

A wonderful Kiwiana Christmas celebration



BY GEMMA CRAWFORD

CITY CENTRE FESTIVAL AND MARKET ORGANISER

WELL, what a wonderful day was had at the Kiwiana Christmas Festival and Market on Saturday.

The crowds came in their hundreds and although it was drizzling at 7am, the rain held off throughout the event. The heavens opened up again at 2.30pm, after most stallholders had packed up and were on their merry way - unbelievable!

Starting at the East end of Esk Street there was an electric scooter demonstration, free bouncy castles for the kids, a fantastic food truck area, face painting and a photobooth. At the pocket park we were entertained by many local performers, from a James Hargest College student band to a ukulele group featuring the Library's very own Cindy Mulrooney! Street entertainers delighted the crowd with a Pavlova stilt walker, juggler-of-fire, roving butterfly and have-a-go hula hooping area. MakerVengers hosted a kids Christmas Craft activity room.

With stalls down the Cambridge Place Arcade and on the street, and all of the local shops open for business, there was plenty to see and do.

Being a Friendly-branded event, there were no lollies as giveaways, although children were delighted with bags of popcorn and other spot prizes like library vouchers and swim passes. Big thanks to Invercargill City Libraries and Archives, Splash Palace, and Public Health South for these. With a bright green SmokeFree marquee on loan for the day, and the current signage, the air was clear!

I want to say a big thank you to the volunteers. Without you all, it would not have been so smooth sailing! With special mention

to Jay Coote from the Library, who played the part of a fantastic Kiwiana Santa, and recruited members of the Chatter Group he facilitates to help on the day too.

A big thanks to Walker Chavez from Queenstown and ICC staff member Tayla Carson who were both committed to the length of the event from set-up to pack-up. Thank you also to Tayla and colleagues Charissa Takacs, Michael Reynolds and Shannon Baxter for helping install a Kiwiana static display in the S.I.T Arcade.

I think I worked in with almost every department at ICC for this festival, so thank you to those colleagues I had contact with over the past few months.

To our Communications Team, for beautiful graphics and posters, awesome social media promotion, radio ads and the fab online profile, thank you! This was an amazing opportunity, I couldn't have done it without the team of great people behind me.

Meri Kirihimete katoa!

Note from the editor: While Gemma has thanked many people for their efforts, we must also note the amazing job she did from planning through to the day of the event, and beyond. Gemma was unflappable, and of course there are always some minor issues at any event – like the power cord not wanting to stay plugged in during a performance! Gemma dutifully crouched in the garden and held the plug in place to ensure everyone could continue to enjoy the music!



Bright new look for Splash Palace

WE'RE excited to announce the first stage of the upgrade to the foyer and additional changing rooms at Splash Palace is now complete.

We opened our new café area, foyer, and changing rooms on Monday and feedback has been extremely positive!

Our carpark extension, which

will provide 70 more car parks, continues through until Christmas.

In the New Year, stage two of the upgrade will begin. This will provide two additional disabled access change rooms with toilets, and modifications to our operations area. This is expected to be complete by mid-January.



Progress made in registering food businesses



Food✓Check South

Kai Maru - Whānau Maru

THE Food Act 2014 introduced a risk-based food safety system which requires food businesses producing or selling food commercially to operate under either a food control plan (for high-risk food businesses) or a national programme (for businesses with a lower risk). Registration of food businesses is carried out by the Food team at the Council.

The Ministry for Primary Industries gave us a deadline of the end of February 2019 to change all food business owners over from the old, health licence system to the new way of doing things. Our Food Act Registration Administration Officer, Barbara Grieve, has been busy

contacting owners by letter, phone, and visits, and now just two food businesses have still to transition to the new system.

Barbara takes a laptop with her to meetings with owners when they transition, so that she is able to help them immediately with the right forms and to assist them in understanding what they need to do. For many food business owners English is a second language, so it is important to have things explained as clearly and simply as possible.

Having everyone on the same system will make moving towards electronic registration easier and we are working towards this goal.



Christmas with the Library!



CHRISTMAS STORYTIME AND DECORATION MAKING – Every morning from 11am.

THE CHATTER CHRISTMAS PARTY - Monday 17 December 10am – midday.

CHRISTMAS BREAK BOREDOM BUSTERS – different activities each afternoon, 2pm – 4pm

COLOURING COMPETITION –

Pick up an entry from the library, return it by Friday, 21 December

CHRISTMAS CAROLS IN THE FOYER – Thursday 20 December from 12.30pm.

Visit <http://ilibrary.co.nz/an-amazing-week-of-free-christmas-events-for-all-ages/> for more information.

Demolition of former Club Hotel, Bluff

THE Bluff Oyster and Food Festival Charitable Trust has applied to the Council for resource consent to demolish the former Club Hotel at 110-116 Gore Street, Bluff. Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga lists the former hotel as a Category II protected building, and it also has protection under the rules of the Invercargill City Proposed District Plan. The application is being processed in a fully notified manner, which means that anyone may make a submission.

Submissions must be received no later than Friday, 1 February 2019.

For more information, visit: <https://icc.govt.nz/public-documents/consultation/>

