Welcome to the latest edition of Proudly Napier.

It’s been a busy few weeks as we have been consulting on our 10 Year Plan for Napier. We had great feedback on the consultation document itself, with many of you saying how easy it was to read. Our Pop Up Shops in the city were well attended as were our Community meetings.

The work that goes into the document is huge. It takes months of discussions, meetings and work to get to the point where the plan can be consulted on. So, with that in mind, it was great to see so many residents take part in the process, and tell us where they want to see Napier heading over the next 10 years. We received more than 690 submissions – a new record for us – so thank you.

We’ve also had so many compliments on the recent restoration of the Blythe Fountain. It looks absolutely amazing and I congratulate the team who put in so much effort to return it to its former glory. You can read more about the project inside.

Finally, the Napier City Council Business Breakfasts are another new initiative which is being well supported. Our guest speaker for the next one is Hamish Whyte whose Furnware business is a great example of a local company taking on the world. We are thrilled His Excellency, Lt Gen The Rt Hon Sir Jerry Mateparae, GNZM, QSO, Governor General of New Zealand, will be joining us at the event too.
Your favourite meal to cook...
If I do cook, it’s usually something Italian, like spaghetti Bolognese. It’s one of my favourite meals.

What’s your coffee order?
Flat White.

Favourite holiday destination...
I’ve travelled to many places but the south of France or Italy would have to be my top picks.

In the weekend I...
Work but I’d rather be playing golf.

One of my goals for the next 12 months is...
To make sure my new business venture, a venue/conference centre which opened earlier this month in Ahuriri, goes well. It’s an expansion of East Pier Hotel, a waterfront bar and brasserie which was built on the site of an old fish factory in 1992.

Meet our Library Manager

With a surname like “Reed” it seems Napier Libraries Manager, Sheryl Reed, was born to work in the Library sector, but she says, in fact, libraries chose her.

Sheryl has been in the role for nearly a decade, but her career in libraries began back in New Plymouth in the late 1960s.

“Library management has turned out to be about endless variety, continuous learning, exciting and interesting people and projects and being part of a collaborative and inclusive profession,” Sheryl says.

“It is a privilege leading talented teams to make a positive difference for the community.”

With many expecting libraries to fade away in the age of internet, Sheryl says it has been challenging and exciting to find the opportunities in the face of such fundamental change.

“The reality is that public libraries, including Napier Libraries, are evolving from transactional to transformational products and services, to become community hubs which have the potential to add even more value to their communities.”

So in this new age of libraries, one has to ask, does Sheryl read eReaders or traditional books?

“Personally, I favour reading “tree” books, but occasionally read eBooks and certainly appreciate their portability and convenience on long haul flights. It’s handy that New Zealand libraries lend eBooks these days.”

When Sheryl isn’t working or reading books she enjoys singing soprano with an a cappella group, Cantare, which is led by Joe Christensen.

“I have to practice hard as he keeps us on our toes. At my younger son’s wedding in Scotland in 2011, where there were 100 Scots and only 8 Kiwis, I was given the opportunity to sing a waiata – and the Scots loved it!”

Sheryl says the future is busy and she is looking forward to the redevelopment of Napier Library in the 2015-16 year, including a paint and carpet refresh, and the re-launch of the Napier Library’s roof garden.
If there's any piece of business advice that Hamish Whyte, Managing Director of Furnware could give, it would be; “get to know your customers and then keep talking to them”.

Hamish is our second speaker for the Business Breakfast Series in 2015, on Friday 12 June, East Pier, Hardinge Road, Napier.

The biggest turning point for Hawke’s Bay business Furnware was in 1988 when the Lange Government introduced “Tomorrow’s Schools”. Overnight Furnware’s customer base exploded, from one customer, the Ministry of Education, to more than 2000 customers - individual schools.

Since this time they have made it a priority to get to know their customers. In fact Hamish says while his market is the school classroom, his end customer is the student. As such he tries to visit as many schools as he can to speak to the students directly.

