

NEWS

February 2007

1	Farmers vow fight as power link okayed (New Zealand Herald Adam Bennett)
2	Protesters turn out over high-rises (New Zealand Herald Wayne Thompson) Orewa residents jeer and boo as Rodney Council is short on answers
2	Heritage Hubbard's big Chance to save volcano (New Zealand Herald Rudman's city) Signs to keep the ancient Orakei (volcano) basin out of developer's clutches are not looking good. Not only are two major developments proposed on the fringe of one of Auckland's most important volcanoes, but the site would appear to be of considerable archaeological interest, as a very rare example of a peninsula pa. Note: Civic Trust Auckland is once again dismayed to learn that yet another volcanic land form and a site of archaeological merit, is to be redeveloped, with little apparent regard to its physical, cultural or heritage elements.
2	One dollar buys warship and top diving spot (New Zealand Herald) 37 year old 3000 tonne frigate Canterbury has been purchased by trust which intends to sink it as a diving attraction. Note: Civic trust Auckland is saddened that this frigate, the last remaining of its class and an important part of New Zealand's naval and maritime heritage, is to end its days in this way.
3	90% certainty that humans are to blame for world climate heating (New Zealand Herald Seth Borenstein, Brian fallow) This is the agreed finding from the Intergovernmental panel on climate change (IPCC). The panel embraces 2500 scientists from more than 130 nations. A similar finding in 2001 suggested that the link between world climate change and the activities of humans was "likely", in other words, at that time "only" 66.7% probable.
3	McGeehan Close residents rush to the aid of their Street (New Zealand Herald)
5	Developer defends proposed developments at Orakei (New Zealand Herald Bernard Orsman) This reply to recent widespread criticism stresses the fact that the developments involve a number of well-known local architectural firms and that there was widespread compliance with local authority requirements.
5	Crown carbon grab sets forests alight (New Zealand Herald Peter Berg) Another article heavily criticising government forestry policy. Peter Berg is president of the New Zealand forest owners Association.
5	Christchurch pips MOTAT to host National Railway Museum (New Zealand Herald Jarrod Booker) Auckland has been bypassed in favour of an historic Christchurch site for a new \$6 million national rail Museum. Note: the site chosen is definitely considered worthy, although the amount quoted for development seems miniscule, for a national museum of any kind. It is a little surprising that the terms "pipped" and "bypassed" have been used. There would seem to have been virtually no public consultation over alternative sites in recent times and there has been no publicity concerning the possible creation of a National rail Museum. The MOTAT site in Auckland should never have been seriously considered, but Glenbrook could have been an excellent alternative. Similarly Longburn, near Palmerston North and several sites from Dunedin to Invercargill, could also have been considered.
5	Billboard blitz (New Zealand Herald Bernard Orsman) Auckland City Council's signs cleansing policy is being extended from the CBD out into the suburbs. Furthermore, it is now not only billboards which are to be restricted but also shop signs, many of which have cost their owners thousands of dollars to put in place. In the second of two articles in today's Herald the first of a series headed city sign ban is presented giving further details of the proposed bylaws. Note: Civic Trust Auckland is surprised that the City Council is taking such a restricting position. Certain existing signs might well be considered iconic and worthy of preservation. Others may reflect the graphic artistic skills of the sign writer. As a general principle, Civic Trust Auckland supports any move towards removing ugliness and improving the quality of the streetscape. There is much ugliness present in many signs, not necessarily only the largest and there is fearsome ugliness apparent in many hoardings. However, there is a mix of good and bad. It seems commercially insensitive to have such limited public discussion on the matter and to require expensive existing signage to be removed so quickly. Are the same rules to apply to political hoardings at election time, or will these examples of suburban graffiti also be outlawed.
6	City sign ban (New Zealand Herald) This is the second in a series of illustrated articles covering different aspects of proposed restrictions by Auckland City Council on signs and hoardings.
7	Ending the charade over signs (New Zealand Herald editorial) all five councillors who will sit on the panel to hear submissions concerning signs have already voted in favour of the draft bylaw. Brian Rudman in his column in the same paper presented a good case in favour of the proposed bylaws.

