



*Kari Harris-Tilson (left), Joanna Fife and Lara Colyer are part of the team digitising the Council's property files.*

## Property file milestone reached

There are more than 30,000 files stored in the Civic Administration Building containing information on every property in Invercargill, right back to the early days of the city. If we were ever involved in anything to do with a property, the information should be there.

### BY JUDITH CHRISTIE

**WE** are celebrating a milestone this month, as the four Property File Officers employed by Council have processed and scanned 10% of our total property files. This is part of a massive project to put all of our files into digital form.

The aim of making all property files electronic is to ensure that information on properties is accurate, safely stored electronically, and readily available to users.

It's a team approach which involves many different departments, including the Property Database Officers and the Records Department.

Some residential files can be turned around in a day but

many, particularly those for large commercial buildings, can take up to a week to process as these files are usually very large (in some instances boxes and boxes) and include roll plans. Every page of every file must be examined, put into order, and then scanned.

Most of the scanning work we currently undertake comes from requests for Land Information Memoranda, buildings within the city centre, and when land is subdivided.

The time is coming when, instead of sitting in front of a paper file, our customers will check their electronic devices or be handed a memory stick!



## Working out in Queens Park



• Pull-up Rack and Parallel Bar



• Leg Press and Arm Wheel



• Push Chair and Pull Chair



• Space Walker and Cross Trainer

**THE** Fitness Trail Equipment in Queens Park has been upgraded! There are now eight great activities on four pieces of equipment, enhancing the opportunities to work out along the trail:

- Pull-up Rack and Parallel Bar
- Leg Press and Arm Wheel
- Push Chair and Pull Chair
- Space Walker and Cross Trainer

The equipment is located along the George Street Track opposite the castle.

The equipment will be well used, especially by people who want to stay active without running a marathon!





*Dot Mulla, Untitled, 2017.  
Private collection.*

## When science and art collide

Art and science have a long, entwined history. For millennia, scientists have called on artists to record and communicate their discoveries through the mediums of painting and drawing.

**BY KIMBERLEY STEPHENSON**  
Collections Manager - Southland Museum and Art Gallery

A **WONDERFUL** intersection between these two worlds happened within our very own galleries earlier this year when Sandra Anderson, a Field Ecologist from the University of Auckland, made a visit to Invercargill and encountered Dot Mulla's photographs of Queens Park.

Sandra's research focuses on ecosystems and how they function, what holds them together and what happens when parts of them change. This interest has drawn her to study the role that native birds play in New Zealand ecosystems, their importance in pollinating flowers and dispersing seeds, and what happens to the forests when those birds disappear.

The research that she has already

done suggests that when bird numbers decline, the forests themselves change as the plants that rely on birds to visit flowers show a serious decline in seed numbers, in turn putting their future numbers at risk.

What Sandra found particularly interesting about Dot's exhibition were her photographs of native tui covered in pollen as they fed on introduced fruit blossoms. These images feed into her current work focusing on finding out whether the same relationship between birds and trees that she has found in New Zealand exists in countries where bird pollination has not previously been recorded. Sandra is currently in Cambridge, England, completing field work which involves monitoring seed-sets in flowering trees denied

access to their usual avian visitors and peering down a microscope at slides of swabs taken from birds captured in the area to see if they are carrying pollen.

Dot's photographs resonate with this research because they show that our native birds visit introduced European flowering plants, and that some of our introduced European birds visit native flowers, indicating that a reciprocal relationship may exist beyond our own shores.

It is exciting to think that our galleries contributed towards research that is helping us to better understand local ecosystems, knowledge that helps us to better protect them for future generations to enjoy.

## Finding family history this month at the library

To celebrate Family History month there will be free lunchtime talks at the Invercargill Public Library. These have been organised with the Southland Branch of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists.

**EACH** talk delves into a different subject, including how to find family treasures, the story of the son of a Kai Tahu princess, and identifying the era from photos.

The talks will be held in the Library First Floor Meeting Room at 12.15pm daily from August 6 to 10.

The talented speakers will share their insight into tracing Family History and the tools you need to explore it!



