

Elections protocol approved for staff

BY MICHAEL MORRIS
Deputy Electoral Officer

ON Wednesday, the Invercargill City Council's Staff Elections Protocol was endorsed by the Executive Leadership Team, and is now in effect.

The Protocol is also approved by Local Government New Zealand and Electionz.com (our election provider), and has been made available on the ICC website: <https://icc.govt.nz/elections/election-protocols/>

Our Election period will start on 1 July 2019 with the official start of campaigns on Friday 12 July. Election day itself is Saturday 12 October 2019.

The Protocol covers important information for all Council staff.

The key messages are:

- 1) Staff are expected to be politically neutral when performing their role for Council.
- 2) If a staff member wants to stand for election (or are thinking about it), they need to raise this with their manager or the Deputy Electoral Officer as soon as possible.
- 3) If a staff member wants to work with a candidate, they need to raise this with their manager or



the Deputy Electoral Officer as soon as possible.

- 4) The use of Council resources for the election is unacceptable. Resources cannot be used to promote any one candidate.
- 5) Council publications cannot be used to help raise the profile of any one candidate.
- 6) Information requests need to be balanced and should be discussed with management or the Communications Team.

Elections protocols for elected members are being worked on, and will be provided in the coming weeks.

Does your Community Organisation need funding?



The Invercargill City Council Community Grants Fund can help.

Applications for grants to help community organisations are now open.

- Information and application forms are available from www.icc.govt.nz/community/funding-awards-grants/
- Applications close 29 March, 2019.
- Don't forget you can apply to the Neighbourhood Fund at any time.



Council housing care units connect to fibre

THE residents of Council's Housing Care units are jumping on board as Council connects them to the fibre network.

Of our 215 units, 126 are now able to take advantage of fibre broadband.

Housing Support Officer Deborah Little said she was thrilled to see the uptake as the complexes gain access to the latest technology.

A resident who has connected reported: "It's much better than what I had before. It's really really good".

Meanwhile, Chorus (which is rolling out fibre installation throughout the country), advises that 52% of all businesses and residential homes are accessing the fibre connection available in Invercargill.

For those still awaiting the arrival of fibre, Chorus says the build will commence in Bluff in 2020 and be and in Mill Road in 2022.

Development brings road closures and detours for inner-city

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

BusSmart Central Temporarily Relocated



Waikiwi Link and Heidelberg Star will temporarily depart from outside the Invercargill Public Library.

The Windsor Comet and Kew Connection will temporarily depart from outside H & J Smith's, Tay Street entrance.



BusSmart sincerely apologises for any inconvenience during this time.

Visit www.BusSmart.co.nz for more information.



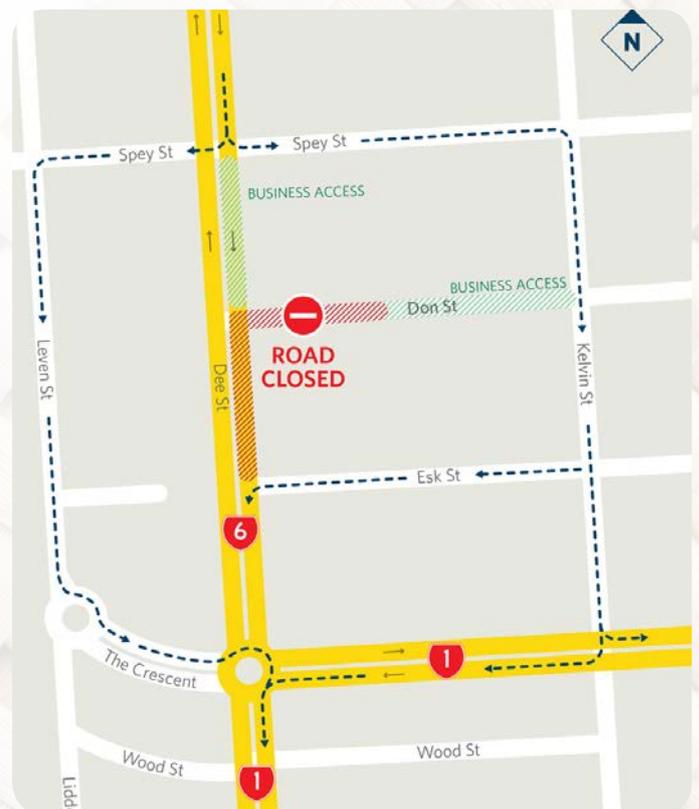
As demolition of buildings on the corner of Don and Dee Streets continues, the Invercargill City Council, NZ Transport Agency, and ILT have been working together to minimise disruption while continuing to keep the area safe.