7	Draft Ellerslie plan launched (Action Auckland) The draft document was presented in November 2006. Those who would comment now have only a few days as comments close on Monday 12 March.
7	Zoom into virtual station (New Zealand Herald Nicholas Moody) Filmmaker Daniel Monaghan has created a digital version of the Remuera railway station on Google Earth.
8	Plans for old Logan Campbell site fail (New Zealand Herald Bernard Orsman) People power has stopped a developer from turning the former motor Lodge into 116 apartments and a boutique hotel with 100 beds.
9	Transit opens door to cross harbour rail link to airport (New Zealand Herald Matthew Dearnaley)
10	101 must do attractions around New Zealand (New Zealand Herald Stuart Dye) 20,000 votes were received from the public by the automobile Association in a five-month survey of New Zealand's favourite tourist spots. The Auckland region did not feature well. The Auckland Gulf islands made 31st Place, with Auckland's West Coast number 56. Auckland War Memorial Museum made number 81 was Auckland sky Tower and sky jump at number 88 and Devonport and North head at number 89. Auckland volcanoes made number 91.
10	Big ticket Auckland projects criticised (New Zealand Herald Matthew Dearnaley) A four member advisory group chaired by former Downer Construction head Clive Kilby and including ARC chief executive Jo Brosnahan, question whether the country can afford international roading standards. This shocking comment is disclosed by transport Minister Annette King, who added that sometimes there was a tendency to gold plate what we do. Note: Civic trust Auckland is quite horrified that the Minister and her advisers should contemplate a lowering of roading standards merely to save money. It is presumed that the term "gold plate" refers to the additional expenditure undertaken in carrying the new Northern motorway through to Puhoi, through extremely sensitive scenic bush. This work gained Transit a well-deserved design award.
12	Mortgage levy backlash (New Zealand Herald Paula Oliver) Finance Minister Michael Cullen openly mused about the merits of levying a tax on home mortgages to help fight inflation.
12	Forces building to reshape suburbs (New Zealand Herald Martin Udale) Martin Udale is the general manager of McConnell property. He notes the following trends that developers must face, namely; smaller household sizes, an ageing growing and more diverse population, a greater focus on environmental sustainability, a growing scarcity of land, lack of affordable housing, more people working from home, the online economy, increasing costs of transport and congestion, mass consumerism, greater technology dependence and higher expectations of customisation.
12	Succumbing to affluenza? (New Zealand Herald Nick Cohen) Is Western wealth making us ill?
12	Sustainability - fad or fab? (New Zealand Herald Eva Collins)
12	Treasure of a gateway opens at Waiheke (New Zealand Herald Wayne Thompson) Whakanewha regional Park is Auckland's latest regional Park to open to the public, the land comprising 270 appears was bought for a reserve in 1993 and subsequently cleared of these animals and plants, there is a pa site, a wetland and the Cascades waterfalls.
12	Victoria Park tunnel option on shifting ground (New Zealand Herald Rudman's city) This article is in response to the article of the 10 th "big ticket Auckland projects criticised". It notes that when Jo Brosnahan was chief executive of the ARC, her role was among other things to protect and preserve Auckland environment. Now, as a member of the Ministry of transport advisory group on road costs, she is berating the State road builder Transit New Zealand, for caring about the environment and wasting money on mitigation. Note: Civic trust Auckland is quite horrified that the Minister and her advisers should contemplate a lowering of roading standards merely to save money. A strongly worded editorial covering this matter appears in the same issue.
12	Chelsea withdraws detailed plan for future use of refinery land (New Zealand Herald Wayne Thompson)
12	Rodney pushes on with road toll plan (New Zealand Herald Matthew Dearnaley)
12	Working from home is a growing phenomenon. Why is it not more popular? (New Zealand Herald Diana Clement)
12	Penny pinchers' gain our pain (New Zealand Herald Garth George) This is another article commenting upon matters raised under previous headlines "big ticket Auckland projects criticised" and "Victoria Park tunnel option on shifting ground", also a comprehensive Herald editorial. Note: Civic trust Auckland is quite horrified that the Minister and her advisers should contemplate a lowering of roading standards merely to save money.
14	Hobson community board acts upon Orakei road apartment concerns (New Zealand Herald Nicholas Moody)

