

Council endorses ICC Gifts Policy

BY CLARE HADLEY
Chief Executive

Council staff are now subject to a Gifts Policy for Council Officers, adopted by the Executive Leadership Team and endorsed by Council at its meeting this week.

THE Executive Leadership Team (ELT) recently reviewed the approach to the receipt of gifts by staff. Let me make it clear that the offer or acceptance of gifts does not necessarily mean that someone has done, or is likely to do, anything wrong.

However, a gift policy increases the transparency around the giving and receipt of gifts to staff and will help to promote the confidence of the public in the impartiality of the Council administration.

The giving and receiving of gifts, although an accepted practice in the community, raises particular issues for public sector employees. Firstly, it increases the risk of a perception there may be a conflict of interest in the performance of a public duty by Council staff. Secondly, there is the potential that the receipt of gifts may be a criminal offence amounting to the bribery of a public official. To protect the integrity of Council processes and prevent the risk of criminal proceedings Council has introduced a robust system to ensure that it manages these risks.

The new Policy sets out the roles and responsibilities of staff when a gift is offered or received. The Policy sets out the criteria to be used by staff when electing to accept or decline a gift - for example cash or cash-like benefits must be refused.



The recording of the offer or acceptance of gifts is made easier through a centralised register for staff. The purpose of recording gifts (whether or not they are accepted) is to enable Council to monitor the activity, to improve transparency, and to ensure it is properly managing the risks associated with this practice.

Education in relation to the new Policy and process will be occurring within Council over the following weeks and the Policy will be available on the Council's intranet.

While the policy establishes certain types and values of gifts which are not to be accepted by staff, it acknowledges that the giving and receiving of gifts is part of everyday practice. Council policy is clear that staff should not accept gifts or benefits where there is a risk of a conflict of interest; for example Council suppliers should expect that any offer of a gift or benefit will be declined during or leading up to a tender process.

If there are any questions in relation to this policy, contact **Policy Analyst Andrew Cameron** on extension 8457.

Welcoming Communities

With the focus on Welcoming Communities, we thought we'd ask ICC staff members who have moved to Invercargill from other countries to share their experiences.

This is the second in the series:

Name: Colin McManus, ESG

Nationality: Scottish

Why did you come to Invercargill?

After leaving the British Army we decided we wanted to move from the UK, my wife Billie-Jean was training to be a midwife, so we looked into immigrating to Canada, Australia or New Zealand. Billie-Jean was in contact with Middlemore staff regarding job opportunities, how to apply for visas etc and had a job interview when they came to London. We attended an expo in London which was recruiting for overseas workers and we gave out our CVs to all employers we thought could use our skills. We spent a lot of our time speaking with recruitment staff for Southland, she discussed cost of living, lifestyle and similarities to Scotland which we found very intriguing. Billie-Jean was successful in her interview for Middlemore and was offered a position there, she also had contact from several other hospitals but after initially accepting the job in Middlemore she was offered a job in Southland Hospital which we thought suited our family best. We began our residency applications and soon found ourselves making a life change.



Colin McManus receiving his New Zealand Citizenship from Mayor Tim Shadbolt this week.

What do you like most about living in Invercargill, New Zealand?

We have only lived in Invercargill, so what we love as a family is how friendly and helpful everyone is, the crime rate here is low and this helped us on choosing Invercargill, plus the sizes of the sections and houses.

What's been the biggest change for you?

Living without our family network to support us with our young family was the biggest change and a huge challenge, we were lucky enough to make friends very quickly who helped out and then we got a nanny until the kids were old enough to be left at home. We miss the variation of shops and restaurants (e.g. multiple choices or the competition on price).

What do you think is misunderstood about your culture?

Many Kiwis have a Scottish heritage so they know lots about our culture, sometimes more than we do.

What do you miss most while living in New Zealand?

Family and friends (time difference makes it hard to keep in touch).

What is your favourite Kiwi food?

Kiwi burgers (without the Kiwi).