From 6am Saturday, March 23, 'til Saturday, April 7, detours and alternative access routes will be implemented throughout the inner-city:

- **Dee Street, between Don and Esk Streets**, will be closed to southbound traffic. Detours will be available.
- Business access only will apply on the eastern side of Dee Street between Spey and Don Streets.
- There will be some business access available on **Don Street**, which will temporarily be two-way.
- In an effort to maintain access to Esk Street businesses, **Esk street will be temporarily reversed**, so that vehicles may travel from Kelvin Street through to Dee Street via Esk Street.

There will also be some changes to the Bus Smart service.

For more information, visit: <https://icc.govt.nz/infrastructure/demo-for-development/>



Discover our Parks huge success

COUNCIL staff, elected members, and the public have been delighting in Discover our Parks events throughout the city this week.

From Surf to City on Sunday, through to the Gunpit at Bluff on Thursday, and including both sun and rain, the events are already being hailed a success - even with two still to come!

Parks Rangers have noticed residents really do have a broad love of our parks and reserves, based on the spread of pins in the "Pin Your Favourite Parks" maps.

Monday was all about discovering the different sport offerings at Queens Park, with Disc Golf, Golf Croquet, and the Southland Cricket Association all putting on displays.

At Elizabeth Park on Tuesday, the Parks and Recreation team was joined by Healthy Families Invercargill, Sport Southland, and bike clubs, while the new Magical Park app was also launched.

Sandy Point went to the dogs on Wednesday, with biodiversity dogs, search and rescue dogs, the Southland Sled Dog Association, Southern Districts Police K9 Unit, and Council's own Animal Services Team heading along.

At the time of writing, an amazing afternoon of planting was planned for Bluff at the Gunpit, with Bluff Motupohue Environment Trust pre-digging about 200 holes, and Parks planning to supply the plants!

This afternoon (Friday), His Worship the Mayor Sir Tim Shadbolt will officially open a new walkway at Anderson Park, with Kaumatua Michael Skerrett kindly organising the Aurora College kapa haka group to perform – please feel free to come along and join in the event between 2.30pm and 4.30pm.

On Saturday, the Grand Finale for Discover our Parks will be held at Russell Square, between 2.30pm and 4.30pm. We will be joined by the Southland Basketball Association, Sport Southland, Healthy Families Invercargill, Invers Rocks, Rotary Club Invercargill South, and more.

It will be the last chance for people to enter to win the grand prize of a guided tour of the Queens Park Animal Reserve, and spot prizes will be available on the day.



ICC Surf to City gets thousands active

ABOUT 3000 people took part in this year's ICC Surf to City, with organisers deeming the event a roaring success.

The event, the largest on the Sport Southland calendar, was held on Sunday March 10, and involved 12km, 6km, and 3km options that participants could bike, run or walk.

Sport Southland chief executive Brendon McDermott said it had been fantastic to see so many families and individuals getting out and about and active together.

"We've had a fantastic turnout, the weather has been awesome, and the atmosphere through the whole event has just been brilliant."

A big thankyou also went to all the event sponsors, he said.

The event coincided with the launch of Discover Our Parks, a week-long series of activities at some of the city's parks aimed at encouraging people to get out and discover their hidden gems as part of Parks Week.



IT'S
FREE!



St Patricks Celtic Family Gala

Saturday 16th March 2019

10am - 2pm @ The Scottish Hall