Welcome to 2016.

As is often the case in Napier at this time of year, it’s busy on the events scene.

In this issue we take a look at the upcoming Art Deco Festival and the revitalised Mission concerts.

It’s also pleasing to report back to you about how the Big Save Elite Road National Championships went. This time last year we were buzzing because Napier had recently been picked to host this prestigious national cycling event through to 2018.

The feedback we’ve had has been fantastic, not only from the professional cyclists who came to town for the nationals, but for the children and people of all ages who got behind the fun events that made up the rest of the Hawke’s Bay Summer Cycling Carnival. The tagline for the carnival was ‘serious fun’ and I think that was a very fitting description.

We have plenty to look forward to later this year too, including events which we support as a council but are not Napier based. The sort that is good for Hawke’s Bay, such as the Air NZ Hawke’s Bay International Marathon in May.

With milestones such as the Prebensen Drive four-laning completed, our team is hard at work on other important projects, following on from the Long Term Plan process last year. These include the Marine Parade and War Memorial Conference Centre redevelopments, taking a closer look at Anderson Park and its use, adding to our network of pathways, and in conjunction with Hastings District Council, moving towards a resolution for the Omarunui Landfill’s future.

We’ll be taking our next Annual Plan out for consultation in April – not that you have to wait until then to give us some feedback, or put forward suggestions to make our city an even better place to live.

Enjoy the rest of summer.
MTG’s Art Curator

Jessica Mio

Jessica Mio’s decision to move out of her comfort zone and take art history in her final year at high school has led to an “utterly fascinating” career, she says.

It has taken her from Auckland to Timaru to Napier, where she recently became MTG Hawke’s Bay’s Art Curator.

She started out in the art world as a volunteer guide at Auckland Art Gallery while she was studying for a Masters in Art History at the University of Auckland.

Next came a job at a dealer gallery across the road from there. “It was fast-paced and lots of fun - confirming for me that I wanted to be involved with contemporary art.”

After completing her studies Jessica moved to Timaru to work at the Aigantighe, an “absolute gem” of a gallery that everyone must visit when down that way, she says. But after a wonderful two years it was time to move on and she was excited to come back up north.

“I’ve been here almost two months now and am really enjoying the job and life in Hawke’s Bay.”

The main focus of her role is coming up with and delivering a range of exhibitions, both from within the collection and from outside the museum.

Other aspects include carrying out research and proposing acquisitions to the collections.

“The highlight so far has been working with such talented people – I love picking the objects and writing the text for an exhibition and then seeing it all beautifully presented by the Design and Build team.”

Anderson Park

If you had a dream playground, what would it look like? We’re planning the design of the new Destination Playground for Anderson Park and we want your input.

The Destination Playground is aimed at families and will provide an opportunity for a “day out”. It will encourage family interaction with diverse play opportunities for children, teenagers and adults.

So what would you and your family like to see on the 36ha space? Chris Freeman of Freeman Environmental Planning has suggested some ideas in the Anderson Park Master Plan, which can be read in full on our website www.napier.govt.nz #prjdestinationplayground

Some of the ideas include:

- The use of landscape with trees and interesting terrain to invoke a sense of adventure and provide a great interactive, social, atmosphere.
- Seats, BBQs and picnic areas so parents or caregivers can relax as they keep an eye on their children.
- Specialised equipment and landscape features for disabled users.
- New bridges extending over the waterway to provide more convenient access to the wider park. Fruit and nut trees, flowers and herb gardens to create interest and education.
- A mound or hill with rock features on the west side of the park.
- A water playground in the sunny area west of the toilets, which includes “splash play” for hot sunny days and “water play” for year-round fun.

MTG Hawke’s Bay’s Art Curator, Jessica Mio
Art Deco Festival

Prepare to be amazed next month when the Tremains Art Deco Festival brings the past to life.

The magical celebration of the Art Deco era runs from February 17 to 21, and with more than 250 events lined up, you’re sure to find something to spark your interest, whether it lies in music, fashion, parties, picnics, planes, trains or automobiles.

More than 45 of these events are brand new for 2016, many of them targeting family and youth, such as the Family Deco Party, Deco Selfie, Paint the Poster and Deco Disco.

