If ever there was a time to reflect on how we, as a city, manage in times of adversity and stress, now is that time.

As you will recall, we had a significant weather event just a matter of weeks ago – heavy rainfall, snow in hilltop areas, power outages, trees down, and flooding. The team at Napier City Council, as well as the HBCDEM Group, were on high alert with their teams ready to engage should the situation worsen. As it happened, no “emergency” developed – rather, this was a situation that was relatively short-lived, and well-managed by the Council team. As power cuts had hit our waste pumping stations, and generators were deployed, the call went out via social media to residents to “lighten the load” as it were, on our sewerage system. A vast number of our city’s residents saw those messages and it was interesting to hear how quickly and directly that impacted the stations. We were grateful to all our residents who made time to read the messages, and took appropriate action. Thank you – working together is something Napier does so well!

There were also learnings from the wild weather weekend, and our teams have met to discuss how we manage these events in the future.

Now, Havelock North is experiencing an unforeseen, unprecedented event – it’s been a desperate time for all involved. Like many councils around New Zealand, Napier will be examining this response and learning from this too. Our thoughts are with all who have been hit by illness and hardship at this time, and with the dedicated folk who have been out on the streets, in the community, offering a helping hand to those in need.
Meet Glenys Fraser

Glenys Fraser is described by her colleagues as a “go-getter”. She’ll bring a good idea to life and when presented with a challenging situation, the Napier City Council Venues Manager cracks on until a timely solution is found – all while remaining totally unflappable.

It is little wonder, then, that she’s progressed over the past two decades from the War Memorial Conference Centre Bookings Officer to Venues Manager, overseeing both the Napier Municipal Theatre and Napier Conference Centre in their entirety.

Glenys was employed 21 years ago when the Conference Centre was first built. Now, as Venues Manager, she feels privileged to be seeing it through a major upgrade that will position it as one of the top conference venues in the country.

“It is a very exciting time for the Napier Conference Centre,” Glenys says. “Over seven million dollars is being invested into the redevelopment and the whole region is going to benefit from it in one way or another.”

Glenys says the ever changing events and shows at the “Muni” means her job is never mundane and she finds helping clients see their event concepts through to completion “hugely satisfying”.

“Over the years we have developed very strong working relationships with both promoters and professional conference and event organisers. These people may only use the facility every few years but to be able to recognise a face they have worked with for a long time fills them with confidence.”

Being the go-getter she is, Glenys doesn’t sit still in her spare time. She’s either spending it with her grandchildren, gardening or walking.

“Let’s just say I’m an active relaxer!”

Elections

Are you ready to vote in the 2016 Napier City Council elections?

Here are some helpful tips for anyone wanting to cast a vote by the close of elections, midday on Saturday 8 October.

- Napier elections are by postal vote. Voting forms will be posted out next month, along with a freepost return envelope addressed to the Council’s Electoral Officer. The voting forms will be posted to the address listed for you on the electoral roll. If you need to change your details you can complete the appropriate form at any PostShop, phone 0800 ENROLNOW (0800 367 656) or do so online at the Elections New Zealand website www.elections.org.nz.

- On the voting papers Council candidates’ names will be listed in random order, which means that voting papers for different household members will not look exactly the same.

- You can only vote if you are aged 18 or older, are a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident and have lived in New Zealand continuously, at any time, for one year or more, and have lived at your current address for more than one month.

- If you are registered on the parliamentary (electoral) roll, you are automatically enrolled on the local authority residential roll at the address where you live. If you want to make sure you’re on the roll, you can view copies of it at the Council Civic Building, during office hours, or at the Napier or Taradale Libraries.

- People who pay Napier rates but are not resident in the city may also be able to vote. The application form for ratepayer electors is on the Council website.

- If you spoil your voting form or do not receive one, come to the Council Civic Building during office hours and cast a Special Vote any time from Friday 16 September, to Saturday 8 October. The Civic Building will be open until midday on Saturday 8 October.

Because Napier Mayor Bill Dalton has been re-elected unopposed for a second term, and sitting Napier City Councillor Annette Brosnan has been returned as the Onekawa-Tamatea ward’s sole representative, elections will only be held for the Ahuriri, Nelson Park and Taradale Wards, and the At Large constituency. The voting papers also include Hawke’s Bay Regional Council and Hawke’s Bay District Health Board elections.

