I hope everyone has had a lovely Easter - it seems autumn is now well and truly here.

The days may be noticeably shorter, and the temperatures topsy turvy, but I feel the past month has brought a fitting end to summer.

March began with Horse of the Year, rolled into Seaweek, and then Sea Walls: Murals for Oceans which has transformed some areas of the Napier CBD and Ahuriri in a positive way. If you haven’t had a chance to do so yet, take a stroll or drive around our city to see the fabulous works of art these 29 environmentally aware artists have left as a permanent reminder of their visit.

An event I’m looking forward to is the Festival of Hockey, which begins this Saturday, and runs through to the 10th of April. With 40-plus teams from 16 countries, including our own renowned Black Sticks, and many school teams, this is a special event which I hope many of you will support.

There are also ANZAC Day commemorations in a little over three weeks’ time; 6am dawn services at Lone Pine cemetery and the Soundshell, 9am at Taradale’s Town Clock, and 11am at the Memorial Square Cenotaph.

Last but not least, next month the Consultation Document for the 2016/17 Annual Plan is released. It will be distributed with this publication, and will be available to view online. Submissions open on Monday 11th April, and close at 12 noon on Friday 13 May. We look forward to your feedback.
Lee/Meeanee roads intersection upgrade

Due to increased delays and queues during peak periods at the Lee and Meeanee Road intersection in Taradale, a major upgrade of the area is underway.

On completion the intersection upgrade will:
- Provide additional approach and exit lanes for traffic on Lee Road
- Provide marked cycle lanes on all four approaches
- Provide a free left turn lane for traffic turning left to go south down Lee Road
- Relocate the bus stop to existing reserve area south of the intersection
- Widen the road on the eastern side of Lee Road

The upgrade will also see installation of the latest traffic signal software and signal phasing, which will improve the operating efficiency and reduce queue lengths. After all, there are about 18,000 vehicle movements through the intersection during a typical day!

Traffic delays are expected during the construction period, but the disruption will be kept as minimal as possible.

Steps and ramps upgrade

Did you know there are 28 sets of steps and ramps on Napier Hill? Who’d have known!

Some are hard to find due to overgrown shrubs from nearby properties and some are just too steep or rough to attempt. That’s why Napier City Council has embarked on a “Steps and Ramps” project that will see the historic pathways given a new lease of life.

The aim of the “steps and ramps” project is to repair each pathway individually, considering its gradient, geometry and surface. Some will include handrails, signage and lighting for night time guidance.

Projects update
Sea Walls Murals

A total of 29 internationally renowned artists from the US, Canada, South Africa, Hawaii, Japan, Australia and New Zealand have just spent an action packed 10 days in Napier transforming blank walls with colourful murals.

Sea Walls: Murals for Oceans was brought to Napier by PangeaSeed Foundation, with the support of the Napier City Council.

This is the first time PangeaSeed has brought a Sea Walls festival to New Zealand, after producing Sea Walls festivals in Los Angeles, Vietnam, Mexico and Sri Lanka.

PangeaSeed Foundation’s New Zealand coordinator Cinzah Merkens says the theme of Sea Walls is to raise awareness about the plight of the ocean.

“The end result is an eclectic collection of world-class, diverse and thought-provoking public artworks, which aim to inspire the community to be better stewards of the sea, that can be appreciated by anyone who walks along Napier’s streets.”

To do your own tour of these amazing marine themed murals, visit [www.napier.govt.nz](http://www.napier.govt.nz), keyword #muralsforoceans

Civil Defence Siren Test

Napier City Council is testing its public alert sirens for approximately five minutes at 11.50am on Sunday, April 3 and we are keen to hear from as many residents as possible to see how effective it was.

“It allows us to know how well the public alert sirens worked, and if there are any areas that need working on,” Napier City Council Emergency Management Officer Marcus Hayes-Jones says.

There are two ways to fill in the survey;
1. An online survey at [www.napier.govt.nz](http://www.napier.govt.nz) keyword #alert. The survey will close at 12 noon Friday 15 April.
2. Printed in local community newspapers on Wednesday 6 April for residents who would like to fill in a paper version.

Complete a survey by 12 noon Friday 15 April and go in the draw to win a great prize!

Napier Now Competition

Are you embracing Napier and all it has to offer?

We want you to take a photo of you or your friends enjoying Napier and share it with the Napier Now community. Keep an eye out on the Napier Now Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pages to see what the latest competition is and how to enter.

The current competition is #experienceNapierNOW. All you have to do is tag your photo that shows you experiencing the many awesome things in Napier and tag it with #experienceNapierNOW

The best photo will win a $100 Ticketek voucher to use at the Napier Municipal Theatre.

Entries close Sunday 3 April.
What’s On

Indigo Hawks, April
Catch one of the home games of our very own Indigo Hawks basketball team at Pettigrew Green Arena. Thanks to the recent sponsorship of Taylor Corporation, entry for all home games is just a gold coin donation. Check out the home game programme at www.hawks.org.nz

Festival of Hockey, 2-10 April
A great chance to watch hockey competitions at all levels. Don’t miss out on seeing our own Black Sticks women take on some of the world’s best teams in The Hawke’s Bay Cup as they prepare for the Rio Olympics at the Hawke’s Bay Regional Sports Park. The Affiliates Tournament is happening at Park Island and also The Furnware Cup is a 1st XI School Girls tournament where eight high schools compete. For full details visit www.hockeyfestival.nz

Air New Zealand Hawke’s Bay International Marathon, Sat 14 May
Join in this new running festival incorporating 42km, 21km, 10km and 3km kids’ run options. Take in the best highlights of the region, with flat easy running through local cycle trails, vineyards, olive groves, quiet country roads - all finishing at the impressive Sileni Estates Winery. Online entries close midnight Friday 22 April 2016 www.airnzhbmarathon.nz

ANZAC Day
Next month we remember those who fought in world wars and conflicts, and their families. In Napier, there are several events to choose from, if you wish to be involved or support commemorations. Poppy Day is on Friday 15th April. This year, because ANZAC Day falls during the school holidays, the Taradale RSA is holding an 11am service on 15th April at the Clock Tower, Taradale, run by school pupils and members of the RSA’s Remembrance sub-committee.

Napier RSA marks its centenary this year, and with HMNZS Te Kaha and HMNZS Endeavour berthed at Napier Port over ANZAC weekend, crew members from both ships are expected to take part in commemorations.

ANZAC Day:
• 6am dawn services, Soundshell, Marine Parade, Napier, and Lone Pine Cemetery, Puketapu Road, Taradale
• 9am memorial service & wreath laying ceremony, Clock Tower, Taradale
• 11am Memorial Square Cenotaph, Clive Square, Napier CBD