

COAST TO COAST

DECEMBER 2004

Colin Knaggs returns 'home'

For Colin Knaggs, Transit New Zealand's new Regional Manager in Christchurch, coming back to Christchurch is like returning home.

Educated at Burnside High School and the University of Canterbury, Colin has spent all but three of the last 30 years working in the North Island, a brief stint as Construction Engineer for the Ministry of Works and Development in Timaru being the only time working south of Cook Strait.

Colin, like Robin Odams, his predecessor, entered a cadetship with the MOWD, and studied at the School of Engineering at Canterbury University. After graduating, Colin spent time in Wellington and Napier before his move to Timaru and subsequent transfer back to Napier with the MOWD as District Highways Engineer. In 1990 he was appointed Transit's Regional Manager in Hamilton, a position he held until November this year.

"I am pleased to be back here. I have been involved in roading and bridge construction my entire working life and am keen to bring the knowledge from those experiences back to Canterbury," he said.

Included in the major projects he undertook were:

- designating a route for the 93 km of the "Waikato Expressway"
- designating several major routes into Tauranga

"Tauranga was particularly interesting. Transit, the Tauranga District Council and the Western Bay of Plenty District Council had a tripartite agreement to develop and construct the strategic roading

network. One project that was great to be involved in was the letting of a joint contract with Tauranga District Council for \$93 million. It was a very successful partnership and I am keen to try similar partnerships down here," he said.

Colin also sees the heavy involvement he had in designating routes in the Waikato and Bay of Plenty continuing, especially in relation to motorway access north and south of Christchurch.

"One of Transit's key roles is to ensure that through-routes and arterials are sustainable and we will work with councils to ensure that pedestrian, cycling and passenger transport are all catered for along these routes," he said. The signalisation of Buchanans Rd/Carmen Rd and Yaldhurst Rd/Russley Rd intersections are prime examples of this work.

"There are more improvements required on the more torturous sections of SH 73 as well as the single lane bridges on that route. Work will also continue on building more passing lanes on the network," he said.

Outside of his regional focus, Colin was project manager for the Iwi Consultation



Colin Knaggs

Manual and is helping build an iwi-related issues database.

"The Transit family is quite small so I did know quite a few of the team before moving down here - they are a great group."

Just how much Colin thinks Christchurch is home will be shown shortly during the Super 12 season. Will he be supporting red and black or yellow, red and black? The former, we trust!



Transit New Zealand would like to wish everyone a happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

West Coast works

Much of Transit's recent work on the coast has been safety related. Threshold treatments, to slow traffic entering towns, have been completed or are in progress at Reefton, Kumara and Hari Hari. This is an ongoing project for smaller rural towns where traffic speeds through the towns are of concern.

A 40 km/hour temporary speed zone has been completed at Karoro School on SH 6 south of Greymouth and a second one is being investigated for Paroa School a little further south. Another safety project completed recently was the replacement of wooden handrails with steel guardrail at Waitaha and Mahitahi Bridges on SH 6 in south Westland.

A safety fence has been erected at a notable accident black spot alongside the Inangahua River south of Inangahua Junction on SH 69 and the intersection at Donaldsons Road on SH7 near Ngahere was improved in co-operation with the Department of Conservation project to upgrade an historic site (that houses an old steam engine driven bush locomotive) next to the intersection.

SH 6 has been widened and a footpath constructed through Runanga and new kerb and channel constructed in Reefton in conjunction with the Grey and Buller District Councils respectively.

Plans for new work in the New Year are to improve the alignment of the approach to 4 Mile Bridge on SH 6 Coast Road, provide guardrailing for dropoffs at the top of the Lewis Pass, and provide footbridges at Bullock Creek and Poarari Bridges near Punakaiki on SH 6.

A 40km/hr temporary speed zone sign near Karoro School on SH 6.



Steel guardrails have replaced wooden handrails at Waitaha Bridge on SH 6.



