

## Support in place for the prevention of dishonesty and unethical behaviour



BY CLARE HADLEY

IT'S really important to me that Council is a productive and enjoyable place to work. However sometimes we see behaviour that we don't like, and we're not sure how to deal with it or who to report it to.

We want to help you to do the right thing... and now we're making it easier.

The Executive Leadership Team has approved contracting the services of Report it Now – they describe their business as supporting you in the prevention of dishonesty and unethical behaviour in the workplace. This is an independent, 24-hour hotline that supports a culture of honesty and

integrity. If you are concerned about a behaviour that you see and you want to report it – call 0800 2 ALERT.

How does it work? You call 0800 2 ALERT and report your concerns. If it is about anyone other than the Chief Executive, I will receive a report from them. If it's about the Chief Executive, a Director and Councillor will receive the report.

Take a look on their website – [www.reportitnow.co.nz](http://www.reportitnow.co.nz).

The service isn't restricted to employees only; Councillors, customers and members of the public can also use the service.

## Better financial reporting coming to Councillors

**Staff workshops were recently held to ensure they are effectively communicating important financial information through to elected members.**

IT HAS been discussed with staff that previously, the financial information going to Councillors did not give a holistic view.

With the exception of the Annual Report, Councillors never saw how the organisation was going as a whole, so they did not know the profit and loss position of the entire organisation until months after the end of the financial year.

Staff should now understand that

Councillors were trying to manage the organisation by managing individual parts of the organisation instead of the whole.

Information had been provided at a lower organisational level, and the management information distracted from what Councillors should be focussing on.

Moving forward, every quarter Councillors will receive the financials based on what the

Annual Report stated.

Financial forecasts through to the end of the year will now be undertaken, which is a way to bring more transparency on the information that matters.

It is about improving accountability, and reports coming to Council will now reflect this change in approach.



## China trip progresses Sister City discussions and nets award

BY CLARE HADLEY

**LAST** week Cr Lesley Soper and I made a flying visit to our Sister City in China, Suqian in the Jiangsu Province. It was my first time visiting the city, and a great opportunity to see the progress they have made developing the Invercargill friendship garden.

We met with a number of officials from the Suqian Municipal People's Government and discussed ways to progress the relationship between our two cities.

We then attended the Chinese International Friendship Cities Conference in Wuhan. There were about 700 delegates from 60 countries discussing how to progress peace and cooperation between people, communities and countries. On behalf of Invercargill Cr Soper received a Friendship City Award for Exchanges and Cooperation with China.

It was a privilege to go, an interesting experience, and it's good to be home.



## New chair of Local Government Commission appointed

**THE** Minister of Local Government has appointed Pita Paraone as the new chair of the Local Government Commission. Pita replaces Sir Wira Gardiner whose term recently ended.

Pita was a Member of Parliament from 2002 to 2008 and from 2014 to 2017.

He has been a public servant including serving as a

Regional Director for Te Puni Kōkiri and as CEO of Te Taura Whiri i Te Reo Māori Language Commission.

He was a member of the Waitangi National Trust Board for a number of years, and served as chair from 2009 to 2017.

He is currently chair of the board of directors of Waitangi Ltd, a subsidiary of the Waitangi National Trust.

## Stirling Point sign gets an upgrade

**THE** new sign for Stirling Point was installed on a stormy Monday evening this week.

The old sign, which was a little the worse for wear, needed to be replaced after it was discovered some of the blades were not correctly positioned.

It was also an opportunity to improve the sign by adding a blade pointing to Invercargill's Sister City Suqian, China.

The new sign was made by local business, Bluff Engineering.

BELOW: Bluff Community Board Chairman Ray Fife, Invercargill City Council Roading Manager, Russell Pearson and staff member David McCormick braved stormy weather to ensure the installation of the new signpost went to plan.



LEFT: The old sign had seen better days.



## From changing rooms to car parks: Splash Palace upgrade update

**STAGE** one of the foyer and the changing room upgrade project at Splash Palace is due to be completed by December 10.

Final painting and joinery work is ongoing with foyer flooring due to go down within the next week.

Changing room flooring will be complete by Monday November 26; other works still to completed include electrical fitout, hardware installation and final fitoff.

Carparking at Splash Palace has always been a bit challenging, especially during busy times (just ask anyone who has tried to get a park during Friday afternoon Waterpolo!). So we're extremely pleased to report that work has also begun on the extension to the Splash Palace carpark. This is likely to be completed by Christmas and the



ABOVE: Work has begun on the extension to the Splash Palace carpark.



RIGHT: The existing Splash Palace carpark on Friday night.

## Intersections to get vital changes

BY RUSSELL PEARSON

**SOME** of the city's intersections will have layout changes to improve their safety.

In the next few weeks, Council plans to reseal Lindisfarne Street and in conjunction with NZTA, the Lindisfarne Street approaches at both Tay and Yarrow will have lane layouts changed.

These changes will provide a separate right-turn lane and the other being straight and left turn. This will help the flow of traffic through the intersections.

