

LOOK OUT FOR CITY CENTRE NEWS IN THE EXPRESS



Graphic Designer Colleen Montgomery (right) and Eirwen Harris work on City Centre News.

Look out for a full page of City Centre News in The Southland Express on the first week of every month.

Starting on Thursday 3 March, the City Council's Communications Department will write, design and pay for the page, to let members of the public know what is going on in town – especially any news retailers may have.

Called City Centre News, it will run on page 2 of The Southland Express, once a month.

The first edition, to be published this week,

has articles on some new shops opening, others moving and changing faces.

The aim is to help retailers get information about new things into the community and encourage shoppers to come into town.

Please contact me with your news tips and suggestions: eirwen.harris@icc.govt.nz or 027 293 8680.

Repair and cleaning planned for Esk Street features

Council's contractors will be carrying out work in Esk Street over the next few weeks, doing some repair work on features installed as part of the Esk Street upgrade.

Roading Manager Russell Pearson said that fence barriers located in the long garden plots on Esk Street would be removed in coming weeks to allow the manufacturer to remedy problems with the painted surface and the posts. This would be completed at the manufacturer's cost, as part of their warranty. The manufacturer had extended their apologies for the inconvenience this will cause.

Other finishing work to be carried out includes the free-standing seating will be re-waxed, as the seats have weathered unnaturally. This should bring life back to the seats and keep them looking fresh for a much longer time. This work is also being completed by the manufacturer.

Council is also planning to stain the timber decks to keep them looking more like they did when first installed.

Discussion with retailers has highlighted the need to move regular cleaning to the area where people are sitting and drinking beverages outside; and Council will be arranging for its contractors to give more attention to the area.

Crescent upgrade provides 20 spots for free parking

Road resurfacing in The Crescent will see changes to parking that are designed to encourage shoppers to park near shops at that end of the city centre.

The twenty four narrow parks in the centre of The Crescent will have their parking meters removed and the lines redrawn. They will be replaced by 20 wider carparks, where motorists can park for up to ninety minutes, free of charge.

The old narrow spaces have seen motorists struggling to park and some damage to cars hitting the concrete blocks that hold the meters. By widening the spaces, removing the meters and providing free parking for ninety minutes, Council aims to encourage safer parking and higher turnover of people using the parks for shopping and businesses.

The parks on the south and north side of The Crescent will remain metered parks with a time limit of four hours – so people can still park there to go to the movies.

Any questions or comments please contact: Roothing Manager Russell Pearson on russell.pearson@icc.govt.nz or phone 211 1645.



Esk Street closed to vehicles for two events

Thank you to all of the Esk Street retailers who responded to the questionnaire about closing Esk Street for two events during Heritage Week.

We were delighted with the 38 responses we received from Esk Street retailers – with almost unanimous approval for closing the street for the late night shopping on Friday 11 March and unanimous support for closing Esk Street to traffic on the morning of Saturday 5 March for the veteran car display and rally.

The completed questionnaires went to the Infrastructure and Services Committee Meeting that was considering the road closures and helped them make their decision to close the road for both events.

In-brief



Throne Room Tattoo

Welcome to Heath Sellars who has opened Throne Room Tattoo in Kelvin Street. Mr Sellars has returned to Invercargill after working overseas in Australia, Spain and Germany. Not only are his tattoos works of art, but the layout of his studio is well worth a look.



Inside Out

Inside Out – the designer label recycling store with shops in Dunedin and Oamaru – has opened an Invercargill branch in Dee Street.

Owner Cindy King said the store will take selected garments – they must be New Zealand or international designer labels, preferably two to three seasons old and in pristine condition – and sell the item on behalf of the owner, for a 50% commission.

Welcome to Cindy and Invercargill crew member Mary Smith.

Voyant



Popular women's boutique Voyant is moving to Kelvin Street after five years in Esk Street and two years in Cambridge Place Arcade.

Owner Carolyn Nutsford said while she was sad to be leaving Esk Street, high rents there made relocating to Kelvin Street an attractive option.

Carolyn and her team, Kristin Gray and Kelly Blackford are excited about their move to 22 Kelvin Street – the former Eyecatchers Building.

Pascoes' people



Congratulations to Vincent McIvor on his appointment as the new manager of Pascoes The Jewellers.

He replaces Sharon Smith who, after 17 years as manager, decided to step down from the management role in December but continues to work at the business.

Southland Heritage Week 7-13 March



A reminder that 7-13 March is Southland Heritage Week with many activities planned for the City Centre.

For full details of Heritage Week Activities please see the Southland Heritage feature in this week's Southland Express newspaper.