

## Prime Minister visits city youth



Invercargill Youth Council with Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern at the Youth Forum.

**The Invercargill Youth Council was very proud to be invited to facilitate a youth forum with the Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern on Thursday. About 240 young people registered to attend.**

Prior to the forum the Youth Council collated over thirty questions from young people throughout the city. These formed the basis for the discussion. The Prime Minister chose to give a small presentation and then answer questions. These included issues about mental health and suicide and the need for services in Invercargill.

A key message was Jacinda's advice to take every opportunity you are offered and make the most of it. She

explained that often we think we are not capable or worthy of these opportunities. Just remember that someone feels you are capable and show them that you can be the person they believe you are.

Mackenzie Fallow and Madison Flannery, who have been selected for the 2019 youth parliamentary programme, facilitated the forum and were assisted by Molly Haywood and Hamish Muhl.

The Youth Council was very proud to be offered this opportunity. Youth Councillors believe it indicates the respect the Youth Council has earned in the community and confirms the investment Council makes in developing civic awareness and leadership skills in our young people.



## Committee shows unanimous support for Bluff Transfer Station

**INVERCARGILL** City Council's Infrastructure and Services on Monday unanimously declined a proposal to close the Bluff Transfer Station and is recommending that the full Council endorses the decision.

Infrastructure and Services Committee Chair, Councillor Lindsay Thomas, said although Council had charged its Officers with finding savings and efficiencies, the Committee believed the social benefits of keeping the Bluff Transfer Station open far outweighed the economic benefits of potential savings.

Closure of the Bluff Transfer Station would have saved Council \$100,000 a year.

Bluff Community Board Chairman, Ray Fife, spoke to the Infrastructure and Services Committee in Public Forum and outlined the Community Board's concerns that the closure would increase the amount of fly-tipping, and the potential of the last section of the Te Araroa trail, on State Highway 1 to Bluff, be strewn with wind-blown rubbish from unsecured loads. Mr Fife called for people in the Bluff Community to be treated fairly.

Councillor Thomas said that Councillors on the Infrastructure and Services Committee weighed up the facts and the potential consequences of the proposed closure and put forward good

arguments for the retention of the Bluff Transfer Station.

The Committee's recommendation will go to the full meeting of Council on Tuesday, December 11.

### **Background**

Drainage and Waste Manager Malcolm Loan raised the proposal following continued low usage of the Bluff Transfer Station, and the need for significant capital expenditure to upgrade equipment at the plant.

The Bluff Transfer Station is open for 11.5 hours per week, and the contractor provides a staff member who is on site for those 11.5 hours. It is open about 254 days a year, and is closed on public holidays.

There have been approximately 70 customers at the Bluff Transfer Station per month during the past three years – about 840 per year.

This means that user charges only cover about 12 per cent of the operating costs. This is before any further expenditure on upgrading equipment.

Users of the Invercargill Transfer Station therefore cover the remaining 88 per cent of the cost of running the Bluff Transfer Station.

About 1,000 Bluff properties also receive WasteNet's red and yellow roadside collection service. No changes to this service were proposed.

## Expressions of interest open for Kew Bowl

**THE** Invercargill City Council is seeking expressions of interest from individuals or businesses which may be interested in purchasing the site known as "Kew Bowl", the former outdoor velodrome.

The Expression of Interest process opened on Wednesday, December 5.

Council purchased the property from the Southland Amateur Cycling Association in 2006 as a way of assisting the then proposed indoor velodrome.

Council has had multiple enquiries from people interested in buying the land, and from some interested in using it for the community's benefit.

The Expression of Interest process will allow for all those parties interested in the land to put forward a proposal for use or purchase of the land.

More details about the property, and the formal Expression of Interest process, are available on Council's website, [www.icc.govt.nz](http://www.icc.govt.nz)

Those who would like to submit a formal expression of interest should contact Investment Property Advisor Mel Greenfield – [mel.greenfield@icc.govt.nz](mailto:mel.greenfield@icc.govt.nz)

The deadline for clarification or further information is January 18, 2019, and expressions of interest must be submitted by January 31, 2019.



## One more sleep 'til the Kiwiana Christmas Market and Festival in the city centre

**COUNCIL** staff and volunteers have been busy preparing for the Kiwiana Christmas Market and Festival, to be held in Esk Street tomorrow from 10am to 2pm.

Esk Street will be closed to traffic from 7am to allow for stallholders to set up.

The road closure will be lifted from 3pm.

There are plenty of awesome activities and entertainment planned for the event – you can find out more at [www.icc.govt.nz](http://www.icc.govt.nz)

**ABOVE:** Library Community Connections Co-ordinator Jay Coote, City Centre Christmas Festival and Market Organiser Gemma Crawford, and Resource Management Officer Tayla Carson will be busy working at the event tomorrow.

## ICC's AA credit rating affirmed; Outlook stable

**THE** Invercargill City Council's credit rating of AA has been affirmed by a leading global company in credit ratings and research, Fitch Ratings.

In a joint statement from Invercargill Mayor Tim Shadbolt and Chairman of Finance Councillor Darren Ludlow, the Council has welcomed the AA credit rating and Fitch's assessment of the outlook for Invercargill as "stable".

The Mayor said he was pleased at Fitch's findings that the ratings reflect Invercargill's small but stable local economy, low population growth in recent years, the Council's consistent fiscal performance and low debt.

Fitch believes that while Invercargill's debt metrics are likely to weaken in the future as the Council incurs more debt-funded expenditure, the increase in leverage should remain manageable and yield debt metrics that stay within the range of 'AA' category peers.

Councillor Ludlow said that Fitch had commented on the strong institutional framework of New Zealand local government and Invercargill City Council's stable fiscal performance that was expected for the year ending June 2019.

They commented that ICC's direct debt metrics continue to be one of the strongest of the local, Fitch-rated peers. Fitch also noted the appointment of the new Chief Executive and changes in staffing.



## Central Government bans plastic bags



**WASTENET** Senior Waste Officer Donna Peterson helps us understand the key “need to knows” about the recently announced plastic bag ban:

- All single use plastic bags with handles are banned e.g. plastic, compostable, biodegradable.
- Single use is defined as 70 microns or lower (this means bags like Farmers and H&Js bags will be banned too).
- Bags made from paper are excluded from the ban.
- Nylon and polyester fabric bags, often designed to fold into a convenient parcel to pop into pocket or purse, that sometimes may be as thin as 50 microns, are excluded from the ban.
- Produce bags i.e. bags with no handles for fruit and vegetables, are not banned.

The final wording of the regulation, and specifically the exemption, is currently being worked through with the Parliamentary Counsel Office and will be considered by Cabinet soon.

## in brief...

### Title changes

**AS FROM** November 2018 a ‘Certificate of Title’ is now known as ‘Record of Title’

Land Information NZ advises:

*“Records of title (previously referred to as computer registers or certificates of title) prove the ownership of land and the rights and restrictions that apply to the land.”*



**SOUTHLAND** BUSKERS  
**FESTIVAL**  
2019  
**JANUARY 31 – FEBRUARY 3**  
**2019**  
**INVERCARGILL**

