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Ahuriri Summer - image: Kirsten Simcox

THIS
ISSUE

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January
2015

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Bill Dalton



Welcome to 2015. We've got a big year ahead of us. The biggest thing on the horizon will be the vote on whether we amalgamate our four Hawke's Bay councils and the Hawke's Bay Regional Council into one. I've been pretty vocal in my opposition to amalgamation. It was one of the main issues I campaigned on before becoming mayor, and having spent over 14 months in the

job, my conviction that it is not in the best interest for not only Napier, but for the rest of the region too, is stronger than ever.

I urge you to arm yourselves with knowledge and, when the time comes to vote, say no. I've been accused of being 'anti-change'. Nothing could be further from the truth. I embrace change – when it is needed. At this point in time our region is too diverse to have a single council. You only need to

look at Auckland's bungled attempt at amalgamation to see a series of broken promises. Have rates dropped? No. Have there been cost savings? No. Have staff numbers at the council increased? Yes. I personally find it offensive that the Local Government Commission is forcing Auckland's failed amalgamation template on Hawke's Bay. Talk to anyone in Auckland and they'll tell you it has been a disaster – so why would we want the same formula put in place here?

In this issue we will tell you more about our successful bid to host the Elite Cycling Nationals for three years from 2016. As for this year – well the Cricket World Cup is just around the corner and we're thrilled to be hosting three games at McLean Park, we're looking to host a NRL game during the year, our new pump track on Marine Parade is underway, we will shortly be consulting on the 10 Year Plan for our city, and we'll be getting stuck into the next stage of the Marine Parade Redevelopment in the next few months as well.

Enjoy the sunshine.





Napier City Councillor Faye White

Your favourite meal to cook...

Mint and mustard crumbed lamb racks, served on a kumara mash.

What's your coffee order?

Chai latte.

Favourite holiday destination...

I love to travel full stop but some of my favourite memories are of Spain, walking the Camino (pilgrim) trail from Oviedo to Santiago de Compostela, visiting Barcelona and staying with my daughter in a gorgeous villa in Alicante.

In the weekend I...

try to take in a gym session, or maybe a bike ride or walk. I like to relax with a cooked brunch and browse the weekend papers. It's also a good time to phone my family, who all live outside Hawke's Bay.

One of my goals for the next 12 months is...

to highlight our Council's passion and commitment to thinking regionally and driving our whole region forward. I want to get the message out about the number of shared services we currently have, the regional strategies in place and the closer than ever working relationship we have with Hawke's Bay Tourism, Business Hawke's Bay, Sport Hawke's Bay and the HB Chamber of Commerce.

www.napier.govt.nz keyword: #councillors

Napier Wins

Major National Cycling Event



Wayne Jack, Rob Oliver and Bill Dalton are excited to be hosting the race
Image: Courtesy of Hawke's Bay Today

Securing New Zealand's premiere bike race for three years from 2016 is a "huge coup" for the city, says Napier Mayor Bill Dalton.

"This is a big deal. It will be fantastic for not only Napier but for the whole region."

Napier City Council Chief Executive Wayne Jack, a passionate cyclist himself, said they would be working hard to ensure the event had a point of difference and would include activities around the main event to provide something for all ages and abilities.

"Part of the race will see riders going over Napier Hill. It's not only going to provide a fantastic course for entrants, but also some great vantage point for spectators."

Mr Jack said the event would inject "millions" into the local

economy and it would provide a chance for locals and visitors to see the country's top athletes up close and in action.

"I'm looking forward to working with BikeNZ to promote this iconic event and putting cycling and Hawke's Bay in the spotlight."

Hawke's Bay Tourism General Manager, Annie Dundas, said news the race was coming to Napier was fantastic.

"It's brilliant, the region will be buzzing. Our climate and surrounds are already a key drawcard for cyclists from near and far. We are seeing more and more people come here specifically for cycling holidays and to make the most of the Hawke's Bay Trails. Having New Zealand's premiere national bike event here will help promote that further."

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What's New?

Freeman White Mural

Renowned Napier portrait and landscape artist Freeman White has been busy transforming the Clive Square Bus Terminus building.

