



PHOTOS: Environment Southland

Inside a Civil Defence exercise

Emergency Management Southland Civil Defence holds regular exercises in Invercargill, **Communications Advisor – Digital Media Daniel Tobin** took part in his first exercise last Friday.

EXERCISE Rū Whenua was held at the Emergency Coordination Centre based at Environment Southland.

Using staff from the different Councils, the exercises are held to test the region's capacity and capability during an emergency event and to make sure we are ready when needed.

On arrival you put on a colour-coded vest, each colour representing the section you belong to. I was purple which is PIM (Public Information management), whose job it is to develop and deliver messages to the public and liaise with the impacted community.

The other sections are: Controller (ably assisted by ICC Auditor Raewyn Thompson), Safety, Intelligence, Planning, Operations, Logistics, Welfare and Recovery.

Members from the Army, Police, Fire and Ambulance Services also attend exercises.

Overall there were about 50 participants with most having done CIMS (Coordinated Incident Management System) training, so were able to slot in quickly to their assigned roles.

The scenario for this exercise was based around an alpine fault earthquake centred 10km south of Haast.

The first challenge we had to overcome was the quake had taken out power and communications, so no mobiles, landlines or internet.

We had to rely on a generator for power and satellite phones, CB radios and word of mouth to get information out to the public and back to us.

One thing I noticed with a room full of very busy people was the low noise level, there was a continuous murmur, but no raised voices, no one yelling across the room, just a professional hum as the different areas maintained a continuous flow of communication.

An important tool for each team was their whiteboard where all information is collated, so the team and everyone in the room could see at a glance what was happening in the different areas.

This was particularly important for me as one of my jobs was to keep an eye on each whiteboard and note any updates that may not have been passed on to the PIM team.

As well as dealing with current issues, we also needed to think about handing over to the next shift, what they need to know and do.

Also, how long will this emergency go on for? The need to organise a roster for your section became important. We decided on a six-day roster with two 12-hour shifts.

The realism of the exercise included an aftershock where we had to drop, cover and hold. We were also required to organise a media briefing, with the Controller and emergency services answering the hard questions from a few PIMs people acting

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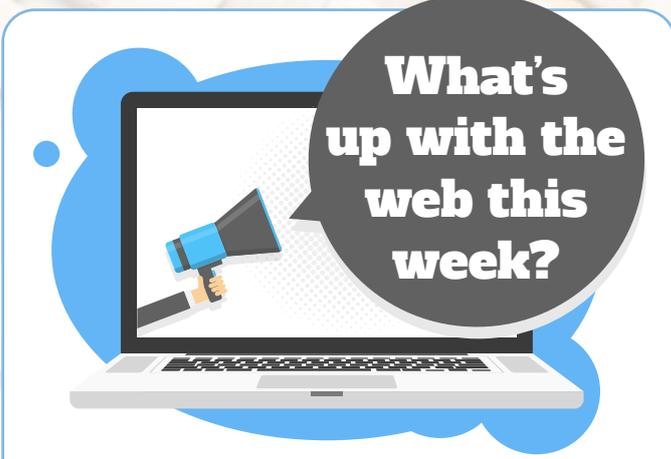
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as reporters, and a real journalist and photographer from the Southland Times.

Once the power and phones were restored a lot of information came flooding in particularly on the Civil Defence Facebook page which is part of PIM's job to manage, with a continual flow of messages from the 'public' written in 'realistic' language including:

"I hear youse are coming out to Tuatapere with food. I'm here with my missus and three kids and there's not much in the cupboards. Can you hook us up with some?"

It was an interesting day, and having experienced the Christchurch quakes it's reassuring knowing Civil Defence has a well-practiced system in place to take action when disaster strikes.



Communications Advisor – Digital Media
Daniel Tobin checks in on the best of www.icc.govt.nz this week.

Colours and Responsibilities



White - Controller

Controls and coordinates the response.



Green - Safety

Advise on measures to minimise risks to response personnel.



Dark blue - Intelligence

Collects and analyses information and produces intelligence related to context, impacts, consequences and forecasts.



Pink - Planning

Plans for response activities and resource needs.



Orange - Operations

Tasks, coordinates and tracks execution of the Action Plan.



Yellow - Logistics

Provides personnel, equipment, supplies, facilities and services to support response activities.



Purple - Public Information Management

Develops and delivers messages to the public and liaises with the impacted community. Develops messaging for Governance when Strategic Communications is not activated.



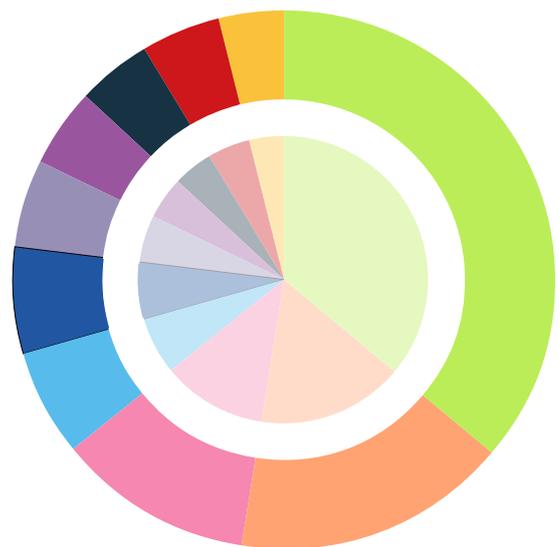
Light blue - Welfare

Ensures planned, coordinated and effective delivery of welfare services to affected individuals, families and communities, including animals.