The changes at the intersections of Yarrow and Isabella Streets and Herbert and Exmouth Streets will follow later with similar changes to the road markings.

All these intersections operate in a similar way for consistency. Cars will now not be delayed where there is a right-turning vehicle as they will have their own lane.

The intersections of Lindisfarne and Yarrow Streets and of Yarrow and Isabella have had a number of crashes and near-misses.

The changes to the road layout of the Lindisfarne Street intersections involves implementing "right-turn only" lanes.

This means that straight-through traffic will not get stuck behind other vehicles waiting to turn right, reducing the risk of driver frustration.

The other lane will be marked for left-turning and straight through traffic only.

Work at the Lindisfarne Street intersections is expected to take about a week.

## Dog registrations climb

**THERE** has been great progress with dog owners getting their registration updated – the Animal Services team has worked with owners to reduce the number of known unregistered dogs from 600 to 370.

The team has also seen that a number of dogs have moved out of the district or to new properties with the owners not informing the team of the shift.

With November coming to an end the process of seizing dogs which remain unregistered will begin.

## Share the message: Keep recycling!



**THE** WasteNet team have observed that some residents have stopped recycling in the wake of international headlines regarding China's refusal of recycling products.

It seems residents now believe they are wasting their time as the product isn't being recycled – however, it is "business as usual" for WasteNet and we would appreciate Councillors' assistance in spreading this important message to debunk the misconceptions.

Here are a few bullet points on this issue:

- China has influenced the global recycling markets, which is making the global recycling industry tighten up its act. – China only wants high quality product.
- For the householder this means that we need to play our part and recycle right. Here's how:
  1. Check the product is recyclable – check the sticker under the lid of your yellow bin, visit [www.wastenet.org.nz](http://www.wastenet.org.nz) or call their local council.
  2. Prepare your recycling – empty and clean (the cleaner the better).
  3. Place it loose into the yellow recycling bin.
- If you are not going to clean it, put it in the red rubbish bin for disposal to landfill.

**Remember:**  
**Grass, clothing, food scraps, nappies are not recyclable in the yellow bins.**



## Special treats planned for Kiwiana Christmas Festival and Market

**DURING** the next fortnight, we will be ramping up our promotional and planning activities regarding the City Centre Christmas Festival and Market to be held in Esk Street on December 8.

This year, our City Centre Christmas Festival and Market has a Kiwiana Christmas theme.

Think native New Zealand bush: tui, pohutakawa and flax.

It would be wonderful if our elected members could get behind this fantastic city event by telling plenty of people about it – posters will be going up in shop windows soon, and there will be plenty of activity on Council’s Facebook page for those of you willing to share our posts.

We’re hoping attendees will get into the spirit and come along in Kiwiana costume or dress up.

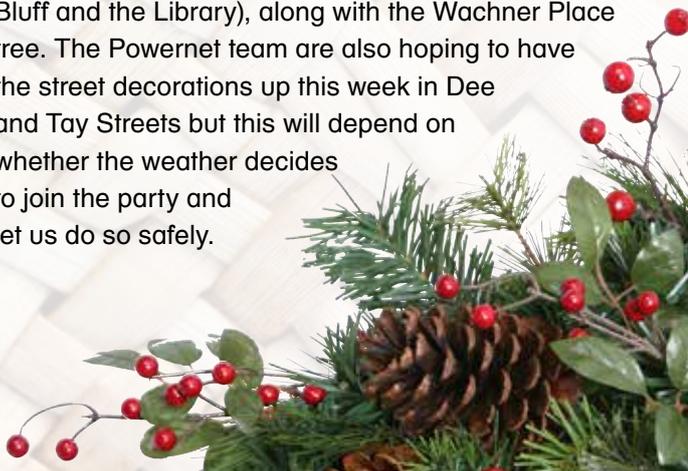
There will be prizes for best dressed, but if dressing up isn’t your thing, there will be facepainting available!

**RIGHT:** City Centre Christmas Festival and Market organiser, Gemma Crawford decorates the tree with Kiwiana baubles.



## Christmas trees in place for city and Bluff

**OUR** fantastic Christmas trees are being put up by our Parks Operations team around the community locations this week (South City, Glengarry, Windsor, Bluff and the Library), along with the Wachner Place tree. The Powernet team are also hoping to have the street decorations up this week in Dee and Tay Streets but this will depend on whether the weather decides to join the party and let us do so safely.



## Pest control night shoot

**THE** pest control operation at Eastern Cemetery, Southland Crematorium, and Sandy Point which was scheduled for Thursday, November 22, has been delayed due to poor weather and ground conditions.

The operation, which involves night shooting followed by dropping of Magtoxin the following day to target rabbits, is now planned for November 29 and 30, but will again be weather dependent.

We have been inundated with calls from the public offering assistance in the night-shooting operation.

While this is a great show of the classic Kiwi can-do attitude, unfortunately due to health and safety reasons we have had to decline these offers.

Here’s hoping our new date will fall on a day of good weather, and our efforts to reduce the impact of pest rabbits on our reserves will be successful.