

MOTORCYCLES RIDE INTO TOWN



SCOTT & JOCELYN O'DONNELL

Invercargill's city centre is soon to be the proud home of one of the largest and most diverse motorbike collections in the world featuring around 300 bikes. The collection will be housed at Classic Motorcycle Mecca, the new name of the historic building at 25 Tay Street.

Originally located in Nelson's New Zealand Classic Motorcycles, the collection was started by Tom and Heather Sturgess and features bikes built from 1902 to 2007.

Motorcycle Mecca will be opened before the Burt Munro Festival on November 24-27, says owner Jocelyn O'Donnell. "There was something (husband) Scott and I loved about the building. It's nice to see it being brought back to life. It's been exciting to uncover the old bricks, T&G wall linings and the like."

The O'Donnells have been upgrading the entire building and so far, during the five-month renovation project, they haven't had to bring in any building materials apart from upgrading toilets and other functional aspects.

The exposed brick walls make a strong statement and

all the T&G has been removed from the walls and reused in other areas.

Transport World was opened late last year and Motor Cycle Mecca will be a welcome addition to what has started as a successful model. While walking through the site the couple seem genuinely interested in bringing vibrancy back to the city centre as they talk about the changes to the building and discuss suggestions on reusing materials with their builders.

Scott recalls the building's former life as a sports shop that he visited as a boy. It housed a canteen in the rear and Tay Street was always busy, he says. The couple hope that the location of the world-class collection will help to draw people into the city centre and create more foot traffic.

What if Invercargill was to become known as the Motor City? Oamaru has claimed 'Steampunk' and Napier, 'Art Deco'. Jocelyn believes Invercargill has the opportunity to make 'motors' its point of difference.

"We have E. Hayes with Burt Munro, Bill Richardson Transport World and now Classic Motorcycle Mecca. We believe this can be built upon to give Invercargill that point of difference. I believe it is really important to have an overall vision and a big picture plan of what we would like our city to look like in 20 years' time," Jocelyn says.

For more information on Classic Motorcycle Mecca visit the website at www.transportworld.co.nz.

HOT Yoga brings light & warmth to Invercargill

Hot Yoga Invercargill has arrived. Popular in Europe and America, this adaptation of the Hindu discipline offers the benefits of detoxification, cardiovascular fitness and more.

Opened in May 2016, it's the second studio for business partners Donna Wikio, Lili Wyant and Emmanuelle Gomez, following the success of the Hot Yoga studio which was opened in Dunedin.

"We really wanted to bring some light and warmth to Invercargill. With Invercargill being such a cold and dark place in the winter we thought our business would be a perfect fit. We saw a need for the business and were excited to be able to offer something new and social for the community. We talked about Invercargill being a great place to open a studio and on a whim we decided to take a road trip," Lili says.

The new form of yoga has grown hugely in popularity and people swear by its health benefits, which include weight loss. So what is it? Put simply, it's yoga with the heat turned up! People undertake yoga in a very hot room: 38 degrees for Bikram yoga, 25 degrees for Yin yoga and 32 degrees for Hot Flow.

The classes are between 60 to 90 minutes and students are encouraged to relax and refocus if they feel too hot as the time in the heat offers optimal results.

After looking at what is now their current site at 115 Spey Street they knew it would provide the perfect location for a second business. "The studio provides accessibility to everyone in Southland. A number of new



STUDIO MANAGER MICHAL WOLKONSKI & INSTRUCTOR JEFF JONES

members plan yoga classes into their trip to town. The proximity to other businesses was also important. We really wanted to be part of a community and we've found exactly that since joining the city centre."

Lili says a great deal of investment had been put into the infrastructure and they were grateful for the support other local businesses had provided when shopping locally for the yoga studio.

"We even had a desk donated by Office Products Depot on Spey Street. Since opening the studio it's doing better than we had anticipated and we're really enjoying being a meeting space for people. We've noticed we have regular groups that come together and our Hot Yoga classes have become part of their social life," Lili says.

For information about Hot Yoga Invercargill or to sign up for an Intro Pass, visit their website at www.hotyogainvercargill.com.

Get in touch - your ideas will help us!

