

LIVING TREASURES IN OUR CITY



TAHU PARKINSON & OTI MURRAY

People from all walks of life and a variety of ethnicities are learning about Maori culture right here in the CBD thanks to Te Taonga Mauri.

Directors Oti Murray and Tahu Parkinson formed the Te Taonga Mauri Trust in 2016, and have been based in their Tay St premises for about a year.

Mr Murray said the vision for Te Taonga Mauri was to be a Maori hub with an open door policy, where people from all nations are welcome.

That vision included educating people about the Maori culture, but also using new technology and new ideas to revitalise how others saw Maori culture today.

"Our whole belief is about nurturing the people that come in, their health and wellbeing," Mr Murray said.

Mr Parkinson said while they were inspired by

the traditional Maori way, all of their teachings focused on being holistic.

"It's about working with nature, not against it," Mr Murray said.

The open space includes an art gallery and carving workshop, where anyone can have a go at traditional Maori arts, including weaving.

Being based in Tay St was all about location, location, location, and it meant more exposure for Te Taonga Mauri, Mr Murray said.

"We've had Indian ladies, South Africans, people from Hong Kong, plus your every-day Southlanders coming in."

Mr Parkinson said everything Te Taonga Mauri did was "out of necessity" after he and Mr Murray had identified a lack of knowledge about Maori culture and other social issues in Invercargill.

"It's about the arts, about being accessible,

about having a foundation where you can learn rather than having to leave the region, and it's about having a social impact," he said.

Te Taonga Mauri is already known for its stunning Maori art and carving, including two stunning pieces made from steel which are now in front of Ngai Tahu Fisheries in Bluff.

Mr Murray's carvings have also been showcased in exhibitions at the Southland Museum & Art Gallery.

The new and exciting project Te Taonga Mauri will soon be getting stuck into is the refurbishment of the Mataura and Districts Marae.

The project includes the marae's whareni, or meeting house, as well as associated buildings and land.

Check out our video at www.facebook.com/InvercargillCityCouncil/



KIRK LUBOS & JENELYN ABALOS

FOR THE LOVE OF FILIPINO FOOD

Invercargill's city centre just got a little more interesting.

Filipino friends Kirk Lubos, Jenelyn Abalos and Marta Manicia will open their restaurant, *Kabayan*, on Spey St next week.

The trio, who have been working together at Rowena Jackson for several years, will offer "unique, authentic recipes" from the Philippines.

The Philippines includes 7100 islands, many of which have their own dialects and their own delicacies, meaning *Kabayan* will have plenty of inspiration to draw from.

"In the Philippines, every activity, the centre is food, so that's us," Mr Lubos said.

Filipino food is healthy and very tasty, he said.

Opening on August 8, *Kabayan's* hours will be 10am – 8pm. Lunch and dinner will be on offer, with an option to dine in or take away.

"I love Invercargill, I've been here 10 years. I want to share our culture with the people," Mr Lubos said.

He started his life in New Zealand as a dairy farmer and later moved to Invercargill with his family.

Mr Lubos said he had always loved to cook, and had dreamed of opening a restaurant back in the Philippines.

Kabayan wasn't just about food though, it was about bringing something new to Invercargill, and adding vibrancy to the city, he said.

They were excited to be based in the CBD, because they wanted to prove Invercargill wasn't "dying" as so many people seemed to think, Mr Lubos said.

"We love Invercargill. We appreciate its simplicity, its diversity and the people."

SHARE YOUR IDEAS

Do you have an idea to help bring vibrancy to our City Centre?

A new website, called *Imagine Invercargill*, is a place where anyone can add, discuss and vote on ideas to add vibrancy to the city.

Every three years, Council develops a Long-Term Plan that is a ten-year forecast for the city and projects, and a thirty-year forecast for infrastructure.

It is the vision that the Council looks towards for 2018 – 2028 so it can prepare for what is to come.

The Council is looking to enhance the city and preserve its character while embracing innovation and change.

Two topics have already been uploaded to *Imagine Invercargill* to help get people started; one on welcome signs for the city, and another on whether the central business district should be smokefree.

While the ideas posted on the site will not necessarily be included in the Plan, it gives Council a fresh perspective and some ideas may be considered further.

To add your idea, or share your views on other ideas, visit www.imagineinvercargill.nz



A NEW IDENTITY FOR THE CITY CENTRE



Keep your eyes peeled for a new brand and identity for the city centre to be revealed to the public on August 17. City Centre Co-ordinator Kari Graber said she was extremely pleased with the work designer Tim Christie has been doing on the brand. "Tim spent a good amount of time in Invercargill getting to know the city and the people and I really think he has tapped into what makes Invercargill unique." The brand has been developed through workshops, online surveys and conversations with local residents and businesses. "The new brand and identity was developed first for residents to reinvigorate a sense of pride in our city centre and secondly to provide a strong message to the rest of the world that Invercargill is the place where you can achieve anything in business and life," Ms Graber said.



FIND OUT WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE CITY CENTRE

Tune into Radio Southland 96.4fm every Wednesday to listen to *City Centre News and Views*.

This is where you can find out what is happening in the city and listen to interesting interviews with the people that help give our city a heart. The weekly 15 minute show is hosted by Kari Graber and will air on Radio Southland 96.4FM at 5.30pm on Wednesdays. It will then replay at 11.30am on Fridays and 9.15am on Mondays.

The show will also be available to download as a podcast from www.radiosouthland.org.nz or www.icc.govt.nz/community/city-centre-news

Come listen to
DJ Phil in the Pocket
Park, Friday August
25 from 3-5pm.

INVERS TOP 5



PHIL MCCARTHY'S TOP FIVE PIES...

Phil McCarthy, self-professed pie lover from McCarthy Media and Communications, tells us his top 5 spots for a great Kiwi pie.

- FAT BASTARD PIES** – possibly the best pies in NZ. Pepper Steak not to be missed.
- MAKE 'N' BAKE** – Golden pastry with superb crimping and a lasagne-like mince filling.
- BAKERS BEYOND** – For lovers of a square pie, the mince and cheese is both aesthetically and holistically pleasing.
- MARCOS LUNCH BAR** – Chicken and mushroom, big chunky pieces of chicken in a rich sauce.
- MECCASPRESSO** – Minced lamb and cheese. Delicious.

