

December 16, 2015



Christmas CATCH-UP

A very big thank you to all those business owners, retailers, staff and everyone who has worked with Council to try and get some positivity and events into the city centre in the run up to Christmas.

Back in late September those retailers who joined us in the Council Chamber for our Christmas Catch Up came up with a list of things you wanted to see happen.

They included:

- ✓ Working together to organise late night shopping opportunities pre-Christmas;
- ✓ Offering a free parking incentive for shoppers;
- ✓ Closing Esk Street for the Christmas Market Day;
- ✓ Festive music, late-night shopping to coincide with an opening ceremony for Invercargill's new Christmas lights.

Thank you to all of those retailers and staff who have been so supportive – with opening extra hours, handing out parking brochures, putting up

posters, decorating shops, having sales, specials and giveaways. Thanks to all of those people who are part of retail chains, for contacting their head offices to get permission to work extended hours, or advertise specials. And thank you to the owner-operators who themselves put in the time to stay open on the late nights.

Working with you all has given me a real appreciation of just how hard retailers work. And you must have all rubbed off on me because this year I've done 90% of my Christmas shopping in Esk Street and Cambridge Place Arcade!

I hope that your tills are ringing this week and next as people finalise their Christmas shopping.

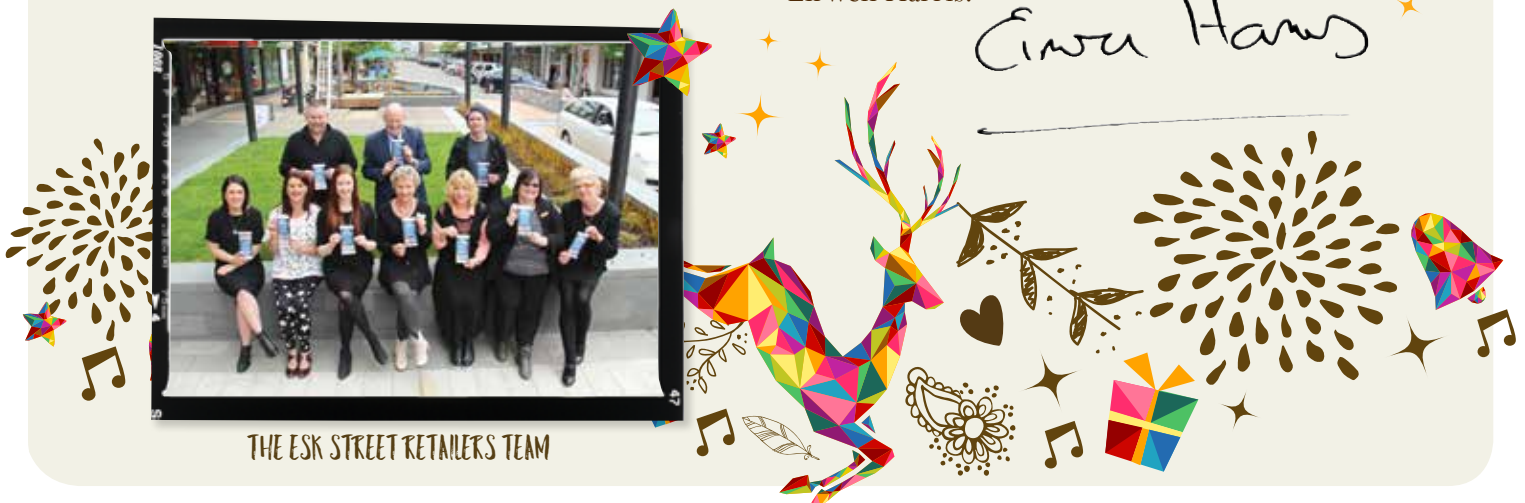
I wish you, your colleagues and families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Eirwen Harris.

Eirwen Harris



THE ESK STREET RETAILERS TEAM





CPD Catch-up BRAINSTORMING SESSION





Esk Street MARKET DAY

The City Centre Esk Street Christmas Market was held on Saturday 5 December and was a positive event to encourage people to stay in town and shop.

In a first for the Christmas Market, Esk Street was closed to traffic, making it even more pedestrian friendly for stalls and activities.

Thanks to Mike Sanford who ran the event and worked with retailers. Council provided \$11,000 funding to support the event.





Festive Lights GRAND OPENING

Mayor Tim Shadbolt opened Invercargill's new Christmas tree and lights in Wachner Place on Thursday 10 December. The opening was timed to coincide with a delegation visiting from Suqian, our Chinese sister city where the decorations were made; and also to coincide with late night shopping. Thank you to those retailers who stayed open and to those who managed to come to the Christmas lights opening. This is the first stage in new lights for our CBD and is something we can build on over the next few years.

