ISSUE 45
April 2016

HASTINGS DISTRICT COUNCIL

My Hastings

Keep up with what's happening in Hastings District

NZ's MOST Beautiful PLACE.

Celebrating Parks
Hastings' jewels

HASTINGS
HEART OF HAWKE'S BAY

FRIMLEY FACELIFT

PLAN FOR THE YEAR

KNEE DEEP IN FLOWERS

Sir Andrew Russell Statue, Civic Square

ANZAC DAY 2016

Upfront

Visitors have been pouring into the region over the summer and into autumn, and the push to spend some quality time in our region doing something a bit different shows no sign of slowing.

It is so very pleasing to have the opportunity to showcase our district and, of course, our beautiful climate.

The next big event is the Air New Zealand Hawke's Bay International Marathon on May 14. In March, with still a month to go until entries closed, 80 per cent of entries had already been taken up. Entries close on 25 April, however at this rate all the distances will sell out before this date.

Hawke's Bay is just the second region to be chosen to hold the Air New Zealand destination marathon event after Queenstown, which has been a huge success.

It is estimated that over 80 per cent of the entries will come from out of the district – and many of those people will never have been here before.

Let's give them a great welcome, show them around when we have the opportunity, and encourage them to come back.

After all, there really is no better place in New Zealand to holiday or live.

The marathon, which starts in Napier, goes through Clive, then through beautiful wineries and olive groves to Sileni Estate in Hastings, is the latest in a full calendar of events that have had our region buzzing.

And there is plenty of proof that the summer has been great.

Hawke's Bay Tourism reported in March that January's visitor nights had increased 13 per cent on the same month last year (to 163,790 nights), with international visitors up almost 21 per cent.

Those figures put Hawkes' Bay, along with Canterbury, Rotorua, Queenstown and Auckland, in the top performing regions across New Zealand.

Over the last few months there have been events big and small helping to build these figures.

They range from the iconic annual Horse of the Year to Triple Peaks to the plentiful vineyard concerts.

And there are the niche national offerings that won't be on everybody's radar but which draw folk to our home, like the off-shore powerboat championships, the Highland Games and the secondary school North Island orienteering championships.

Council takes pride in helping a lot of the larger events to be the best they can be, and congratulates everyone involved in helping to bring visitors to our fine shores on their superb efforts.

On an entirely different note: It is the time of year when council sets its plan in place for the coming financial year and as part of that asks residents for their opinion on the projects in that plan. In the article below this column you can read the main points, but I do encourage you to check out the draft Annual Plan link on our Council website (hastingsdc.govt.nz) and have your say.

Deputy Mayor Cynthia Bowers

It's planning time of year

It is time to make plans for the coming financial year, and Council wants input from residents.

Every year, prior to the start of the financial year on July 1, Council puts together its plan for the following 12 months, based on its Long Term Plan and with any additional items that have come up.

The plan drives any change in rates for the year.

At this stage, the planned rate increase is sitting at an average 2.5 per cent, depending on the decisions made in the next month. The Long Term Plan had forecast 3.3 per cent.

The item in the plan that will have the most impact on that rate increase is a proposal to pay for parking on a yearly basis through an extra rate and permanently do away with on-street parking meters. That would put it on the same footing as the system that has been operating in Havelock North for some years.

Making parking an annual charge would raise the proposed rate increase to an average 3.5 per cent. The impact on households will depend on where they live.

All of those living in Rating Area One, predominantly in towns and villages and their surrounding areas, the cost would be $30 a year. Those living in the mainly rural areas of the district would pay $15 per home. The difference between urban and rural reflects that people living in closer proximity to the city centres are more likely to use car parks more of the time.

Hastings central city businesses would pay $90 a year, as they are seen as the greatest beneficiaries of the scheme. There is a rebate proposed for retailers (on application) who provide their own car parks and therefore pay rates on those parks.

The 'pay through rates' parking scheme would align with one that has been running in Havelock North. Havelock North residents would see an increase of $7 a year in their annual parking rate, and Havelock North inner city businesses an increase of $19.

The rate would pay for Council's parking operation, which operates across the wider Hastings district. The staff would still be needed to ensure drivers do not out stay their time limits (making sure parks are regularly freed up for other shoppers), monitor vehicle warrant of fitnesses and registrations, and ensure the rules for spaces like mobility and five-minute parks are adhered to.

