

Mibus matters

Your LOCAL Community Newspaper



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18 December 2013



This World War II jeep carried a jolly load at the Silverdale & Districts RSA Christmas Gala last weekend, as Santa and local children climbed aboard. The American jeep, made in 1944, is part of a substantial collection of war memorabilia owned by Dean Wilson of Whangaparaoa. (see story p14)

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BP in firing line as residents protest

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Local folk

Meet Clean Coast champion Taifa Johnston

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'Tis the season

Christmas cheer and summer events

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Moves afoot to fast track Penlink

The possibility of including the Penlink Road in the contract to be let for the Puhai to Warkworth extension to State Highway One is being considered by Auckland Transport, Auckland Council and the NZ Transport Agency – a process that could fast track the building of the road from Whangaparaoa to Redvale.

Both the NZ Transport Agency and Auckland Mayor Len Brown acknowledge that there have been preliminary discussions about including Penlink in the contract to be let for the

Puhai to Warkworth extension.

It is anticipated that this contract could be let before the next General Election, which may be held as early as September next year.

Mayor Len Brown says recent discussions with central Government indicate that the contract for the Puhai-Warkworth extension and

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Hibiscus Matters wishes all our readers, columnists and advertisers a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

Our office at Tamariki Plaza, Cammish Lane, Orewa, will be closed from December 19 until January 15.

Our first issue for 2014 will be published on February 5. For urgent enquiries, please phone our head office in Warkworth on 09 425 9068. Merry Christmas

CHRISTMAS COUNTDOWN

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Council pushes Penlink from page 1

Penlink could be combined. "It would be logical to get two for the price of one, in a PPP," the Mayor says. "It's early days, but the response so far has been positive and I'm supportive of the direction it's going in."

NZ Transport Agency's regional director for Auckland and Northland, Stephen Town, says an appropriate business case is vital if the Transport Agency is to become involved. Mr Town says it is important to note that while no decisions have been made at this time, the Transport Agency is considering a Public Private Partnership (PPP) for the Puhā to Warkworth extension, and possibly procuring Penlink in the same contract.

There has been a lot of activity behind the scenes related to Penlink since the Auckland Transport board received the updated business case for the project last month but the CCO remains tight lipped saying only that the board will discuss Penlink again early next year.

Hibiscus Matters understands that the board is seeking more information in the interim.

The updated business case is crucial, whether the road is to be built via a PPP or not. A plan entitled 'Penlink Preferred layout' prepared by Auckland Transport indicates that the CCO is favouring

the option of a four-lane road, which is estimated to cost \$200-\$250 million. Currently, Auckland Transport's 10 Year Plan includes around \$28 million for the toll road, budgeted for 2021/22, with \$10.5 million spread over the 2018-21 period.

Meanwhile a notice put up recently on Auckland Transport's tender site suggests the process is moving forward at pace.

Auckland Transport's 'Request for Proposal', which seeks 'to award a contract for supply of Planning Professional Services to implement the Penlink Planning Strategy to successfully complete an alteration to the designation and obtain all required consents', closes on December 18.

However Hibiscus & Bays Local Board member, and Penlink Now campaigner Janet Fitzgerald says the messages coming from Auckland Transport are confusing.

She says while on the one hand there have been signs of greater impetus behind Penlink, a recent email to the Local Board indicated that the CCO may want to stick with the original start date of 2021 that it has budgeted for.

The Local Board is meeting Auckland Transport this week to seek clarification.

Decision awaited by Stanmore Bay residents

Residents of Matai Rd and Rata St in Stanmore Bay who are opposed to a 13-room dwelling being erected near their homes by property owner Michael Coyer (HM December 4) are still waiting to hear whether the resource consent for Mr Coyer's building will be notified. Matai Rd resident Josh Rumble says that the group is however pleased that the process won't happen right on Christmas. It is expected that Auckland Council will place the issue before an independent commissioner for a decision in mid-January. Mr Coyer applied to erect the building as a private dwelling, but residents fear it may be used as a boarding house, and have negative impacts on the neighbourhood.