



Deputy Mayor to jump out of a plane for charity

DEPUTY Mayor Toni Biddle is set to leap out of a plane for a good cause.

Cr Biddle has accepted the challenge to skydive for the Graeme Dingle Foundation, a brave decision considering she is not a fan of heights.

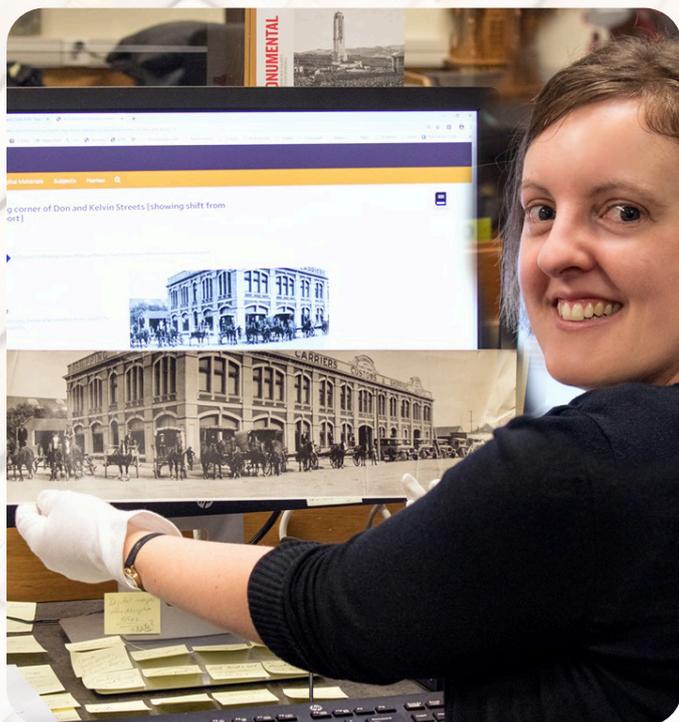
"I struggle with heights, looking out the window from the top of the admin building makes me uncomfortable. The Graeme Dingle foundation pushes youth outside their comfort zone, they overcome challenges and push their limits on these programmes so it seems fitting that I do the same," Cr Biddle said.

The Graeme Dingle Foundation's school-based programmes work alongside young people in our most vulnerable communities.

The foundation calls the programme a 'Transformational Journey' that helps young people become more confident and resilient, find purpose and direction to achieve success.

You can sponsor Cr Biddle's jump here www.givealittle.co.nz/fundraiser/Toni-drops-for-youth

All proceeds will go towards two school-based programmes running in Southland - Kiwi Can, and Career Navigator.



New online Library database

BY BONNIE MAGER

Library Digital and Communications Manager

DISCOVERING the collections of the Invercargill Public Library's Archives has become much easier with its new database now available for the public to search online.

The Archive contains materials unique to Southland and archivists are currently undertaking the mammoth task of digitising these items.

Their aim is to provide access to the collections and to preserve them for future generations.

Among the collections are records from local businesses, schools, sporting and cultural groups.

Some of the treasures already available to view online include Frederick William Burwell's 1886 block plans of Invercargill, and a photograph album of early street scenes.

Interviews from the Southland Oral History Project are also able to be searched.

These recordings capture the unique life histories and stories of Southlanders.

You can check out the database now at www.archives.ilibrary.co.nz/

Christmas in the CBD

BY GEMMA CRAWFORD

Community Development Officer

INVERCARGILL'S City Centre will be a hive of Christmas activity on Saturday 7 December when Esk Street is closed to traffic for the City Centre Christmas Festival and Market from 10am to 1.30pm.

Throughout the day there will be roving faeries, face painting, activities, and entertainment.

Local market stalls will be offering handmade gifts and food trucks will be present to feed the crowds.

The inner-city retailers will be open too, so there will be something for everyone – a perfect chance to get those Christmas presents sorted in one place.

The Christmas Festival is always a hit with residents, providing a fun day out with the family. We hope to see you there!



Christmas coming to Queens Park

Invercargill is to have its very own Christmas in the Park event this year.

A family friendly Christmas in the Park event will be held at Queens Park on Saturday 21 December. The event is free to the public and will include music, activities, food vendors, and people can also bring their own picnics if they wish.

Invercargill's Christmas in the Park is the brainchild of Southland-based promotions and audio/lighting company MASSAV Productions.

Blair Savory, of MASSAV Productions, said many other cities throughout New Zealand had Christmas in the Park events and he was keen to make sure Southlanders got the same opportunity.

"Queens Park is a world class park and we've got a host of talented musicians in Southland, there is no reason why we shouldn't have our very own quality Christmas in the Park event."

Savory floated the idea with the Invercargill City Council's Parks and Reserves division and he was delighted they had jumped on board and provided plenty of support to help make it happen.

MASSAV Productions have managed to secure a great line up with Lachie Hayes, Sam Cullen, Ramblin' Rosie's, Jet Set, The Possum Pickers and of course Santa all confirmed to perform at Invercargill's Christmas in the Park.

MC for the event will be Kane "Big Daddy" Johnson who is better known for his duties at Southland Sharks and Southern Steel games.

MASSAV Productions, the artists, and everyone else involved in making the event happen are providing their time and resources free of charge to ensure Invercargill is provided with an early Christmas present.

To enhance the Christmas giving spirit MASSAV Productions has partnered with the Salvation Army and will have food collection stations for those attending to donate non-perishable food items.

Brenda King, of Invercargill's Salvation Army, said: "the Salvation Army is very grateful to the community for helping us help those in need this Christmas".

Savory said: "the festive spirit will be alive in the lead up to Christmas with Carols by Candlelight being held on Thursday 19 December, the Leet Street Party on Friday 20 December, Christmas in the Park on Saturday 21 December, and the ILT Variety Show at ILT Stadium Southland on Sunday 22 December".

Christmas in the Park is an alcohol-free event for people of all ages.

A stage will be set up at the Queens Park Band Rotunda with the music to start at 3pm and continue through to 9pm.