Other new projects up for discussion are already included in the budget so they do not push the rate rise any higher than the proposed 2.5 per cent (excluding the parking proposal).

Those projects include extending City Assist into Flaxmere in the wake of its success in Hastings city centre. City Assist works with retailers, the public and police to enhance public safety, discourage anti-social behaviour, and generally act as ambassadors for the district. The cost would be $181,000 a year.

Council is also proposing putting free internet into public libraries, at a cost of $60,000, supporting Te Matatini (the national Kapa Haka competition being held in Hastings in 2017) at a cost of $150,000, further improving the Flaxmere Community Centre with things like a kitchen and music studio, $69,000, and increasing its community grants budget by $200,000.

For more on the plan, and to have your say, see: www.myvoicemychoice.co.nz

MAYOR LAWRENCE YULE

DEPUTY MAYOR CYNTHIA BOWERS

COUNCILLOR ADRIENNE PIERCE

COUNCILLOR GEORGE LYONS

COUNCILLOR HENARE O'KEEFE JP

COUNCILLOR JACOBY POULAIN

COUNCILLOR JOHN ROIL

COUNCILLOR KEVIN WATKINS

Parks a plenty!

There are 43 playgrounds in Hastings with 182 pieces of play equipment, 177 parks and reserves spread over more than 600 hectares, 13,000 specimen trees, 52,000m2 of shrub beds and much more - and there has never been a better time to get around and explore them.

In March New Zealand celebrated its first ever Parks Week, an Australasian celebration initiated by the New Zealand Recreation Association and Parks and Leisure Australia, focusing on getting more people enjoying their public spaces.

A focus on just how beautiful the green spaces in Hastings are was a big part of the district winning the most recent national 'Most Beautiful City' award.

Cornwall Park in the middle of Hastings is a perfect example, 21 acres of green space gifted to the people of Hastings by the Williams family in 1901.

More and more community events are being held in the parks, things like the Jazz in the Park series in Havelock North, Concerts in the Park in Hastings, cultural and sports days in Flaxmere, with an emphasis on our residents visiting and enjoying all of the parks and reserves in our district.

For a list of council's playgrounds see: www.hastingsdc.govt.nz/playground-list-map

Frimley facelift

A playground with a difference is being built in Frimley – with sensory play gear and universal access top of the innovation list.

All the usual park elements will still be there, swings, slides and rope climbs, but there will also be bright-colours defining different areas, designed to help those with poor vision or with learning disabilities, things like congo drums and talk tubes, a wheelchair-friendly roundabout, artificial turf across the play area suitable for all mobilities, and a circular path for scootering.

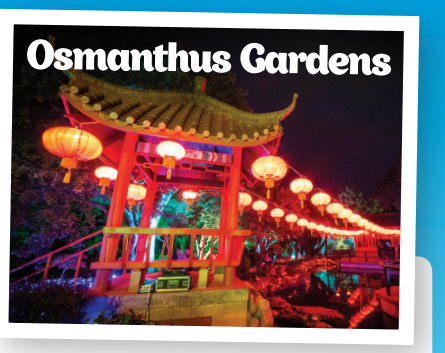
The Frimley Park play equipment was due for an upgrade, so it was a perfect time to look at what elements could be added, said Hastings District councillor Kevin Watkins.

"It's really nice to have a range of different elements at different parks. While we need to always have the basics at each of the play areas, swings and things, I think having something different means families can visit different parks across the region and enjoy a change. And this one will really be quite different."

The park was fenced off in March, with work expecting to be completed by May, weather depending. Some equipment will be refurbished and put back, while other pieces will be brand new.

Staff say one of the best pieces will be a rope climbing frame with a difference – the Grand Vista with bridge and slide.

"It's great; this is a playground for everyone. The range of equipment for all different abilities is quite astounding and I'm rapt that we've been able to incorporate up-to-the-minute pieces into Frimley Park," said Mr Watkins.



The annual lighting of the Osmanthus Gardens in Cornwall Park has once again proved a huge success, with bigger crowds than ever.

Councillor Kevin Watkins, who organised the lighting and was at the gardens to greet the crowds every night, guessed that the numbers over the nine nights would have exceeded 6000.

"They just loved it. As well as our locals we had a lot of international visitors this year, from Asia, Pacific, the UK and South America."

The garden was put in to celebrate the 15th year of the sister city relationship between Hastings and Guilin in China.

