

ISSUE 44  
March 2016

# My Hastings

Keep up with what's happening in Hastings District  
NZ's MOST Beautiful PLACE,

## We are Bike Wise in Hastings



HASTINGS  
HEART OF HAWKE'S BAY

Triple Peaks Challenge



WHAT'S ON  
IN HASTINGS



TWO WHEELS MAKE  
MAGIC FUN



SWIMMING IN  
FLAXMERE



11 DAYS TO GO:  
HAVE YOUR SAY!

**We are in the middle of a couple of big months in Hastings – some of it serious, like the decision on the Hawke's Bay Opera House; some of it a lot of fun, like a host of cycling events.**

First the serious: The public consultation on what to do with the opera house, strengthen and reopen it or demolish it, opened on February 13. As of the day this issue of My Hastings comes out, there is just 11 days to go until submissions close, after which council staff will analyse those submissions and report to council, and a decision will be made on the best way forward. Everyone should have seen either information in the mail, on billboards around the city, in pamphlets being handed out wherever there is a gathering, or at one of our special information meetings in Havelock North, Hastings and Flaxmere.

There is a lot of interest in the subject; submissions started arriving on day one of the consultation. Please do have your say on what is a multi-million decision. Councillors want the community to have a full part in the discussion, and to have a clear steer from our people on what they should do.

Onto the fun. Hawke's Bay is fast becoming the cycling capital of New Zealand and Hastings is a massive part of that. In the last few weeks we have had the week-long Commuter Challenge and the Go By Bike Breakfast, to which literally many hundreds turned out. Thank you to all those participants. These kind of events have many great spin offs. We see much more of our city, we meet new people and our health gets better. It is truly a win/win.

Coming up we have the official opening of the New Havelock North cycleway, running down the south side of Havelock Rd from the Havelock North roundabout to Hastings. It is a very busy road and keeping our cyclists safe while travelling between two of our busy areas is paramount.

Then there is the Big Easy, which is not only popular with our residents but in its fourth year is doing its bit to bring tourists to our region. Rather than a race, this is the perfect

excuse for a leisurely ride along 43 kilometres of our beautiful Hawke's Bay Cycle Trails, enjoying the scenery and supping at some of our finest eateries and wineries along the way, to finish with a concert at Black Barn Vineyard in Havelock North.

We will take a breather from organised cycling events over winter until the Blossom Ride in October, but with our beautiful winters you can always pick a stunner of a day to head out onto the trails. Enjoy.

**Mayor Lawrence Yule**



## The opera house: Just 11 days to go

**With less than two weeks to go in the Hawke's Bay Opera House submission phase, council is calling for everyone to have their say.**

The opera house has figured in the lives of almost everyone at some stage, even if that has been indirectly through things like their grandchildren or nieces and nephews being part of a ukulele concert at an event run by the local schools.

That is the reason Council wants as many people as possible to have a say in its future. Over its 100 years the opera house has hosted film evenings, boxing matches, business functions, educational lectures, plays, choirs, bands, and, of course, opera.

As almost everyone will know, the opera house and the neighbouring Municipal Building were closed nearly two years ago when they were found to be earthquake-prone. Now council is about to make a decision on whether to strengthen and reopen the building.

Council wants to know, before making any decisions, if residents agree with its proposal

to strengthen the building to 75 per cent of New Building Standards, at a cost of about \$11 million, and putting a permanent roof over the plaza, at a cost of about \$2m. The latter will enable the Plaza to be more fully used during the colder months.

The consultation document also asks for ideas for future uses of the Municipal Building and people's feedback on the overarching Tihei Heretaunga strategy.

On the latter two, council is only looking for feedback at this stage, with any concrete plans for the Municipal Building and segments of the Tihei Heretaunga strategy (which covers the cultural precinct of Hastings city including Civic Square) to be put before the public in separate consultation processes.

**For documents on the strategy, see [www.growingourculturalheart.co.nz](http://www.growingourculturalheart.co.nz) and go to 'reports'.**

### Have your say

There are many ways to have your say on the plans for the opera house.