What advice would you give to Kiwis about welcoming newcomers?

Kiwis are very friendly and open and want to know all about you when they first meet you, we call this nosy where we are from, just give us time to open up and it will be all good!

Paul Horner to resume building role full-time

ICC'S Paul Horner is to step away from his role as Manager of the Southland Museum and Art Gallery and resume, full-time, his other role as Building Assets Manager.

Director of Works and Services Cameron McIntosh said that Paul had made the decision because there were a number of building developments in the Council's Long-term Plan with which he would be involved in the near future.

"Now that the Museum Trust Board has engaged a consultant to assist them with future plans, Paul believes

this is an appropriate time for new leadership to help see the project through.

"While his heart is very much with the museum and its loyal team, Paul sees this as a good opportunity for fresh eyes."

Mr McIntosh said the SMAG Trust Board was in the process of developing a new strategic plan.

Paul would remain in the role during a transition period and Council staff would work with the Board about future requirements, he said.



Latest rates data online

THE rates search service available on the Council website has been updated with the 2018-2019 rates data.

Here's the direct link:

www.icc.govt.nz/rates/rates-search/

The search tool provides details about the property, the valuations for the property from 2011 to 2017, the current rateable value, the annual rates and the instalment amounts.

Monthly updates will be provided for the current rating year, thanks to Kirsty Bell and her Finance Support Services team.

Deadlines for quarterly payments:

- 31 August 2018
- 30 November 2018
- 22 February 2019
- 31 May 2019

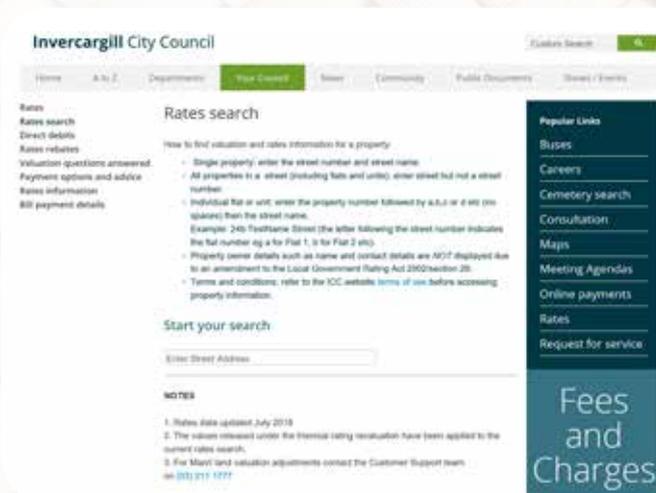
Meanwhile the rates rebates page has also been updated for the 2018-2019 rating year.

Other rates-related information on the website includes direct debits, valuations Q and A, payment options and advice, bill payment details and other rates information.

NOTE: The Council's Governance Statement (which explains how the Council works and how it involves the public in decision-making) has been amended and is online here:

www.icc.govt.nz/your-council/governance/

The Governance section also includes information about the Council Vision, Code of Conduct, Standing Orders and the Coat of Arms.



The screenshot shows the Invercargill City Council website's 'Rates search' page. The page includes a navigation menu with 'Home', 'A to Z', 'Departments', 'Your Council', 'News', 'Community', 'Public Documents', and 'What's on'. The main content area is titled 'Rates search' and provides instructions on how to find valuation and rates information for a property. It lists search criteria such as 'Single property: enter the street number and street name', 'All properties to a street (including flats and units): enter street but not a street number', and 'Individual flat or unit: enter the property number followed by a/b/c or d etc (spaces) then the street name'. There is a 'Start your search' section with a text input field for the 'Street Address'. A sidebar on the right contains 'Popular Links' such as 'Buses', 'Careers', 'Cemetery search', 'Consultation', 'Maps', 'Meeting Agendas', 'Online payments', 'Rates', and 'Request for service'. At the bottom, there is a 'Fees and Charges' section with a list of notes: '1. Rates data updated July 2018', '2. The values released under the previous rating consultation have been applied to the current rates search.', and '3. For Māori land valuation adjustments contact the Customer Support team on (07) 311 1277'.