For more information and to view the list of this year’s candidates, go to www.napier.govt.nz keyword #elections.
Maggie's Way Opening

Walkers and runners have a good reason to remember Taradale couple Basil and Margaret McCoward, whose generosity has created a long-lasting legacy for Napier, even after their deaths.

Te Ara o Matareta (Maggie’s Way) pathway at Otatara Pa, Taradale, is part of the Rotary Pathway Trust’s network. Maggie’s Way was kickstarted by a generous bequest from the late Mr McCoward and supported by Napier City Council.

The pathway was named after Basil’s wife who was a keen walker, and was constructed by Dodge Contractors. It was officially opened earlier this month by Napier Mayor Bill Dalton at the invitation of the Trust.

Maggie’s Way was the result of several years’ work to extend the Taradale pathway network.

Both trustees of Mr McCoward’s estate spoke at the opening. Trustee Dianne Jones said it was a wonderful place for Hawke’s Bay and Taradale people to visit. Trustee Mary Ditchburn added that it was a fitting way to remember the McCowards, who were both long term Taradale residents. “The work the Rotary Pathway Trust committee put into making this happen has been colossal and it’s great to see it’s now a reality.”

Speaking on behalf of Ngati Paarau, TK Hawaikirangi said pathways like this “can create great awareness of the past”.

Napier's Water Supply

In the wake of Havelock North's water supply being contaminated, water has been the topic of much discussion.

Is Napier water affected too? Where does Napier’s water come from? How often is Napier’s water tested for contamination?

We thought it timely to provide some facts about where Napier sources its water and the processes it goes through before it reaches your taps.

But before we get started, rest assured that despite Havelock North’s water contamination, Napier water is safe and not impacted by the issue. It is completely separate from Havelock North and Hastings.

Water is drawn from the Heretaunga Plains artesian aquifer and reticulated to the Napier urban area and to Bay View.

The Heretaunga Plains aquifer is free from harmful contamination and no water treatment is required. The Napier water supply system consists of 409km of mains, eight reservoirs and 16 pump stations.

Our Environmental Health team undertake tests in accordance with the Ministry of Health Drinking Water Standards, which means water supplies are tested anywhere between two and seven times a week, but routinely two to three times a week, to ensure your drinking water is safe.

Director Infrastructure, Jon Kingsford, says Napier City Council’s frequency of sampling is set at around 200% of what is required under the Drinking Water Standards.
Artists from New Zealand and around the world will descend on Hawke’s Bay with an exciting programme of 55 performances over 13 days. There’s something for everyone including theatre, dance, music, cabaret, comedy, literature and more.

The festival hub will once again be a magnificent Spiegeltent on the Havelock North Village Green, with additional venues in Napier, Hastings and Havelock North.

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What’s On

**Hawke’s Bay Magpies vs Counties, Thurs 1 September, McLean Park**

**Hawke’s Bay Magpies vs Auckland, Wed 7 September, McLean Park**

Tickets at www.hbmagpies.co.nz.

**SKYCITY Breakers v Brisbane Bullets, 15 September**

Napier is lucky to host one of the three game series of the SKYCITY breakers against the Brisbane Bullets. SKYCITY Breakers General Manager Dillon Boucher says they are delighted to be taking their show on the road and visiting Tauranga, Napier and Invercargill with all regions keen to put on a great show for the fans in those cities.

Come and see top quality basketball in action at Pettigrew Green Arena. Get your tickets at www.ticketek.co.nz or Napier Municipal Theatre.

**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.

**Harcourts Hawke’s Bay Art Festival, 4-16 October**

Artists from New Zealand and around the world will descend on Hawke’s Bay with an exciting programme of 55 performances over 13 days. There’s something for everyone including theatre, dance, music, cabaret, comedy, literature and more.

The festival hub will once again be a magnificent Spiegeltent on the Havelock North Village Green, with additional venues in Napier, Hastings and Havelock North.

Last year, tickets sold out in record time, so book early! www.hbaf.co.nz

Tickets on sale now • 4-16 October 2016 • www.hbaf.co.nz