### TIMETABLE

• **Monday, August 6**

ROGER WASHBOURN  
(NZSG Southland )

- Introduction to family history

• **Tuesday, August 7**

JAY COOTE  
(Invercargill Public Library)

- Edward Fowler: the son of a Kai Tahu princess

• **Wednesday, August 8**

WENDY SHAW  
(NZSG Southland)

- Identifying the era of old photographs by the clothing worn

• **Thursday, August 9**

WENDY MCARTHUR  
(Invercargill City Council)

- Accessing historic City Council records  
- Southland Roman Catholic Church records

• **Friday, August 10**

SHARRON HANLEY  
(Macdonald & Weston)

- A Funeral Director's perspective

## Indian Independence Ceremony

**THE** Invercargill City Council will be hosting a celebration for Indian Independence Day with a small ceremony and flag raising in front of the Council building in Esk Street at 9am on Wednesday, 15 August.

His Worship the Mayor Tim Shadbolt will be there to raise the flag. This event is a way for Council to showcase our city as part of the Welcoming Communities initiative.

The event is open to anyone to attend and we encourage people to join in as this is a great way to support our wonderfully diverse community.

Ankur and Ranna Joshi, owners of Tasti Bitz spice shop, said they were thrilled to have the support of Council and look forward to bringing more events to the city that will share their culture.



INDIAN COMMUNITY



*in Southland*

# A big year for Safe in the South!



Safe in the South is a joint initiative of Invercargill City Council and Southland District Council. Under the Safe in the South umbrella, partner organisations work collaboratively to address safety issues in the community **SANIYA THOMPSON** writes. The last 12 months were busy for us with a focus on addressing alcohol harm, family violence and falls. We are excited to share what we have been up to!

## Focus on falls

**WE** launched a Falls Prevention initiative in April 2018. The project aims to reduce harm from falls for older people and to have more senior people living active, independent lives. Safe in the South and stakeholders worked to create a series of podcasts to promote falls prevention. The podcasts feature interviews with specialists talking about different aspects of falls prevention. They covered the falls injury profile of Southland, home safety, benefits of exercise, medical aspects of falls, and more. The initiative also promoted the Live Stronger for Longer website ([www.livestronger.org.nz](http://www.livestronger.org.nz)). The podcasts are now available on CDs, please contact Saniya to request a free copy: [saniya.thompson@icc.govt.nz](mailto:saniya.thompson@icc.govt.nz)

## Southland Champions Project

**SAFE** in the South works together with Southland RESPECT to implement the It's Not Ok Champions campaign. The goal for this project is to inspire a cultural shift, to change the way people think about family violence and the actions they take when they see it or know about it. A number of inspiring people have stepped up as community champions to lead by example and support people who may need help. The champions are people from our community who are trained to recognise family violence and provide advice on what services are out there. The advice is available for both victims and perpetrators of family violence. The Champions posters are displayed around town. We love hearing stories from our champions about them being approached by people and helping them understand what Family Violence is and where to go to seek help.

## FASD Awareness Video

**IN** September 2017, Safe in the South, together with partner organisations, created a video that highlighted the dangers of drinking while pregnant or trying to conceive. Babies exposed to alcohol before birth may develop FASD (Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder), which can cause severe life-long problems including skeletal defects, intellectual and physical disability, and behavioural problems. The video featured 12 young Southland women of different nationalities and ethnicities to portray the diversity of our community. The script was carefully designed to send a positive message while informing young women of the dangers. You can find the video on the Safe in the South Facebook page, under the videos tab.

## Southern Field Days 2018

**THE** Southern Field Days is the largest agricultural event in the South Island and it attracts people from all over the region. This offers a fantastic opportunity for us to engage with people and deliver messages about crime and injury prevention, safety at home and in the community, mental health, and emergency preparedness.

## Orange Day Parade 2017

**THE** annual parade that celebrates road safety in schools. Young people who are involved in road safety for their schools wear bright orange outfits and parade with Mayor Tim Shadbolt from Wachner Place along Esk Street. After the parade the children are then taken to Splash Palace for a swim.