15	Port creates a vital link in our economy (New Zealand Herald Michael lee) Michael lee is chairman of the Auckland regional Council and in this article reminds us of the depth of Auckland's maritime roots.
15	Cost of city to Newmarket bus way doubles to \$46 million (New Zealand Herald Matthew Dearnaley)
15	A great place for kids? Oh really? (New Zealand Herald) UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre's seventh set of international league tables were published overnight in Florence, Italy. New Zealand features badly in terms of children's material well-being, health and safety, family and peer relationships, behaviours and risks and subjective well-being. Why?
15	Villagers wonder whose bright idea it was to paint hills green (New Zealand Herald AP) Laoshou mountain in southwest China has been sprayed with green paint. Villagers believe that county officials, located in an office which faces the mountain are to blame.
16	Bill board ban will hit charity (New Zealand Herald Nicholas Moody)
17	Housing red tape torment (New Zealand Herald Catherine Masters) Leaky homes paranoia pushes up new home building prices and greatly increases red tape.
19	Another chainsaw tree attack (New Zealand Herald Bernard Orsman) 100 year old landmark tree destroyed at 29 Marine Parade. This follows the controversial demolition of a house on the site last year.
20	Vector arena costs the city \$71 million, still rising (New Zealand Herald Wayne Thompson)
21	\$750,000 for 180 car parks at bus station (New Zealand Herald Matthew Dearnaley) This is the cost of extending the brand new, but already hopelessly inadequate bus station car park at Albany.
21	Judge orders trees axed to restore family's view (New Zealand Herald Mike Houlihan) This is an interesting, but rare case of view restoration.
21	Explore Remuera's history (Midweek) This is an advertisement seeking bookings for a Remuera heritage walk, commencing at the Remuera library on Sunday February 25. This is the first walk organised by recently convened Remuera heritage society.
21	Rapid transport bus route gets go-ahead (New Zealand Herald Justine Glucina) This new rapid transport bus route will link the CBD to Newmarket via Grafton Bridge. It is expected to carry 65,000 people per week. The cost of the structural upgrade the Grafton Bridge was estimated at \$22 million in 2003. It is now estimated to cost between \$42.7 million and \$46.1 million. Auckland City Council is calling tenders next month and hopes that construction will begin in July.
21	Lake Pupuke sediment studied (Xtramsn news) Researchers at the Auckland University School of geography geology and environment science have taken core samples from as far as 18 m below the lake floor, providing an insight into the past 50,000 years of volcanic eruptions. Ash layers from individual volcanoes can be distinguished. Some Ash layers are from Mt Taranaki, which appears to follow a 400 year cycle.
24	Light bulbs-making the switch (New Zealand Herald Simon O'Rourke) Adopting the new fluorescent bulbs needs to be done cautiously. Note: this is an issue which appears straightforward in that the new light bulbs are much more energy efficient. However, there is a major downside in that the new light bulbs contain mercury vapour, which is seriously unfriendly to the environment. Light bulb disposal will be a future problem. There is a case for these light bulbs to be outlawed.
25	Additions to the heritage schedule (City scene) Plan modification 217 seeks to protect buildings at 123 Grafton Rd, house, 1218 to 1220 great North Road, Ambassador theatre, 210 Green Lane West, building five Green Lane Hospital, 465 to 475 Khyber pass road, the Excelsior building, 24 Mountain Rd, nurses residential club, 537 Mt Eden road, Crystal Palace theatre, hundred and 43 249 Newton Rd, orange ball room, hundred and 18 226 Ponsonby Rd commercial building.
26	The bio fuel backlash (New Zealand Herald business cover story) Turning crops into an alternative fuel source might appear worthy on environmental and energy independence grounds, but nobody seems to have thought about the consequences for food prices, nor asked whether it is actually good for the planet.
27	Building schedule getting tight (New Zealand Herald Matthew Dearnaley) Transit New Zealand warns that time has become very tight for building a duplicate four-lane Manukau Harbour bridge and widening its motorway approaches. Note: Civic trust Auckland cannot understand what the timetable for this bridge has to do with the Rugby World Cup, where the main events will occur in Mt Eden. Civic trust Auckland was dismayed many years ago, when the approach to the existing Manukau Harbour Bridge ploughed directly through a small

	volcanic explosion crater, which is of particular significance to Aucklanders as a land form and to Maori as a place associated with their volcano god Mataoho. Civic trust Auckland would like to see the existing bridge approach and any future bridge approaches diverted around this important heritage feature.
28	Pushing World Cup deadline a Bridge too far (New Zealand Herald Rudman's city) This article also deals with the duplicate Manukau Harbour Crossing and notes that the Volcanic Cones Society is fighting to save <i>Te Kopua a Mataoho (the bowl of Mataoho)</i> , the small explosion crater, from further destruction. Note: Civic trust Auckland applauds and supports the efforts by the Volcanic Cones Society and others, to save this volcanic land form, and supports initiatives to improve the whole southern Onehunga area and provide for a rail link from Penrose via Onehunga, to the airport and Manukau city.