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NEW LYNN matters

Issue 8, July 2010

FULL STEAM AHEAD FOR STATION OPENING

EXCITEMENT IS BUILDING ABOUT NEW LYNN'S NEW WORLD CLASS RAIL STATION, ON TRACK FOR COMPLETION IN AUGUST.



Trains have been stopping at a temporary platform inside the rail trench since March, giving rail commuters an up-close view of the work in progress.

Of particular interest has been the distinctive art works commissioned by Waitakere City Council, including sculptural concrete panels on the trench walls and colourful ethnically-inspired motifs on glass panels on the upper level (see story page 2).

The state of the art building will include a street level concourse with a waiting room, toilets and ticket office, with access down to the platforms provided by lifts, escalators and stairs.

New Lynn Station is one of the busiest on Auckland's rail network and with significant population growth projected for the area the station will be an important hub in Auckland's transport network.

The station is part of an integrated bus and train transport interchange that will allow for better pedestrian and traffic flow around the rail network and more frequent and reliable passenger services.

More pictures inside.....



ART ADDS WAITAKERE FLAIR TO NEW STATION

IN KEEPING WITH WAITAKERE CITY'S PHILOSOPHY OF INTEGRATING ART INTO ITS URBAN DEVELOPMENTS, THE NEW TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE WILL BOAST A NUMBER OF INSPIRING WORKS BY FOUR PROMINENT LOCAL ARTISTS.

New Lynn's clay pottery heritage is depicted in 258 striking relief panels adorning 200m of wall on both sides the rail trench. Designed by Henderson sculptor Louise Purvis, the concrete panels feature a pattern of ripples reflecting the surrounding landscape from which the clay that supplied New Lynn's original brick and pipe manufacturers was sourced, and through which the rail trench is cut.

Cast from only four basic moulds, the panels have been skilfully arranged to avoid any noticeable repetition in their pattern.

Although not yet visible to the public, the rail station also features a large tile artwork by award-winning ceramic artist John Parker, depicting the iconic Crown Lynn swans.

Four major waves of historical migration that brought different cultures into New Lynn are symbolised in textile artist Miranda Brown's colourful lace-inspired designs featured on glass panels overlooking the open section's of rail trench.

Maori, European, Pacific Island and Asian cultures are represented in a series of patterns that reflect the cultural origins of each group. Local women from a range of ethnic communities provided sample fabrics for Miranda to use as inspiration.

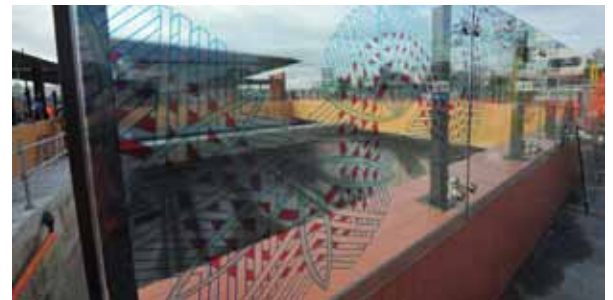
Henderson-based artist Neil Miller is currently creating four visual markers for the station's Hetana St entrance. Referencing historic railway signage and signals, the artworks are due to be installed in early September.



John Parker's tile work depicting the iconic Crown Lynn swans.



The concrete panel artwork by Louise Purvis.



Miranda Brown's ethnically inspired motifs.

URBAN PLAN REVEALS FULL POTENTIAL OF NEW LYNN

THE NEW LYNN URBAN PLAN, ADOPTED LAST MONTH BY WAITAKERE CITY COUNCIL, PROVIDES A BLUEPRINT FOR THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW LYNN.

The plan builds on the major investment in the new transport interchange and is intended to become a legacy document that will shape future planning, investment and policy decisions in New Lynn.

Waitakere Mayor Bob Harvey says the plan highlights the full potential of New Lynn.

"The plan is essential to New Lynn's transformation from an under-performing suburban district to a dynamic urban environment like no other in New Zealand – an accessible, successful and inspiring place that people will be enthused to work, live and play in."

The public provided important feedback on the plan before its adoption and the council believes it sets a benchmark for regeneration projects in the Auckland region.

Some of the visions for the future New Lynn include:

- a buzzing transit interchange receiving thousands of daily commuters and providing an 18-minute connection to the Auckland CBD
- 4,000 new homes, including the showcase Crown Lynn sustainable residential development
- a town centre core transformed as a high-density employment hub, including a vibrant mixed-used Merchant Quarter
- 10 open spaces within a five minute walk of the transit interchange
- a pedestrian and cycle friendly town centre
- a new connection created between New Lynn and Avondale across the Whau via a redeveloped Avondale Racecourse
- the town centre fringe redeveloped at medium density to provide a transition from urban to suburban living, with outlying suburbs preserved

The New Lynn Urban Plan can be viewed at Waitakere libraries and online at www.waitakere.govt.nz



NZTA RELEASES \$40 MILLION FOR NEW LYNN WORKS

THE FINAL TICK HAS BEEN GIVEN TO \$40.14 MILLION IN NEW ZEALAND TRANSPORT AGENCY FUNDING FOR MAJOR ROADING INFRASTRUCTURE WORK IN NEW LYNN.

The funding enables Waitakere City Council to proceed with Stage 2 of its New Lynn Transit Oriented Development (TOD) programme, which includes building a major extension of Clark Street. The 300m dual carriageway will extend Clark Street to the west from the Rankin/Totara Avenue intersection and then curve to the north to connect to Great North Road, crossing over the new rail trench. Landscaping will be a priority for the new roadway, which will bring the added benefit of pedestrian access between

Totara Avenue West and the largely residential Ambrico Place on its opposite side.

