

Thai students visit Council



ABOVE: More than 20 students from Thailand visited the Council Chambers for a Mayoral reception on Wednesday. The students, from various schools around the Bangkok area, are being hosted by James Hargest College and Waihopai School during their visit to Invercargill.

Engaging with our community

BY MARY NAPPER

Community Development Manager

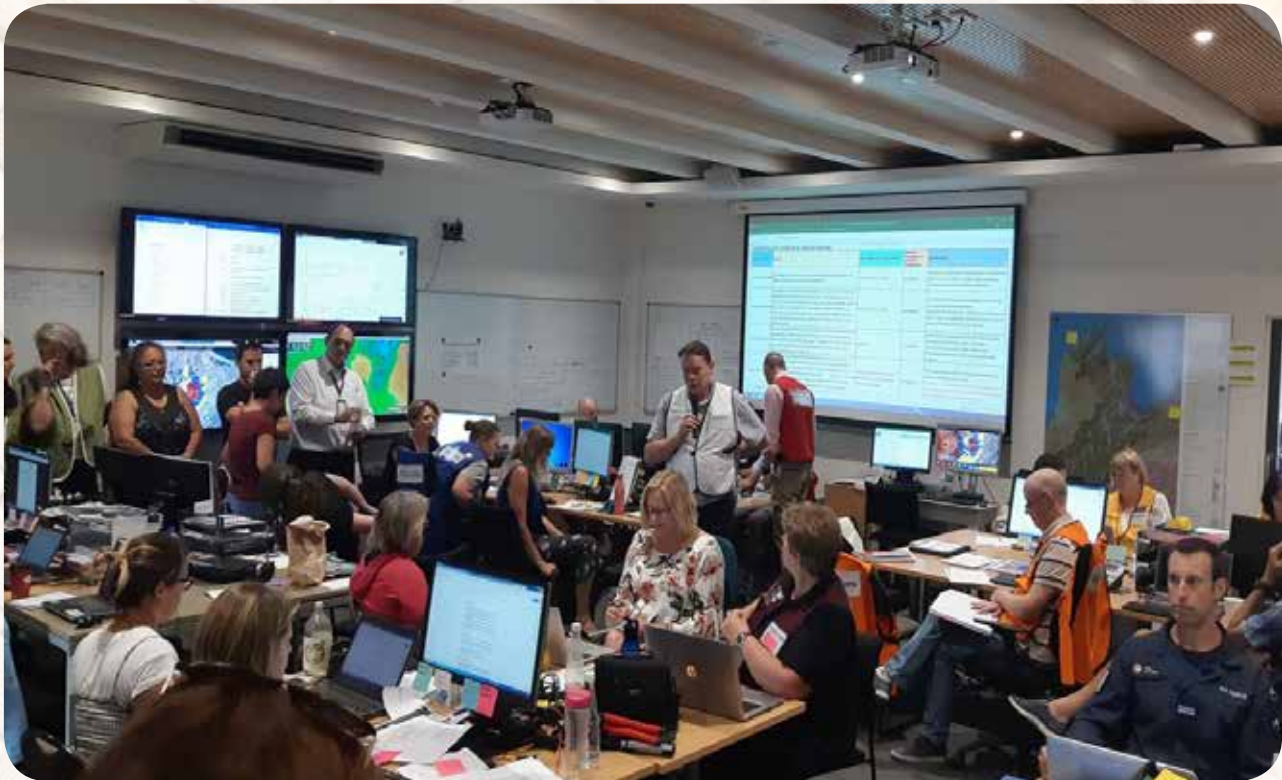
ON Wednesday, 3 April, 28 ICC staff spent the morning considering how they currently engage with the community and learning how it can be done more effectively.

Paul Schmitz from Wisconsin, USA, held his only South Island workshops here in Invercargill.

Look out for enthusiastic staff trying their new ideas and techniques.

They may be looking out for the natural leaders, the champions of a cause or topic, a venue where the community is comfortable to meet, or of course giving everyone maximum time to be involved and participate.

If you missed out on these workshops, feel free to touch base with Mary who can link you with someone in your area who did attend.



ABOVE: Emergency Management Southland's Angus McKay in the role of controller in Nelson during the Tasman fires.

Emergency management update

DURING the recent fires in the Tasman District, Southland deployed five staff to assist with the response. Staff were also prepared in case help was needed on the West Coast during their recent flood event. It's important we can provide this support to other councils, because we never know when we may need their help. In the first two weeks in Tasman over 950 shifts were filled, and half of these were from people outside the district.

Community Response Planning meetings have recently been held in Glengarry and Bluff. The purpose of these meetings is to empower communities so that they can look after themselves and each other during and directly following an emergency. These meetings included information on potential local hazards, personal preparedness and ways communities can come together to support each other.

The 2010 Joint Civil Defence Services Agreement has been reviewed. The reviewed agreement will be presented to the four councils for adoption. The joint agreement is the founding document for Emergency Management Southland and the consensus to keep the shared service arrangement going for another 10 years shows the success of the model.

