

# NEWS

April 2007

2	<p><b>Timber imports cost the earth</b> (New Zealand Herald Maire Leadbeater) When you sit on a Kwila deck, think about its origin. Take note of the ecological practices of the countries from which our imported timber are derived'</p>
4	<p><b>Mainzeal feels arena pain</b> (New Zealand Herald Anne Gibson) Vector arena opened at last on March 18, at a final cost of \$94.8 million, against the budget of \$72.6 million. There was a massive loss of about \$22 million by the builder Mainzeal, attributed mainly to the need for a roof redesign.</p>
4	<p><b>Neighbourhood nightmare in Meadowbank</b> (East and Bay's Courier Justine Glucina) Qualcare is proposing to demolish Meadowbank village and develop a new hospital, plus 240 apartments, with part access from MacPherson St, at present a quiet cul-de-sac. The developer is said to be "keen to consult".</p>
5	<p><b>Seabed protection plan a con, say campaigners</b> (New Zealand Herald Martha McKenzie-Minifie) Environmentalists consider that a backroom deal has been made between the fishing industry and government. Currently 3% of the fishing zone around New Zealand is protected from bottom trawling and the proposal is to increase this to 32%. The protected areas appear to have been chosen arbitrarily, rather than on the basis of good maritime science.</p>
5	<p><b>Tolls buried, but local fuel tax an option</b> (New Zealand Herald Matthew Dearnaley) Tranzit seeks alternatives to make up \$800 million shortfall for Western Ring route.</p>
9	<p><b>Northland beach resort plans endanger wildlife</b> (New Zealand Herald Wayne Thompson) last week Rodney district Council accepted plans from a joint-venture including local Maori to build a resort settlement for 850 homes on 616 ha currently in pine forest just north of Te Arai, on the eastern Rodney Coast. It is opposed by the Te Arai preservation Society and others. <b>Note: Civic Trust Auckland</b> would be interested to know whether the local authority has applied restrictions to possible development along this coast line, where there is high tsunami risk. It has not seen plans of this proposal, but would be keen to see that any reserves contribution is in the form along the sensitive coastal foreshore, in the form of a substantial and workable reserve, rather than a mere token queens chain. The local and regional authorities should work together to ensure that such a reserve is created. Furthermore, tsunami refuge areas should be created by the developers, to which local property owners, visitors and the public can flee, during a tsunami warning. No wildlife areas should be put at risk by any development.</p>
9	<p><b>Auction and sale of heritage site divides community</b> (New Zealand Herald James Ihaka) The old Works Department depot site in Papakura, close to the township and overlooking Pahurehure Inlet has been sold for \$800,000 by the local authority. The land had been divided into two portions, was one retained and set aside as a reserve.</p>
9	<p><b>\$47 million tunnel to end Hobson Bay eyesore</b> (New Zealand Herald Wayne Thompson) The 90-year-old sewer, which cuts across the Bay is to be demolished as part of a project costing hundred and \$18.6 million by Watercare services. It is to be completed by 2010.</p>
9	<p><b>Heritage gem near airport may be lost to developers</b> (New Zealand Herald Sandra Coney) Sandra Coney is chair of the parks and heritage committee of Auckland regional Council. She explains why this locality, currently at risk as a result of proposed plane changes by Manukau city, represents a unique, contiguous area of extremely high heritage value, in both Maori and Pakeha terms, with significant volcanic land forms. <b>Note: Civic Trust Auckland</b> considers the whole of this locality to be of such value to the Auckland region that it urges the local and regional authorities, together with government to set it aside as a national or regional reserve. Some of the volcanic land forms, which were demolished for construction of the nearby airport could eventually be reinstated. This is a unique locality requiring urgent action from all parties.</p>
10	<p><b>New Zealand Institute of architects annual awards presented</b> (New Zealand Herald Anne Gibson)</p>
10	<p><b>Puketutu island saved</b> (New Zealand Herald Wayne Thompson) This island gem in the Manukau Harbour, opposite Ambury Park is to be used in the meantime as a waste dump, but waste is to be used for reinstatement following decades of quarrying and eventually the island will become Park.</p>
11	<p><b>That's no dump, that's a landscaping marvel</b> (New Zealand Herald Rudman's city) Another comment on the wonderful news concerning Puketutu island.</p>
11	<p><b>Onehunga residents call for revamp of ugly duckling</b> (New Zealand Herald Matthew Dearnaley)</p>

