

City Centre Heritage

COUNCIL is addressing its obligations in relation to heritage buildings, with a particular focus on the City Centre. Part of this process is the development of a City Centre Heritage Strategy.

We hope that this strategy will guide positive action, and recognise the Council's roles as well as those of other parties, such as heritage groups, landowners and the community.

The actions in the strategy may include reviewing our rules relating to heritage buildings or investigating other less regulatory methods, such as the development of incentives or assistance packages.

We are lucky to have the involvement of QuakeCoRE, which is assisting us with background research and analysis work. QuakeCoRE is a Centre of Research Excellence funded by the New Zealand Tertiary Education Commission. Its overall focus is on the earthquake resilience of communities.

A researcher from QuakeCoRE was in Invercargill recently, and met a number of owners of City Centre



heritage buildings. A focus group discussion was also held with other members of the community. The conversations have provided a wealth of information, building on the feedback from consultation back in March.

This information will not only help develop the Invercargill City Council's response to heritage related issues, but is part of national research and will hopefully help to inform policies at a more central level.

Kumagaya Nishi High School visit



DEPUTY Mayor Rebecca Amundsen welcomed visiting students and staff from Kumagaya Nishi High School to Council Chambers earlier this week.

During their seven-night visit to Invercargill, the 25 students and two teachers are based at James Hargest College, and will experience plenty of what Southland and Invercargill has to offer!

This year marks 25 years of the sister-city relationship between Invercargill and Kumagaya, Japan.

Invercargill Library hits the Gold Coast

BY ANGELA BAIN
(Library Collections Team Leader)

THREE Invercargill City Libraries & Archives staff have recently returned from a fantastic conference experience on the Gold Coast in Australia.

From 30 July – 2 August, the Asia-Pacific Library & Information Conference (APLIC) was held at the Gold Coast Convention Centre. This brought together librarians and other information professionals from New Zealand, Australia, Singapore, and beyond, for our very first combined conference.

Two of our staff (Bonnie Mager and Andrew Eng) presented at the conference, and I was lucky enough to be awarded a scholarship to attend from one of our library suppliers (James Bennett-Baker & Taylor).

Bonnie and Andrew's session was entitled *Keeping up with the Librarians: Staying relevant in the age of social media*. It was attended by a substantial crowd keen to learn how our library team has built a large following, great community engagement, and brand awareness through social media - particularly Facebook. And yes, that infamous Kardashian photoshoot hit the limelight again.

I may be slightly biased, but I believe this was one of the best-presented sessions of APLIC 18, with lots of great advice shared in an entertaining and engaging fashion. Bonnie and Andrew received excellent feedback about it afterwards, with dozens of people stopping to congratulate them.

Invercargill Library even scored a mention in the closing keynote address by "Rockstar Librarian" Michael Stephens, who held our social media success up as a great example of how to personalise library marketing.

Our stunning library carpet-inspired T-shirts were also



Andrew and Bonnie demonstrate their excellent selfie skills.



Bonnie, Andrew, and Angela model the t-shirts based on the old carpet from the library, which were a hit at the conference.

a hit and we were asked to pose for a photo for the #APLICfashion Twitter feed. I even had an Australian librarian ask for a selfie with me to send to their colleague who was going to be "so jealous" they had met someone wearing the T-shirt they had seen on our Facebook page!

Overall, we had a fantastic four days of hearing about the amazing things libraries are doing across the Asia-Pacific region and networking with some awesome people. We have come back inspired with lots of ideas about how we could improve various aspects of our own library services. Watch this space!

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 third in the series:



Name: Gama Rajapaksa

Nationality: Originally Sri Lankan, now New Zealander.

Why did you come to Invercargill? I got a job working as an engineer in the Invercargill City Council.

What do you like most about living in Invercargill, New Zealand? Great place to live and bring up children, more relaxed and secure life and convenient lifestyle with less traffic. Easy access to world-famous tourist destinations.

What has been the biggest change for you? Adapting to the climate, especially the colder winter months.

What did you find unusual about Kiwi culture? The Kiwi accent was hard to grasp initially and some Kiwi terms.

What do you think is misunderstood about your culture? That Sri Lankans have similar traditions to Indian culture but not to Kiwi culture. New Zealand culture has been broadened by globalisation



and immigration from the Pacific Islands, East Asia and South Asia.

What do you miss most while living in New Zealand? Family who are still living in Sri Lanka and some cultural events and traditions held there.

What is your favourite Kiwi food? Fish and chips and different pies.

What advice would you give to Kiwis about welcoming newcomers? Be open to new cultures and people of different countries.

2019 New Zealander of the Year Awards open for nominations

THE New Zealander of the Year Awards recognise and celebrate New Zealanders and organisations that are doing great things that make our world just a little easier to negotiate.

The categories are:

- Young New Zealander of the Year (15-30 years)
- Senior New Zealander of the Year (67 years and over)
- New Zealand Local Hero of the Year
- New Zealand Innovation of the Year
- New Zealand Community of the Year

In the past Southland has been represented in most of these categories, including the wonderful South Alive programme and several individuals.

Visit www.nzawards.org.nz/nominate to find out more and to submit a nomination!



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