Warning signs

Transit also maintains all the warning signs, guide signs and motorist service signs alongside the state highways. As well as normal

wear and tear and accident damage, there is significant vandal damage that has to be repaired. A major project for the New Year will be the

provision of 'variable message signs' for the Lewis Pass route between Canterbury and the West Coast and Nelson.

Focus on passing lanes

The construction of new passing lanes has been a key focus for Transit's Christchurch office over the last few years for State Highway 1. Passing lanes are widely recognised for decreasing travel time, driver frustration and aggressive driver behaviour. Passing lanes also help reduce overtaking and rear-end and head-on accidents.

The state highways between Ashburton and Timaru, and along the northern Kaikoura coast, are two areas where several passing lanes are planned in the years ahead.

Mid-South Canterbury

While Seadown will probably be built in the summer of 05/06 there are several others under investigation including:-

Hinds - both directions

Ealing - both directions

Rangitata South - both directions

Orari North - both directions

Orari South - both directions

Winchester - southbound

All these six have a three to four year horizon for construction.

Kaikoura Coast

A southbound passing lane was built at Waipapa earlier this year while a southbound passing lane at Hapuku will probably be built in the summer of 05/06. A southbound passing lane at Clarence North will hopefully be built in the summer of 05/06, otherwise 06/07.

Transit has two more in the investigation stage, at Kekerengu and Tirohanga. Both could be two to four years away.

Yaldhurst traffic signalisation under way



Work on removing the roundabout and replacing it with traffic signals has commenced at the intersection of SH 1 (Russley Rd) and SH 73 (Yaldhurst Road).

Isaac Construction is expected to have completed the \$1.8 million project by April, 2005.

Transit Project Manager Colin Mackay, said that care has been taken to minimise traffic

disruption, especially during peak hour.

"There were a number of concerns with peak hour congestion early on, but the consultant and contractor have put much effort into minimising inconvenience motorists and cyclists might experience. In particular, the contractor is required not to interfere with traffic flows in any way during the morning and evening peaks," he said.

Glasnevin weigh station open



The weigh bridge, vehicle compliance station and stock truck effluent disposal facility adjacent to State Highway 1, at Glasnevin, near Waipara, was officially opened on August 2.

Situated on 2.5 hectare of land, the new

facility has done much to increase both safety and speed through the weigh bridge and compliance station, in addition to the provision of a stock effluent disposal facility.

Work on bridge under way



Construction of the new Main North Rd overbridge is progressing according to plan with work on the foundations to the north of the railway line expected to be finished before Christmas. Road construction to the north of the bridge has also been progressing well.

After Christmas bridge foundation work will move to south of the railway line. Key to the construction of the new bridge is a series of large (1.35m diameter) steel liners. These are screwed up to 36 metres into the ground and will contain the reinforced concrete foundation cylinders.

In total there will be 38 steel liners each

filled with an average of 40 cubic metres of reinforced concrete. The nine-span bridge will be 210m long and will be sited to the west of, and alongside, the existing rail overbridge.

When work starts to the south of the railway line, the Farquhars Road north bound slip lane will be closed for safety reasons. The road is expected to be closed from January 10 for about four months.

Work on the \$9 million project should be finished on schedule just prior to Christmas 2005 and will include a new pedestrian footpath/cycleway on each bridge.

Arahura bridge investigation

Funding has been granted from Transfund for the investigation phase for a new two-lane road bridge across the Arahura River.

A professional services contract for the investigation phase is being advertised before Christmas and will close at the beginning of February.

The existing timber bridge was built in 1887 and is 205m long. It is one of two road/rail bridges on the West Coast, the other is over the Taramakau.

The investigation phase will look at different options for the alignment of a two-lane road bridge.

It is likely that the old bridge will remain as a rail only bridge but this will also be investigated during this phase.

The investigation phase, including geotechnical investigations, are likely to take nine months to complete.

Omihi realignment increases safety

Realignment of the highway at Omihi twin culverts and construction of a southbound passing lane on the north side of the Omihi Saddle is now complete.

