



Community Link

Whanganui District Council

101 Guyton Street

PO Box 637, Whanganui 4500

06 349 0001

wdc@whanganui.govt.nz

www.whanganui.govt.nz

@whanganuidistrictcouncil

@WhanganuiDC

Sarjeant Gallery is a finalist at Museum Awards (again!)

An innovative project to raise awareness about the environmental damage from plastic bags has won the Sarjeant Gallery Te Whare o Rehua a place in the finals at the Service IQ New Zealand Museum Awards.

The Tote Bag Project, which kicked off in March 2016, involved 1103 students from 22 schools in Whanganui. As well as learning about the impact plastic bags have on the environment, students created their own silk-screened cotton tote bags to use as an alternative to plastic.

The project is one of four finalists in the 'Most Innovative Public Programme' category of this year's awards. The winners will be announced this week.



Gallery Educator Sietske Jansma (far right) silkscreen printing with students from Waitotara School

Gallery educators Sietske Jansma and Andrea Gardner, who developed the Tote Bag Project, were motivated by the damage plastic is doing by not fully biodegrading and collecting in landfills and oceans. They developed a five-page resource kit for participating schools with information on the effect plastic bags have on the environment and links to relevant films and websites.

Students were also given information about examples of reusable shopping bags made from fabric and jute and shown silkscreen printing techniques. The students came up with their own designs, which were printed onto cotton bags.

The educators said the finished bags were impressive with bold and unique imagery – giving students a positive art experience, helping build self-esteem and building environmental awareness.

Feedback from schools has been excellent and children have been seen out in the Whanganui community proudly using their tote bags. The Tote Bag Project has also been offered as part of the gallery's holiday programme. Some of the tote bags were included in an end-of-year student exhibition in December 2016. The tote bags have the Sarjeant Gallery logo printed on them, which has also helped promote the gallery to the wider community.

Parents have expressed interest in participating in adult sessions using larger stronger cotton bags and the gallery continues to get requests from schools wanting to participate in the project.

Gallery director Greg Anderson says the Museums Aotearoa Awards attract high calibre entries and getting another Sarjeant Gallery project nominated for the finals is testament to a small team of dedicated staff members, with innovative ideas for raising awareness of the arts and encouraging public participation.

In 2016 the Sarjeant Gallery took top honours in the Regional Art category of the awards for 'The Horses Stayed Behind' by Cat Auburn, a former Tylee Cottage artist-in-residence.

Rates Instalment 4 reminder Wednesday, May 31

A reminder to all ratepayers that Instalment 4 rate payments are due on Wednesday, May 31. Please ensure we receive your payments by close of business on this day.

We offer direct debit as a method of payment with the option to pay weekly, fortnightly, monthly, quarterly or yearly.

You can also receive your rates account via email. To register for this, please visit www.whanganui.govt.nz/ratesbyemail

Rates rebate for 2016/17 rating year

Ratepayers who may qualify for a rates rebate must apply by 30 June 2017 for the 2016/17 rating year (the rating year runs from 1 July – 30 June).

If your income is low to moderate (maximum \$24,470) you may be eligible for a rates rebate up to \$610. To determine whether you are eligible, we require your gross income earnings (before tax) for the tax period ending 31 March 2016. The rates rebate will be calculated on your income earnings and your 2016/17 Whanganui District Council rates and Horizons Regional Council rates.

Please contact our rates department on 349 0001 for further information.

What's on at the Sarjeant La Belle Epoque



4.30pm, Sunday, May 28, Concert Chamber Whanganui War Memorial Centre

Between 1870 and 1925, Paris emerged as the musical capital of Europe. This concert features some of the finest examples of French Melodie, including songs by Ravel, Bizet and Duparc. Deborah Wai Kapohe sings

soprano while Bruce Greenfield will play piano. Tickets: \$20, Gallery Friends and Stars: \$15. Purchase from Sarjeant on the Quay or by phoning 349 0506.

Planned works

May 2017

For a full list of planned works for the Whanganui District during May 2017, please visit www.whanganui.govt.nz/plannedworks

Hipango Terrace walkway

The section of walkway from Hipango Terrace to the top of the steps leading to Anzac Parade will be closed for maintenance on Friday, May 26. If the weather isn't great, the back-up day for this work is Wednesday, May 31. Work will start after 9.00am to allow for school traffic. It is anticipated that it will be completed by 3.00pm, but please take an alternative route or use the Durie Hill Elevator.

Temporary traffic lights Somme Parade

Temporary traffic signals are in place on Somme Parade between Cumbrae Place and Roberts Avenue while repairs are carried out on the dropout which happened during the June 2015 weather event. Works are expected to be completed by the end of June 2017. We thank motorists for their patience at the traffic lights and remind people to take care when travelling through worksites.

Port Revitalisation Keep up-to-date

If you are interested in hearing about how the Port Revitalisation project is progressing, visit www.whanganui.govt.nz/port and sign up for our regular newsletter. The newsletter will update you on the commercial, recreational and community activities which are part of the Port Revitalisation masterplan, which you can also see on our website.

Council meetings

We welcome members of the public to attend our meetings.

Strategy and Finance Committee	1.00pm – Thursday, May 25	Council Chamber
Audit and Risk Committee	1.00pm – Monday, May 29	Committee Room 2
Council Meeting	1.00pm, Tuesday, May 30 and 10.00am, Wednesday, May 31 (reserve day)	Council Chamber
Draft Local Alcohol Policy	9.00am Thursday, June 1	Council Chamber
Infrastructure and Special Projects	1.00pm Tuesday, June 6	Council Chamber
Council Meeting	1.00pm Wednesday, June 7	Council Chamber

Agendas are available at the Customer Services Counter, Municipal Office Building, 101 Guyton Street and the District Library two working days prior to the meeting. Our monthly Council meetings are live-streamed on www.facebook.com/whanganuidistrictcouncil

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