Fi.
“I enjoy using technology to make people’s lives easier,” Duncan says.
“I have a great team behind me. They are all very good at what they do.”
In the past 18 months Duncan and his team have enabled online payments for rates, dog registrations, parking fines, LIM applications and much more. Soon building consent applications will be able to be completed online too.
“Our aim is to better connect with businesses and ratepayers online - via mobile apps, Wi-Fi and social media. It’s all about interacting any time of the day or night - whenever people want to do business.”
Duncan’s career in IT began when he was still a fresh faced 25-year-old Antipodean doing his OE in London. He returned to Napier seven years later with an impressive CV, a wife and two children!
“IT’s all about interacting any time of the day or night – whenever people want to do business.”
“It has been interesting watching the industry change over the years. It is certainly vital for businesses to have an online presence to keep up with their customers’ needs – now more so than ever.”

MEET DUNCAN BARR
Manager Information Services

One of the National Aquarium of New Zealand’s most popular attractions - an alligator named Fiona - has sadly passed away from pneumonia.
The alligator shared an enclosure with a similar-aged alligator, Sheryl. Aquarium Manager Rob Yarrall says staff found Fiona lying at the bottom of her pool, and immediately raised the alarm. “She was removed from the pool and a vet was brought in to examine her. By the time x-rays were ordered to determine the extent of her illness, she had passed away.”
Fiona had been healthy, overall, and had not been symptomatic at the time of her death. Rob says it’s always very hard to tell when an alligator falls ill. “Unfortunately, reptiles are experts at masking any illness, which is great self-protection when they live in the wild, but when you’re an alligator living in an aquarium, it’s very difficult for keepers to tell if there are any health issues.”
As alligators are solitary by nature, the death has not had a noticeable impact on companion Sheryl, says Rob. At this stage, a new enclosure mate for Sheryl was not being considered - but that might change in the future.
Staff and members of the public were coping with the news, “but as with any unexpected death here at the Aquarium, it has been sad.”

Five quick facts on alligators

• Alligators can weigh over 450 kg
• Alligators have a powerful bite - so try not to get in their way! But the muscles that open the jaw are relatively weak. An adult human could hold the jaws of an alligator shut with their bare hands.
• Alligators eat a range of different animals such as fish, birds, turtles and even deer.
• But alligators aren’t strict carnivores. They also eat fruit when they get the chance.
• Alligator eggs become male or female depending on the temperature, male in warmer temperatures and female in cooler temperatures.

KNOW YOUR NAPIER | Did you know?
Napier City Council’s Animal Control team are about so much more than just the pound. Each year, we reunite hundreds of dogs with their owners, and rehome many more. In the year ending June 2016, the team rehomed 50 lovely dogs, while 328 were returned to their owners. The team also microchips your dogs completely free of charge – just drop in to the kennels at Depot Place, Onetangi, within opening hours and they’ll help you out.
BARK ISLAND  Doggie Day Out

Walking your beloved pooch on a Sunday just got a lot more exciting!

Napier’s Park Island, one of our city’s most popular places for exercising dogs, will be temporarily transformed into “Bark Island” on Sunday 13 November.

Bark Island will be a fun-filled island-themed morning dedicated to our four-legged friends. Dress up your dog for the occasion and come and meet our Animal Control team. We’ll have lots of treats for your canine companion, and dog behaviour experts on hand to dish out advice on everything from exercise to obedience.

“Our Animal Control team does great work out in the community every day, including a lot of education and awareness projects,” Director City Services, Lance Titter says. “This is the community’s chance to see them in more of a casual setting and get to know what services they offer.”

An island-themed fashion show for dogs – judged by a special surprise guests.

There’ll be a runway and prizes for best dressed (think leis, coconuts, pineapples and Hawaiian shirts), greatest personality, shiniest coat, most like owner and loads of spot prizes.

For the humans there will be barista-made coffee, ice cream, a sausage sizzle and twisted chips available to purchase.

For more information email comms@napier.govt.nz or contact the Napier City Council Communications team on 835 7579

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 fun cycling events.

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

With tons of events from professional road cycling, 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.summerrcyclingcarnival.co.nz
WHAT’S ON
See what’s happening in your City

4th ~ 13th Nov 2016
F.A.W.C!
FOOD AND WINE CLASSIC
Book at www.fawc.co.nz

F.A.W.C food and wine classic
Get ready for the 2016 Summer Series, kicking off November 4th and wrapping up on Sunday November 13th. There are over 80 mind blowing events across 10 delicious days starring an outstanding array of talent from far and wide. Stars like Al Brown, Josh Emett, Ray McVinnie and Nadia Lim line up alongside Hawke's Bay's talented culinary folk to bring you food and wine experiences like you’ve never had before. Tickets are still available for selected events, visit www.fawc.co.nz

IRONMĀORI
Quarter, Saturday 5 November
It’s been hailed as a massive success story - a fitness event that is transforming lives. Come and see IronMaori first-hand - the persistence, the pain and the pleasure. Teams and individuals will tackle the 1km swim, 45km cycle and 10.5km run, beginning at Pandora Pond. Park on Meeanee Quay or the PGG Wrightson carpark on the day and witness the fitness at IronMaori! www.ironmaori.com

Napier Christmas Parade
Let the magic of Christmas take hold of you - this year’s Christmas Parade is shaping up to be the biggest and best yet! There will be over 50 floats and displays for children and families to enjoy as the parade travels down Emerson Street from the Masonic Hotel. Santa will be a highlight, as always, with a chance for a photo with him. Join in the Christmas Festival at Clive Square after the parade with a free sausage sizzle, bouncy castle and face painting to enjoy. Visit www.facebook.com/napiercity

NAPIER CITY
CHRISTMAS
PARADE
SATURDAY 26TH NOVEMBER 1PM
OVER 50 DISPLAYS AND FLOATS!

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