The main objectives were to eliminate an accident black spot and provide increased passing opportunities. The realignment work included the installation of two large (up to 2.1m diameter) culverts.

The new realigned section of highway with the old road to the right.



Normanby realignment well ahead of schedule

Subject to reasonable summer weather conditions, work on the Normanby realignment should be finished in April/May 2005, five months ahead of schedule and on budget.

The new 2.6km length of State Highway 1 replaces 3.2km of existing highway just south of Timaru.

Talbots Road has been dug out to match the final levels of the realignment and work has commenced on the aggregate layers.

The temporary diversion at the north end of the project will remain in place until the realignment is complete.

As part of the stabilisation process, lime is spread over the new stretch of highway. The unoccupied A frame house will be removed and relocated in the new year. The photo is taken looking north from just south of Talbots Rd.



Buchanans/Carmen Road intersection upgrade complete



Motorists, cyclists and pedestrians are all enjoying the new Buchanans Road/Carmen Road intersection layout, which was completed a few months ago.

The work involved the removal of the roundabout and installation of traffic signals, as well as the construction of

additional lanes, pedestrian footpaths and cycle lanes.

Extensive reconstruction of the old road surface was undertaken, existing services relocated underground and new street lighting installed.

Area wide treatments under way on West Coast

As well as routine maintenance work fixing potholes, cleaning drains, mowing roadside verges and so on, Transit completed four 'area wide treatments' in March/April 2004 on SH6 in the Lower Buller Gorge and in South Westland in the Mahitahi and Bruce Bay areas and also on SH 73 at Donegals east of Kumara.

Contracts are being let for similar projects for the summer construction season with the second stage of the SH 73 project east of Kumara and sections of SH 6 at Mitchells Gully about 20 km south of Westport on the Coast Road and Acre Creek about 20 km north of Hokitika, all programmed to start in January 2005.

Transit also reseals about 90 km of highway each year and that programme will begin for this year as soon as weather allows.

Robin's farewell as Regional Manager

Over 200 family and friends, both young and old, gathered in Christchurch in November to farewell Robin Odams on his retirement as Transit's Regional Manager.

It was an afternoon of conviviality and story telling, both tall and true, interspaced at frequent intervals by Robin's distinctive laugh rolling through the Great Hall of the Chateau on the Park function centre.

Robin's career is notable both for its length and achievements. Having started with the Ministry of Works over 39 years ago following his graduation as an engineer from Canterbury University, Robin also worked briefly for the Ministry of Transport during the evolution of the Ministry of Works into Transit. In total he spent 27 years in Christchurch, 15 of them with Transit.

With such a career, there are so many highlights:-

- Working with the World Bank in Lebanon, Peru, Laos, Mexico, Papua New Guinea and Washington DC.
- Upgrading of SH 1 to 10m seal.
- Construction of passing lanes on SH 1 and their positive impact on safety and driver comfort.
- Relocation of SH 1 from the centre of Timaru allowing the subsequent development of the town centre by Timaru District.
- Construction of the Hokitika road bridge and upgrading of the road south to Ross, catering for the growing tourism traffic and further development of Hokitika.
- Improvements to SH 1 north of Christchurch, particularly around Hawkswood.
- Planning for future work on the motorways north and south of Christchurch.
- Planning and construction work carried out in the Arthur's Pass National Park including the Viaduct, Candy's Bend and White's Bridge. These works have been recognised internationally for



Robin, assisted by granddaughter Ashleigh, opens a farewell gift - a book capturing images from State Highway 1.

their achievement in environmental mitigation.

"A key to all these achievements has been the team effort. I have been lucky to have worked with a great team of people over the years, especially those in the Christchurch office," he said.

Robin's great knowledge and enthusiasm is not lost to Transit as he will continue on a part-time basis.



Christchurch Regional Office

Transit New Zealand
Po Box 1479
Christchurch

Education House
Level 7
123 Victoria Street
Christchurch

Phone (03) 366 4455
Fax (03) 365 6576

www.transit.govt.nz