The recent opening of the dog agility track at Park Island has been a huge success. Our staff have been on-hand on weekends teaching dogs and their owners how to use the equipment – in fact when the team turned up on the first weekend there was a queue of eager canines ready to go! We’re thrilled this initiative has been so well received.

The good news is another track is already under construction near Pettigrew Arena. It will be similar – the main difference will be it will be fenced so dogs who are less ‘predictable’ can still have a go without their owners having to worry about them escaping.

Another new addition to Napier is the Pin Wall art installation outside MTG Hawke’s Bay. I think it looks absolutely fabulous – and judging by the feedback, you do too. The work by husband and wife team Sara Hughes and Gregor Kregar is a welcome addition to our city and I’m sure it will become an iconic piece of art. Find out more about the artwork inside.

While we’re on the subject of new things – you may have noticed some outdoor gym equipment has been installed near the aquarium. While a few hardy souls have been trialing them already, I’m sure they will be extremely popular as summer approaches.

Keep warm.
Coffee with a Councillor

Your favourite meal to cook...
Lamb rack cooked on the Weber washed down with a glass of Hawke's Bay red.

What’s your coffee order?
Flat White.

Favourite holiday destination...
Hawke's Bay! I have travelled extensively, visiting 15 countries over the last four years. However you can’t beat our city and region as a holiday destination over the summer months. I always love coming home after being away. Circling over Napier before coming into land, viewing the city and surrounding landscape from up high, it’s so stunning!

In the weekend...
If I’m not working (as a retailer I regularly work in the weekends) then I spend time with my family. I am very lucky in that I have four generations of family living locally. My wife and I love going for walks around the Ahuriri Estuary and going on bike rides out to Bay View.

One of my goals for the next 12 months is...
To see a fair resolution to the review of the provisions for Ahuriri’s Mixed Use Zone in the District Plan.

Meet our Aquarium Manager

Rob Yarrall’s career story is the epitome of the adage “do what you love and you’ll never work a day in your life”.

The National Aquarium of New Zealand Manager grew up on a farm and loved animals and the outdoors, so when it was time to enter the workforce, he chose a job where he could work in the fresh air.

“I got a job working for Napier City Council Parks and Reserves,” Rob says.

“My hobbies were breeding aviary birds and tropical fish keeping so I started helping out at the Aquarium in the weekends back in 1974.

“A friend and I were the first to keep tropical marine fish privately in Hawke’s Bay; we had to get them flown in because no one else had them and you couldn’t buy them locally.”

Rob’s voluntary work at the aquarium paid off as he was offered a full-time position as an aquarist soon after and he has been working there ever since.

He learnt about all the reptiles they kept and became very knowledgeable on exotic lizards and turtles. He also spent time on the research ship James Cook. “I worked with scientists on the growth and ageing of fish from the wild, comparing the life span against captive held species. We were the first to spawn Snapper in captivity along with Groper. We worked alongside Massey University on the effect of different tags in fish along with many more research programmes.

“As the years moved on so did my role and I became Curator of Exhibits and in those early years did a lot of design work with the displays and life support systems. I took over as Manager in the 1980’s and have been in this position ever since."

During his 41 years at the Aquarium Rob has seen the Aquarium through many changes and milestones – one he is most proud of is housing the oldest living Tuatara to have been hatched in captivity anywhere in the world. He has also been a long-time member of the Hawke’s Bay Aquarium Society and was made a life member in 2002.

“It is so neat that we were able to achieve these milestones right here in Napier. I am lucky enough to work in a job that I love – not many people get to make their hobby into a living.”
The Napier City, Hastings District and Hawke’s Bay Regional Councils are part of a committee developing a coastal hazards strategy.

A risk assessment is underway to provide the committee with information on coastal hazards, and the consequences of coastal erosion, inundation and tsunami on the coast between Clifton and Tangoio, looking as far as 100 years into the future.

“We will be able to determine what is at risk, and estimate the likelihood and consequence of the hazards. The next phase will be to determine how that risk can change with various interventions, and ultimately what we should be doing in response to coastal hazards along this part of the coast,” says committee chairman and Regional Councillor Peter Beaven.

