

## Knowledge shared for the love of dogs



Association of Blind Citizens New Zealand members from all over the country gathered with their guide dogs at the first ever Guide Dog Handler's Forum, held in Invercargill last week.

ASCOT Park Hotel went to the dogs last week at the first ever Guide Dog Handler's Forum, organised by the Association of Blind Citizens New Zealand.

Council Environmental Health Manager John Youngson and Compliance Team Leader Elle Dickson went along to speak to about 20 members from all over New Zealand about what Invercargill City Council does to assist the blind and visually impaired and their furry helpers.

Mr Youngson discussed Council's Equity and Access For People with Disabilities Policy, its Dog Control Bylaw, and touched on dog-friendly features

of Invercargill like the abundance of green spaces and the dog park.

"We want to make sure Invercargill is a positive and safe place for you walking around with your dogs," Mr Youngson said.

Miss Dickson gave attendees helpful tips on what to do if they encountered a wandering dog, an aggressive dog, or if a dog attacked their guide dog.

Attendees also gave some helpful feedback to Miss Dickson and Mr Youngson, and asked questions.

Some members detailed experiences they'd had in the past with dogs which had been trained as guard

dogs, and would rush at them from behind a fence.

While the dog could not reach the person, or their guide dog, being visually impaired meant the experience could be terribly upsetting and intimidating.

Two of the attendees had in the past had difficulty reporting dog attacks because they had been considered "unreliable" witnesses because they had not "seen" the attack due to their vision impairment.

Mr Youngson said there were other ways to investigate and follow-up on a dog attack, regardless of the victim's ability to identify a dog. He encouraged the attendees to report any attack or near miss, and as-

sured them that the Council would do all in its power to identify the dog responsible.

Further members made comments about how some footpaths and roads in Invercargill were not very vision-impaired friendly, and these concerns were passed on to Council's roading team.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Labradors and Golden Retrievers aren't the only breeds of dog which can be guide dogs! A German Shepherd and two Poodles were at last week's Guide Dog Handler's Forum.

## Rating Valuations updated for Invercargill and Bluff



**HAVE** you checked to see what your property's new rating valuation is yet? It's now available online at [icc.govt.nz](http://icc.govt.nz) and if you haven't received a letter yet, you should soon.

The three-yearly rating revaluations are carried out by Quotable Value (QV) on behalf of the Invercargill City Council. The updated rating values, once finalised, are used as one factor to help Council set rates for the next three years from 2018.

A Rating Valuation is the estimated price a property would sell for at the effective date of the rating revaluation, which is July 1, 2017, but it does not include chattels (movable personal items such as curtains and appliances).

Since the last rating revaluation as at July 1, 2014, property values have seen a moderate rise across the region by 13.4 per cent overall.

Some areas and suburbs have risen more than others, particularly in the Windsor area where land values have increased by 45 per cent, driven by good demand and a shortage of available land.

A new rating value may show a change in value, but it doesn't necessarily follow that future rates will proportionately change. When Council sets rates, a rating value is expressed as a percentage of the total value of all properties in an area.

New Council rates taking into account the new rating values will be effective from 1 July 2018.

If you don't have internet access, you can pop into the Civic Administration Building or Bluff Service Centre, and Customer Services staff will print off the information from Council's website for you.

Alternatively, both the Invercargill and Bluff libraries will have at least one computer designated for people to use to access the Council website and their rating valuation, using the Property Search tool via the website.

If property owners don't agree with their new rating value or if they have made refurbishments and improvements to their property that didn't require a building consent and believe this added value is not being reflected in the new rating value, they have the right to make an objection within a specific timeframe. The objection close-off date is November 24, 2017 and there will be information on how to object on the owners' notice. For more information on rating valuations and what they are for, visit [www.ratingvalues.co.nz](http://www.ratingvalues.co.nz)

It's important to remember that rating values are not designed to be used as current market valuations which can be provided to banks for use in raising finance or for other legal purposes. Current market valuations require an individual inspection of a property and full written report by a registered valuer.

Rating values are also not designed for insurance purposes to reflect the replacement value of a home – an insurance valuation is required for this purpose.



Deputy Mayor Rebecca Amundsen attends the remembrance ceremony to mark 100 years since the battle of Passchendaele.

## Passchendaele remembered

**REGARDED** as one of the deadliest days for New Zealanders in history, 950 Kiwis were killed or mortally injured in the Battle of Passchendaele on October 12, 1917.

Some were Southlanders and one worked for the then Invercargill Borough Council as a labourer when he first signed up for military service.

Rifleman James Arthur Findlay died "in the field" in the battle on October 12, 1917.

He is one of thousands of New Zealand soldiers with no known grave, but has been commemorated on the New Zealand memorial at Tyne Cot in Belgium.

His name is also listed on the Invercargill City Council honour board, which includes the names of all Council employees who served in World War I.

The honour board is located on the left side of the entrance to the Civic Theatre.

Seven Council employees were killed in action in WWI and one died at sea.