He started work on his Art Deco-themed mural earlier this month after the Napier City Council commissioned him to inject a bit of colour onto the building.

The building is the first point of arrival for intercity bus travellers to and from Napier and visitors are already taking delight in his work.

"I'm a huge fan of heritage architecture and Art Deco so I wanted to incorporate some elements of Napier's history. There are also people here who are passionate about it so I want to acknowledge them too," said Freeman. "This is by far the most significant public artwork commission I've embarked upon."

Freeman, who grew up in rural Havelock North, recently made a permanent move back to Hawke's Bay after basing himself in Wellington for 14 years. In 2006 he won the prestigious Adam Portraiture Award.

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Freeman White at work on the new mural

First Steps Taken

Maraenui Revitalisation

The Maraenui Suburban Revitalisation Project officially got underway last month with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to work together signed by community, business and government organisations, including the Napier City Council.

The project partnership was formed in response to Housing New Zealand's announcement in 2011 to rid itself of buildings it no longer needed, or that had become uninhabitable in Maraenui, Napier. It confirmed a few months ago that it intended to remove 33 buildings from the suburb.

The original announcement sparked a region wide conversation about not only housing issues within Maraenui, but what else could be done to improve overall community wellbeing.

The organisations involved have agreed to work together to create a master plan with several key factors; exploring options

for affordable, quality housing, while maximizing community assets and improving overall community wellbeing, including encouraging economic development and employment and training initiatives within Maraenui.

Stage one of the project is led by Roopu a Iwi Trust, Housing NZ and the Council, and is focused on ensuring the local community is informed about the plan, and seeking feedback from the community on what could go into it.

The MOU formalizes the existing working relationships between the parties, which also includes Horvath Homes, Te Taiwhenua o te Whanganui a Orotu, the Ministry of Social Development, Alexander Construction, Te Puni Kokiri and Te Taiwhenua o Heretaunga.

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Maraenui Revitalisation Group
Image: S Crown, He Ngakau Hou

Two of Napier's most popular family attractions have recently launched new websites. The Hawke's Bay's Museum of Technology, the Faraday Centre and the National Aquarium of New Zealand have given their sites a makeover to make them more interactive and user-friendly. Check them out at:

www.nationalaquarium.co.nz

www.faradaycentre.org.nz



What's On?

Waitangi Day Celebrations

Napier City Council in conjunction with Te Matau a Maui Waka Experience and Pukemokimoki Marae are celebrating Waitangi Day early.

Join the fun on 31 January at Pukemokimoki Marae from 11am until 2pm. Play games, take part in history of Waitangi discussions, enjoy kai, stalls, rides and other entertainment. Free tickets to the 1 February waka sailing will be given away too!

On 1 February there will be five one-hour sailings of the waka from 10am. Listen to korero on local place names and legends as you set sail. Free to ticket holders, otherwise a small koha is appreciated. The waka will leave on the hour from the Marina.



A traditional Polynesian Waka on a unique sailing experience
Photo: Courtesy of Waka Experience

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Canvassing The Treaty

Join the team at the MTG Century Theatre at 2pm on 6 February for a free screening of the documentary *Canvassing The Treaty*.

This documentary follows the story of six New Zealand artists, as they learn about the Treaty of Waitangi from well-known educators Moana Jackson and Ingrid Huygens.

The group explores stories of New Zealand's history, and relationships between tāngata whenua (people of the land)

and tāngata tiriti (people here by right of the Treaty) working in collaborative pairs to create works that offer shared visions for our future.

There's also a free children's activity running in the MTG foyer on Waitangi Day. 'Make Your Own Flag' encourages children to design their own New Zealand flag. This fun, free activity is on from 10am – 5pm.



Mayor

Bill Dalton

Deputy Mayor

Faye White

Councillor

Mark Herbert

Councillor

Graeme Taylor

Councillor

Maxine Boag

Councillor

Michelle Pyke

Councillor

Roy Sye

Councillor

Annette Brosnan

Councillor

Tony Jeffery

Councillor

Kirsten Wise

Councillor

Keith Price

Councillor

Mark Hamilton

Councillor

Richard McGrath