

## Stars aligning for Matariki

Collaboration means this year's Matariki Festival in Esk Street is set to be brighter than ever.



Children Lexi Parkinson-Knight, 6, left, and Zanthie Parkinson-Knight, 7, right, with Invercargill City Council City Centre Co-ordinator Shru Shrivastava, centre, and members of Murihiku Matariki, from left, Lisa Tou-McNaughton, Jay Coote, Sharne Parkinson, and Gemma Baldok

**A NEW** group, Murihiku Matariki, approached Council earlier this year to offer guidance and assistance in planning the festival.

Murihiku Matariki's members include community and culturally-minded people from a wide range of organisations within Southland, including Arts Murihiku, Venture Southland, Invercargill Public Library, Sport Southland, and Invercargill Public Art Gallery.

Group member Jay Coote said Murihiku Matariki first came together in October last year, with the focus on collaboration to ensure Matariki celebrations in Southland were consistent, and represented Maori in a fitting way.

"We're working alongside the four Southland runakas, talking to our kaumatuas, our elders, getting their blessings ... and making sure everything we tell people about is consistent," Jay said.

Previously, there have been many different stories of Matariki, the cluster of stars which herald Maori new year.

However, Murihiku Matariki has identified with the research and teachings of Dr Rangi Matamua, now

widely accepted as the true korero of Matariki.

According to Dr Matamua, there are nine stars in the Matariki constellation.

Jay said Murihiku Matariki would be focussing on the Matariki star itself for this year's celebrations, which represents wellbeing.

"It seems to align really well at the moment with a lot of things going on in Local Government and Government – you could say the Matariki stars are aligning!"

Murihiku Matariki are this year hoping to educate the community on the true Matariki story through multiple events planned from mid-June until early July.

The first main event will be a light festival in Queens Park, representing new beginnings, featuring lanterns and stars made by Southland children, to be held on June 22 and 23.

"It will tell the story of the creation of man through the Maori world view, and also talking about the creation of Matariki."

Council has been supporting Murihiku Matariki group member Sharne Parkinson, who has provided several

schools and a scout group with craft packs to make the stars.

The stars will then be used to decorate Esk Street for the Matariki Festival market day, to be held on June 29.

Sharne will also be providing weaving workshops on the day, where people can have a go at making their own poi or tipane – headbands.

Murihiku Matariki has been instrumental in helping to organise this year's Festival, providing cultural guidance and advice, and recruiting volunteers and artists to contribute to the celebrations on the day.

Jay said Matariki provides the opportunity for everyone to connect to culture – whatever that may be.

"If they're not familiar with Matariki, being involved in a new culture, if they've lost their connection, they can find their connection through Matariki if they want."

Murihiku Matariki has been involved in organising and supporting many Matariki celebration events throughout Southland. To find out more, contact them at [murihikumatariki@gmail.com](mailto:murihikumatariki@gmail.com) or visit [www.facebook.com/murihikumatariki](http://www.facebook.com/murihikumatariki)

## Waihopai Warriors survive SOLGM Management Challenge



*The Waihopai Warriors, from left, Library Collections Team Leader Angela Bain, Building Control Officer Angus McIntyre, Finance Administration Team Leader Kirsty Bell, Engineering Services Core Services Team Leader Tim Connell, Information Services Business Analyst Lead Jacobus Meyer, Compliance Team Leader Elle Dickson, and Director Works and Services Cameron McIntosh.*

### BY THE MANAGEMENT CHALLENGE TEAM

**IN** January this year, six staff members from across Council were selected to form a team to represent ICC at the 2019 Society of Local Government Managers (SOLGM) Management Challenge. The team members were Angela Bain, Kirsty Bell, Tim Connell, Elle Dickson, Angus McIntyre and Jacobus Meyer. Mentor Cameron McIntosh called a meeting to explain what we had got ourselves into. It is fair to say that at that first meeting we were all pretty nervous and reserved; some of us did not know each other at all and we were all stepping into unknown territory. Little did we know we were about to embark on one of the best experiences of our work lives so far.

Over the next four months we spent time building our team, learning our strengths and weaknesses along the way. We were set a Pre-Challenge Task that involved us coming up with a hypothetical new revenue stream for our Council, creating a business case to support the idea, and producing a marketing video and plan to promote the idea. It was at this stage that we realised what a fantastic group of people work at ICC. Everybody we approached for help with this part of the process was so enthusiastic and supportive, we were blown away. Thank you to everybody involved in our project (our idea was to create a Pet Cemetery for Invercargill): the Tier 3 Managers who helped us refine our idea, everyone who volunteered to

be interviewed about the proposal, and the Library Social Media team who helped us with the video.

Special thanks must go to Judy Christie, Pam Gare, Ronnie McCort, and Michael Morris, who gave up hours of their time to help us brush up on our public speaking and debating skills before we headed off to compete.

