



GINGER BELLS, GINGER BELLS, GINGER ALL THE WAY!

The first annual Invercargill City Council Gingerbread House Competition and Display has been hailed a huge success. With over 1000 visitors in the first few days of opening, the Council says this will now be part of an annual event.

The gingerbread houses were open for viewing from December 17-26 in the Cambridge Arcade, with more than 40 entries on display. The overall winning house "Orchard House" was done by the Tripp Family, and was based on the house that Louisa May Alcott, author

of Little Women grew up in. City centre Co-ordinator Kari Graber said, "This is just part of what's planned for next year. The idea is to make the city centre the place to be over the festive season, so each year we will try to implement new and exciting reasons to be in the city. The first

place winner received \$100.00 cash, a family pass to Motorcycle Mecca, a box of chocolates from Seriously Good Chocolate Company and a family swim pass to Splash Palace."

Ms Graber said she was already looking forward to seeing next year's entries.



Kirstin Dixon from The Gift Shed at 129 Dee Street.

THE GIFT SHED - IT ONLY LOOKS EXPENSIVE

Invercargill's newest giftware shop, The Gift Shed, has established a reputation in its few short months in business through listening to customer feedback, clever positioning, and well-priced unique gifts sourced locally. Owner Kirstin Dixon says she decided to start the store, which opened on October 1, after five years' previous experience managing another gift store.

"When it first opened I talked with people who were walking past to get their feedback on why they didn't come in and they said it's because we looked expensive. The most expensive item of jewellery

in store doesn't exceed \$25. So we put a sign outside the next day that said 'come on in - we only look expensive' and things really started to pick up! As well as our physical store at 129 Dee Street, we sell through our website, www.thegiftshed.co.nz. We stock a clothing line made by a local designer which is affordable and on-trend. Plus we have hand-bags which sit around the \$50 mark, wallets, man-cave signs, door mats, jewellery, wooden toys for children and more," Kirstin says. With such a varied range of unique items, it's the perfect place to find that special gift!

The Invercargill City Council would like to thank the following businesses for their generous contribution of prizes and resources which made the Christmas Festival and Market, and Gingerbread Competition a great success.

We raised \$553.80 for the Southland Foodbank.

- ✳ • Guilty by Confection
- Young Reflections
- R&J Models
- Harcourts Realty
- Seriously Good Chocolates
- Classic Motorcycle Mecca
- Splash Palace
- Burger Fuel
- IVEM

