

NEWS

January 2007

1	<p>First day of new year In the <i>week in history</i> column of the New Zealand Herald, it is noted that January 1 was adopted in 1622 by the papacy (instead of March 25) as the beginning of the new year.</p>
3	<p>Surge in power stations burning World (New Zealand Herald Michael Richardson) Michael Richardson, of the Institute of South-east Asian studies notes that China and the United States are both greatly increasing their capacity to produce electricity, with much of that increase, particularly in China, coming from coal-fired power stations. This will greatly exacerbate an already critical situation of World carbon emissions.</p>
4	<p>A view to history (Manukau Courier John Harold) This excellent illustrated (front, plus two further pages) article covers details of the replica Manukau heads lighthouse, which opened in September 2006 on the northern tip of the Awhitu Peninsula. It took six months to build the replica which was based on plans of the original from the 1870s (built in 1874). Many original parts have been reused including the copper, cast-iron and glass dome, which lay in storage in a paddock for almost 20 years. It also has a full set of glass prisms. Note: for further information visit the website of the <i>Manukau heads lighthouse trust</i> at www.lighthouse.awhitu.com.</p>
5	<p>Beijing's centuries old lanes becoming a thing of the past (New Zealand Herald C Coonan) Troubled times from uncontrolled development are described concerning Beijing's ancient "<i>hutong</i>" alleyways, which once fanned out around the city to form a graceful network of passageways lined with traditional courtyard houses and Ming dynasty neighbourhoods. Note: as countries such as China become richer, they are better able to contemplate protection, not only of the environment, but of neighbourhoods and individual buildings. It is pleasing to note that China is doing more in this regard than it has ever done in the past and it will be interesting to follow its cultural preservation efforts in the future.</p>
6	<p>Troubled Vector arena Stadium tipped to open in March (New Zealand Herald Anne Gibson)</p>
6	<p>Geologists embrace Google world view (New Zealand Herald Julie Sevens Lyons, San Jose) The Google Earth website allows users to look at 3-D satellite images of their homes, neighbourhoods and favourite landmarks. The site will also produce views of hazards, from earthquake faults to landslides, tsunami zones and areas that can liquefy in an earthquake, all superimposed on the same detailed satellite images. Some features are available now and others are under development, at places such as the US geological survey, which has been a leader in adopting the Virtual Globe technology. Note: it is hoped that local authorities throughout New Zealand will adopt similar technology to improve the planning process and avoid developments in localities of hazard risk.</p>
8	<p>Environment report-climate change (New Zealand Herald) In the first of a series of illustrated summaries some of the biggest environmental challenges faced today are covered. Today's issue dealt with the Kyoto protocol, New Zealand's ratification and commitment, how global warming works, greenhouse gas emissions (those of New Zealand and Australia compared with the big three, the European Union China and USA), the source of emissions, the impact of global warming, things that people can do, some solutions and where to find out more.</p>
8	<p>Rising carbon emissions from increased energy use (International energy agency (IEA) chief economist Fatih Birol) It was noted in this article that by taking into account only one country, China, the next 10 years for the world would be very critical, as China by itself is proposing to increase its capacity in the power sector equivalent to the whole existing capacity of the European Union 25. Note: this year (2007) China will produce almost as much electricity as all the 25 European Union countries combined. Its proposal therefore is to double that capacity in the next 10 years. By comparison the USA produces at present, about 50% more electric power than China. Chinese growth during the next decade will allow it to surpass the USA during that period. No other single country comes close to producing electric power on a similar scale. Production in Japan this year for example will be only about one third that of China. World Electric Power production can be followed on the IEA website.</p>
9	<p>Environment report-carbon footprint (New Zealand Herald) In this, the second of a series, the carbon footprint of New Zealand is described. New Zealand, a small country with a small population ranks badly (ninth in the world) in terms of its carbon footprint. Transport contributes just over 45% to carbon emissions.</p>
11	<p>Planting the seeds that help Maori pride grow (New Zealand Herald Simon Collins) Simon takes a look at community programs in Kaipara</p>
12	<p>Boats arrive at new Orakei Marina which opened last month (East and bays Courier Nicolas Moody) The Marina took 21 months to build and has more than 170 berths catering for vessels from 12 m to 40 m. The Marina</p>

	was developed in partnership with Ngati Whatua o Orakei. An area is set aside for their ceremonial and other waka.