Hamish will share a raft of knowledge about how he’s grown his company from 16 to 85 employees at the breakfast. He will explain what makes Furnware unique in classrooms not only in Hawke’s Bay and New Zealand, but all over the world. He’ll also share how exporting has taken his business to another level. Continuous customer research, product innovation and exporting knowledge has made Furnware number three in the school furniture business internationally yet he is adamant that Furnware will continue to be based in Hawke’s Bay.

We also welcome to the breakfast His Excellency, Lt Gen The Rt Hon Sir Jerry Mateparae, GNZM, QSO, Governor General of New Zealand.

The breakfast starts at 7am with a cooked and continental breakfast. Hamish Whyte will begin his talk at 7.30am. Tickets cost $20 and are limited.

To book go to www.napier.govt.nz #Business Breakfast.

Restoring the historic Blythe Fountain was no small undertaking, but the hard work was definitely worth it.

The Blythe Fountain was installed at Clive Square in 1904 and until it’s recent ‘extreme makeover’, it had received little maintenance. As a result some pretty serious decay had set in on the panels, pipe work and fixing bolts.

After talking to experts, it became clear the only way to save the fountain was to completely dismantle every single portion and then treat and restore each piece. This involved upgrading the existing pipe work (which was still old lead pipes), re-leveling the base, re-casting several missing pieces which had been damaged or destroyed over the years, adding a protective coating to the restored pieces and then repainting each section in an appropriate Victorian colour scheme before finally reassembling everything back on site. Phew.

“Restoring the fountain was a real team effort,” says Napier City Council Reserves Asset Manager Tony Billing. “Staff members Mike Fern and Mike Hyde were particularly instrumental in making this project such a success, as well as several local companies. Everyone involved really put their hearts into this project and I think the result is wonderful.”

The ornate cast iron fountain was built as an acknowledgement of the public service of resident William Robert Blythe. Mr Blythe, who founded the Clive Square Improvement Society in 1884, worked as a tireless advocate and financial contributor to Napier’s downtown garden development.
Locals have the chance to be tourists in their own city this Sunday and win some great prizes.

In the second annual i-SPY Fun Challenge, run by Napier i-SITE, teams journey through Napier’s inner city and Marine Parade following intriguing and fun-filled clues. Those who successfully complete the all-ages event within the two-hour limit go into the draw for prizes which include a family Napier experience worth over $4,000.

The i-SITE will also be hosting quizzes and face painting on the day, and there is a chance to win a spot prize, and half price entry to Par2 MiniGolf.

“Last year participants really got into the spirit of the challenge with their team names and costumes. We are encouraging this again this year by offering prizes for imaginative team names and dress-ups,” Napier i-SITE Manager Jane Libby says.

Registration for the i-SITE Fun Challenge costs $5 per team of two to four members. All proceeds go to the Child Cancer Foundation. Numbers are limited so get in quick. You can register at www.napiernz.com, www.facebook.com/napierisite or any time at the Napier i-SITE, Marine Parade, Napier.

It’s that time of year again – time to register your dog for 2015-2016. Annual registration fees are due on 1 July.

If you’d like to know more about your responsibilities as a dog owner, where to exercise your dog, what the Dogsmart Education Programme for schools is, or what the Council offers to registered dog owners, such as the subsidy towards the cost of de-sexing your dog, visit www.napier.govt.nz # Animal Education, or telephone 834 4177.

The website also has information about how to become a ‘Licensed Dog Owner’, the benefits of which include a discounted annual registration fee. The cost to become a licenced owner is $50, but if you’re aged over 65 years the charge is $5.

We wanted people to have their say on our 2015-2025 draft Long Term Plan and that’s certainly what they did.

More than 690 submissions were received on a range of subjects, including our 10 key proposed projects, rates and ideas for beautifying Napier - setting a new record for the number of submissions to Napier City Council.

More than 160 people took the time to speak to Councillors on a range of issues at four Pop Up Shops held in the CBD, and four public meetings during the month long formal consultation, which finished on 13 May.

Spreading information about consultation and projects through Facebook also generated plenty of positive comments.

The Council will consider the submissions and hear from those who wish to speak to their submissions between 8 and 10 June. A special meeting to formally adopt the final 2015-2025 Long Term Plan will be held on 30 June.