The powhiri – official Maori opening for the Festival involving Te Matau a Maui’s traditionally designed sailing waka – takes place at 8am on Wednesday February 17 at West Quay, Ahuriri.

Napier Library hosts three free events this time, a talk on what Hawke’s Bay people were wearing in the 30s, by Napier costumier Natalie Robb, a presentation on famous Swallows and Amazons author Arthur Ransome, and a screening of the movie version of the book.

Other experiences include High Tea with popular chef Annabelle White, a brand new show, Mad About The Boy, from the magnificent Helen Medlyn, pictured right, and four fabulous events supported by the Dilmah family, who will again be in Napier for Art Deco celebrations.

To find out more about these and other events, visit www.artdeconapier.com

Summer Cycling Carnival

Lycra, painted bikes, tinsel and costumes of all kinds - for 10 days our city was all about cycling.

When the Hawke’s Bay Summer Cycling Carnival kicked off on 7 January you couldn't miss men and women in lycra or cute kids and families dressing up themselves and their bikes.

For the serious cyclists competing in the Big Save Elite Road National Championships the expressions on their faces said it all as they tackled the rural circuit then the final laps of Napier Hill, finishing the race on Marine Parade.

We loved seeing children dress their bikes (and themselves) in the Big Save Dress Your Bike Competition or the Family Fun Ride.

Marine Parade was closed to all traffic giving children and many adults the opportunity to race the Bay Espresso Criterium course before the more serious riders took up the challenge. Smiles lit up every face, from little dots on their trikes to parents dressed in onesies!

The concept of the Hawke’s Bay Summer Cycling Carnival was conceived after Napier City Council successfully won the bid to host the Elite National Road Race for three years between 2016-2018.

Napier City Council Event Manager Kevin Murphy said the organising group wanted to create a carnival of cycling events that everyone could get involved with.

“We’re stoked with how the first Hawke’s Bay Summer Cycling Carnival has gone and the feedback from Cycling New Zealand and other partners has been very positive,” Mr Murphy says.

A big thanks to Big Save Furniture, our other amazing sponsors, the many volunteers and NZ Police.

And finally, thank you Napier for helping us host this event. We can’t wait to have some more serious fun in 2017!
Have you got your tickets to the Mission yet?

Napier can look forward to a wonderful weekend of music, when Ben Harper & The Innocent Criminals take to the stage on February 27, and Simply Red the following night.

The Innocent Criminals (percussionist Leon Mobley, bassist Juan Nelson, drummer Oliver Charles, keyboardist Jason Yates and guitarist Michael Ward) were involved in many of Ben's projects from 1993, and last year joined forces again after seven years apart.

Their new album, *Call It What It Is*, is due to be released in April and New Zealand audiences will be among the first to hear new songs from the album, along with classics such as ‘Burn To Shine’, ‘Steal My Kisses’ and ‘Diamonds On The Inside’.

English soul-pop veterans Simply Red were a massive hit with fans when they performed in Napier 2010 and are expected to receive the same reaction when they appear on February 28.

For the New Zealand tour, Hucknall will be joined by longserving bandmates Ian Kirkham (sax), Steve Lewinson (bass), Kenji Suzuki (guitar), Kevin Robinson (trumpet and flute) and Dave Clayton (keyboards), plus new drummer Roman Roth.

With top 10 hits spanning three decades, Simply Red has sold more than 50 million albums over their 30-plus year career and last year released *Big Love: Greatest Hits Edition*.

To find out more, go to [www.missionconcert.co.nz](http://www.missionconcert.co.nz)

What’s On?

For the first time since the Cricket World Cup 2015, the BLACKCAPS will be back to play international cricket on home soil.

This summer of cricket kicks off with a tour from Sri Lanka as part of the ANZ International Series, followed by Pakistan and Australia.

In Napier over the summer period?

Catch a piece of the action at McLean Park:

**BLACKCAPS v Pakistan**

ANZ ODI: 2pm, Thursday 28 January 2016

For many, this will be your first chance to see the BLACKCAPS playing live since the World Cup, so don't miss out!

**Be sure to join MyBLACKCAPS for savings of up to 33% on your tickets!**

Purchase tickets at [www.ticketek.co.nz](http://www.ticketek.co.nz)