

Businesses committing to Lyttelton: Two stories

The Dairy, the Coffee Company, Bell's Pharmacy, the Medical centre and Lyttel Piko have managed to get up very quickly after the earthquake. We are grateful to all of you! Shops are opening up all the time and here two stories are highlighted.

By Marjolein Lips-Wiersma

From the Ground up

Well, that name is no longer telling the full story. We now have three Ground locations in Lyttelton.

Ground as we knew it was munted and has been renamed 'Ground Zero'.

This week two new initiatives have risen from the ashes: 'Camping Ground' is the Mobile Van next to the BNZ van and Portico veranda just past Zero Ground's fence.

It is open Monday to Friday and serves pies, sandwiches, soup and cakes.

'Higher Ground' is the restaurant.

It serves all the goodies that we have become used to, but in addition also serves dinner (Thu-Mon) and Breakfast (Sat-Sun).

Jenny tells the earthquake struck "during lunch time.

"Glass and ovens started flying, the ceiling at the back collapsed and we quickly got the customers out of there.

"At the front there were a lot of tourists who dutifully stood under the doorframe but that meant none of us could get out.

"We managed to get everyone out on the street in an orderly fashion. I am so proud of my staff, they managed it

beautifully.

"Next, without thinking, we went back in and got the shop cat. Just as we got out another wall crashed down and we have not had access since.

"The first days I was just dazed. I did not know what to do.

"The turnaround was the dinner we had on the Grassy.

"We had just had sausages delivered so we offered those for the BBQ and everyone was there and there was such a great community spirit and everything was just very Lyttelton.

"At that point there was so little left and many of us felt we needed to do something to get a new normality going so that people would not leave or would have something to come back to.

"A woman from Governors Bay came up to me and started crying and told me how much Ground meant to her, and I thought 'If it means so much to her, it will mean so much to me'.

"Then it was just a matter of 'how'. I had to let go of what was and look at what was possible.

"At that point Rob Swann, the vice-president of the Lyttelton Club and a regular



customer, offered me the Four Ships Restaurant.

"I had to think about it for a bit, I couldn't run the deli, which was my passion. But it does have a fully commercial kitchen and this has opened up new opportunities.

"The Club has been very helpful and flexible and welcoming and it has been wonderful to be able to retain our loyal group of staff.

"Without the help of so

many people I could not have gotten started again.

"The staff have been wonderful, learning different skills in different venues. Steven at the Lyttelton Coffee Company has been really supportive and encouraging and has given practical help too. "Lots of people have come in said 'right, what can I do to help'".

"Some just picked up a dish cloth, others transported our goods to the market, local

musicians have offered to play for free.

"Some of our regular suppliers have been amazing, particularly as they are also struggling to get back on track. For example at AFD they just said "we'll start you up again".

"We had to start from scratch I didn't always order everything we needed. But they would come rushing through the tunnel with flour or sugar. They went out of

their way.

"Graeme, my partner, has been my pivotal support person. He knows me better than I know myself and he knew I had to try to save what was left.

"We have been so busy setting it all up that we have not yet signposted the new businesses well. But custom is picking up and I am hopeful. Lyttelton is that combined effort. It always has been".

We'll see you next door - at the medical centre!

Paul Leslie tells how on the day of the earthquake "everything started rocking in the shop, the magazine stand fell over, and it was rather a mess.

"We walked outside and immediately saw that things were pretty bad further down the street.

"I went out of town for a couple of days with dad.

"When we came back, we had a look at the shop, we stood outside and one of the physio's walked by.

"She joked 'oh, well, I guess we'll see you next door to us', and that is how the idea came up to simply move within Lyttelton.

"What people don't realise is that magazine stock becomes obsolete if it does not sell and stock that was in the shop before the earthquake had already been paid for.

"So it was important for us to get back into it.

"Also we have many customers from other parts of Christchurch that order specialist magazines and, once we had a venue from which we could distribute, we rang them that we were back in business.

"Many still thought that the tunnel was closed, one even drove over Dyers Pass as recently as last week.

"Our move could not have happened without the fantastic help of others.



"The owner of the building, John Foster, has been great, just great.

"He has fixed things up, has set a very reasonable rent and has not tied us down to a long lease.

"This means that we can stay flexible and respond to the new situation as best as we can depending on when

our own premises can reopen. "Winsome Dormer from the Independent Provedoring Co on Norwich Quay has been great too.

"She allowed us to store 40 boxes of stock for free, which has made an enormous difference.

"The family has all been great in working with us to set

up the new shop. We have put in what we could put in."

The Leslies have done a marvellous job in getting reorganised at this speed.

There are over 2,000 magazines available, basic lines of stationary and pens, books about Lyttelton (well, as she was) and kids' books which means you don't have to travel

into town for birthday gifts.

Phone cards are also available.

When you walk into the shop you see all these boxes but there is a system to it.