Museum staff on the road to share inspiration

BY KIMBERLEY STEPHENSON
Collections Manager

An exciting aspect of museums is the way in which they create opportunities for taonga from the past to intersect with contemporary art and design practices. Far from being mere storehouses of things, museums are storehouses of ideas and inspiration – offering a way to learn from our tīpuna (ancestors) through the items that they made, wore or used.

One contemporary creative practice to which the museum collection has deep ties is rāranga, a form of weaving that uses harakeke (New Zealand flax). For a number of years, the museum has had the privilege of working alongside Te Wānanga o Aotearoa to connect each of its Level 2 Kāwai Raupapa classes to the beautiful examples of raranga held under the roof of Niho o te Taniwha.

This collection, which spans 500 years of creative practice, includes a number of large kākahu (cloaks), alongside piupiu, poi, and kete. These visits are both a wonderful opportunity to ensure the ongoing accessibility and relevance of these items, which are difficult to display in the galleries due to their susceptibility to rapid light damage, and a chance to build our own knowledge of the collection through listening to the kōrero (discussion) that comes out of these interactions.

While the closure of the museum building to the public means that we can no longer host groups in this manner, it has not dampened our commitment to facilitating engagement between the collection and the community.

In May Visual Arts Curator, Ari Edgecombe, and myself took our show on the road, presenting an illustrated talk at Te Pakiaka (part of SIT's downtown campus) to the latest intake of students and their kaiako (teachers). While not the same as being able to welcome people into the collection store and have the items physically present, we hope that activities like this will continue to nurture the relationship between these taonga and those breathing ongoing life to the tradition that they represent.



Whaea Winie Solomon, kaiako at Te Wānanga o Aotearoa.
Photo: Courtesy of Liane Brookland.



Examples of items made as part of the Kāwai Raupapa programme.
Photo: Courtesy of the author.

Our brand appearing one country at a time!

THIS week we've received two photos of Invercargill's city centre brand in two very different places around the world. The first is in Tyne Cot Cemetery in Belgium and the second in Blue River Dairy's head office in China. A few months ago we received a picture of one in Greece!

Invercargill City Council shared a post
Published by Hannah McLeod · Just now ·

Some of you may recall photos we posted late last year when Marijke came to visit us, and meet the family of an Awarua farmer, John Stevens, who was killed in action during World War 1. Marijke takes the time to visit and care for the kiwi soldier's final resting place at Tyne Cot Cemetery in Belgium. Check out the lovely message she has sent us below 😊

Marijke Vandevyvere ▸ Invercargill City Council
5 hrs

Dream big.
That's what I did when I sent my first email exactly two years ago today to the City Council of Invercargill.
Ms. Wendy McArthur helped me in my personal quest for the roots of a Southland soldier (John Wardlaw Stevens) who died on Christmas Eve 1917 and is buried at Tyne Cot in Flanders.
And the result was amazing.
I'm still so grateful for all what happened since then and with a lot of nostalgia I think back to the beautiful time we spent in Invercargill last December together with the Stevens family.



Blue River Dairy Head Office, China

Five star review for Building Services

ICC'S Council's Building Services staff have received a five star review from a happy customer on Council's Facebook page. It was so good we just had to share...

Eileen Marjorie Finch reviewed Invercargill City Council - ⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐
12 July at 4:49 PM ·

I feel the need to share my experience dealing with the building team at ICC. I cant thank you guys enough,you helped me traverse the documentation and were quick to answer any questions I had along the way.
I had some eleventh hour hiccups because of my own poor planning and the team helped me navigate through.
Thanks so much.

Sophie's story



Sophie Ineson giving her presentation at Tuesday's Council meeting.

