

ART STARTS TO FILL THE CBD GAPS

HWR Property Limited and Space for Artists (SFA) have been brought together to deliver the first project connecting landlords of empty buildings in Invercargill with artists, community projects and collectors who need an inner city location for their enterprise.

The first project to be brokered by SFA opened this week with Invercargill-born landscape artist Caley J. Hall. His studio and gallery are now based at 49 Tay Street, Invercargill.

Property Manager for HWR Property, Sue Hill said the company was thrilled to be able to support the arts in Invercargill and hoped to see other landlords follow suit. "We have so much artistic talent here in Invercargill and it's great to support them in their success."

Caley was born in Invercargill and works primarily in oil. He is well known for his landscapes and expressionist abstracts. Recently relocating back to Invercargill, Caley has stuck to painting realistic Fiordland paintings for the past three years. He said he has never stopped loving Southland and Fiordland so it makes sense to come home and paint here. He is excited to be given the opportunity to paint pictures in public. "It's pretty impossible for an artist to open a gallery at city rents, so any schemes that encourage the arts are extremely important in



VIVIANE VAGT - CALEY J HALL - SUE HILL

Invercargill," Caley said.

City Centre Kari Graber said "It has taken almost a year to get the first landlord to agree to trial this new project. "I am really hopeful that others will follow suit. This is a great way to add vibrancy to the City Centre, by filling vacant spaces and providing support to both the arts and the tourist economy. It's the support of private business owners like Scott and Joc O'Donnell who's vision and passion for vibrancy in Invercargill that has allowed this to happen."

Viviane Vagt, founder of Space for Artists, started the organisation in July last year to facilitate and encourage the use of

vacant buildings for short-term use by local community groups and individuals. It is based on a broker model already used successfully in cities overseas.

The Space for Artists initiative connects the individual artists with building owners who have vacant space. A formal temporary agreement platform protects both parties but also allows flexibility for either party to explore other options, for example to test the local market, or to sign a permanent lease.

If you are interested in providing a vacant space or looking for a space contact Viviane Vagt through Facebook at www.facebook.com/spaceartists/



EILEEN JOH, BEN LIMNG PENG & RACHEL WANG

AUTHENTIC CHINESE EXPERIENCE IN HEART OF CITY CENTRE

The first of its kind in Invercargill, Cargill Tea offers tea lovers a unique blend of traditional Chinese teas such as rose milk tea, lemon aloe fruit tea and mango yogurt tea.

The business, which has opened at 10 Kelvin Street is the brainchild of three Southern Institute of Technology (SIT) graduates: Ben Limng Peng, who studied business; Eileen Joh, who studied fashion, and Rachel Wang, who studied hospitality.

The trio, who are all in their twenties, saw a perfect opportunity to offer Invercargill something different. After graduating from SIT they moved to Auckland but missed Invercargill, and wanted to be back in the city they had fallen in love with as students. While living in Auckland, Rachel and Ben worked for Hong Kong Dessert, learning

the ins and outs of managing a hospitality business. With some convincing they encouraged the owner to help them to open Cargill Tea.

"Invercargill is a great small city with very friendly people. We wanted to open a business that would appeal to both the international students and locals," says Ms Wang.

Cargill Tea is open from 10am – 9pm daily and will soon offer desserts and semi-traditional Chinese food. It hopes to extend the opening hours to help provide some vibrancy in the CBD later into the evenings.

SOMETHING SPECIAL HAS ARRIVED IN CAMBRIDGE ARCADE

Invercargill's newest gift and décor store opened this week and provides a great range of items right in the heart of Cambridge Place Arcade.

Something Special is run by mother and daughter Joanne and Monique Butterfield. Joanne is passionate about the business she has built up since buying it in July last year. Originally only selling online and through parties, Joanne's vision was always to turn it into a bricks and mortar shop and add vibrancy to the City.

Joanne said shows like *The Block* and *Shortland Street* gave her inspiration for the items she stocks.

"I watch these shows and check out all the décor and props. I don't watch for the story line – I watch to see what's on-trend and to check out the rooms," she said.

Before moving into her current location



JOANNE & MONIQUE BUTTERFIELD

she was selling out of her son's shop in Waikiwi two days a week. Its success made her extremely positive about opening in Cambridge Place Arcade. Joanne spent a great deal of time researching to find a storefront in the city-centre that was going to be both affordable and provide a good location for foot traffic. She hopes to see the rest of Cambridge Place Arcade filled

again and would love to have a coffee shop across from her.

"I love what I am doing and this is my dream job. I have wanted to open a shop for years and now I have one," she said.

You can check out promotions and specials on their Facebook page or on their website, www.simplyspecial.co.nz.

OVER 80? PARK FOR FREE



Did you know that if you're over 80 and a resident of Invercargill you qualify for free parking at any of the city's metered car parks?

Now there's nothing to stop you from coming into the city centre to do a bit of shopping, enjoy lunch with friends or grab a coffee and have a chat! Parking exemption cards are available from Council's friendly Customer Service staff. Come in with your current driver's licence and car registration and they will help you sign up. Invercargill City Council is proud to support our Senior Citizens and wants you to enjoy the city too.

INVER'S TOP

5

Deputy Mayor Darren Ludlow is a coffee lover and says he couldn't do a day without coffee. When drinking his preferred drop, a long black, he likes to listen to electronic chill out music. In fact it was coffee dates that brought him and his wife, Lyndal, together. Darren says, "We are lucky Invercargill has so many great coffee options."

Darren's top 5 is all about consistency. He likes his long blacks strong, full bodied and dark. Top 5 spots for a long black are:

- 1 ZOOKEEPERS
- 2 MOOCH
- 3 THE BATCH
- 4 THREE BEAN
- 5 MECCA ESPRESSO