They can immediately tell you where everything is.

Pay them a visit and you get the latest town updates thrown in for free!

Shopping to make a difference

Personally, I am not a great fan of shopping ourselves out of recessions.

But this is different.

Every shop that currently (re)opens puts great faith into the resurrection of Lyttelton and is pivotal in becoming as good or better than it was.

Please support these businesses, we need them more than ever and they really need you!

As I was writing this the Coffee Company was opening in the Loons, The Stables were to temporarily move in with physio in the medical centre, and Portico has opened under the veranda.

Storm hairdressers has also reopened. The BNZ, Lyttel Piko are all open.

Up to date information, phone numbers and opening hours can be found on the "Lyttelton Harbour" website: <http://www.lytteltonharbour.co.nz/news-xidc38170.html>

If you are open or opening up soon, please contact me to write up your story: Marjolein Lips-Wiersma, 328 9339 or familylips@ihug.co.nz

Don't be shy, I am not a journalist, I just like telling real stories and people here need to hear your stories.

Remarkable spirit after earthquake

by Margaret Jefferies

The Lyttelton community is moving through the chaos, the effects of the earthquake, in quite a remarkable manner.

The spirit of the people is high despite the devastation to many of the buildings particularly in the business area and the port.

It is recognised that when the buildings that have to come down are bulldozed, it will probably trigger another wave of shock and grief amongst us.

However there is an excitement in the village at what we could create together.

Many ideas have been mooted.

One idea sparks another. Brilliant and workable ideas are not in short supply – the benefits of being such a creative community!

But how are all these ideas to be managed?

What is the process that we are going to adopt to allow the best to unfold?

The challenge is how do we move forward in a democratic manner?

What we choose will probably be a mixture of public face to face forums and internet based discussions and voting processes.

Open space

A format that I have advocated for a public forum is called 'Open Space'.

Open Space is a refinement of what many indigenous people have done for a long, long time: the whole community comes together, sitting in a circle to look at the issue – in this case, 'the path forward, how do we rebuild'.

Those who turn up to the hui have self selected and are regarded as the right people for the discussion.

Participants are invited to state simply in one sentence what particular aspect/s they want to discuss – they need to be passionate about the topic/s and be willing to hold a space for the discussion.

These topic headings are posted on the wall so that a little later all those who have come to the hui can see and choose what discussions they want to be part of.

Thus the agenda for the day is created.

There is one rule for the process – the law of two feet – which means each person is responsible for their own learning, so if they are in a discussion where they are not feeling they can contribute or learn, they use their two feet and move on to a different discussion.

Each session of discussion groups (many happening si-

multaneously) lasts for about 1.5 hours.

There could be two or three sessions throughout the day.

Food and drinks are available all through the process in a self help sort of way – as thinking and discussing uses up energy, so people need to have refreshments always to hand.

Each group records on computer a summary of the discussion, the main points and the steps ahead.

These later can go on line.

All summaries are posted on a large wall so everyone has a chance to see what has been discussed in other groups.

A dot voting system allows the various topics to be prioritized by the whole group for action steps ahead.

Open Space as a tool has been used and refined world wide.

It has been effectively used by very large groups.

It works best when the discussion is of huge importance to the participants – such as in our present situation.

The beauty of the process is that under a broad topic head, the agenda is set by those attending.

Electronic voting

Another process that I think needs to be put in place is an electronic voting system.

I think our current voting systems don't really give us democratic results.

Those who are elected need to hear the voice of the whole community on every matter of significance.

And this process nowadays is relatively simple as we have the technology to be able to do this easily.

I believe that children from the age of 12 upwards should have a say as they are the inheritors of the decisions that are made.

Instead of having a vote just every few years, we could be voting if necessary weekly, and questions asked don't need to have just yes/no answers.

They could be feeling type questions over a range so that the mood of the community can be gauged. With all this accurate and fast feedback a community could make decisions without the usual long delays that the current systems have built into them.

Just imagine, after discussions on various ways forward in the community rebuild, various scenarios could be put to the vote, the answer comes quickly without delay.

There could be a buddy system set up for those who don't like to use computers.

Sustainability must be at the heart of the rebuild vision says a home-grown online petition

Following the recent establishment of the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority (CERA), it's clear that plans are now starting to be made for the rebuild of central Christchurch, its suburbs and communities further afield such as Lyttelton.

"This is such a critical time" says Lou Warren, a harbour resident, who has begun an online petition asking the City Council and CERA to make Environmental Sustainability the guiding principle at the heart of the rebuild plans.

"What's happened here in Canterbury has been very sad and continues to be very challenging for many in our communities.

"But it's also a unique opportunity: an opportunity for Lyttelton, Christchurch and New Zealand that must not be missed.

"What matters now is that the re-build proceeds in the right way and has the right vision at its core from the outset."

