The days may be growing shorter and colder but that doesn’t appear to be stopping many people from getting out and about, enjoying our pathways.

Perhaps it has something to do with people training for the inaugural Air New Zealand Hawke’s Bay International Marathon on 14th May? I’m looking forward to seeing the thousands of runners and walkers of all ages taking part in this. Good luck everyone.

It was a privilege earlier this month to take part in the celebration of the completion of Te Ara o Nga Tipuna (Pathways of our Ancestors) at Otatara Pa, a celebration that also doubled as a launch of a new addition to the Rotary Pathway network.

Te Ara o Matareta (Maggie’s Way) is the latest project of the Rotary Pathways Trust, thanks to a generous bequest given by Basil McCoward in honour of his late wife Margaret. Maggie’s Way will extend the pathways network through Otatara Pa, connecting up to the Western Hills sections.

The Council also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Waikato, which among other things, is looking at developing an education/innovation/entrepreneurship precinct here.

Other positive initiatives are Make Space, spearheaded by Napier City Business Inc and supported by us, and the inner city infrastructure upgrade, which begins again next month.

Finally, I urge you all to have a read of our 2016/17 Annual Plan Consultation Document. Submissions are closing soon, and we have four topics that we would very much appreciate receiving some feedback on. There are further details of how to do so inside this publication.
Utilities Engineer

Napier City Council Utilities Engineer, Daniel Joblin, is leading the continuation of the Napier inner city upgrade – a major project that will see the CBD’s underground infrastructure upgraded and a modern new streetscape above ground.

Daniel Joblin

The project involves hundreds of staff and contractors and is vital to alleviate flooding in the inner city – a big job to manage, but Daniel is handling it like a pro. He’s no stranger to major projects having worked on the Biological Trickling Filter Wastewater Treatment Plant in Awatoto.

“The Wastewater Treatment Plant was a career highlight for me,” Daniel says. “I’m lucky in that my role involves daily interaction with clients, contractors, council staff and the community. I’m looking forward to the same with the inner city upgrade too.”

Daniel started with the Council as an engineering surveyor in 2009. An interest in the discipline grew from his role and he subsequently completed a Diploma in Civil Engineering while transitioning into the engineering field.

While the engineering field is relatively new to Daniel, he’s certainly no stranger to the rugby field. At 6ft 8, Daniel has represented three provinces in three divisions as a lock. These days though, his passion for rugby is kept alive by coaching junior rugby for his son’s Old Boys Marist team.

When he’s not coaching rugby, Daniel enjoys making the most of the Hawke’s Bay lifestyle with his family and friends.

“Nothing beats a walk or bike ride along the pathway with the family and finishing with an ice-cream,” he says.

Inner city upgrade continues

The next stage of the Napier inner city infrastructure upgrade along Hastings Street is due to get underway early next month.

It is the continuation of the project which saw an upgrade of Hastings Street’s underground infrastructure, and the street surface between Albion and Emerson Streets last year. The above ground design elements include wider footpaths, a revamped parking layout, new planting and street furniture.

Planning for this part of the CBD infrastructure upgrade began in 2010. One of the most important parts of the whole project is the laying of stormwater pipelines.

Napier City Council Director Infrastructure Jon Kingsford says it is part of a city wide response for areas known to be susceptible to flooding.

“As with each stage of the upgrade, this year’s work further improves our ability to manage stormwater run-off, creating long term benefits for businesses, residents and visitors.”

There will be some disruption for motorists but pedestrian access will be maintained to all businesses along Hastings Street from Emerson Street through to Browning Street while the upgrade is carried out.

All new pipelines will connect to the Marine Parade stormwater outfall, underneath the viewing platform.

For more information about the overall project, go to www.napier.govt.nz keyword #prjhastingsstreet.
Make Space is an exciting new concept for the Napier CBD, providing opportunities for creative and innovative emerging businesses while also filling vacant retail space. Led by Napier City Business Inc, and supported by Napier City Council, Make Space is based on the tremendously successful Renew Newcastle programme in Australia.

Potential “Space Makers” will be required to complete a simple business plan to ensure initial viability of the project. Following selection successful applicants will have access to mentors that can guide them through the process and fill any knowledge gaps. The selection committee meets regularly and new projects will be taken on as spaces become available.