## Four bylaws out for Consultation

The Council is currently consulting on four bylaws: Water Supply, Cemeteries and Crematorium, Urupa (Maori Burial Site) Te Hay Mutunga, and Environmental Health. Submissions close on October 27 and may be made online or in writing.

### Bylaw 2008/6 – Water Supply

The Council is reviewing an existing Bylaw to enable it to continue to regulate the terms and conditions for the sale and supply of water through its reticulation network, it also needs to be able to impose restrictions on the supply of water and address breaches where these occur.

### Bylaw 2008/3 – Cemeteries and Crematorium

The Council is reviewing an existing Bylaw that addresses the issue of controlling cemeteries within the Invercargill district.

### Bylaw 2012/1 – Urupa (Maori Burial Site) Te Hau Mutunga

The Council is reviewing an existing Bylaw that addresses the issues associated with regulating the operation of an Urupa (Maori Burial Site) at 118 Mason Road. The Burial and Cremation Act 1964 (Section 16) expressly provides for a local authority to make Bylaws to control cemeteries.

### Bylaw 2008/1 – Environmental Health

The Council is reviewing an existing Bylaw that addresses issues associated with enhancing the safety and welfare of the public by minimising nuisance and adverse environmental health effects caused to the community, as far as is practicable through legislative means.

## Food Truck Friday is back



**SISTERS** Kylie McGinnis and Shelley Crooks have been operating their new business, The Tiny Coffeehouse for just eight short weeks, and they're absolutely loving it!

The pair are newcomers to Food Truck Friday and have been in attendance for the first two weeks of the event.

Miss McGinnis laughed as she said they decided to open the little caravan coffee shop because of a "midlife crisis". In reality, the pair believes in Invercargill, in great coffee, and in having a great time.

The little yellow caravan is hard to miss and is usually parked on Gala Street.

Miss McGinnis said their target clientele are busy mums or older people who prefer to stop for a quick cup of coffee while going about their daily business, rather than having to head into the busy CBD for their caffeine fix.

Food Truck Friday is on each week from 11am-2pm at Wachner Place. Food on offer ranges from traditional Thai and Filipino foods, to burgers, ice cream, sweet treats and coffee.

## Grand Civic Theatre delights visitors



A group of people begin their tour of the backstage area at the Civic Theatre Open Day, held on Sunday.

**DOZENS** of people took the chance to have a guided tour of what happens backstage at the Civic Theatre Open Day held on Sunday.

From how the fly system works, to where the stars of every show prepare before their big moment on stage, members of the public were able to see what is usually hidden behind the red velvet curtain.

The Theatre complex is a multi-focused community-owned facility, and the open day was also a chance to showcase the theatre and function rooms. The Theatre's Drawing Room was set up as a mock conference room, while the Victoria Room

was decorated and prepared for a wedding.

Local businesses also showcased their products during the open day.

The Civic Theatre complex has a Category 1 classification from the New Zealand Historic Places Trust which means that the building is of national significance. Built in 1906, the Civic Theatre underwent a \$15.8 million upgrade in 2004-2005. The work turned the complex into a much-applauded performing arts and events facility that seats 1015 people. It features state-of-the-art equipment making it one of the best theatres in New Zealand for live performance.



## Council meetings

Notice is hereby given of the following meetings:

**Community Services Committee**  
Tuesday, 24 October, 4pm

**Regulatory Services Committee**  
Wednesday, 25 October, 4pm

**Extraordinary Council**  
Monday, 30 October, 3.30pm

**Infrastructure and Services Committee**  
Monday, 30 October, 4pm

**Finance and Policy Committee**  
Tuesday, 31 October, 3pm

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)

**DON'T MISS OUT!**

Apply early for Summer event special licences

If you're holding an event this summer that will require a special alcohol licence, make sure to plan ahead and apply as soon as possible or you risk missing out.

Applications now need to be lodged at least 20 working days before the event is held (although exceptions may be made for unforeseen events, such as funerals).

Working days do not include weekends, statutory holidays or any day from 20 December and 15 January (inclusive).

**Special Licence Application Deadlines:**  
 December 2017 event - apply by 3 November 2017  
 January 2018 event - apply by 17 November 2017  
 February 2018 event - apply by 8 December 2017

Don't risk missing out - apply for your special alcohol licence in plenty of time.

**Invercargill City Council**  
 Phone 03 211 1777 • [dlc@icc.govt.nz](mailto:dlc@icc.govt.nz) • [www.icc.govt.nz](http://www.icc.govt.nz)

**Trick or treating IN THE CITY!**

**How to have a great time and make sure Trick or Treating is fun for everyone:**

**Trick or treating is only between 1-3pm on Saturday, October 28**

- Only go to the shops with posters in the window
- This event is for primary school children and younger
- Children must be dressed up and accompanied by an adult
- The Invercargill Public Library will be hosting a spooky photo booth on Saturday 28th from 12-3pm
- Make sure to only take one prize or treat. Leave some for other ghouls and goblins

**MOST OF ALL, MAKE SURE TO HAVE FUN!**

THANKS TO OUR TRICK-OR-TREAT, TREAT SPONSOR THE WAREHOUSE. **thewarehouse**

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

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