

A horse is a horse, of course

Norm Hewitt says happiness is a horse.

But your Thought on this page yesterday was a Russian proverb: "Happiness is not a horse . . ."

The Southland Times is to be highly commended for balanced presentation of opposing points of view.

JACK MURRELL
Manapouri

Advocate's thanks

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all those friends, family, work colleagues and you the members of the public who supported and encouraged my re-election to the Southern District Health Board during the recent local body elections.

To my nominators, John Prendergast and Roger Humphries, your faith and support is truly acknowledged and very much appreciated and I thank you for that.

A big thank you to my friends and those of you who let me use your fences or properties to put up my billboards. I sincerely thank all the people who voted for me.

Through my successful election to the Southern District Health Board I will continue to advocate and work on your behalf to ensure that your voice is heard, and that the best access to health services is maintained across our whole district, and the very best health

outcomes are achieved for the whole population of Southland and Otago.

KAY CROWTHER
Board member
Southern District Health Board

Appeal success

Again the Arthritis New Zealand appeal was a success due to the wonderful efforts of thousands of volunteers across the country.

Not only do we take the opportunity to raise funds for our services, but this time raises awareness of arthritis, its invisibility, and its impact on people, families and communities.

Arthritis is the leading cause of disability in New Zealand. There are children who are taking chemotherapy drugs, not because they have cancer, but because they have arthritis. And there are parents who can't hug their children, because it hurts too much.

With only 12 per cent of our funding coming from government agencies, we need the support and generosity of the NZ public.

Anyone unable to donate during the appeal can still help us to help those who are living with arthritis by donating through our website www.arthritis.org.nz or by texting "joints" to 5464 or by phoning 0900 333 20 to donate \$20.

SANDRA KIRBY
Chief Executive
Arthritis New Zealand

City rate hike

The Invercargill City Council's average rate increased by 3.9 per cent during the 2013 financial year. That was 5.5 times more than the rate of inflation.

Council wages increased by 5.1 per cent, which was 7.7 times more than inflation.

During tough times, businesses don't increase their prices by many multiples of the rate of inflation - they become more efficient. Why doesn't the ICC?

DAVE ROHAN
Invercargill

Mispronounced

I enjoy hearing Maori place names pronounced correctly, especially on the TV weather and news.

But could someone tell me where Aucklind, Gisbin, Wellington, Malbra, Canterbre, Westlind and Southlind are.

Is it too much to have the English place names pronounced correctly also?

B MCKNIGHT
Invercargill

Group commended

I would like to respond to K Perwick's letter (October 24) regarding the behaviour of those who support the life of the unborn through peaceful public protest weekly at Southland Hospital.

It is important to be aware that both the Southern District Health Board and the Ombudsman (Prof Ron Patterson) have commended "Southlanders for Life" for behaving in a professional and respectful manner.

FR VAUGHAN LESLIE
Southlanders for Life