Mr Watkins said given this year is the 20th anniversary of the installation of garden and the 35th anniversary of the sister city relationship between Guilin, it was marvellous to get such great crowds.

New this year were "beautiful high-quality posters of Guilin sent over by Guilin Tourism", Mr Watkins said.

Those gave people who could only make it during the day something extra to enjoy.

More are expected for next year's lighting, and new lanterns and lights are also planned.

Flaxmere flower power

There is a bit of flack that goes with being a big burly rugby player who spends his days knee deep in flowers, but it is Lovell Te Whaiti who has the last laugh.

He has a job that he loves getting up for in the morning – tending the public parks and gardens so enjoyed by Hastings residents.

The 28-year-old, who has two children and another due, also appreciates being so close to home, being outdoors, and being one step off completing his horticultural apprenticeship.

It was not where he thought he would be just three years ago when he had another job he really enjoyed, working for the Department of Conservation in the regional parks. He was a casualty of a major restructure.

But now, three years in, he says his days are varied, he learns something new every day, the appreciation by the public is a real buzz, he gets to work outdoors, and is never more than five minutes' drive from his Flaxmere home and family. "It's got everything, from mowers and scrub bars to the flowers and design."

One of the highlights has been the chance to design plantings for the 12 public Flaxmere gardens. Among this summer's designs has been a depiction of the sun in the corner of the garden with the rays shooting out across the bed, all in the brilliant burnt oranges and yellows of marigolds.

Those marigolds are about to come out over the next week, replaced by polyanthus which will take the gardens through autumn and winter – again designed by Te Whaiti.

He is pretty excited about a couple of the designs he already has prepared for next summer – one the depiction of New Zealand's flag. "It's looking pretty good on paper."

And those mates who give him cheek when he is in the gardens? "They'll call out 'flower boy' when they see me, especially in the roundabouts, but it's all good and we catch up later for rugby or a beer."

Council gardens a gateway to the world

Te Whaiti is one of about six apprentices in the Hastings District Council parks team at any one time across three fields: horticulture, turf and tree management.

The national qualifications are internationally recognised, says council's horticulture manager Gary Drake. "We've had apprentices go off to work across the world, including one who went to Buckingham Palace. Others have gone to resorts, including in Australia and Spain. You can go anywhere with these qualifications."

Drake says Te Whaiti is a great employee: "A genuinely nice guy who is Flaxmere-proud and, with the rest of that team, puts his heart into the gardens."

The 30-strong parks team puts about 61,000 annuals into the 40 flower beds across the district twice a year. They also look after the shrubs and trees in the urban parks, mow the lawns, weed, trim and keep the sports fields up to scratch.

It is a physical job, and great for anyone who likes to work outdoors, says Drake. "You don't need to pay for a gym membership."

It's also an "earn as you learn" opportunity, which means the apprentices come out with a qualification but without the student loan that usually goes with higher education. "It's especially great for people who have a family and can't take time out to study because others are relying on them."

Drake encourages the gardeners to get involved in the design of the flowerbeds. "Most of them are keen to have a go; it gives them a buy-in in the gardens and they get a real kick out of seeing their designs come to life and that residents stop and admire them."

He had noticed an increase in the public use of parks and put that down to their increasing loveliness, more families looking for things to do that don't cost anything, and the trend towards smaller sections which means "you need a space like a park to kick a ball around in".

Drake is very proud of his team and has a special mention for the often "unsung heroes" in it. The amenities team picks up litter and cleans the public toilets. "They're the very necessary chores that aren't so pretty. But without them it wouldn't matter how nice we made the gardens, people would not enjoy them."

COUNCILLOR MALCOLM DIXON

COUNCILLOR MICK LESTER

COUNCILLOR ROD HEAPS

COUNCILLOR SANDRA HAZLEHURST

COUNCILLOR SIMON NIXON

COUNCILLOR TANIA KERR

COUNCILLOR WAYNE BRADSHAW

What's on in April

For more information on these and other events *eventfinda.co.nz*

Hastings City Art Gallery

Open every day from 10am to 4.30pm FREE ENTRY

Phone (06) 871 5095 or email: hastingsartgallery@hdc.govt.nz

EXHIBITIONS

ALL MONTH

Ghosting: Daniel Unverricht

Ghosting depicts unsettling urban and suburban spaces of Hastings and Napier. Unverricht's paintings draw on small town inertia and big city insecurity.

