

Life returns to Lorne Street

As Aucklanders enjoy the spruced-up and newly-paved Lorne Street, businesses contemplate the cost of the construction process.

by Amy Kelley

Auckland City Council is expecting increased pedestrian activity on Lorne St now that the first stage of its \$4.5 million upgrade is complete.

Businesses in the street have struggled for the last year with construction work deterring people from shopping and eating in the area.

Fresh Mart owner Don Lee says he has suffered a 20 per cent drop in business since the upgrade began.

Construction work over his shopfront left pipes and cables hanging down by the doorway for months.

Sierra Café owner Khemony Kim, who has seen parking spaces outside his property turn into loading zones, reports a 35 per cent drop in business.

The council widened Lorne St footpaths to make it more pedestrian-friendly. But as a result, the number of on-street car-parks had to be slashed, from 40 to 25.

Kim says many customers find

his café too difficult to access now.

"They have to park somewhere else, which means they end up going to a café somewhere else. I don't think people can be bothered to walk all that way," he says.

The Lorne St upgrade, which began in August last year, is part of a 10-year Into The Future project to revitalise the streets and open spaces of Auckland's CBD.

Project leader Jo Wiggims says Lorne St's new footpath paving, street furniture, tree grates and in-ground street lighting are designed to give it a "High St feel".

The council has also tried to preserve Lorne St's unique history and character.

"It has such a relation to the cultural precinct," says Wiggims. "Lorne St is home to the library and the art gallery, plus a lot of private galleries flowing into High St."

The council commissioned text artist Mary-Louise Brown to create a word game that has been engraved on the new seating. She

came up with two nine-part transmutations from "WORD" to "DEED", playing on the presence of the Auckland City Library.

But the project's main focus was improving pedestrian movement and safety. A zebra and signalised crossing were installed, and raised speed tables were created to slow down traffic.

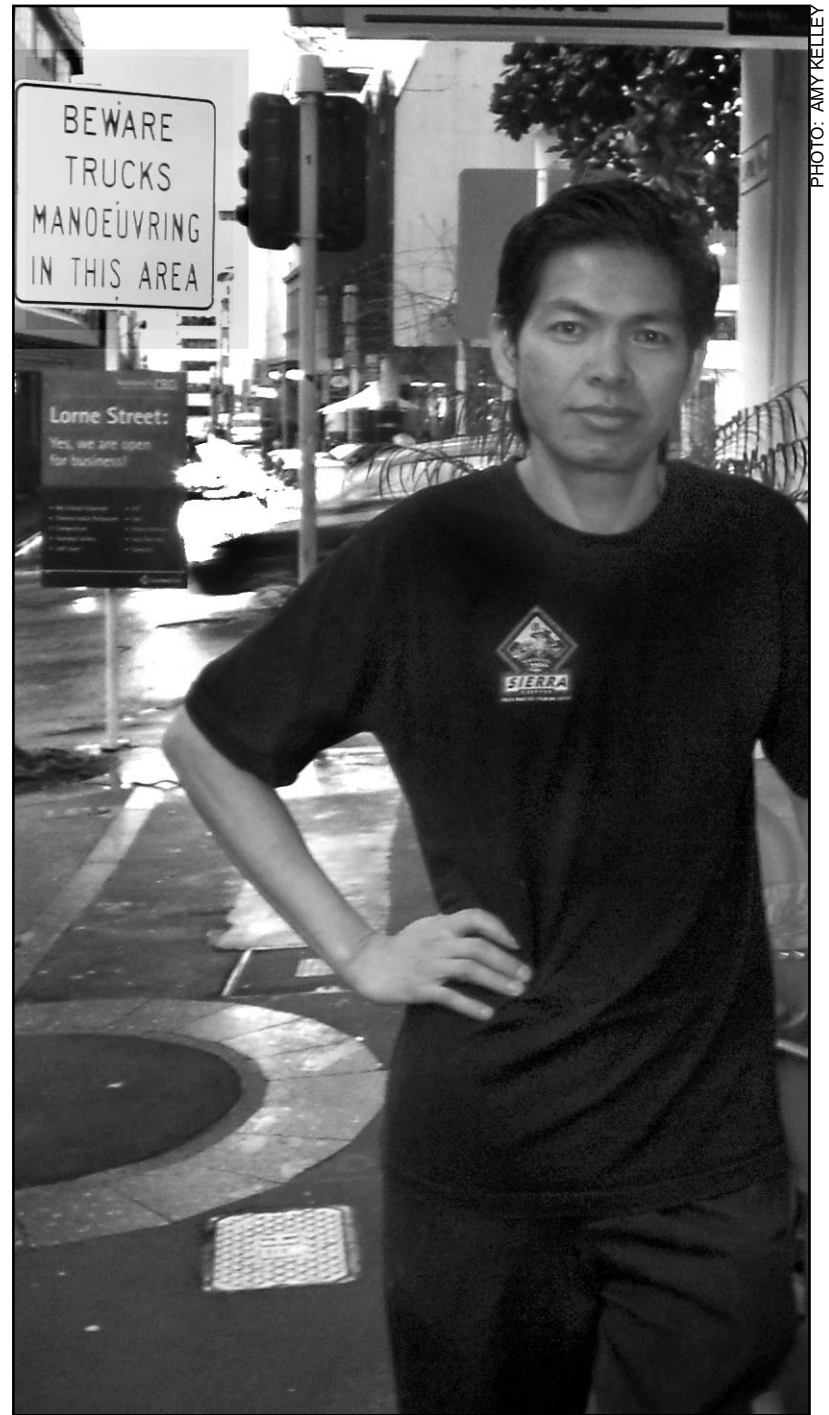
Kim says the widening of footpaths in addition to these changes was unnecessary. He and other Lorne St business owners have formed a group to voice their concerns to the council, but he says they are not being listened to.