12	Environment report-what you can do (New Zealand Herald) Graphic artist Richard Dale compiled a checklist of practical suggestions in this, the final article of an excellent series on the current state of the environment.
13	Seven eruptions have covered Auckland in ash (New Zealand Herald) Auckland has had numerous volcanic eruptions, as evidenced from a drilling program by a partnership between the Auckland University and GNS Science. Note: the headline number of "seven" is a mystery, as the article describes 90 eruptions in about the last 90,000 years, from a drill core of 81 m into the sediment beneath Orakei basin. The scientists have also identified at least 50 different eruptions from other Auckland volcanoes.
13	Statue thieves hit Epsom library for a second time (New Zealand Herald David Eames) Epsom library has lost a second major artwork. In June 2004 the 2 m tall stainless steel work, <i>Phoenix rising</i> , by Keith Simpson was taken and never recovered. It has been replaced. This time it was the 1.5 m bronze <i>weta</i> by artist Jonathan Campbell.
13	Exclusive suburb in line for apartments (New Zealand Herald Anne Gibson) St Helliers residents are concerned at development plans proposed by developer Greg Oliver on 11th sites overlooking Glover Park. Note: Glover Park is the remnant of an explosion crater and this development is proposed to be located along part of the rim, or tuff ring.
13	North shore may yet get cup Stadium (New Zealand Herald Wayne Thompson)
14	Churchill Park concept plan (City scene) A draft design was made available for public comment in March/April 2006. A revised concept plan will be sent to interested parties, prior to the March 2007 meeting of the Eastern-Bays community board. Note: Civic Trust Auckland was unable to make representations last year, but takes considerable interest in the park and its future, particularly as the park helped instigate the creation of Civic Trust Auckland in the first place, following widespread objection to proposals by the local authority in 1968 to subdivide portion off for housing.
14	Draft recreation Centre plan (City scene) Auckland city wants to get feedback about the draft Recreation Centre plan, a 20 year plan to guide the provision, development and management of council owned and partnered recreation centres. Public submissions were required by the 26th of January. Note: the time remaining for submissions to be made seems absurdly short following this announcement. The announcement does suggest however that the plan to date has been developed in close consultation with the community, regional sports organisations and recreation centre operators. The four main goals highlighted in the plan relate to the provision, accessibility, promotion and management of the facilities and the activities provided for within them.
14	Panmure upgrade stage 2 (City Scene) Work is to get underway in a week or so, on the eastern section of Queens Road. The section is costed at \$1.9 million making the total investment in Panmure's streetscape \$3.8 million over the past four years.
14	106-108 Albert St planning application by Dae Ju Housing Co Ltd (City Scene) This proposal is for a 67 level building (measured above Eliot Street) that will accommodate a three level retail atrium within a podium style base and a residential tower comprising 259 apartments over 57 levels incorporating various amenities. The closing date for submissions is the 14th of February, 2007.
14	Draft Billboards and signs bylaws for public submission (City scene)
14	Heritage protection continues with Newman Hall, 16 Waterloo quadrant (City scene) Other recently scheduled buildings include the Prince of Wales Hotel, now the City Mission, <i>140 Hobson St</i> and the former Gas Company building, now Dick Smith Electronics, <i>26 Wyndham St</i> .
15	Attack of the aliens-bio invasion (New Zealand Herald Mac Margolis)
16	Apartment waterfront plans dismay residents (New Zealand Herald Wayne Thompson) Auckland City Council is hearing an application for resource consent, without an opportunity for the public to put their views, in respect of and a 42 unit apartment complex at <i>246 Orakei Rd</i> , notwithstanding its location on the rim of one of Auckland's most important volcanic features, Orakei basin . The land is in the ownership of Ngati Whatua o Orakei and leased to a developer. Meanwhile Council has decided to call for public views on a proposed 203 apartment development at <i>228 Orakei Rd</i> , on the opposite side of the Orakei railway station. Submissions are to close on January 30. Note: Civic trust Auckland would be interested to know why only one of these two developments was open to public submissions, also why were submissions closed so early, when potential objectors were likely to be away over the Christmas and New Year holiday period.