The funding also allows for the redevelopment of Totara Avenue West and the adjoining Todd Triangle as a more pedestrian-friendly business area and focal point for the town centre.

The roading work is a key element of the new transportation network being delivered in New Lynn through the council's TOD project and is part of a wider vision of transforming New Lynn into a vibrant regional town centre.

Work on the Clark Street extension and Totara Ave West will begin in early 2011 and is expected to be complete by mid-2012.

Above: An artist's impression of the future Totara Ave West and Todd Triangle.

Below: An artist's impression of the future Clark Street extension and surrounding landscape.



NEW LYNN TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

BOOSTING BUSINESS AND CREATING A BUZZ ABOUT NEW LYNN ARE PRIORITIES FOR WAITAKERE'S NEWEST BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (BID).

A BID is a business area whose business and commercial property owners have voted to adopt a council partnership scheme to improve and promote their local area.

Each BID determines its local business community needs, creates a business plan and takes on the task of meeting those needs, with the aim of contributing to economic growth, employment opportunities and prosperity in the town centre.

This work – along with the employment of new town centre manager Sally Murphy to oversee it – will be largely funded through a targeted rate. The council has also awarded a \$15,000 grant to kickstart implementation of the BID action plans.

New Lynn Business Association chairman Dinesh Mani says becoming a BID allows the business community to take an active role in creating the kind of town centre that works best for it.

"This will give us, as business owners, a greater say in how New Lynn is developed and is a great opportunity for us to work together in a coordinated way to attract more shoppers and new businesses to our area."

SHOW YOUR LOVE FOR NEW LYNN ON FACEBOOK

START SPREADING THE NEWS... 'NEW LYNN NEW LYNN' IS NOW ON FACEBOOK!

Whether you're a local business or resident, become a fan of 'New Lynn New Lynn' on the popular social media site to support and talk about the exciting redevelopment of the New Lynn town centre and receive the latest news, updates, construction photos and images of future developments.



NEW RAIL SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS

RAIL COMMUTERS WILL SEE NEW SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS ON THE WESTERN LINE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.



Timetable changes will be made from 19 September to take advantage of the opening of the new stabling facility at Henderson. There will also be additional capacity between Britomart and Henderson, including some services added to the end of the morning and afternoon peak travelling times. Six-car trains are also planned for introduction later this year, adding capacity to peak hour services.

The first half of 2011 will bring further improvements to western line services after KiwiRail has completed electrification signalling and works into Britomart.



Commuters can soon enjoy new modern station facilities.



NEW NAME HAS LINK TO OLD NEW LYNN

A NEW ACCESS WAY TO THE AMBRICO RESERVE WILL BE NAMED BRIAR WAY.

The name provides an historical connection to old New Lynn, honouring Briar Gardner, a talented potter born into New Lynn's pioneering Gardner family in 1879.

Briar's family was involved in the pottery industry for many years. As a child she watched the kilns being fired at Hobsonville's Amalgamated Brick and Pipe Company, which was owned by her relatives, the Clarks. When her three brothers established a brickworks at New Lynn in 1902, she went with them as their housekeeper.

By 1922 the family firm, Gardner Brothers and Parker, had installed a pottery wheel and for a short time employed expert English potter William Speer to operate it. Although Briar was discouraged by Speer, she reportedly spent many hours before the factory opened, teaching herself to throw pots and experimenting with different firing and glazing techniques. Eventually a small coal-fired kiln was built for her at the factory. Even when the brickworks closed during the 1930s depression,

Briar continued to work at the empty factory, improving her techniques.

In 1930, Briar held what was believed to be the first exhibition of Auckland-made studio pottery and following this she exhibited regularly and held pottery demonstrations and lectures. During and after World War Two, she provided pottery training to disabled servicemen.

After her mother's death in 1938, she established a pottery studio at the family home, located near to the surviving Ambrico Kiln conservation site.

Briar produced a considerable amount of pottery during the 1940s, selling pieces in Smith and Caughey's store and in Australia.

By 1950 Gardner was no longer able to work as a potter due to arthritis. Instead she moved to Sydney to train in speech therapy and took occasional work in radio and film before returning to Auckland to teach speech and drama. She died in 1968.

Above: Briar Gardner, aged 86.

Photo reproduced courtesy of Dick Scott.

DOUBLE-TRACKING COMPLETE

DOUBLE-TRACKING OF THE WESTERN LINE WAS COMPLETED LAST MONTH – A MAJOR MILESTONE IN THE \$600 MILLION UPGRADE OF AUCKLAND'S RAIL NETWORK.

The final stretch of track was laid in New Lynn, enabling trains to travel on continuous double track between Swanson and Britomart and allowing for Sunday rail services to be extended to Henderson.

KiwiRail's Acting Project Director, Peter King, says the progressive duplication of the line has allowed ongoing improvements to service frequency and reliability.

"It represents a huge step forward in the development of a modern and sustainable passenger transport network and Auckland commuters are already seeing the benefits."



CONTACTS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

For the railway project:

KiwiRail's 24-hour phone line – 270 4404 – or website www.projectDART.org.nz

For New Lynn town centre information:

Waitakere City Council's 24-hour call centre – phone 839 0400 – or website www.waitakere.govt.nz

New Lynn Library, 3 Memorial Drive – phone 839 2260