

Preparation underway for work on corner of Don and Dee Street

Part of the inner city's streetscape will begin a transformation early next month, as preparation work starts for the ILT's hotel development.

THE building on the corner of Don and Dee Streets, known variously as the Caledonian or the Langland, will be demolished to make way for the new development, and this work is expected to begin in early February.

Members of the public will soon notice changes to Don Street, with acoustic walls to be put up, and a container-lined walkway developed to maintain pedestrian access in the area.

The demolition of the three-storey building is a mammoth task, which will be undertaken by contractors Ryal Bush Transport Ltd.

Safety is of the utmost importance, and so while there may be some inconvenience and disruption caused by the work, this is to ensure the safety of everyone in the area, including residents, businesses, contractors, and the public.

ILT Chief Executive Chris Ramsay acknowledged there would be some disruption during the demolition and build phases of the project.

"We are working closely with ICC and our contractors to ensure this is minimised as much as possible.

"The finished project will only add vibrancy to our CBD," Mr Ramsay said.

The ILT secured a resource consent to demolish the Victorian building



ABOVE: Architectural interpretation of the finished ILT Hotel on the corner of Don and Dee Streets.

ILT or Ryal Bush Transport representatives will be visiting businesses in the inner-city area in the coming weeks to keep retailers up-to-date on the works, and what impacts they may have.

following the decision of an independent commissioner in December 2018.

Updates on the work, including any road closures or diversions, will be advised as available through both Council and ILT publications, and online.

Keep an eye on the Invercargill city website: www.icc.govt.nz

BELOW: The former Caledonian/Langland building is soon to be demolished.



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New Year brought broken pipes

BY ALISTER MURRAY
WATER MANAGER

WHILE many ICC personnel were still enjoying the New Year holiday, staff from Council's Water and Parks departments were wrestling with a potentially serious disruption to the city's water supply.

Just after Council reopened on Thursday 3 January, Water department staff noticed a change in pressure and flow on the city's trunk water supply pipe from Branxholme. The alert was raised that something was wrong with the main water supply into the city. Both Council and pipe maintenance contractor Downer dispatched staff to locate the fault by walking the pipeline route.

By 12.30pm, the fault was located in a paddock in Donovan Park, about 400 metres south of Mclvor Road.

The fault had been caused by the toppling of a large gum tree placed directly above the water main. High winds during the preceding weeks had weakened the tree's root stability. The damage the tree caused to the pipe was severe, as three lengths of pipe, totalling 15 metres, were broken. Normally faults resulting from pipe failure involve only one pipe length.

Before contractors could begin repairs the site had to be made safe. Parks department staff were called in to move deer out of the paddock and to fell and remove several more trees. That was achieved by around 5pm. Also in the afternoon Mayor

Tim, who had heard about the situation, called in to check on what was happening.

Meanwhile, Council staff were busy isolating the section of pipeline which was damaged and re-routing flow from Council's Branxholme Water Treatment Plant to reservoir storage in Myers Street, Waikiwi, and at Gala and Doon Streets. This was achieved by changing valving and pumping on the city's water trunk main system and was completed by midnight.

Staff and contractors continued to work throughout the night. By 4am on Friday 4 January, the pipe had been repaired.

Reservoir storage dropped from being full to a low of 72% during this event.

By 7.45pm that evening the repaired pipeline had been recharged with water and the city's water supply trunk main system returned to its normal configuration. It took until the following Monday morning for reservoir storage to return to its normal operational levels.

I would like to acknowledge the efforts of my ICC colleagues in the Water and Parks departments and the staff of Downer for the long hours they put in over the two days.

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As a result of this incident, the position of the city's water supply network within Donovan Park is being checked as to the position of pipes in relation to trees. There are two 600mm diameter water supply trunk mains in Donovan Park and it is likely that more trees will be felled to prevent a re-occurrence.

It is worth noting that part of the city's water supply trunk main is scheduled for replacement over the next three years. This will include the older of one of the pipelines in Donovan Park.

The lessons to take away from this are that something out of the unknown is bound to upset the water supply sometime and we need to have resources (which include our people as well as contractor personnel) and equipment to handle the situation to avoid the serious situation of depletion of reservoir storage or, put bluntly, running out of water.

In this instance, the situation was well contained with reservoir storage maintained at safe levels and so Invercargill residents were not affected.

Queens Park retains five star accreditation

QUEENS Park has retained its five-star accreditation by the NZ Gardens Trust in recognition of its endorsement as a Garden of National Significance.

Five-star gardens are highly recommended gardens for their presentation, design and plant interest throughout the year. They have a distinctive identity of their own and a character that gives them an edge. They may have special features that may appeal to those with special interests.

Assessments are made every three years. This is the fourth time Queens Park has received this award. Council uses this award as a measure of the level of service in the Long-term Plan.

The five star rating is used as a benchmark to ensure the quality of Queens Park is maintained.

We are fortunate to have skilled and qualified staff who are dedicated to ensuring the high standard is retained.

This award also shows that Queens Park is not only locally, but nationally and internationally recognised by visitors coming to Invercargill as a place to visit.



Splash Palace car park extension open for business

BY PETER THOMPSON
AQUATIC SERVICES MANAGER

THE extension to the car park at Splash Palace was opened on January 18.

It was a desperately needed addition given the high admission numbers at the pool, which have been increasing every year with no sign of slowing.

As a result, our car park was often full to overflowing. The extension means Splash Palace can provide more convenient and safe parking, particularly during busy periods.

The extension provides an additional 70 car parks,

which will improve traffic flow, customer experience, and safety.

As part of the extension, an additional three disabled car parks have also been added near the front of the facility.

During the works a total of 3,200m³ of soil was removed from the site, with a portion of it being used for stock bank reinforcement at Cobbe Road.

Painting of the rear fence and reinstatement of the grass verges will be completed in coming weeks, weather dependent.



BEFORE



DURING



AFTER



ABOVE: His Worship the Mayor Sir Tim Shadbolt checks out the new barbecue at Russell Square in Elles Road.

Free barbecue installed at Russell Square

VISITORS to Russell Square can now enjoy a family barbecue, thanks to an initiative from the Rotary Club of Invercargill South and Invercargill City Council.

To mark its 50th anniversary, the Rotary Club of Invercargill South has provided an electric barbecue, which can be used by park visitors free-of-charge, while Council provided a shelter offering shade or protection from wind and rain.

Club past president Ron Taylor said many local businesses and club volunteers worked together to make the project happen.

“This barbecue is a wonderful asset for South Invercargill and the Russell Square area,” Mr Taylor said.

“Judging by the feedback we have had so far, I am sure it will get lots of use, especially during the summer months with our lovely long twilight evenings.”

Council's Acting Parks Manager Michele Frey said Council appreciated the opportunity to work with the Rotary Club of Invercargill South on the community project.

“The new double burner barbecue will be fantastic for families and social gatherings. It adds another attraction for families at the playground,” Ms Frey said.

It is the first public electric barbecue in the city, and will be managed and maintained by the Invercargill City Council.

People using the barbecue are asked to use the ‘Share with Care’ code:

- Clean barbecue plate after use ready for the next user.
- Dispose of your rubbish in the bin provided.
- Limit your time on the barbecue to allow access for others.
- Supervise children in the area as hot plates will remain hot after use.