16	Landco plan a disaster (New Zealand Herald Gary Taylor) Gary Taylor is chairman of the environmental defence society www.eds.org.nz . He comments upon the proposal for subdivision of the low lying <i>Ngunguru spit</i> near Whangarei, to provide 350 residential sites. Note: Civic trust Auckland is totally amazed that development of this type of land should be seriously considered. Tsunami risk alone

	should prohibit development, let alone local hazards such as erosion and future rising sea levels and ecological matters such as outstanding landscape and wildlife values. It is quite bizarre that so long after the Asian tsunami proved how fragile waterfront communities were to tsunami risk, New Zealand has not yet introduced any tsunami risk controls to coastal development, either at a national or local level.
17	Apartment woes (East and Bays courier Nicolas Moody) This is another article covering proposed developments in lower Orakei Rd. note: see 16 January.
19	Time for Auckland regional transport authority (ARTA) to crack the whip with transport firms (New Zealand Herald Rudman's city) this article covers perceived faults in governance of the bus operating system in Auckland, following a recent bus fare increase of 7.8%. The proposed obvious answer is "a publicly owned public transport system integrating trains, buses and ferries into one comprehensive network. An interim and partial solution would be for fares to be set and collected by ARTA, which would subsidise in conjunction with government agencies the overall service"
19	Popular heritage walks a glimpse into our rich past (East and Bays courier) This article is essentially an advertisement covering various pay walks off by the Parnell Trust . Various walks include judges Bay, 80 minutes, <i>St Stephen's Chapel</i> , 90 minutes, <i>Newmarket</i> , <i>a dozen delights</i> , two hours, <i>Parnell's hidden treasures</i> , 2 1/2 hours and <i>Grafton</i> , two hours. These summer walks continue at least through to April including three others in the series, namely; <i>streams and gullies</i> , <i>the Auckland domain</i> and its <i>war memorials</i> . For further details contact the trust community services manager Catherine Parker on 379-2095 extension 9704, or visit: www.Parnell.org.nz . Note: some of these walks pass the historic homestead Kinder house , which is a must see in the locality. Kinder house is in the ownership of Auckland City Council and administered by the Kinder house trust , assisted by Civic Trust Auckland , which shares part of the accommodation as its office and for its monthly board meetings.
19	Digging up dirt in the Domain (East and Bays courier Charlotte Cox) The age of the domain volcano is now better known. Geologists from the government research and consultancy company GNS science and Auckland University drilled three holes into the sports fields to study ash layers. An exciting find was lava for the first time at about 10 m. this is part of the Auckland Maar volcano drilling programme which started in 1999. The latest tests were done at Orakei basin where ash layers were found from 90 eruptions during the past 90,000 years. It has helped them decide that the Orakei volcano was about 60,000 years old. Eight of those ash layers were more than 10 cm thick. Other sites where samples have been taken include <i>Te Kapua a Mataoho</i> (Gloucester Park) in Onehunga. The project is funded by the Foundation for research, science and technology to help experts plan for an eruption in Auckland. The <i>Auckland volcanic field</i> , one of several fields in the Auckland region has developed over the last 140,000 years. It is expected to have a lifetime of one million years, so many future volcanic events are expected to occur.
20	Anglers snag blame for didymo's choke hold (New Zealand Herald Rebecca Quilliam) Didymo, discovered in 2004 is now choking 26 South Island rivers.
20	Volunteers needed to repel invaders (New Zealand Herald Stuart dye) Voracious Argentinean ants are chomping their way through Aotea / Great Barrier island.
20	New tool in battle against toxic algae (New Zealand Herald Juliet Rowan) Brendan Hicks, associate Professor at Waikato University has found Google earth and most useful tool in studying algal pollution in the central North Island lakes.
22	Space spectacular runs until end of month (New Zealand Herald James Ihaka) Comet McNaught is visible from Auckland and is the second brightest comet to be seen since the 1930s.
22	Auckland regional governance under review (New Zealand property investor) Prepare for changes in the way the Auckland region is governed, but don't expect any formation of the existing city and district councils. Note: Civic trust Auckland hopes that there will be public consultation, which North shore city Mayor has suggested for February and March. For more details see the ARC website www.arc.govt.nz .