UNTIL 10 APRIL

Lost World: Gregor Kregar

In Lost world sculptor Gregor Kregar intrigues and delights by combining structures made from recycled glass with large stylized bronze dinosaurs.

UNTIL 13 APRIL

A torch and a light (cover): Shannon Te Ao

A captivating video work.

OPENS 16 APRIL

Visiting Asia

Fiona Amundsen / Ben Buchanan / Kushana Bush Steve Carr / Liyen Chong / Tim Corballis / Matthew Cowan / Kerry Ann Lee /Jae Hoon Lee / Reuben Paterson / Tiffany Singh / Jade Townsend / Tim Veling / Kate Woods / Erica van Zon

This vibrant exhibition shares the perspectives of New Zealand artists who have undertaken residencies in China, Indonesia, India, Japan, Taiwan and South Korea. Through a wide variety of media including photography, painting, performance, video and sculpture, the selected artists have explored new places, collaborated with communities and created fresh cross-cultural synergies.

OPENS 23 APRIL

Anzac: Wellesley Binding

Binding's paintings are a response on a personal level to the battles fought in the First World War. Communicating the events through an on the ground perspective, capturing intimate instances of action and activity.

OPENS 23 APRIL

The Lake, Tuai: Doris Lusk

To commemorate the 25th anniversary of Doris Lusk's death and the 100 year anniversary of her birth in May we are showing her painting The Lake: Tuai, painted in 1948.

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

7 APRIL

Lunch Time Tour, 12.30pm

Join gallery Director Toni Mackinnon for a lunch time tour of our current exhibitions. Free, no booking required.

15 APRIL

Visiting Asia Opening Night, 5.30pm

Bring a friend and join us to celebrate the opening of Visiting Asia, with kai and music.

16 APRIL

Artist Workshop: FREE Zine-Making with Kerry Ann Lee

10:30am - 1pm

Create a Zine with Wellington based artist Kerry Ann Lee. Supported by the Asia NZ Foundation as part of the exhibition Visiting Asia. For 12 years and above. Free, booking required.

25 APRIL

Artist's Floor Talk – Wellesley Binding, 11am

Hear artist Wellesley Binding speak about the paintings in his Anzac Exhibition. Free, no booking required.

20 & 27 APRIL

School Holiday Programme, 10.30am – 12.30pm

Kids will have great fun in this art workshop inspired by our Visiting Asia Exhibition. For 6 - 12 year olds, $10 per person, booking required.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS at Hastings District Libraries

H - *Hastings Library* **HN** - *Havelock North Library*
F - *Flaxmere Library* - www.hastingslibraries.co.nz

18 APRIL

Come and support Flaxmere's Young Stars at this Year 7 & 8 singing and dance competition, 3pm - 6pm **F**

19 APRIL

Create a tin soldier to go in the library trenches, 10.30am **H**

Join in some Wild West drama and stories, make a cowboy or cowgirl dancing puppet, 10.30am **HN**

Come and learn some tips on how to succeed in the entertainment industry , 11am (also 22 April) **F**

20 APRIL

Come along to preschool story time and share ANZAC stories and make your own flower to take home, 10.30am **H**

Nerf War for Teens (registration required) 5pm - 6.30pm **H**

21 APRIL

Escape the ordinary with Story time, songs and crafts, 10.30am **F**

22 APRIL

Come dressed in Wild West gear and join Jock the Singing Cowboy for a sing a long of favourite children's songs and Wild West tunes, 10.30am **HN**

Bring along a pillow and some snacks and settle in for a good movie, 1pm **H**

26 APRIL

Teen Boardgames, all day **H**

Are you a baller? Sign up a team of five and compete for this Flaxmere Competition, 2pm - 4pm (also 27 and 29 April) **F**

27 APRIL

Join us at preschool storytime for stories, songs and crafts, 10.30am **H**

28 APRIL

Come and hear from elite athletes about being a professional sportsman as their share their experiences, success and training tips, 12pm **F**

29 APRIL

Learn how technology can be a fun tool in the art of telling stories in digital storytime, 10.30am **HN**

Teen Movie Day, all day **H**

EVERY SUNDAY

Hawke's Bay Farmers Market

Hawke's Bay A&P Showgrounds, Kenilworth Road

8.30am - 12.30pm hawkesbayfarmersmarket.co.nz

2 - 10 APRIL

Hawke's Bay Festival of Hockey

Regional Sports Park

Your chance to witness world class Hockey at it's best, on our front door! See hockeyfestival.nz for information and to buy tickets.

