

Drop off your votes – DON'T POST!

AS election day is fast approaching, Invercargill residents are being urged to drop their voting papers off and make sure they have their say in the 2019 Local Body Elections.

Invercargill City Council Deputy Electoral Officer Michael Morris said it was important that voters did not post their votes after Wednesday, as there was no guarantee they would arrive to be counted in time.

"You can still drop your voting papers in to ballot boxes at the Invercargill Public Library, the Invercargill City Council Civic Administration Building in Esk Street, or the Bluff Service Centre right up until voting closes at midday tomorrow, Saturday October 12," Mr Morris said.

Votes can be dropped in to ballot boxes during business hours, with the Civic Administration Building also set to open tomorrow between 9am and midday.

Mr Morris said local body elections were one of the best opportunities for residents to make sure their voices were heard.

"Your Council makes decisions on your behalf that can impact your daily life. It's important you take the time to consider your vote, and take advantage of the multitude of information on candidates available to you to make your decision.

"This includes the candidate information handbook included with your voting papers, newspaper articles, websites, and social media," he said.

Meanwhile, the ballot box has been close to overflowing frequently this week, with Mr Morris and other qualified staff being called to empty it several times a day.

"This is reflected in our return percentages," Mr Morris said.

"As of October 9, 42.77 per cent of eligible Invercargill voters have returned their papers."

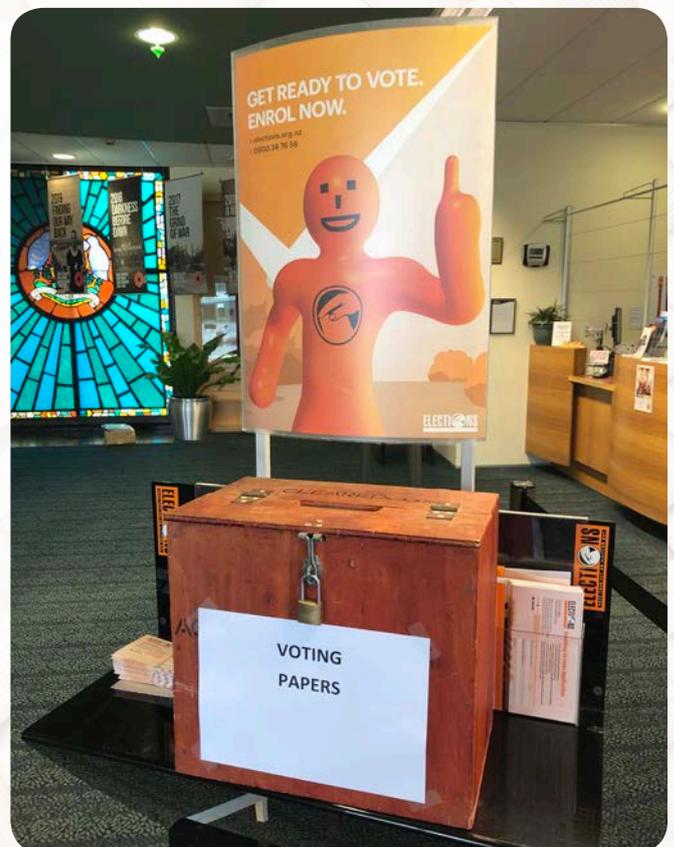
Mr Morris said this was an encouraging result so far, given that in previous elections, Invercargill averaged about 50 per cent in returns by the close of voting.

On October 9, Gore returns were at about 38 per cent, while Southland District's were about 29 per cent.

Mr Morris said Invercargill should aim to have the highest returns in the country.

"Wouldn't it be fantastic if on October 12, we could say that we were the most engaged city in New Zealand?"

"Dig those voting papers out from your letterboxes, from the pile of papers on your table tops, or out of your bags, choose the candidates you want to represent you, and make sure you get those papers back to us in time to be counted."



What's harder? Rolling maul or the netball court?



BY DANIEL TOBIN
Communications Advisor – Digital Media

HAVING never set foot on a netball court, in a moment of goodwill I signed up to be part of the ICC netball team in the Netballathon held at Invercargill's Stadium Southland.