- ▶ Go to the Hastings District Council website [www.hastingsdc.govt.nz](http://www.hastingsdc.govt.nz) and click on the 'It's Your Opera House; Have Your Say' link;
- ▶ go directly to council's submission website page [www.myvoicemychoice.co.nz](http://www.myvoicemychoice.co.nz),
- ▶ grab a short form submission leaflet from **libraries or i-Sites** in the district or the **main council office** and drop the completed form in the **feedback boxes** in the same venues,
- ▶ or write your submission out and post it to: **Opera House submissions, Hastings District Council, Private Bag 9002, Hastings 4156.**



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

# Cycling a big hit in Hastings

**It is all about bikes in Hastings in February and March – and if numbers turning out for events are anything to go by, our residents and visitors alike love the action.**

The big one coming up is The Big Easy over Easter weekend. In its fourth year, it is already attracting visitors from out of the region which builds on the big crowd of locals who appreciate a cycling event that is not a race.

A joint effort by Hastings District Council, Napier City Council and Hawke's Bay Tourism, The Big Easy covers 43kms over a route which meanders its way from Church Road Winery in Taradale, through Napier and along the seafront to Clive, and then out to Black Barn Vineyards where the event finishes with a concert. The Big Easy cycles off at 10am on Easter Saturday (March 26), while a shorter "Family Start" ride starts in Clive at 10.30am.

There are lots of opportunities to stop along the way for refreshments or just to enjoy the scenery, before relaxing at Black Barn for a concert with lots of surprises including the fantastic Austin Powers, an Elvis sighting, the awesome Bay Batacoda, and main events Naked Gun and Ian Munroe.

Organisers are expecting 2000 riders this year, up from just 750 in its first year. It is expected that about

a quarter of the cyclists will be from out of town. "It is growing every year, and that's because it's such a great family fun event. There's kids, there's older people; it's a huge crowd who just want to enjoy a leisurely cycle through some of the best of Hawke's Bay," says Hawke's Bay Tourism general manager Annie Dundas.

"It's the perfect event for our locals to invite friends and family to the district over a long weekend. It's about having a great day out stopping along the way to enjoy the scenery, or enjoy one of many spots for refreshments."

Just the week before, on March 19, there will be an official opening of the new southern side pedestrian and cycleway on Havelock Rd. It will include a 7km cycle ride from the event site on the corner St Georges Rd and Havelock Rd along the new path, a loop around the outskirts of Havelock North, and back to the event base. For children there will be a bouncy castle, and coffee and food will be for sale.

All this comes on top of two big cycle events held in February. The ever popular annual Go By Bike Breakfast this year attracted about 1000 people, the majority in school groups from all points of Hastings. The week after that, the five day Commuter Challenge saw more than 300 cyclists enjoy free breakfasts at 10 different venues across Hastings and Napier as they headed to work.



## Big leap in pool fun

**A new manager, new programmes and a re-juggle of school hours to give the community more choice on when to swim – it's all going on at Swim Heretaunga.**

Fiona Hurley has been in the job for just over a month, and is taking great pleasure in overseeing the changes.

First out of the blocks has been a new Bootcamp, a mixture of exercise on dry land and in the water.

Fiona says the first six week programme, run in conjunction with FlaXrock Gym, is proving popular and more are in the planning stages.

"Some are there for strength so go extra hard in the dry classes, others are there for rehabilitation, so really appreciate the water side of it. Everyone is mixing very well and it's a great atmosphere."

By the end of term Aqua Zumba will be on the menu, a programme that is already running at the Clive Pool and one Fiona is expecting to draw plenty of participants.

During the week, school swim times have been spread out over a longer period of the day so there is always part of the pool available for lane swimming or family play, from 7am to 3.15pm Monday to Thursday and 10am to 3.15pm on a Friday. It's open for family fun and lane swimming most Saturdays and Sundays, from 10am to 3.30pm.

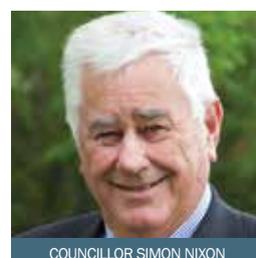
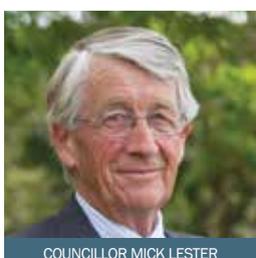
There may be a rare occasion when those hours change because of a school's swimming sports or other big event "but that will be very rare", said Fiona.

"The changes are about catering for everybody as much as possible. And the changes are already popular; there's a steady stream of people coming in during the day for lane swimming."

From 3.15pm until 7pm the pool is dedicated to swimming lessons and swim club training, but then opens for an hour again for family fun. "It's a great time to bring the kids down, give them an hour splashing about in the water, tuckering them out so they're ready for a big sleep."

