

The hole in the hill

Lyttelton Tunnel update

After concerns raised by many residents, the Lyttelton Harbour Information Centre and the Lyttelton Community Association have written to the New Zealand Transport Agency for clarification on the safety, and excessive dust issues, for the Lyttelton Road Tunnel.

Lynnette Baird summarises the responses.

Safety concerns

Over the last few months while the strong earthquakes and aftershocks have been centred on Lyttelton, NZTA has been focused on keeping the tunnel safe and ensuring that it is in good operational condition for users.

NZTA appreciate the tunnel's role as a key artery in the city and is happy to reassure road users that the tunnel is structurally sound and safe to use.

Following the February 22 earthquake the tunnel was closed for three days while a structural inspection was undertaken.

A few additional cracks had appeared in the tunnel walls, however none of these were assessed to be of concern.

Above the tunnel road-space area there is a concrete roof slab and wall separating the ventilation shafts and these were also inspected and no damage was found.

The explanation for the lack of damage is because the tunnel is essentially a hole carved through a very tough volcanic rock which has a thick reinforced concrete lining.

When the shaking from the earthquakes occurs, the whole tunnel moves as one with the hillside, therefore because the individual com-

ponents within the tunnel are not moving at a different rate the whole mass moves together and the potential for structural damage is minimal.

Fissures in the rock have opened slightly and created new pathways for water ingress into the tunnel and three of the water hydrants within the tunnel walls are now also leaking which explains the additional water seepage but this in no way affects its structural integrity.

The tunnel was further inspected after the June 13 aftershocks and again with the same result.

Contractors have worked in conjunction with NZTA to also ensure that the damaged tunnel control building and canopy (which was demolished within two days of the February quake due to its unsafe condition) were properly addressed.

Control systems for the tunnel have now been fully reinstated and in addition rock-fall protection measures have been implemented around the Heathcote tunnel portal to protect both tunnel staff and road users.

NZTA remains committed to the tunnel, particularly with the closure of Evans Pass which has placed even more pressure upon the tunnel.

Despite these current con-

straints NZTA will continue to manage the tunnel to provide a high standard of safety and a quality link between Lyttelton and the city.

Response addressing excessive dust

NZTA is aware of the problem as a result of the earthquake. The increase in dust within the tunnel is not only linked to the cartage of demolition material but to the cartage of aggregate and other materials being transported to Lyttelton.

In the short term we have increased the roadway cleaning frequency to every second night to minimise the debris on the roadway.

We are also working with the Port Company to install "truck showers" to suppress the dust on the trucks at both Heathcote and Lyttelton prior to entering the Tunnel.

These are currently being fabricated for installation as soon as possible.

At Heathcote these will be installed in the escort bay now that rock protection work has been completed to allow removal of the shipping containers.

They will be installed on Port land at Lyttelton.



The prep team were, from left, Justine Merrylees, Jennifer Kenix, and Shelly McCabe.

No such thing as a free lunch in Lyttelton?

Well, for Lyttelton Main School students and staff, there was such a thing last Thursday September 15!

150 Bonza Burgers and organic apples were served up for a "stress-buster" lunch, giving the students, staff and parents something to look forward to.

With the school being affected by earthquake damage, forcing some students out of their normal classrooms, and reducing their play area, distractions such as a free lunch are always welcome.

The fun lunch was organised by one of the parents, Vicki Martin, as a way of saying thank you to the school community for all their efforts fundraising last year for the \$800 Jetstar travel voucher.

Mrs Martin was the lucky winner of that voucher, and after the floods in Brisbane postponed her booking (since her sister's house was completely underwater when the family was due to travel), the Martin family were finally able to go to Brisbane in the July school holidays.

The idea for the lunch was well supported by the school principal, John Thawley, and staff, and very quickly several volunteers had offered to help with the preparations.

Mrs Martin was overwhelmed by the support of local and national businesses who generously donated ingredients, or provided them at cost price.

This meant that the entire school was fed tasty, healthy burgers and organic apples and all for a cost of only 77c each!

When asked why they were so keen to help the school, Kathy Ashwell, from Tuahiwi Market Gardens said "Lyttelton has been good to us, so we are only too happy to give something back."

Tuahiwi Market Gardens have a stall at the Farmer's Market on the school grounds every Saturday.

Another stallholder, Corey Winder from Ashby's Butchery, was also very supportive of the lunch, and offered to help out in future fundraising events.

The school and Mrs Martin would like to gratefully acknowledge the donations from Tuahiwi Market Gardens (for the organic apples), Pak'nSave Moorhouse Ave (for the lettuce and tomatoes), Trents Wholesale (for the tomato sauce and pine-

apple rings), Goodman Fielder (for the cheese), Ashby's Butchery (for the meat patties), and the French Bakery (for the bread rolls).

The preparation and delivery of the lunch wouldn't have been possible without help from the volunteers. Shelley McCabe organised many of the ingredients and assisted with cooking and delivery, and help on the day came also from Jennifer Kenix, Justine Merrylees, Kim Hickford, and Polly Twist.

