It has been, for the most part, a truly magnificent autumn in Napier and the wider Hawke’s Bay.

We’ve come through the inaugural Hawke’s Bay International Marathon well. If the small amount of feedback I’ve heard from the 76 percent of out of towners who came here for it is anything to go by, it bodes well for 2017 and beyond.

From thinking global to thinking local is more our mantra for the next few weeks. Coming up is Napier Jazz 2016, featuring class acts like Hollie Smith, and the F.A.W.C Food & Wine Classic over all four weekends in June, including the Napier Night Fiesta in the CBD on 10 June.

We’d also like people to have a good think about those they know out in the community who volunteer so much of their time to help others. Nominations for the 2016 Napier Civic Awards are open until 1 July. For more information, go to www.napier.govt.nz #civicawards

Last but not least, if you’ve been wondering what’s happened to one of our Long Term Plan key consultation projects, the proposal to build a multi-use facility incorporating a velodrome, the final business case to help Council decide whether to go ahead with it will be considered on 29 June. For more details, take a look at page 3.
Meet Linda Hirst

Public toilets. Love them or loathe them they’re a vital part of our City services.

Thankfully Council has a dedicated team of cleaners that work hard to maintain the city’s public toilet facilities.

Linda Hirst has been part of the City Cleaning Services team for two years and part of her job is to maintain the cleanliness of public toilets in the CBD. Linda is the first to admit the role has its perks and quirks, but with a supportive team and management she just smiles and takes it in her stride.

“One of the most challenging things we deal with is people not locking or even closing the toilet doors when using them,” Linda says. “Then there are people who don’t flush the toilet and of course those who leave disgusting messes.

“And yes people do eat in toilets. In the past few months I’ve had cheese scones, ham, pizza, trail mix, lollies and corn cob left in the toilets – as well as numerous wine bottles!

“Then there’s the flip side when members walk out of the toilet and tell me how much they appreciate the cleanliness of the toilets, and they often comment how clean Napier is in general. It’s great to hear.”

Linda didn’t set out to have a career as a cleaner; it was more like cleaning found her. As a mother of young children Linda gained a Bachelor of Computing Systems and a Graduate Diploma in Teaching (secondary) from EIT. She went on to teach information technology in Darwin. On her return to New Zealand, Linda took on a new challenge in buying a local cleaning business.

“I sold that business last year. Soon after my friend told me about the vacant cleaning job at the Council – and here I am!”

Sports Events Impact

Last year’s Melbourne Storm vs St George Illawara Dragons NRL game at McLean Park, Napier, brought millions to the local economy besides showcasing the region to out of towners.

The estimated total GDP impact (event organisation, preparation and visitor spending contribution) of last July’s game on Hawke’s Bay was $2.5 million, according to information gathered by Economic Solutions Ltd.

It also generated other valuable benefits for the region’s sports facilities, events and community sectors, and in particular, tourism and accommodation outside the traditionally busy summer months.

A third of those who attended the match were visitors from outside Hawke’s Bay, who stayed an average of two nights.

Some benefits were harder to measure, such as how much of an impact the national and international exposure had on attracting future visitors here, social benefits, and impact of promoting healthy and active lifestyles to the wider community.

This followed on from similar positive data gathered over the past few years regarding the financial worth of sports tournaments to Hawke’s Bay, including the Phoenix-Newcastle Jets game in 2013, the All Blacks vs Argentina rugby test in 2014, and the 2015 National Masters Hockey Tournament.

More than 70 teams took part in the latter event over a week, generating a combined event operation and visitor spending contribution to Hawke’s Bay’s GDP of $1.34 million.

Anyone with information about major tournaments being held in Hawke’s Bay, or who are at the planning stage can contact Napier City Council Event Manager Kevin Murphy on 027 297 0238 or kevinm@napier.govt.nz
Next month the Napier City Council will consider whether to commit to building a multi-use velodrome facility.

In the 2015-2025 Long Term Plan (LTP), Council included a multi-use velodrome proposal as a key consultation project, proposing $5 million of funding subject to the outcome of a detailed business case and partnership funding. That detailed business case will go before Council on 29 June.

The proposal has come about through demand for additional indoor courts in the region, particularly from basketball, futsal and volleyball, and space for other indoor based sporting activities. At the same time, there has been significant interest over many years in Hawke’s Bay having a velodrome to support the continued growth in cycling here in a safe and managed way.

The development of a multi-use facility, with indoor courts and a cycling track, has considerable merit as a joint solution from a construction cost point of view and for the future of indoor sports and cycling in Napier and the wider region. Such a facility could also be used for non-sporting events.