The event was to raise money for Darnae Lowe-McPherson, 13, of Bluff who underwent spinal surgery in Barcelona in September.

Arriving at the stadium you are met with a flurry of action, whistle blowing and yelling as three netball courts buzzed with players.

The ICC team gathered and talked about which positions we would like to play, I had no idea what the alphabet soup of letters meant, and was given a brief rundown on the WA position, which lines I should stay within, who I would be marking and most important not to run or even step when I got the ball.

The rest of our team seemed more than capable, Communications Advisor Hannah McLeod, who organised our team is a netball coach and had very clear advice - mainly screaming at me (positive encouragement she claims).

Team Leader - Environmental Health Betty Holden and Team Leader - Liquid

Café Jenna Padgett are both experienced Centres, and were the anchors of our team.

Team Leader – Compliance Elle Dickson, who rumour has it was awarded best player in her netball club this season, was the silent assassin.

Manager - People and Capability Gary Andrews who was down with an ankle injury brought in his daughter Eloise who is an umpire and crack shot with the ball.

Library Administration / Communication Assistant Cindy Mulroony an experienced netballer, Health & Safety Advisor Amber Geerlings-Parker and Team Leader - Turf Maintenance Simon Jamieson were key players.

Splash Palace Crew Emma Dickey and Mark Leishout, Senior Lifeguard Tahnee Ogilvy and Receptionist - Aquatic Services Melissa Dimmock showed they are just as talented out of the water as in it.

The brave opponents chosen to face this crack ICC team were ILT staff, and we sized them up on the opposite side of the court, finding them wanting in size, stamina and speed.

With a final few words mainly reassuring

me this was just a 'fun, friendly game' the whistle blew and I was thrust into a frenzy of people jumping, running, spinning, a ball zipping past my head, elbows swinging and knees locking.

As an ex rugby flanker I started to wish for the tranquillity of a rolling maul.

Getting my hands on the ball for the first time, I was so determined not to step I think I passed the ball doing a 180 turn at the waist, a medical impossibility but it is surprising what you can do when you're motivated (Hannah's 'positive encouragement').

The game went fast, I was subbed off sweating and huffing like I had run up the ICC stairs a few times.

It was a tight game with neither side giving an inch, and at the end of the day scores don't matter.

The winner won, and who can really remember the result.

My first game of netball surprised me because I had fun and have a new found respect for the skill and fitness needed for the game.

I may have found my new social team sport.



People of all ages help in Annual Bluff Street Clean Up



Image Supplied

TAMMI Topi sent the following about the Bluff Street Clean Up held on Sunday 29 September as part of the Keep NZ Beautiful initiative.

The weather was dry but rather windy, we had 15-20 people participate on the day, both children and adults and the Foreshore Road and central hub areas were focussed on first. We easily filled a caged single axle trailer with mainly smaller rubbish, as opposed to a lot larger items in previous years like tyres and gas bottles etc.

As a result of the weather hindrance we put the call out again to our community the following week to see how many more streets we could sign off. We had a tremendous response

with dozens of offers from locals to take on the challenge with ALL streets being "adopted". A first for us! We were quite overwhelmed with the positive result and it has certainly inspired the Bluff 2024 team to keep up with their beautification goals.

Some people commented on how surprised they were at the amount of rubbish they collected when actually "looking" for it in what otherwise seemed to be unnoticeable amounts.

It was great to see a lot of parents and grandparents getting kids involved to teach them firsthand a "little local environmental lesson" as such. One can only hope that this will see a reduction of bad waste practices in the future by those who participated.





SATURDAY 26 OCTOBER 2019

**Looking for something to do
with your little goblins and ghouls this Halloween?**

Dress up in your best costume, grab your jack-o-lantern and enjoy a spooky Saturday in the city centre from 10am to 2pm, Saturday 26 October.

All children under 12 are welcome to join in the fun and follow the play trail to gather stamps on a spooky passport leading them to their destination and a chance to win an amazing prize.

Pick up a Spooky Craft Kit from participating stores or the Invercargill Public Library. Return them by Wednesday 23 October so we can decorate the streets with your creations!