One of the most popular times of the year is the school holidays – with the big inflatables already booked for the next ones in April. "Those are the fun times – and it's great to see so many happy faces. We always look forward to it."

**For more information on Hastings' pools, see: [aquaticshastings.co.nz](http://aquaticshastings.co.nz)**



# What's on in March

For more information on these and other events [eventfinda.co.nz](http://eventfinda.co.nz)



## What's on at Hastings District Libraries

[www.hastingslibraries.co.nz](http://www.hastingslibraries.co.nz)

### EVERY MONDAY

#### **Minecraft Club, 3.30-4.30pm**

BYOD along to the new Minecraft Club at the Havelock North Library where you can collaborate with other like-minded gamers, swap tips and get creative in themed challenges! Also held every other week at Hastings Library.

### EVERY WEDNESDAY

#### **Clan of Coders club, 4pm - 5pm**

Learn coding skills by playing a computer game! Join the CLAN OF CODERS CLUB at [hastingslibraries.co.nz](http://hastingslibraries.co.nz) and then participate anytime online from home or come along to real time sessions at the Flaxmere Library.

### EVERY WEDNESDAY

#### **Movie nights at Flaxmere Library, 5.30pm. Free.**

### 17 MARCH

#### **Teen Maker Space**

New! Come along from 3.30pm - 4.30pm and make apple stamps at Hastings Library.

### 5 APRIL

#### **Bakers' Club, 10.30am**

Love baking? Enjoy fresh home baking over a cuppa and chat about our favourite recipes at Hastings Library. Held on the first Tuesday of every month.

## Hastings City Art Gallery

Open every day from 10am to 4.30pm **FREE ENTRY**

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

### EXHIBITIONS

#### ALL MONTH

#### **Waitangi Wahine**

Featuring five Mana Wahine artists, all with reputations for pushing the boundaries, this exhibition showcases works from Robyn Kahukiwa, Linda Munn, Suzanne Tamaki, Tracey Tawhiao and Andrea Hopkins.

#### **Settlement: Emily Karaka**

Emily Karaka's work explores the Crown's settlement process, old land claims and the Turton Deeds transactions that alienated lands and islands from the Tribes of Tamaki.

#### **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.

#### **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.

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

A captivating video work.

### EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

#### 14 MARCH

#### **Art for Tots, 10:30 - 12pm**

A fun and playful art experience for pre-schoolers based on our Lost World Exhibition. Koha, booking required.

#### 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.

#### EVERY THURSDAY UNTIL 31 MARCH

#### **Hastings City Night Market**

CBD, Russell St South 5pm - 8pm  
[hastingsmarkets.co.nz](http://hastingsmarkets.co.nz)

#### EVERY SUNDAY

#### **Hawke's Bay Farmers Market**

Hawke's Bay A&P Showgrounds, Kenilworth Road  
8.30am - 12.30pm  
[hawkesbayfarmersmarket.co.nz](http://hawkesbayfarmersmarket.co.nz)

#### 12 MARCH

#### **Cape Sanctuary Charity Walk**

Hauptouri Station, Ocean Beach Road  
A fantastic opportunity to see the largest privately owned and funded wildlife restoration project of its kind in New Zealand. Tickets are \$50 and include lunch. Two trail options are available and both come back along the beach at low tide. Search Sanctuary Charity Walk on Facebook for more information.

#### 13 MARCH

#### **Lindisfarne College Gala**

600 Pakowhai Road, Hastings  
A fun day for the whole family with bargains galore

#### 13 MARCH

#### **Hawke's Bay Rescue Helicopter Open Day**

Orchard Road, Hastings  
A fun day out for all the family and your chance to get up close and personal with the Rescue Helicopter. Visit [hbrescuehelicopter.org.nz](http://hbrescuehelicopter.org.nz) for more information.

#### 13 MARCH

#### **Blind Boy Paxton**

Black Barn Vineyards, Black Barn Road  
The 27-year-old multi-instrumentalist, blues musician and vocalist, plays banjo, piano and violin and his musical influences are mainly rooted in the early blues from the 1920's and 30's. Find out more at [www.blackbarn.com/events](http://www.blackbarn.com/events).

