

## Suqian teacher to experience life in Invercargill

Invercargill City Council is getting ready to welcome Ms Yinzi Tong, who is the 2018 staff exchange person from Suqian, Invercargill's sister city in China.

**MS TONG**, whose English name is Sheila, arrives in Invercargill on Friday, and will be home hosted by PA to the Chief Executive, Michelle Sievwright, during her five-week stay.

An experienced English teacher, Ms Tong will be based at ILT Enrich, where she will help the students and staff further their Mandarin studies, plus introduce them to Chinese culture, including art and cooking. During the school holidays, she will visit other organisations in Invercargill, plus work at ILT Kidzone, where the theme this year is Around the World.

Former Suqian Mayor Wang in 2017 offered to send a Mandarin teacher to Invercargill so students here could learn the language.

Ms Tong is the second Suqian staffer to visit Invercargill. The first was Zhang Yue (Lucy), who visited in 2017 and was also home hosted by Michelle.

Ms Tong is married and has a 15-month-old daughter, who will remain in Suqian with her family during the exchange.



Currently employed as an officer in the Merchants and Economic Development Bureau, Suzhou-Suqian Industrial Park, Ms Tong previously worked as a teacher. She has taught English to middle school students and also business English in college.

Prior to this she spent three years studying in Australia and completed a Master's degree at the University of Sydney.

"At that time, I planned to travel to New Zealand, but the earthquake happened. Therefore, my trip was cancelled," Ms Tong said.

"Thanks to the communication between Suqian and Invercargill, I have the chance to visit New Zealand and get to know the city of Invercargill. I will try my best to help the people in Invercargill learn more about Chinese culture and Suqian City," she said.

Ms Tong leaves China in the summer and is heading into an Invercargill winter – something Lucy warned her about. We are going to teach her about the importance of a warm coat and merino clothing!



## How safe and warm is your home

How many 10-year smoke alarms are installed in your home?

Do you have ceiling and underfloor insulation? Call Awarua Synergy, the Southland Warm Homes programme service provider, for a quote.

Do you own a rental property? A subsidy that landlords can access to ensure their rental properties are insulated may be available to you.

**Freephone 0800 927 676 • 0800 WARM SOUTH**



## Rugby Park ready to welcome the French

**THE** Highlanders take on the French Barbarians at Rugby Park Stadium on Friday night and Council's IVEM staff have been working to get the venue "match fit" for the game.

IVEM Manager Kate Feaver said it was quite a job to get the Stadium ready, with a large checklist of things to do.

It was a case of theatre staff donning their old clothes, rolling up their sleeves and getting on with the cleaning. For the grandstand seats they were assisted by a local church group.

Other jobs included:

- Cleaning all the seats outside the corporate suites. These were cleaned by hand by the theatre staff;
- Checking all toilets were cleaned and well stocked;
- Checking all corporate boxes were fully fitted out and cleaned;
- Checking all windows were cleaned;
- Removing leaves around the venue;
- Ensuring the field was correctly marked out ready to go.

Come Friday night everything will be clean and looking its best ready for a great battle on the field!

## Attention on city centre verandahs

**BY JUDY CHRISTIE**

**COMPLIANCE** Officers are writing to owners of city centre buildings where the verandahs and spouting need some work, to remind them of their responsibilities.

The Invercargill CBD has its share of wind and rain, and we want shoppers and visitors to be able to walk safely and under shelter! For this reason, our District Plan requires buildings in most parts of the city centre to be provided with verandahs across the footpath.

It is no good in the middle of winter if verandahs and spouting are in a poor state of repair. A Bylaw came into force in November 2017 which reminds owners and/or occupiers of commercial buildings that they cannot allow their buildings to be in such a state that they cause a public nuisance.

The Bylaw requires that verandahs over a public right-of-way must not allow water to overflow onto the right-of-way and they need to be maintained to keep out vermin or the nesting of birds. All building spouting must also be maintained to prevent blockages that would cause water to overflow.

Many of the posts holding up verandahs are heritage features which add interest to the city centre. Keep an eye out for these interesting features when you next take a stroll through the town.





# Kidzone... less than a month away!

BY CLAIRE BLAU

**VENTURE** Southland's 14th annual ILT Kidzone Festival is now less than a month away.

The six-day family festival will be held these school holidays at James Hargest College senior campus from 11-16 July. It is expected to attract 11,000 people from across Southland and other parts of New Zealand.

This year's Around the World theme will present more than 150 fun, interactive activities and games, many of which will explore multiculturalism and diversity through sports, arts and crafts, technology, food, science, music, performance and more.

The theme is timely with the resettlement of the

Colombian refugees and will be an opportunity for families to not only learn about other cultures from around the world, but to also celebrate their own. Part of the event's success is the number of volunteers involved - about 100 per day.

Volunteer applications are continuing to come in after visits to students at their high school assemblies to talk about the benefits of volunteering and in being part of ILT Kidzone.

Venture Southland is currently working on event promotion and ticket sales whilst co-ordinating management staff, community services, food vendors and external contractors in readiness for the event.

## Tractor replacement In brief

**THE** Clifton Waste Water Treatment Plants screening tractor is being replaced with a Merlo supplied by Power Farming. This vehicle will perform a number of functions that the old tractor is unable to do to

assist the operation of the plant. It has the ability to work as a front-end loader as did the old tractor, and can also work as a forklift capable of reaching the top of the trickling filters and digesters if required.



## Sister City Painting Contest

**THREE** colourful and stimulating entries have been received so far for the Jiangsu Province Painting Competition. Please encourage children aged 4–12 years to complete an A3 sized painting/drawing/collage or other art work with the theme Dreams of the Future and deliver to the ICC building by 30 June.



## Water main renewal

**COUNCIL** contractor Fulton Hogan is replacing the 300 mm diameter asbestos cement water main on Humber and Wicklow Streets and Elles Road, and renewing all property connections.

During the next week, Humber Street between Avon Road and Frome Street will be closed to through traffic. Access will be permitted for residents. There will be shutdowns to the water supply, which will be advised in advance to affected residents.

## Clifton work enters new phase

**DOWNER** Construction is to start work on Monday at the Clifton Waste Water Treatment Plant on the next stage of the Digester and Screening Renewal Project. This work is expected to be completed by the end of December 2018. The project includes reconstructing the concrete septage reception pad and connecting road ways, the building

of a screening structure for the new Huber sludge screen and wash press, rehabilitation of the sludge balancing tank, and the construction of a new odour bed filter. Reception of tankered waste will be affected and will require careful management to ensure customers' requirements can continue to be accommodated.