7 APRIL

Hollie Smith 'Water or Gold' Album Release Tour

Black Barn Vineyards, Black Barn Road, Havelock North

See Hollie performing her new material plus the best of her past releases - a show not to miss! Tickets from eventfinda.co.nz

12 APRIL

Landmarks History Lecture

Hastings War Memorial Library

Hear Terry Taaffe speak about Herbert Guthrie Smith of Tutira, the story of a remarkable New Zealander. Entry by gold coin donation, starts at 5.30pm.

16 APRIL

Hawke's Bay Gold Cup

Hastings Racecourse, 200 Prospect Road

The Hawke's Bay Gold Cup is one of New Zealand's oldest Racedays, first run over 150 years ago! Great for friends and families with live music, kids activities and much more on offer for the day. Visit www.hawkesbayracing.co.nz for more information.

16 APRIL

NZ National Basketball League - Bay Hawks vs. Taranaki Mountain Airs

Pettigrew Green Arena, Taradale

Support your local NBL team the Bay Hawks as they take on the Mountain Airs in their quest for national Basketball glory. Tip off is 7pm tickets from eventfinda.co.nz or on the door.

18 & 19 APRIL

Taster Workshops

Easter Institute of Technology (EIT), Taradale

EIT is inviting all 11-13 and 15-18 year olds to take part in these free taster workshops including viticulture and wine science, horror make-up for the screen industry and social work. Book on 0800 22 55 348.

18-29 APRIL

Fun Factor Holiday Programme

Hastings Sports Centre, Railway Road

The April intake is now open! Join in the fun of Ga-Ga ball, outrageous games day, the fun factor lolly factory and more. Register at hastingsportscentre.co.nz.

21 APRIL

Napier Port Hawke's Bay Primary Sector Awards Dinner

Hawke's Bay A&P Showgrounds

Come and celebrate a year of excellence in the primary sector, and hear the winners of categories such as Silver Fern Farms Farmer of the Year, Pan Pac Farm Forester of the Year and the Hastings District Council supported Primary Sector Leadership Award. Tickets cost $150 and include all beverages, three course meal and canapes. Visit showgroundshb.co.nz for more information.

23 APRIL

HMNZS Te Kaha: Charter Parade

Soundshell, Marine Parade, Napier

Bayonets will be fixed, drums will beat, colours will fly and the band will play. Sailors (officers & ratings) from HMNZS Te Kaha will march from the Napier Soundshell to Clive Square in a naval Charter Parade.

22-24 APRIL

NZ Junior Motocross Champs

Ngaruroro Raceway, Mere Road

The best young riders converge on the Bay in a battle of nerves and steel. BYO Earplugs!

25 APRIL

NZ National Basketball League - Bay Hawks vs. Waitakere Rangers

Pettigrew Green Arena, Taradale

Cheer on the Hawks in their second to last home game this season.

30 APRIL

Autumn Cup Race Day

Hastings Racecourse, 200 Prospect Road

A family friendly race day with free admission, bouncy slide, face painting and nine exciting races on the card.

EARLY MAY

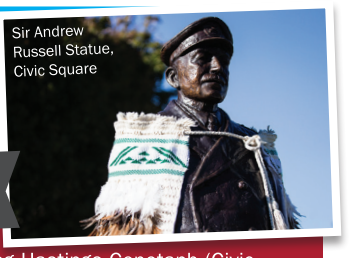
1 MAY

Country 2 Coast

Choose from four different events: McDonalds 8lm Fun Run/Walk, 15km Fun Run/Walk, Hillmac Electrical Half Marathon, The 20km Farndon Ride for cyclists. Visit www.country2coast.co.nz for more information.

ANZAC Day 2016

25 APRIL


Sir Andrew Russell Statue, Civic Square

Various locations including Hastings Cenotaph (Civic Square), Hawke's Bay Hospital Memorial Chapel, Havelock North Cenotaph, Clive Cenotaph and more.

Join the Hastings RSA at your local cenotaph for one of the dawn or civic services commemorating our service people who fought overseas in the many theatres of war. A full list of service times and locations is available at hastingsrsa.co.nz or phone 06 878 8808.