Grey - Recovery

Starts the recovery management process during the initial response phase and ensures the recovery process is integrated with the response.



In November the ICC website had **73,457 page views**, with the **top 10 pages** being:

 11,115 Homepage	 1,675 Rates
 5,005 Rates search	 1,411 Online payments
 3,548 Cemetery search	 1,403 Splash Palace
 2,006 Buses	 1,399 A-Z Menu
 1,925 Maps	 1,160 Careers





PHOTOS: Nicola Allan.

Busy elves have been hard at work decorating the Bluff Service Centre. Assistant Manager and Head Elf Debbie Fife creates a rugby-themed tree to enter into the Christmas in the Bluff Christmas tree competition.

Christmas in the Bluff on this weekend

ON Sunday, 8 December, the Bluff community will be lining the streets, making sure they don't miss a moment of the annual Christmas Parade. Starting at the Liffey Street corner at 1pm, the parade will head down the Main Street, into Palmer Street and on to Barrow Street, where it will conclude at the Barrow Street entrance of the Bluff Oyster Festival site, opposite the Police Station.

The parade will run for approximately 30 minutes and will be led by the Bluff Town Crier (Ian Holland) and will include members of the Ambulance and Fire Service, Bluff Youth and Church groups, members of the Vintage car club, Classic Hot Rod cars, motorcycles and trucks, Bluff School and other community groups; and of course – Santa and his Elf. Following the parade there will be a Gala Day at the Bluff Oyster Festival site, where there will be approximately 25 stalls for your Christmas shopping pleasure.

There will be a wide range of stalls including coffee, gifts, jewellery, food and Christmas stocking fillers with live entertainment throughout the afternoon with the Town Crier & M.C Bruce Pagan keeping everyone entertained. There will be free face painting, free sumo wrestling, free astro ball, free bouncy castle, free mini jeeps, free ice cream, free hot chips-drink & candy-floss. For the children there will be free games. Santa will be available for children to have their photo taken with and there will also be a large 3-dimensional background providing a further photo opportunity.

There is a decorated Christmas tree competition with approximately 12 entries from different businesses and community groups. Winners are decided by way of a vote with a gold coin, the tree that makes the most money will win on the day and the winner will take home the coveted 2019 Decorated Christmas Tree Trophy. The Christmas trees will be displayed during the week leading up to the Gala Day in the St John building, Lee Street, where you will be able to pop in, view and vote with your gold coin.

All money raised from the Gala Day will go towards the 2020 Christmas in the Bluff Parade & Gala Day as the committee would like to ensure there are free activities available for children and their families each year. It is a wonderful family friendly day with a great family atmosphere. The day has had great support and the Bluff community have been extremely generous.

The organising committee would like to say a huge thank you to the Bluff community, without the generous support from our sponsors we would not be able to put such an event together. Our Sponsors include: Bluff Oyster Festival Committee, Talley's, Bluff Promotions, Osborn Engineering, Port Maintenance, Bluff Timber & Building Supplies and The Landsend Garden Club.

There are no eftpos facilities available.

The Gala Day is proudly smoke and alcohol free.





Queens Park Animal Attendant Jessie Beattie-Mackay with Tom the Turkey in the Animal Reserve enclosure.

**READ
ALL
ABOUT
IT!**

CHECK out page 10 of the Southland Express this week - a great photo and feature all about what it's like to be the Queens Park Animal Attendant with Jessey Beattie-Mackay.

When asked where she wanted to be in 10 years, Jessey said: "I would like to think still working here. Working in a setting like this is all I want to do."

What a great endorsement!

Christmas in the CBD

7th December, 2019

Come and join the
fun with Santa!



- Face painting
- Bubbles
- Roving faeries
- Hula hoops
- Bouncy castle
- Market stalls
- Food trucks

Lots of
Entertainment!

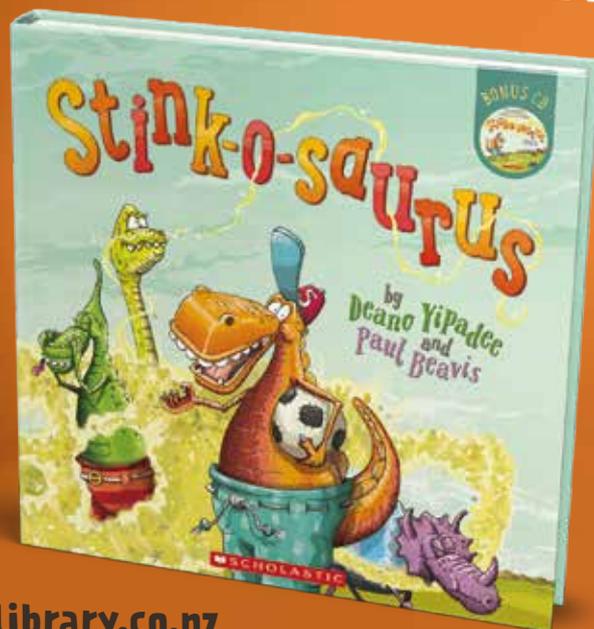
Mr Yipadee



**GOLD COIN
ENTRY**

**4:30pm
Friday 6 Dec
Invercargill
Public Library**

**FUN AND ENGAGING
LIVE MUSIC THAT'LL HAVE
THE KIDS IN STITCHES!**



Invercargill City
Libraries & Archives



Invercargill **ilibrary.co.nz**

CITY COUNCIL