Despite some unexpected problems on the day, including rain and a barbecue malfunction, all 150 burgers arrived at lunchtime to smiling faces, and enthusiastic comments afterwards.

The meat patties, especially, won praise for being so tasty, and word has it that some children who normally don't like burgers are now converted. Jamie Oliver would be proud.



Garage sale and garage sale and...

Have you been to THE garage sale yet? Each and every Saturday something magic happens at 54a Oxford Street in Lyttelton.

The garage doors open and a treasure trove is revealed to the world.

Volunteers arrive, donated goodies are brought out and arranged, and customers visit, browse, chat, laugh and shop.

But this is more than just a garage sale - every cent of the money goes directly to support community groups in the Lyttelton Harbour.

The sales are organised by Project Lyttelton and can be booked by a group as a fundraiser - they arrive with their own volunteers, manage the sale between 10am and 1pm, pack it away and keep all the proceeds for their cause.

So far groups that have run sales include: the Lyttelton Sea Scouts, the Community Garden, the Time bank, Lyttelton Community House, Volcano Radio, the

eARTHquake Art Therapy Initiative, The Lyttelton Petanque Club and Lyttelton Main School camp.

Donations of quality second hand items (sorry we can't take any electrical or extremely large items) are always most gratefully accepted and can be dropped at the Portal (54a Oxford st, up the long drive by the swimming pool).

If you're having a spring

clean and sort out please help your community to help itself by donating to The garage sale today!

If you are a member of a community group or club and are interested in booking a sale for your group please do get in touch with the Project Lyttelton Office on 328 9243.

And don't forget to visit us on a Saturday and snap up a bargain or two!



Molly Fryer and Vanessa Damerow-Stephen, students from the Rudolf Steiner School help prepare for the next garage sale.

Lyttelton's Summer Street Party open to offers and ideas

It's amazing to think that Lyttelton's famous Summer Street Parties have been going since 2005.

Like all good volunteer events it seems there comes a time when the volunteers want to move on and an opening exists for someone else to run with the idea.

Project Lyttelton is happy to pass this event on to an-

other group in our community.

If you are passionate about this event we can give you some tips on how to fund raise and organise but that's about all we want to do this time around.

Next year we plan to concentrate on the Festival of Lights, The Festival of Walking and supporting a fun new

event for Corsair Bay this summer.

Please contact the Project Lyttelton Office if you would like to explore this further office@lyttelton.net.nz 328 9243.

Alternatively you might like to create something altogether new or we simply leave this space free in the events calendar next year.

Spring into Summer with Bellydance

Abbraccia Bellydance classes start back on Monday October 31st.

Bellyfairies 3.45.
Bellybuttons. 4.30, Adult Beginners/Intermediate 6, Advanced 7.30

All classes are held on Monday at the Lyttelton Recreation Centre, 23 Winchester Street.

And because it was so popular the Friday Night Fever Contemporary Bellydance Workshop, November 18, suitable for absolute beginners to advanced - wine, chocolate, dance and a lot of fun! Bookings essential for classes and workshop.

Please call Paige on 328 8883/021999848

A great time was had by those attending the contra dance on Saturday night.

The live band, Roger Buckton and His Folkworks, that played was amazing, showing off their skill on serpent shaped medieval flute-instruments and goat-headed dudelsacks, the caller Bill Baritomp coped with pa-

tience and grace when dancers' legs got knotted and brains addled, and a special rendition of a song/dance specially written, choreographed and performed for the occasion, entitled "Lyttelton's quakey, Christchurch's shaky" (sung to the tune of Frere Jacques) might not make it into the NZ Top Ten, but provided great



entertainment on the night. Thank you Trent and the Harbour Arts Collective for organising it. Put October the 30th in

your diary as the next Contra dance day and only a gold coin donation! Lyttelton's quakey, Christchurch's shaky We'll

be strong, we'll be strong Timeball will rise again, Cathedral bells will ring again Dang, dang, dong. Dang, dang, dong...

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Simon Blencowe tries out the local terrain.

Not all downhill!

It's been a long wait for new Lyttelton resident Simon Blencowe and his partner Sarah, but they are now starting to settle into their new life down south.

Having spent the past few years living in Wellington, the couple had always wanted to move down to the South Island, and living in Lyttelton with its lovely harbour setting and quirky character appealed.

However, because of the recession and the Christchurch earthquakes, their move had to be put on hold for over a year.

The wait was worth it though and Simon and Sarah moved into their new Lyttelton home a couple of weeks ago.

Simon, who is a registered architect, is currently busy setting up a Christchurch office in collaboration with his

Wellington employers.

As an architect in Lyttelton, Simon is keen to offer his support to locals and their architectural issues. Whether someone wants advice on re-cladding their home, or design ideas for a new build, he is willing to help out where he can.

In his free time, Simon is enjoying the stunning Lyttelton landscape.

As a passionate mountain biker and trumper, he can't wait to start exploring the local trails and parks.

He's also a coffee fanatic, so can be regularly found in town stocking up on beans from the coffee company!

If you would like some general advice, or have any specific architectural requirements that Simon can help you with, please feel free to email him at simon@pc-architects.co.nz.