One of the best ways to ensure staff working in the Emergency Coordination Centre understand their roles and what may be required from them during a response is to hold regular exercises. On 28 May, exercise May Day will be held at Emergency Management Southland. This will involve staff from the four Southland councils, emergency services and national agencies working together to respond to a simulated emergency event.



Encouraging use of new dog exercise area in Bluff

COUNCIL is currently promoting the use of Ocean Beach Reserve as an area where dogs can be exercised off-lead.

Following adoption of the Dog Control Bylaw, Ocean Beach Reserve became the first, and only, area where dogs are allowed to be off-lead in Bluff.

Dogs must still be under complete voice control, and must be on a lead in all other areas of Bluff.



To help promote compliance with these rules, and encourage dog owners and visitors to Bluff to use reserve, Council is running a competition through the Bluff Community Board Facebook page.

People can enter by posting a photo of their dog – either off-lead in Ocean Beach Reserve, or on-lead anywhere else in Bluff.

The competition closes on April 30.

School Holiday fun at the Library!

THE Library has a great range of fun activities to keep the kids occupied these school holidays. Check out the timetable below

APRIL SCHOOL HOLIDAY EVENTS!

MON 15 APRIL

Storytime & Craft
Come and listen to some stories and then get crafty.
10.30am
Activity Space

Sprouting Seeds
Decorate a peat pot and plant it with seeds. Take it home and watch your cress grow!
2:00pm - 4:00pm
Activity Space

TUE 16 APRIL

Storytime & Craft
Come and listen to some stories and then get crafty.
10.30am
Activity Space

Minecraft/Games Drop-in
Play Minecraft and other games on our tablets.
2:00pm - 4:00pm
Activity Space

WED 17 APRIL

Magical Castle Storytime
Bring a blanket to sit on and join us in the Park for outdoor stories.
10.30am
Queens Park
(Band rotunda if wet)

Bluff Storytime
Come and join us for fun stories at the Bluff Library.
10.30am
Bluff Library

THU 18 APRIL

Baby Time
Music, movement and books for babies and young children.
10:30am
Activity Space

Crafts
Create something from our crafty bits and pieces.
2:00pm - 4:00pm
Activity Space

FRI 19 APRIL
LIBRARY CLOSED

MON 22 APRIL
LIBRARY CLOSED

TUE 23 APRIL
LIBRARY CLOSED

WED 24 APRIL

ANZAC Storytime
Stories and songs with an ANZAC theme
10.30am
Children's Area

Poppy Shrinkies
Design your own poppy with heat shrink plastic sheets and then wear on ANZAC Day.
2:00pm - 4:00pm
Meeting Room

THU 25 APRIL
LIBRARY CLOSED

FRI 26 APRIL

Russell Square Storytime
Bring a blanket to sit on and join us in the Park for outdoor stories.
10.30am
Russell Square, South City
(The Mall if wet)

Lego Time
Create and play with our big sets of Lego.
2:00pm - 4:00pm
Activity Space

SUN 28 APRIL *Grandparents Day*

10:00am Lego Extravaganza. The Library Lego will be out all day for you to create and construct with your Tipuna!

10:30am Storytime & Craft. Enjoy a story with your Grandparents and then make something fun!

12:00pm Picnic in the Library. Bring a rug and some kai to share with your Tipuna. Then relax and read with them.

1:00pm Big Games. The Big Games will be out all afternoon for you to play with.

2:00pm Minecraft with Kuia and Koro. Show your Grandparents how to create Minecraft wonders and then play, play, play.

3:00pm Robot Time. Have fun coding and controlling our robots with your Oma and Opa.

Payroll reminder...

PLEASE make sure you send any payroll queries to payroll@icc.govt.nz – not individual staff.

This is to ensure nothing slips through the cracks.



Rates Rebates going strong

COUNCIL is incredibly grateful to the wonderful team at the Invercargill Citizens Advice Bureau for help assisting ratepayers in applying for rates rebates.

Applications are due in by June 30.

Invercargill Citizens Advice Bureau Manager Isabel Murray said they had so far assisted with 197 applications – but said they would love to help with more!

Statue to be unveiled

A statue of Invercargill composer Alex Lithgow will be unveiled outside the Civic Theatre tomorrow, Saturday April 13, at 3pm.

Lithgow was the composer of the famous Invercargill March.

The bronze statue was made for free of charge by Australian sculptors, and further costs of \$50,000 were met by Southland funders.

Cr Lloyd Esler organised the project, and said everyone was welcome to the unveiling.



RIGHT: ICC Parks and Recreation workers preparing the base for the Alex Lithgow statue to be mounted upon.

REMINDER: You're invited to ground-breaking at Surrey Park!

ELECTED members are welcome to come along to Surrey Park on the April 15, to witness the ground breaking for the construction of the new softball clubrooms.

WHERE: Surrey Park (north of the Athletics track)

WHEN: 10am, Monday 15th April

There will be the following people in attendance:

- Members of the softball club including senior members of the softball club
- Construction representatives
- Major sponsors of the project
- Media