#### 17-20 MARCH

#### **Hawke's Bay Visions: Art Hawke's Bay Annual Exhibition**

Cheval Rooms, Hawke's Bay Race Course  
It's the tenth anniversary Art Hawke's Bay annual exhibition and they are planning something extra special. The opening night features the awards presentation, drinks, nibbles and music from Confetti. Friday 18 features cider tasting from 3 Wise Birds Cider and Saturday 19 March features the Pop-Up Poets. [arthawkesbay.co.nz](http://arthawkesbay.co.nz)

#### 19 MARCH

#### **Havelock Road Pathway Opening**

Cnr Havelock Road and St Georges Road  
The shared pathway on the southern side of Havelock Road will be officially opened at 11am. The event will include a ribbon cutting ceremony which will be followed by a ride along the new pathway as well a loop on the outskirts of Havelock North. Visit [hastingsdc.govt.nz](http://hastingsdc.govt.nz) for more details.

#### 19 MARCH

#### **Beer Appreciation Day**

Duart House, 51 Duart Road, Havelock North  
Beer Appreciation Day is about bringing a fine selection of award winning and hard to find craft beers and ciders to the fine people of Hawke's Bay and beyond. For more information and tickets, visit [beerappreciationday.co.nz](http://beerappreciationday.co.nz).

#### 19 MARCH

#### **Triple Peaks Challenge**

Havelock North Domain, Te Mata Road  
One of New Zealand's most beautiful adventure races where competitors run, walk or mountain bike the 47km across Mt Erin, Mt Kahuranaki and Te Mata Peaks. Find our more information at [triplepeakschallenge.co.nz](http://triplepeakschallenge.co.nz).

#### 19 MARCH

#### **Maraekakaho Country Market Day**

Maraekakaho Sports Grounds, cnr SH 50 & Kereru Rd  
Get along for games, arts and crafts, community stalls, fresh produce and more. Check out [eventfinda.co.nz](http://eventfinda.co.nz) for more information.

#### 20 MARCH

#### **Hereworth French Affair Gala**

Te Mata Road, Havelock North  
Visit the beautiful Hereworth grounds from 9.30am - 3pm for coffee, croissants, wine tasting, bric-a-brac, flower stalls, childrens' entertainment and much more.

#### 26 MARCH

#### **Hawke's Bay Easter Highland Games**

Lindisfarne College, 600 Pakowhai Road  
Highlands Games Dancing and Solo Piping, including North Island and Hawke's Bay Championship. \$6 entry fee per day, children free.

#### 26 MARCH

#### **The Big Easy**

Black Barn Vineyards, Black Barn Road  
The 2016 ride will start at 10am from Church Ride Winery and wind around 43km of tasty, fun filled stops before hitting Black Barn Vineyards for the finale party with two live music acts! Buy tickets at [thebigeasy.co.nz](http://thebigeasy.co.nz).

#### EARLY APRIL

#### 2-3 APRIL

#### **A Gypsy Extravaganza**

Havelock North Domain, Napier Road  
Market stalls, art and craft, food, musical entertainment, tiny homes, Tarot & Palm readers, healthy food options and much much more. Visit [gypsysextra.co.nz](http://gypsysextra.co.nz) for more information.

#### 2-3 APRIL

#### **Fun in the Sun Softball Tournament**

Murdoch Road next to Akina Park  
New Zealand's biggest social softball event celebrates the end of the softball season with a knees-up on Akina Park. Now in its 35th year Fun in the Sun is much more than your average softball event; it's all about coming together to play and party in sunny Hastings.

#### 3 APRIL

#### **Puketapu Rural Auction & Country Fair**

The Puketapu, 679 Puketapu Road  
A combined auction and country fair set around the beautiful lake at Puketapu Village. Entry is by gold coin donation. Visit [thepaf.co.nz](http://thepaf.co.nz) for more information.

#### 3 APRIL

#### **Specsavers Hastings Half Marathon**

Anderson Park, Te Aute Road, Havelock North  
Choose from a fast course of 21.1km winding its way out into the country and back, the Mr Apple 10km fun run/walk, or the Off the Track Restaurant 5km off road run/walk. Check out [runwalkhb.org.nz](http://runwalkhb.org.nz)/hastings-half for more information.

## Festival of Hockey

Where the world comes to play!

2-10 APRIL

This third annual Festival, based at the Hawke's Bay Regional Sports Park, has grown year on year and the Hawke's Bay Cup continues to be the major attraction of the Festival with eight international teams confirmed. Six of these teams have qualified for the 2016 Rio Olympics. As well as the Cup, the Affiliates Tournament has grown to 14 teams and the school girls Furnware Cup will again include eight teams from around the North Island. This is your chance to witness world class Hockey at it's best, on our front door! See [hockeyfestival.nz](http://hockeyfestival.nz) for information and tickets.