There are many facilities around the world that successfully combine both for maximum use. Examples can be seen in Invercargill, Derby, England (pictured), Newport, Wales and Milton, Canada.

The detailed business case includes the development of site options. The current preferred option is for the facility is to be located adjacent to the Pettigrew Green Arena (PGA) in Taradale, for the following reasons:

- Potential to utilise existing PGA facilities (e.g. reception, changing rooms, offices, meeting rooms etc) to reduce scope and cost
- Significant EIT Hawke's Bay sports presence, including a sports lab
- Good access to roads, bus stops and cycle trails, near to Hastings and Central Hawke's Bay
- 25,000 students live within 15km of PGA versus 15,000 within 15km of Park Island
- 105,000 residents live within 15km of PGA versus 70,000 within 15km of Park Island
- PGA is seeking additional indoor court space to meet the well identified demand for additional indoor courts in Hawke's Bay
- Enhances PGA as an indoor event venue by doubling the number of courts to six.
- EIT is interested in making land adjacent to PGA available for the development on the basis it will add to their attractiveness as a tertiary destination and potentially extend what can be offered
- Provides PGA with an opportunity to expand its multi-use facilities

As proposed designs and concepts are finalised these will be shared on Council’s website: www.napier.govt.nz keyword #prjvelodrome

2016 Citizens Civic Awards

Do you know someone who tirelessly volunteers their time and you think deserves some recognition?

Nominations are open now for the 39th annual Napier Citizens Civic Awards - and we want you to tell us about them.

The Awards honour outstanding citizens who are shining examples of community service volunteers.

Nominations close on 1 July, after which the selection panel – the Mayor, Councillors Michelle Pyke and Richard McGrath, and two other Napier residents to be invited to join the panel by the Mayor – will meet to consider nominations.

The official ceremony announcing Napier’s newest Civic Award recipients will be held on 5 September.

To find out more or complete a nomination form, visit www.napier.govt.nz search keyword #civicawards
The Challenge begins at 11am Sunday 5 June and prizegiving will be held at 1.30pm at the Soundshell, Napier.

Registrations are now open for the third annual i-SPY Fun Challenge, which takes teams of up to four people on a journey through Napier’s inner city and along Marine Parade following intriguing and fun-filled clues. The Up & Down challenge, as the name suggests, includes some steps and hill work. The other is Town & Around, which follows a flat route and is suitable for small children and people of all fitness levels.

Teams who successfully complete the challenge within the two-hour time limit go into the draw to win loads of prizes, the main prize being a family Napier experience worth more than $2500.

Registration is free but there is a voluntary $5 donation per team with all proceeds going to the SPCA. Numbers are limited.


What’s On

Napier Jazz

Three great events, at 8pm Friday, Saturday and Sunday 3 to 5 June at MTG Century Theatre. Linn Lorkin & the Jews Brothers celebrate their 20th year on the Friday night, supported by the Hawke’s Bay Jazz Club Big Band. Five time Grammy nominated American jazz vocalist Karrin Allyson is joined by the Tom Warrington Trio on Saturday, and on Sunday, Hollie Smith, Mark Williams, Debbie Harwood Erna Ferry and Mark Williams, in association with the Rodger Fox Big Band, present a jazz, blues and pop fused programme.

For more information and tickets, go to www.ticketek.co.nz

Winter F.A.W.C

It’s that time of year again – 55-plus food and wine events spread over four fabulous weekends. Yes, June is Winter F.A.W.C (Food and Wine Classic) time in Hawke’s Bay. This year it includes Napier Night Fiesta in the CBD from 5.30pm - 9.30pm on Friday 10 June. Some ticketed events have sold out already. For more info, visit www.fawc.co.nz

Matariki

Come and celebrate Maori New Year at the Soundshell, Marine Parade, Napier, from 5pm to 8.30pm on Saturday 18 June.

This is a free, all ages event for families, with entertainment including singers, dancers and kapa haka. There will be kids’ rides, food on offer, and lanterns as part of the process of giving thanks for the harvest and the new planting season. The finale will be a spectacular fireworks show set to music.

NZDO

Come along to the Napier Municipal Theatre at 2pm on Sunday 26 June for a special fundraiser for Cranford Hospice.

Eighty-plus doctors and medical students from around NZ will perform two classical music hits, conducted by Jose Aparicio (Napier Civic Choir, Festival Opera), with special guest soloist Kiarash Taghavi. The players have paid all expenses themselves and will be donating the entire proceeds to Cranford Hospice.

Tickets are available from Ticketek - www.ticketek.co.nz