Throughout 2016 and 2017 the committee will be working with key stakeholders to figure out the best responses to our changing climate, and changing coastline.

For more information on strategy development or to get involved, please visit www.hbhazards.co.nz.

Coastal Hazards Strategy

Old dogs (and young dogs) are learning some new tricks at Napier’s new canine playground.

Located off Cyde Jeffery Drive at Park Island, dog owners and their canine companions are enjoying the purpose built Dog Agility Track.

The track features a selection of obstacles including hurdles, bollards, ramps and even a grooming table, all constructed from recycled plastics. This track is particularly suited to dogs that are well socialised, need stimulation and have good recall off lead.

During July the Napier City Council ran a number of interactive dog agility training sessions. Over 100 dogs and their owners attended, learning tips and tricks on how to train their furry companions.

Inspiration for the agility track stems from the Napier City Council’s Animal Control Team who wanted to provide dog owners with a place where they could spend time exercising and training their dogs.

Senior Animal Control officer Liisa Jones says the track can be enjoyed by a wide range of users – from local residents to organised groups and professional trainers.

“It’s completely kitted out with dogs and their owners in mind, with a permanent water station at dog height, a dispenser bag pole nearby to clean up after any dog mishaps and a seating area for onlookers.”

A similar dog agility track is soon to be completed and is located behind Pettigrew Green Arena. This fully-fenced Taradale track will provide a secure off-lead environment for dogs that don’t have good recall, need to be socialised with other dogs or just need a good run around to let off some energy.
MTG Hawke’s Bay

Councillor Richard McGrath

Cyclist competing in the 2014 Elite Nationals

A colourful and eye-catching piece of art was recently added to MTG Hawke’s Bay’s Marine Parade façade.

Pin Wall, a collaborative effort by award-winning artists Sara Hughes and Gregor Kregar, comprises 5000 glazed porcelain balls that project out from the building on stainless steel rods of different lengths, creating a 3D effect.

Pin Wall was inspired by the artists’ discovery of a group of 19th century pin cushions and the Avis Higgs fabric design archive in MTG’s collection. They were particularly taken with a textile print by Higgs depicting New Zealand flora and fauna.

The pin was an expensive and rare item in the 19th century, commonplace in the 20th century, and is now used less and less due to the low cost and availability of readymade garments.

Sara Hughes is a renowned New Zealand artist, whose work is held in many collections throughout Australasia including Te Papa and the National Gallery of Australia in Canberra. In 2005 she won both the Norsewear Art Award and Wallace Art Award, and has undertaken a range of high profile public commissions, including a series of outdoor works for the re-opening of Cathedral Square in Christchurch.

Like Hughes, Slovenian born Gregor Kregar is also a Wallace Art Award and Norsewear Art Award winner, in 2000 and 2004 respectively.

MTG Happenings

January in Napier

If you’re out and about in Napier between 8-10 January 2016, you could easily think you were part of a national cycling event...well in fact you can be. Napier will turn into a City of Cycling as it hosts the Elite Road National Championships. There will be something for everyone — from the serious cycling enthusiast to the recreational cyclist.

“Our vision is to create a real festival of cycling,” said Napier City Council Chief Executive Wayne Jack.

Cycling is such a popular sport and has an amazing following, he said. “The Tour de France keeps thousands of viewers in New Zealand glued to their TV screens for close on three weeks every July. We want to create our own Tour de Napier here!”

Napier City Council Events manager Kevin Murphy said the event provided a great reason to visit Hawke’s Bay over the summer. “The programme is fantastic and will provide great viewing. Plus with all our fantastic cycle tracks, wine and sightseeing, Hawke’s Bay will be buzzing!”

To find out more about the programme visit www.elitenationals.co.nz

Did you know...

If you need to pay for a ticket to an event, dog registration, a parking infringement notice or some other type of bill to Napier City Council, you can now pay online with a credit card.

To find out more, go to www.napier.govt.nz/pay-it

Credit card payments are now accepted at the Napier Refuse Transfer Station, 193 Springfield Road.