	Tranzit New Zealand urged to ensure as part of \$330 million motorway project. <b>Note: Civic Trust Auckland</b> is concerned that current proposals will further damage the volcanic crater of Te Kapua a Mataoho, also known as Gloucester Park. This is an important volcanic land form, sacred to Maori.
12	<b>Billboard saga - Council plans on restricting signs are watered-down</b> (New Zealand Herald Bernard Orsman) proposed new signs rules have been amended following overwhelming public opposition, just months out from local authority elections.
14	<b>Open day for new regional Park</b> (New Zealand Herald Wayne Thompson) Atiu Creek farm is being developed as a regional Park of 843 ha on the Okahukura Peninsula, on the Kaipara Harbour Foreshore. It has been created as a result of the most generous gift from the previous owners of many decades Pierre and Jackie Chatelanat. It will formally open in March 2008.
14	<b>Retailers step up efforts to reduce plastic bag use</b> (New Zealand Herald Angela Gregory)
14	<b>A toast to less carbon</b> (New Zealand Herald James Griffin) Part one of a humorous two-part series, describing the meaning of the term carbon footprint. We look forward to further enlightenment in part two next week.
14	<b>Our clean green credentials laid bare</b> (New Zealand Herald Geoff Cumming, feature article and graphics display) New Zealand is not the clean green environment of the advertising posters.
14	<b>Grand old Edwardian building for sale in Parnell</b> (New Zealand Herald Colin Taylor) Paykel house at 42 St Stephens Avenue is on the market. It was built in 1910 as a seven bedroom house, will recently used as hotel accommodation. It sits on a site of 2760 square metres in one of Auckland's most exclusive and desirable residential locations. This is a heritage building, with local authority protection, interesting for its historical connections and its transitional villa architecture. It is to be auctioned by Colliers next month.
15	<b>Volcanic landscape protection</b> (city scene) \$8 million is dedicated to be accumulated over the next 10 years to complete two management plans, provide visitor facilities at Maungawhau/Mt Eden and develop projects to preserve and better manage other cones across the city.
16	<b>Greenies barking up the wrong tree?</b> New Zealand Herald/Economist a new study suggests that chopping down the earth's trees could help fight global warming. An interesting article on various ways in which trees affect the environment.
16	<b>Security Council takes on global warming</b> BBC News The Security Council is holding its first ever debate on climate change.
16	<b>Highbrook Drive interchange and bypass opens tomorrow</b> (New Zealand Herald Matthew Dearnaley) This is one of several articles concerning the bypass and the adjoining Highbrook business Park to appear in the press during the month. The bypass is located at Otahuhu and has on and off ramps both North and South. The industrial side of 193 ha is being developed to a landscape master plan by American designer Peter Walker. It provides 107 ha for building development plus 40 ha park around the coastline incorporating an interesting volcanic explosion crater.
16, 17	<b>Billboard saga- ban a sign of trouble</b> New Zealand Herald various articles. The saga continues
17	<b>Highbrook interchange</b> (Manukau Courier Michael Otto)
18	<b>Walking back through time in Remuera</b> (New Zealand Herald Justine Glucina) Details of a heritage walk through Remuera are available in the form of a walk leaflet produced for the City Council by the recently formed Remuera Heritage group. Leaflets are available at various Council offices and the Remuera library.
18	<b>Beach properties facing a future without insurance</b> (New Zealand Herald Angela Gregory) Councils may not be able to assist when erosion threatens according to experts at a recent natural disasters conference in Auckland.
19	<b>Government pledges aid to clean up Rotorua lakes</b> (New Zealand Herald Juliet Rowan)
19	<b>The New Zealand tsunami warning system inconsistent</b> (New Zealand Herald Angela Gregory)
19	<b>\$20 million to clear Warkworth bottleneck</b> (New Zealand Herald Matthew Dearnaley) Tranzit New Zealand and Rodney district Council are proposing a final design contract the various road improvements to that portion of State Highway one running through and also to the north and south of Warkworth township. At this stage bypass is not in prospect.
20	<b>Highbrook interchange</b> (East and Bays Courier Michael Otto)
21	<b>A toast to less carbon, part two</b> (New Zealand Herald James Griffin) "The thought that pollution can be worth money does my head in."
22	<b>Highbrook interchange</b>

	(Manukau matters)
22	<b>Manukau city heritage assistance fund</b> (Manukau matters) Applicants may seek grants for preparing conservation plans and condition reports topographical surveys, specialist drawings, replacing windows, spouting and painting.
22	<b>Public gets say on eastern transport improvements</b> (Manukau matters) get in quick because public meetings last from 24 April to 5 May.
23	<b>Graffiti would be a better target than billboards, chamber of commerce tells Council</b> (New Zealand Herald, Wayne Thompson)
25	<b>Newmarket station project gets underway</b> (New Zealand Herald Nicholas Moody) A two year \$65 million a grade of Auckland's second biggest railway station is to start in a few months. This is a part of the \$600 million worth of government spending on Auckland's rail network announced in March. Newmarket's historic railway station and signal box are to be relocated, the station building off-site to a location not yet decided.
25	<b>10c petrol tax surcharge for Auckland region to pay for roads and trains</b> (New Zealand Herald Paula Oliver)
26	<b>Controversy bubbles over protecting Epsom property</b> (New Zealand Herald Martha McKenzie-Minifie) Cornwall house in Claude Road, owned by the Auckland district health board is being considered for rezoning and sale for possible redevelopment. The Edwardian villa was built about 1905. Surrounding land was once part of William Gardner's 55 ha farm. There is a discrepancy between the heritage assessment made by Auckland City Council, which shows the building does not quite meet sufficient criteria to pass the threshold for listing and that of heritage consultant Alan Matson, which indicates that it does. <b>Note: Civic Trust Auckland</b> is aware that the assessment criteria are to some extent subjective. It would like to see the two assessments placed side by side, so that the reasons for discrepancy could be highlighted and possibly methodology tightened and improved.
27	<b>Newmarket public toilets finally replaced after 18 months</b> (New Zealand Herald Nicholas Moody)
27	<b>Arena Stadium blasted as an echo chamber</b> (New Zealand Herald Joanna Huncan)
27	<b>Billboard saga - city ignorant of costs and benefits</b> (New Zealand Herald Wayne Thompson)
28	<b>Green belt under siege</b> (New Zealand Herald Geoff Cumming) rural development down to 2 ha is really just creating an area that will inevitably have to be further subdivided into residential.
28	<b>Film crews and sports events face bans in the Waitakeres</b> (New Zealand Herald Angela Gregory)
30	<b>Billboard saga - fashion designer slams proposed Billboard ban</b> (New Zealand Herald Wayne Thompson) You (councillors) meddling with pupils livelihoods and that is not part of your job description" says fashion designer Denise L'Estrange-Corbett.