On May 21, the Waihopai Warriors (as we decided to call ourselves) boarded our plane enroute for Wellington and the unknown events that would follow. After a smooth flight and a wee bit of last minute prep in the Wellington sun, we headed off to the networking evening at Silverstream Retreat. We had to get up and introduce ourselves by performing a skit for the other teams that we would be competing against, and we were given some of the basics for the following day. Anxiety levels rose as we heard that the teams that had already competed that day had to contend with power cuts!

May 22, Game Day. As we located our "cell" for the day and set up our equipment, it was fair to say the butterflies were starting to show. Task One came at us and we settled in, the team we had created shifted into gear and the nerves seemed to have calmed. Now this is where the SOLGM judges have some fun, and you get more tasks allocated at seemingly random intervals. However, the team shifted it up

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## Waihopai Warriors survive SOLGM Management Challenge *continued...*



*Waihopai warriors ready to do battle.*

again and one task after another was crossed off the list. Phew, Lunch time.

After a brief bite, we were back into it and now it wasn't only the judges having some fun but Cameron and the other Mentors got to shine also. But the team had now become a well-oiled machine and the timing was found, the nerves were gone. What were we worried about? Cue additional SOLGM judges' fun.

At the end of the day and after all of the tasks, we still had our positivity. We were drained but happy with our achievements. The team had come together, risen to the challenge, met every task thrown our way and still managed to find the morning tea scones. It will be a couple of weeks before we find out how the judges thought we performed, but to us, this is secondary to how we feel we worked as a team, and we know we did our best.

The Management Challenge was the great unknown for us as it was ICC's first time participating. However we all took so much from our involvement and agree that having virtually no idea what would be thrown at us, actually made it a better learning environment.

If this challenge sounds like you, we urge you to put your name forward if ICC enters a team again. You will be exposed to networking across our own workplace and other councils that you could never achieve by attending a seminar and you will obtain many more skills by stepping outside your daily role and comfort zone.

If you find yourself fortunate enough to be heading into the unknown SOLGM Management Challenge in the future, our clue is we accept bribes...



Communications Advisor – Digital Media Daniel Tobin checks in on the best of [www.icc.govt.nz](http://www.icc.govt.nz) this week.

### **MORE THAN 150 ONLINE SUBMISSIONS FOR CITY BLOCK CONSULTATION**

The City Block Consultation page on the ICC website has had plenty of interest with 1340 page views since it was launched two weeks ago.

The online submission form – a first for ICC - has had 163 submissions, this is on top of posted submissions and public drop-in sessions.

Public drop-in sessions started on Wednesday offering the opportunity to have a chat to an ICC staff member who will hand out full consultation documents, quick guides and submission forms.

If you are on a tight time schedule the online submission form is the quickest way to let us know your views.

More drop-in sessions will be held at the locations listed below:

- **Thee Market, Windsor Community Church** – Saturday, 1 June, 10am – 12 noon
- **Farmers Market** – Sunday, 2 June, 9.30am – 1pm
- **Pak 'n Save** – Thursday, 6 June, 3pm – 6pm
- **Bluff Service Centre** – Wednesday, 12 June, 11am – 1pm
- **Farmers Market** – Sunday, 16 June, 9.30am – 1pm

Visit the City Block Consultation page here: [www.icc.govt.nz/cityblockconsultation](http://www.icc.govt.nz/cityblockconsultation)

### **BUSSING ABOUT**

With winter fast approaching, reducing your waiting time at bus stops becomes essential.

The Bus section on the ICC website has the Track Your Bus feature, a useful online tool that allows you to track your bus in real time. Just like the Uber app, popular in other parts of the country, which allows you to see the location of your driver on a map, Track Your Bus shows how far away your bus is so you can time your trip to perfection.

The Bus information page is one of the most utilised areas of the ICC website with more than 2000 page views each month.

On the Buses page you can find timetable information for all Invercargill bus routes, printable bus route maps, school routes and the Track Your Bus feature.

The search function on the ICC site makes it quick and easy to find the information you need, just type in a bus route like 'Heidelberg Star' Or simply type 'bus' and you will be directed to the Buses page with everything you need to have a pleasant journey.

Our Communications Team used Search Engine Optimisation, which means that when people type "Invercargill Buses" into Google, the first results link back to our webpage.

Visit the ICC Buses page here: [www.icc.govt.nz/buses](http://www.icc.govt.nz/buses)

## Weighbridge repairs complete



**THANK YOU** to all Invercargill Transfer Station users for their patience during the past couple of weeks while repairs were undertaken on the outbound weighbridge.

These repairs are now complete!



## World Wide Knit in Public Day

**SATURDAY 8 JUNE, 11am – 2pm at the INVERCARGILL PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**WORLD** Wide Knit in Public Day began as a way for knitters to come together and enjoy each other's company. Work on projects together, show off your latest knitting project, or help someone new to the craft learn with tips and advice. We will provide some extra needles and wool for people who may like to give it a go! All ages.

