

## Some surprises with Feldwick Gates project – but all going smoothly



**BY CHRIS MCAULAY**  
**Manager – Parks Operations**

**THE** Feldwick Gates redevelopment is underway with the tree removals undertaken without any issues or concerns.

The state of the trees was worse than we were expecting, with most of them full of borer holes and very rotten on the inside.

It was also decided to remove a further four large pine trees to the west as the risk was too high as these were now more exposed to prevailing winds, where previously they were sheltered by the macrocarpa trees.

Wilson contractors are now on site, firstly upgrading and installing new drains, before starting earthworks.

While early on in this project, all is on track and progressing well.

## LTP pre-engagement going strong

**IT'S** been a busy few weeks for staff and Councillors alike who have been working on Long-term Plan pre engagement tasks.

While some have attended physical engagement events, others have been starring in or helping to create videos for social media.

For the first time, we have also launched an online budgeting tool.

This allows ratepayers to show Councillors how they would spend up to \$100 million on eight key projects which you have previously identified as likely to be big issues up for consideration.

Feel free to have a go yourself at [www.ourcitywithheart.co.nz](http://www.ourcitywithheart.co.nz)

Here's what the results say so far:







**ABOVE:** Manager - Environmental Services Betty Holden-Tzanoudakis manning the BBQ at Dogs Day Out in Bluff.

## Dogs day out a success, registration a slow trickle to the finish

**BY BETTY HOLDEN-TZANOUDAKIS**  
**Manager – Environmental Services**

**THE** Animal Services team had a successful Dogs Day Out in Bluff on Saturday 11 October.

The day was for the opening of the upgraded off leash dog area at Ocean Beach Reserve.

The day attracted 20-30 dogs and their owners.

Southern Institute of Technology vet nursing students were available to do free health checks

John Taylor and Graham Miller both had their detection dogs demonstrations on

how they search for velvetleaf.

Animal Services team members were available for free micro chipping, general dog information and free sausage sizzle.

Meanwhile, current dog registrations are at 5772, with about 3,000 still to be registered.

This year, we have delayed applying any penalties to late registrations in recognition of the fact that some dog owners may struggle to pay on time due to the financial impacts of COVID-19.

Instead of applying a 25% penalty from August 31, we are waiting until 1 November to apply the penalty, giving dog owners a couple of extra months to get their registrations in.

Unfortunately, that means we're seeing a high number of registrations still to come in, with under a week left to go (31 October).

People can register their dogs on our website or by coming in to the Civic Administration Building or the Bluff Service Centre.





## Invitation to conversation about retirement villages

**THE** Commission for Financial Capability is running free seminars about living in retirement villages.

The seminars focus on things to consider before choosing to live in a retirement village and provide practical tips before you sign up to live in a retirement village.

They are intended to look impartially and robustly at important issues for people thinking of living in a retirement village.

A speaker from the Commission, (and a guest from the Retirement Village Association or legal profession if available), will discuss types of retirement village structure, costs, and operations. The seminar will also explain some important residents' rights and where you can find out more information.

The seminars are 90 minutes long and include plenty of dedicated question and answer time throughout the event.

The Invercargill Seminar will be at the Workingmen's Club on 26 November at 6.30pm.

Visit <https://www.eventfinda.co.nz/2020/thinking-of-living-in-retirement-village/invercargill> to register.

## Halloween Boo-klet highlights organisational collaboration

**THE** newly amalgamated Council Communications Team has brought a fresh approach to promoting Halloween events in the City, collaborating with both internal departments and external organisations to make sure the community gets a chance to experience all the fantastic events happening as part of the Spooky Saturday in the City event.

A special boo-klet has been printed and distributed, featuring all the different events and activities throughout the city.

Design and Marketing Specialist Geena Bragg has taken the lead on promotions for the event.

"We noticed that in previous years, with events in the CBD, Halloween at the Stumpery, and events at the Library, there was often a cross-over of event times, and a missed opportunity for joint promotion. It meant that the public sometimes had to pick and choose which events they'd go to, and which they'd miss out on. It also meant that event organisers would sometimes miss out on getting as many people as possible along."

Geena said the booklet included events being run and supported by ICC, Great South, Sport Southland, and Healthy Families, which were happening at lots of venues



*ABOVE: Invercargill City Council's Design and Marketing Specialist Geena Bragg with the Spooky Saturday Boo-klet.*

including in the CBD, at the Library, and at Splash Palace.

"We hope that this will mean families can have the best experience possible, while everyone involved in planning the events will get to enjoy having as many people attend as possible too," Geena said.

The Communications Team is also working on a special summer events booklet, with the same goal in mind – providing people with one little booklet to tell them about all the fantastic events and activities linked to Council over the summer.

If successful, the team will look to broaden out the booklet in future years,

and consider approaching external organisations to include their events in the summer booklet too.

To find out more about Spooky Saturday in the City, visit [www.icc.govt.nz/spooky-saturday-in-the-city](http://www.icc.govt.nz/spooky-saturday-in-the-city) or pick up a booklet from the Library, Splash Palace, the Civic Administration Building, or Stadium Southland.