Now is the time, she argues, to gather local and international expertise in sustainable urban design and to plan the re-development of the Christchurch area as a safe, prosperous, world-leading showcase for sustainability, to the benefit of our citizens, communities, businesses and our unique natural environment.

"The petition is simply a way to quantify support for this vision and to focus that support in one place so that those who represent us politically, those who are in a position to influence the rebuild plans, can hear that collective voice and respond appropriately."

It's time, she proposes, to establish the future Christchurch 'as an international destination synonymous with sustainability and a great quality of life – an inspired legacy for our children and a Garden City that Kiwis the world over can be truly proud of.'

For more details on the petition, or to sign go to www.change.org and enter 'Christchurch' in the petition search box.



A Lyttelton heart.

Community's capacity to work together with bank

The earthquake showed what amazing capacity there is within this community to work well together.

The Recreation Centre became the Emergency Centre. Civil Defence, Time Bank, the Fire Department, Police, the navy and the army and our councillor Claudia Reid created a seamless team working to provide all that was required at a time of crisis.

For the first two weeks following 22 February, all these groups had twice daily briefing sessions together.

This was reduced to one briefing session a day in the last week.

The work of this team allowed the community to access reliable, local knowledge.

Well done you stars!

An example of how this community works so well together can be seen in a recent ongoing situation that the Time Bank has been organising.

Paul Dahl, a Time Bank member noticed that Beryl and Bert Walsh needed some help.

Their house was badly damaged. Paul contacted Julie Lee the Time Bank co-ordinator and said he was bringing in Beryl and Bert to the Recreation Centre to sort out some accommodation for them.

Neither Beryl nor Bert realised the full extent of the situation and were hoping to be back in their house within a couple of days.

Immediately after the earthquake Julie had developed an accommodation list for both short term and long term needs.

It was from this list that she took Time Bankers Andrea

and John King's offer of accommodation for a few days for Beryl and Bert.

On that same list was Brad Mosen and Keeley Eastwood's house – they were planning to move to Whanganui – and did anyone need that rental property. The property was secured before it went on the open market.

Meanwhile Paul was acting as Beryl and Bert's champion. He took them to the RAC Centre, to Housing NZ and Work and Income etc helping with forms and making sure all grants available for temporary accommodation were made available.

Lucie Ozanne looked after all the paper work associated with the rental property, organising the house bond and the house inspection.

Then some massive teams of Time Bankers came together.

There was a team on Wednesday packing and doing gardens to help Brad.

On Thursday there were two teams, one loading up the truck the other cleaning the house ready for Beryl and Bert.

Brad donated some great stuff for the Time Bank Garage Sale.

The rental property had still not been secured, the team was going on faith, hoping that it would pan out.

On Friday, there was an OK, yes they could move in and do that on Monday.

Julie put out a call to Time Bank members about what was happening and did people have any furniture to donate. In tandem with that Julie had texted Mark Buckley the Fire Chief to see what the pos-

sibility might be of getting back into Beryl and Bert's old home to get stuff out.

The fire people checked the property on Sunday morning. Mark said if they could get a team of firemen (they had ACC cover for going into the building) could Time Bank have a team of 8 – 10 there as well.

Jules texted about 30 people, used the Time Bank data base, Volcano Radio, and the Love Lyttelton face book page.

She hoped to get 8 – 10 people, as many packing boxes as possible and some transport.

About 12 people turned up complete with appropriate transport plus 'Bertie' the Project Lyttelton truck and many, many boxes.

The Fire Brigade went into the house, they were told which rooms to focus on, they brought out the boxed stuff and passed those to the chain of Time Bank members who loaded the transport drove it around to the property. It was all complete in 45 minutes! This was so much fun!

Then on Monday there was another team, unpacking and creating a home space for Beryl and Bert. Beryl was delighted at what was salvaged from their old home.

Further Time bankers turned in the TV to Skye etc, sorted out the phone and electricity, hung some pictures, shifted Beryl and Bert out of Andrea and John's.

Checking in with the couple will follow.

A Time Banker showed Beryl and Bert how to use a heat pump and someone is arranging for fire alarms to be installed.

And all those that helped recognised that all the work was not a one sided thing.

Some of the helpers relished having something to focus on in these aftershock days, to get out of their own homes, to be with others chatting and laughing, making new friendships, to be making a difference for others.

What a community!

Office Manager

Project Lyttelton is seeking an Office Manager.

A self starter with a passion for community. You will help develop our strategic plan, organize our office systems, manage our staff and assist where needed. You will require experience with budgets, computers, staff management, web sites and the community sector. We are offering an initial 6 month contract role for 20 hours per week. For more information about Project Lyttelton see www.lyttelton.net.nz

Please forward your CV to Wendy Everingham or Margaret Jefferies by April 14th Project Lyttelton P.O.Box 74 Lyttelton or email to wendy.everingham@xtra.co.nz