23	Successful shift of rare snails (New Zealand Herald NZ PA) Solid energy has successfully moved 200 rare snails and 182 snail eggs as a condition of ministerial approval given last April so that it can mine up to \$400 million worth of coal near Westport.
24	Footprints over the headland (New Zealand Herald Janet Hunt) Waiheke Island's biennial seaside sculpture show runs from January 26 to February 11.
24	Non notified decision riles resident (East and Bays courier Nicolas Moody) This is another article concerning proposed development in lower Orakei Rd, adjoining the Orakei basin.
26	Apartment plans pull a crowd (East and Bays courier Nicolas Moody) Political heavyweights were present at a public meeting, which attracted more than 100 residents, former mayor John Banks and Tamaki MP Alan Peachey. They discussed the two developments which are proposed adjoining the Orakei basin, to which objection has been made by the Volcanic Cones society, the Remuera community committee, the Orakei resident's society and others.
27	Refugees abandon the cities for the good life (New Zealand Herald Simon Collins)

	<p>From a study of census data, it appears that the trend to urbanisation is being reversed with urban Kiwis streaming out to the countryside. The growth in the main urban centres was 8.9% from the census of 2001 to 2006 the rural population increase was 9.5% in areas of moderate urban influence and 12.3% in areas of strong urban influence. This indicates a huge increase in the number of lifestyle blocks, mostly around the urban fringe, but also further out, but still relatively near to urban centres.</p>
27	<p>Recyclers take more types of plastics (New Zealand Herald Wayne Thompson) Local authorities are not advertising the fact, but they now appear to be taking a greater range of plastics in the weekly recycle bin collections.</p>
27	<p>Eden Park upgrade takes step ahead (New Zealand Herald Bernard Orsman) Independent commissioners yesterday granted resource consent to the Eden Park trust board for a \$320 million upgrade. The three commissioners said the application was heard in a climate of political intervention and public debate. They produced a 97 page report which has included 91 conditions.</p>
29	<p>Auckland anniversary (New Zealand Herald Russell Stone) Russell Stone is an emeritus professor of history at the University of Auckland. He notes that the date of the Auckland anniversary has little to do with Auckland as a metropolitan area, or Auckland as a province, either past or present. The anniversary date commemorates the arrival of the Governor to be, Lieutenant Governor Hobson in the Bay of Islands. At the time this would have been a "national" event, introducing a form of indirect governance of New Zealand by Britain, via the government of New South Wales. Note: this is hardly an appropriate reason for an Auckland anniversary, as suggested in this article and also in a New Zealand Herald editorial of January 27.</p>
29	<p>U. S. waking up to the challenge (New Zealand Herald Jacqui Goddard in Miami) The Greening of America appears to be taking place after years of denial or indifference.</p>
29	<p>Antarctica at centre of global warming debate (New Zealand Herald Robin McKie) Some scientists think the continent is safe from climate change, but (most) others disagree.</p>
29	<p>Orewa residents angry over Council plans for high rises (New Zealand Herald Wayne Thompson) Orewa development debate is set to dominate local body elections. At present the town has one high rise, the Nautilus, built in 2004. Locals are fearful that the council will approve 20 or more towers with 12 to 15 levels in residential areas and with 25 plus levels in an enlarged CBD. The council claims that it wishes to reduce the number of future towers to six was no high rises for the beach, any high-rises being evenly spread through the CBD. Under the present district plan developed during the 1990s buildings up to 10 storeys are allowed as little as 15 m apart.</p>
30	<p>Spread of avian malaria alarming (New Zealand Herald Errol Kiong) In New Zealand introduced species are left unharmed but carry the malaria parasite, which kills native birds and is spreading throughout the country. 30 years ago it was found in Auckland and North Auckland but has now spread as far south as Christchurch.</p>
30	<p>Wind power is the best way forward (New Zealand Herald Chris Freear) Chris Freear is the CEO of New Zealand wind farms limited. He proposes that more should be built, in a well reasoned case.</p>
30	<p>Different agendas on foreshore (New Zealand Herald editorial) This editorial compares the national and Maori party agendas concerning the foreshore and possible objections to existing legislation.</p>