Miss Sophie Ineson from Room Six at St Theresa's School spoke in the Public Forum at a Council meeting earlier this week about the impact Rowena Jackson has had on dance in Southland. Nine -year-old Sophie asked Council to name a dressing room at the Civic Theatre after Rowena Jackson. Councillor Darren Ludlow explains:

Sophie's presentation to council was captivating and inspirational. Councillors were genuinely moved and appeared keen to support her request – to have a dressing room at the Civic Theatre named after Prima Ballerina Rowena Jackson. Essentially the decision will rest with IVEM (Invercargill Venue and Events Management), but the directors were all present and appeared to approve of the suggestion.

Sophie was asked which dressing room would be appropriate. Her response was the larger dressing room upstairs with dance bars and mirrors – known as “the rehearsal room”.

I committed to take her suggestion to our next monthly meeting, but the next day the IVEM Directors and our Chief Executive expressed unanimous support – which means it should be a simple formality.

Sophie created an impressive picture board with some well-researched information, and I think it would be appropriate for some of that to be captured and presented on the walls of the dressing room to really tell the story of why that space carries the name of Rowena Jackson.

Commemorative tree and plaque to celebrate Waikiwi Lions Club 50th anniversary

ON Saturday, 21 July, Council's Parks and Reserves staff and Waikiwi Lions Club members undertook planting of a monkey puzzle tree and installed a plaque at Donovan Park to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Waikiwi Lions as a service club in Invercargill.



Word on the Street Facebook milestone

COUNCIL'S newest Facebook page, Word on the Street, reached a milestone on Friday evening, when it ticked over to more than 1 000 likes!

While some posts to the page will be seen by people who haven't "liked" the page, keeping an eye on the "likes" is one way of measuring how many people have actively sought out the page or want to be regularly updated by it.

You can check out Word on the Street here: www.facebook.com/invercargillwordonthestreet

Gathering this many followers proves there is an appetite within the community for the type of information Word on The Street provides, and people appreciate the regular updates.

A big thanks must go out to Petra Molloy and the wider engineering services team, who work hard to get the information on the page!

Gemma, the 'friendly brand' ambassador

BY GEMMA CRAWFORD
Community Development Officer

WHEN I first heard about the role going at ICC for a Community Development Officer, I couldn't believe my luck! The role aligned nicely with what I believe in and the aspect of engaging with the community was right up my alley. In particular, my role on the fifth floor deals with the Friendly Brand.

The Friendly Brand was started in 2012, following the independent, "Point of Difference" report carried out in 2010, by Mark Blumksy and Elliot Kirton from CDA NZ. This report highlighted the many points of difference Invercargill has in comparison to other cities around the country. The item that stood out for the Council on that report was that Invercargill is a "great, friendly place to raise a family" which I can totally vouch for, now that I have been bringing up my son here over the last seven years.

The Child, Youth and Family Friendly subcommittee of the Community Services Committee was formed, the Child Youth and Family Friendly Policy developed and the Friendly Brand



created. The brand works with businesses, services and events that are recognised as family friendly by the wider public. As the brand coordinator, I meet with the organisation and discuss a set of values endorsed by Council that address the requirements of a family using that facility/event. These include but are not limited to: unisex baby changing and breast feeding areas; healthy food options being available; smoke free; wheelchair/pram accessibility, etc.

Over the last 12 months, the following businesses and events have been branded:

Businesses

- Family Works Invercargill
- Plunket Invercargill
- Barnardos Early Learning Centre
- Sport Southland

Criteria met but yet to hold presentation:

- Barnados Invercargill

Events

- Matariki Festival
- ILT Kidzone
- Lego-O Orienteering Event
- Polyfest
- ASB Colour Rush
- Disc Golf Launch
- Invercargill Toy Library Christmas Function
- Southland Rocks:
- Christmas Rock Hunt
- South Alive Guinness World Record Attempt
- Summer Reading Challenge
- Barnardos Fun Day
- Murihiku Marae Fun Day
- Children's Day at the Fire Station
- Surf to City

Do get in touch if you know of any business or program that aligns with the Friendly values or could benefit from hearing about it. Check out

www.icc.govt.nz/community/friendly-brand/