As many of you will be aware I have recently been appointed as the new City Centre Co-ordinator. I am looking forward to supporting retailers, businesses, and landlords in the CBD and am always available to you as a resource. I am here for you to have your say, share things with Council and keep you informed.

In order to get a really good understanding of

what's important to you, I am asking all City Centre stakeholders to take the time to fill out a short survey. This will allow me to gain insight and an understanding of what's important to you.

Please go to the following link to complete the online survey:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/cbdinspiration

It's my hope that we can start productive and innovative conversations that help us grow success in the CBD with collaboration and community drive. Please also feel free to contact me with any news stories, ideas or just to chat, at kari.graber@icc.govt.nz or phone 021 400 615 or (03) 211 8393.

- Kari Graber, City Centre Co-ordinator

Businesses support pop-up exhibition



STEPHEN DAVIES & CLAIRE BAKER

A well-attended central city opening for the rebranded Invercargill Public Art Gallery (formerly Anderson Park Art Gallery) was held on 23 August, showcasing the new pop-up exhibition titled Central Exchange.

The 32 pieces in the exhibit were chosen by 53 city centre businesses from the 90 made available from the Gallery's 1000-piece collection. The initiative has been a great way to trial an art gallery in the CBD and brings members of the community together.

Sited at 5 Don Street, the exhibition is the brainchild of Manager Stephen Davies and Assistant Manager Claire Baker. The site was donated by the ILT, building supplies were donated by PlaceMakers, a grant was provided by Creative Communities and help with advertising from Invercargill City Council. The innovative idea is a great example of what's possible in the city centre.

"It was great to get the businesses' perspectives and find what stands out to them. Local artists featured strongly and all of the pieces chosen ended were created by New Zealand artists," Claire says.

Artworks featuring kiwi themes were popular.

"People chose works they had a personal connection with. The exhibition Central Exchange will be open daily from 24 August until 8 September, weekdays 10am–5pm, and weekends 10am–4pm.

Free Events

The following events are free and the public are encouraged to attend:

- + Panel discussion:
"The future of art in Invercargill"
Saturday 3 September, 3–4pm,
5 Don Street.
- + Talk by Invercargill Public Art Gallery curators.
Monday 5 September, 5:30–6:15pm,
5 Don Street.



INVERCARGILL
PUBLIC ART
GALLERY

SoRDS you say?

The organisation has been referenced by community leaders, retailers, the Councillors and the media but what is it?

The Southland Regional Development Strategy or SoRDS as it is referred to by most, is a strategy that started with a discussion at the Mayoral Forum in late 2014. Southland, like much of New Zealand, is facing a major population decrease. By 2025 Southland's population is projected to be 1.8% of New Zealand's population, not 2.3% as we are currently.

The Mayoral Forum recognised Southland's need to offer a single-minded, united and action-oriented approach that provides Southland the best opportunity for a brighter future. SoRDS' overall objective is to provide Southland with 10,000 new residents by 2025. The hope is that this will offset the projected decline and ensure Southland - and Invercargill in particular - maintain the quality of life we all like and want.



Destination Attraction

In order to make this happen SoRDS has recognised that Southland needs a solid social and economic base. SoRDS believes the key to economic growth is skilled workers leading to vibrant communities, a better lifestyle and improved health, education and social services.

The planning objectives are being developed by members of the community in the form of nine action groups and will be presented back to the Mayoral Forum in October 2016. Once adopted it is expected the plans will be presented to the Invercargill City Council, Gore District Council, and Southland District Council.

For more information about the action teams or to subscribe to the SoRDS newsletter please visit www.sords.co.nz/



What to look out for from Council

Council looking at changes to café licences

The City Council issues café licences to all cafes in the CBD. These licences specify the area businesses can occupy on footpaths and any restrictions on the activities in that area. The current Licence does not include restrictions on smoking but there has been some discussion amongst residents and the Invercargill City Youth Council to make areas of the CBD smoke free. From September 2016 Council plans to seek input from businesses and shoppers to gauge their perspectives on whether placing a smoking restriction on café licences would be appropriate.

Be on the lookout for more information and a chance to provide feedback soon. If you have any questions please contact Kari Graber, City Centre Co-ordinator, by emailing kari.graber@icc.govt.nz