

## Concerns over illegal dumping on Oreti Beach and conservation land

**THE** Invercargill City Council is asking people to be vigilant after an increase in the number of people illegally dumping rubbish on Oreti Beach and local conservation land.

Council's Compliance Team Leader, Kerry Kawe, said Council staff alerted the Department of Conservation (DOC) to a large mountain of rubbish, which included about 100 vacuum cleaners which was dumped on DOC land near Tiwai.

"Illegal dumping has started to trend upwards. We see household waste, green waste, construction waste, and abandoned vehicles, which are commonly dumped at the North entrance to Oreti Beach. This waste is often dumped in parks and reserves around Invercargill and secluded places where offenders can dump without being seen.

"It impacts the immediate surrounding area and is a risk to the public's health and safety. The rubbish can leach toxins into the environment which is harmful to plant life, aquatic life, birds and mammals. The cost of clean-up can fall on ratepayers and taxpayers if the offenders aren't found and there is a risk public access will be restricted in future."

Offenders were liable for all related clean-up costs and could face infringements and prosecution under the Litter Act, Mr Kawe said.

"Do the right thing. Put household waste into red rubbish bins, recyclable items into yellow recycling bins, and take excess waste (household waste, green waste, hard fill) to the Invercargill Waste Transfer Station. Take excess recyclable items to the Invercargill Recycling Centre on Ettrick Street and unwanted vehicles to a scrap yard which will often pay for the scrap.

"We encourage people to report any instances of illegal dumping to Council on (03) 211 1777 and, if possible, record the registration plates of the vehicles involved," Mr Kawe said.



**DUMPED:** Council's Compliance Team Leader, Kerry Kawe, and Council's Animal Control Officer, Peter Jones, look over some of the rubbish, which included about 100 vacuum cleaners, which was recently dumped on conservation land near Tiwai.

## Free computer classes offered at Public Library

**A RANGE** of free computer training programmes, titled *Stepping Up*, are being run through the Invercargill Public Library, to help people build digital literacy and computer skills.

The programmes are a joint venture between the Library and the 20/20 Communications Trust, which administers the programmes. Programmes started on May 15 and are to be rotated indefinitely.

People must register online at [www.stepsupup.nz](http://www.stepsupup.nz).

There are eight subjects to choose from including: Computer Basics; Word Processing; Emailing; Social Networking; Ancestry; and Help with Navigating Government Websites (such as WINZ and RealMe). Each module, called a 'digital step', takes two hours to complete.

Invercargill City Libraries and Archives Learning

Connections Coordinator, Morgan Code, said the programmes would provide the community with access to free step-by-step computer courses, which would give people greater confidence in their computer skills.

"Digital steps allow patrons of all ages to be on their way to computer confidence and literacy. The *Stepping Up* courses are an excellent opportunity to gain new computer skills, meet new people, and learn, via a step-by-step instructional lesson from a friendly local instructor," Ms Code said.

**STEPPING UP:** Invercargill Public Libraries' Community Connections Co-ordinator, Jay Coote, teaches one of the *Stepping Up* programmes, which help people with digital literacy and computer skills.





## 2017 Invercargill Southland TrustPower Community Awards

**THE** Invercargill Southland TrustPower Awards are now open for nominations. The Awards recognise and reward voluntary groups and organisations for the valuable contribution they make to their community. The awards are run by TrustPower in 26 regions around the country in partnership with the councils in each area. It includes volunteer effort undertaken in the Invercargill City and Southland District Council areas.

Any voluntary group or community organisation is eligible for the Awards which recognize achievements or work undertaken by volunteers over the previous 12 months. There are five categories: Heritage and Environment, Health and Wellbeing, Arts and Culture, Sport and Leisure and Education and Child Development. Entries close on August 4.

Enter online at [www.trustpower.co.nz/communityawards](http://www.trustpower.co.nz/communityawards) or pick up a form at your local council office.

The Invercargill/Southland winners for 2016 was Koha Kai which went on to win the NN National Award. No project is too small to be nominated as long as it was undertaken by volunteers- not for individual volunteers.

## Youth Councillors attend Youth Forum



**GEARING UP:** Invercargill Youth Councillors (from left) Janaya Stevenson, Caitlin Smith, Hamish Muhl and Hayden Scott-Chambers take a break before boarding their plane.

**FOUR** Invercargill Youth Council members recently attended the South Island Youth Council Forum, hosted by Youth Voice Canterbury, at Blue Skies Youth Lodge in Kaiapoi.

Youth Councillors Hayden Scott-Chambers, Hamish Muhl, Caitlin Smith and Janaya Stevenson attended the Forum, which ran for the second year. It was attended by 120 young people from over 20 other youth council or youth participation organisations, across the South island.

Council's Community Project Development Co-ordinator, Oliver Mortensen, said multiple workshops were held across the two-day event including:

Code of Ethics; Treaty of Waitangi; Wellbeing and Resilience; Running Events; Social Media; and Engaging Pasifika Youth.

The keynote presentation was from the National Refugee Youth Council, the first type of Youth Council for refugee youth in the world.

"All of the youth councils across the South Island run events for youth in their communities and the delegates from Invercargill gained valuable points from others attending the workshops on how to improve the running of their events.

This information helped in the facilitation of the Youth Council's key event for 2017, It's L.I.T, which was held June 9," Mr Mortensen said.



## Council meetings

Notice is hereby given of the following meetings:

**Community Services**  
Monday, 19 June, 4pm

**Regulatory Services**  
Tuesday, 20 June, 4pm

**Infrastructure and Services Committee**  
Monday, 26 June, 4pm

**Finance and Policy Committee**  
Tuesday, 27 June, 4pm

**Events Committee**  
Thursday, 29 June, 9am

**Council**  
Tuesday, 4 July, 4pm

**Child, Youth and Family Friendly Sub-Committee**  
Monday, 17 July, 4pm

**Bluff Community Board**  
Monday, 24 July, 7pm

**Community Services Committee**  
Monday, 31 July, 4pm

The above meetings will be held in the Council Chambers / Committee Room, First Floor, Civic Administration Building, 101 Esk Street, Invercargill, except for the Bluff Community Board meeting, which will be held at the Bluff Municipal Chambers, Gore Street, Bluff.

- [www.icc.govt.nz](http://www.icc.govt.nz)

**Invercargill MATARIKI FESTIVAL**  
JULY 1<sup>ST</sup> 2017

LOTS OF ACTIVITIES & WORKSHOPS THROUGHOUT THE DAY & INTO THE EVENING

- ★ MARKET ON ESK STREET, 10AM-3PM
- ★ STARDOME AT THE SCOTTISH HALL, 1PM-7PM
- ★ KAPA HAKA & FERE SHOW
- ★ LIVE MUSIC DURING THE DAY, INTO THE EVENING

**FREE**

Check the Council website for more details, [www.icc.govt.nz](http://www.icc.govt.nz)

## Epic Invercargill

You have until July 31 to submit your photos. Thanks to those who've sent them in so far!

For more information visit [www.icc.govt.nz](http://www.icc.govt.nz)

## community news

For more about the Council's Community News items, contact the Communications Department on 03 211 1777.

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