However Fresh Mart owner Lee praises the council for keeping businesses in the loop.

"I have so many letters that they have sent me, explaining what is going on," he says. "They have been very good that way."

Lee says this difficult past year will have been "worth it" if the upgrade makes Lorne St more pedestrian-friendly.

"I hope people will enjoy walking through here more," he says. "As far as business goes, the more pedestrians, the better."



STRUGGLING: Sierra owner Khemony Kim's café is "just managing to survive" since the Lorne Street upgrade hit his business.

Airport marae naming will wait for Queen's burial

by Qiane Corfield

The naming of Auckland International Airport's marae could be delayed following the death of Te Arikini Dame Te Atairangikaahu.

A meeting between local kaumatua to decide the name of the whareniui (meeting house) was initially scheduled for Tuesday but was postponed.

Later that night, Dame Te Atairangikaahu died at Turangawaewae marae in Ngaruawahia.

Dame Te Ata was going to be notified of the name following the meeting.

With her death new plans need to be made.

One important role of the airport marae will be to serve as a place for bereaved families to be reunited with the bodies of loved ones who have died overseas.

Other roles will include official functions for farewelling and welcoming dignitaries, educational programmes and cultural events.

The marae is scheduled to open in November this year, but marae trustee David Hansen says this could be delayed.

"Plans have to be reviewed," he says.

"Dates may be altered, but it's all up in the air at the moment

until we find out more about the funeral."

The airport marae is a partnership between the Maori Queen, on behalf of Tainui, and Auckland International Airport. The deal was formalised in March 2003.

Dame Te Ata is currently laying in state at Turangawaewae marae.

Tens of thousands of people from across the country are expected to pay their respects at the marae this weekend.

The burial will be held on Monday on Taupiri Mountain. State highway one is expected to be closed for the duration of the ceremony.

AUT ad students top national awards

Striking advertisements featured in this edition of *Te Waha Nui* topped the annual Newspaper Advertising Bureau student creativity awards.

They are the work of AUT creative advertising students.

The Warehouse series on page 14 won the overall top prize from about 100 entries and was produced by second year advertising creativity students

Biljana Madzunarov and Melissa Brooks.

Advertising creativity major students Olivia Wagner and Helena Karlbom won a highly commended craft award for art direction for their Glengarry wine series (page 23).

The Soprano television series adverts (page 4) created by Rebekah Foote and Ray McKay also featured in the awards.

"Retail is the toughest advertising field to work in," says Paul White, creative director of AUT's advertising creativity programme.

"It's only fitting that the country's emerging talent should demonstrate some fresh thinking in a category that all too often displays a formulaic and predictable approach to advertising."

West Papua focus on civil rights

by Dianna Vezich

Aucklanders can learn more about the suffering in one of their neighbouring Pacific countries this weekend.

A two-day conference at AUT University will focus on the plight of West Papua.

Organised by the Indonesian Human Rights Committee, the West Papua human rights conference, will examine the situation in the Pacific territory, which has been under Indonesian rule since 1963.

"It's very much an oppressive situation and the Indonesian military have a heavy presence in West Papua," says Marie Leadbeater, spokesperson of the committee.

Environmental devastation is also a major concern among West Papuans.

Large international corporations are involved in illegal logging in the country and in

exploitation of the largest gold mine in the world.

One of the key speakers at the conference will be Baptist leader Socrates Sofyan Yoman, one of many West Papuans threatened and harassed by the military and police intelligence officers.

He has travelled internationally to protest for justice and human rights in his country.

Another important speaker is John Wing, coordinator of the West Papua project at the University of Sydney's Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies.

Leadbeater emphasises that West Papuans want peace in their homeland.

"Their simple demand is dialogue. They're not asking for self-determination overnight," she says.

She believes peace will occur when there is demilitarisation in West Papua.

The opening speech is at the AUT University conference centre at 7pm tonight. Workshops continue tomorrow.