“We are looking for concepts that have longevity and will add to the fantastic group of businesses that already occupy the CBD. Make Space has the potential to identify Napier as a city that is proactive, forward thinking and supportive of entrepreneurial ideas, therefore a truly modern city,” says Zoe Barnes, Manager of Napier City Business Inc.

Business ventures that have been successful in other cities have included fashion designers, co-working spaces, creative studios and vintage bicycle libraries.

“We understand it is often a scary thing to try to start a business, and so we are here to help,” says Ms Barnes.

For more information or to make an application, visit www.makespace.org.nz

Link to University

Napier City Council and the University of Waikato have agreed to work together on economic development, the environment, high performance sport, water management and marine science. This is part of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Napier City Council and the University of Waikato signed earlier this month.

University staff will move into the former Community Development ground level space in the Library building by mid-year. The intention is for the University to establish a research centre to develop research projects in the Bay, and to work with Council on an education/innovation/entrepreneurship precinct for Napier.

Napier Mayor Bill Dalton was looking forward to seeing what came out of this collaboration. “It’s a great move for Napier and Hawke’s Bay. Too many of our young people leave for further education or job opportunities and it’s tough to coax them back, let alone give them reasons to stay in the first place,” he said.

University Vice-Chancellor Professor Neil Quigley said the University of Waikato was excited about this opportunity. “We look forward to working together with the Council and EIT to deliver education services, and collaborating with Council on a series of research projects that will benefit the whole community.”

Have your say

There is just over two weeks to go until submissions close to the Napier City Council 2016/17 Annual Plan.

Submissions close at 12 noon on Friday 13 May. If you are a Napier resident and did not receive a copy of the Consultation Document for the 2016/17 Annual Plan in the post, you can view it and supporting documents online. Go to www.napier.govt.nz, keyword #annualplan2016 for more information.

The four consultation topics Council would like some feedback on are the Sustainable Capital Programme, the Old Embankment Road Bridge, the Anderson Park proposed upgrade, and the Taradale Stormwater Upgrade. The Consultation Document also contains brief updates on current works, and an overview of the impact of these issues on rates, debt and levels of service.

Supporting documents, which contain further details of what Council is proposing to adopt in the Annual Plan, or that support these ideas, are: the Anderson Park Master Plan, Assumptions, Proposed Capital Plan, Community Outcomes, Proposed Financial Statements, Fees and Charges including Food Act changes, and Groups of Activities.

The Consultation Document and supporting information is also available to read at the Civic Building main reception, and Napier and Taradale Libraries.

Hearings will be held on Thursday 9 June & Friday 10 June, and the final 2016/17 Annual Plan will be adopted by Council on 29 June.
What’s On

Big Bike Film Night
this Saturday 30 April 7.30pm
Sharing the best cycling short films from around the world, this film night will showcase a collection of short movies that have everything a bike-centric audience could want—action, drama, plenty of humour. Screening at MTG Century Theatre, tickets are available from www.ticketek.co.nz

Country to Coast,
this Sunday 1 May
The Hawke’s Bay Today Country2Coast combines a non-competitive family fun event and a more competitive half marathon that makes the most of the Hawke’s Bay Trails between the four start points and Farnon Park in Clive. You can enter the 8km or 15km walk/run, a 20km bike ride, or a more challenging 21.1km half marathon run. Register at www.country2coast.co.nz

Air New Zealand Hawke’s Bay International Marathon,
Saturday 14 May
Whether a competitor or a spectator, this new running festival incorporating 42km, 21km, 10km and 3km kids run options will be fantastic to be part of.

Seeking Volunteers
Roles vary from pre-events set up, athlete registration, to race day support at the finish line. If you are interested in being a volunteer register at www.hawkesbaymarathon.co.nz/contact

2016 Hawke’s Bay Sports Awards, Saturday 21 May
Judges of the Hawke’s Bay Sports Awards are in for a tough time deciding who the winners will be amongst the 40 finalists in the 10 awards categories.

Sport Hawke’s Bay commercial manager Ryan Hambleton said “the calibre across all categories was incredibly high with many notable achievements nationally and internationally”.

Tickets for the awards function on Saturday 21 May, which is expected to attract more than 500 people, are available for purchase through Sport Hawke’s Bay www.sporthb.net.nz