Street Smart

Spring 2014

From the Front...

Associate Director
Colin MacArthur

Auckland - we’ve arrived!

Following on from our last newsletter, we have now planted our flag in downtown Auckland at level 8, 57 Fort Street – a short 5 minute walk from Britomart Station and the Ferry Terminal.

With the fit out now complete, I will be leading the Auckland office from here on, whilst ensuring we stay closely connected to the rest of the team in our Christchurch office.

My personal journey with Abley over the past 5 months has been a real pleasure. There’s a great energy in the team, where professional and personal growth is invested in and encouraged.

So, whether you’re looking for a new inspiring environment to develop your own career, a team who will provide fresh thinking and innovation to your challenges, give me a call.

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Transport Models Online

The team at Abley are continually exploring ways to improve the communication of technical information to our clients and the community.

An example of this is the development of a web based interface that presents outputs from complex transport models. Clients are able to log on and select the outputs they wish to view and customise outputs prior to printing or exporting.

The technology to enable this is provided by a product called Flexviewer for GIS, and is used to display outputs from any GIS model including volumes, volume changes, speeds, queue lengths, delays and levels of service. These can be uploaded and accessed through any modern web browser and combined with the power of base maps to display this information alongside parcel boundaries and over aerial photography.

Abley recently developed a web viewer for Waimakariri District Council for the Rangiora s-Paramics microsimulation model and have prepared a viewer for Timaru District Council for the District’s strategic Cube model. The viewers are available 24/7 for Council’s roading and planning staff.

If you would like to know more about this innovative technology or transport modelling please contact Dave.

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Over the last few years a number of changes have been made to the Greater Christchurch Metro network to respond to the changing travel needs of passengers, to increase patronage and improve efficiency so that public transport can play its part in the integrated transport network of Christchurch.

The review which has just been completed sought to implement the new connected model to the remaining parts of the network. The focus has been on providing high frequency routes along key corridors to the central city, supported by local services which connect at the suburban hubs. This aims to increase cost effectiveness by removing unnecessary duplication of routes along key corridors whilst providing good coverage of the city and increasing patronage.

Routes included in the review account for 91.9% of the patronage and 90.57% of the kilometres operated in the Greater Christchurch Metro network. Given the scale of the area affected, extensive public consultation was undertaken.

Aimee Dunne of Abley was heavily involved in the route planning and consultation process which involved presentations being made to the community boards, holding drop-in sessions across Christchurch, attending focus groups and dealing with requests for clarification from the public. Once all of the feedback received during the consultation period was analysed, a number of changes were made to the proposed routes to ensure they provide better outcomes for passengers and the community.

The final routes have been approved by Commissioners and the changes will be implemented on 8 December. It’s undoubtedly a challenging but exciting time for public transport in Christchurch with the impending changes to the network at the end of the year and new bus interchange due to open in the central city in mid-2015.

With the passing of the Local Government Act 2002 Amendment Bill (No 3) on 8th August 2014, local councils will need to review their Roading Development Contributions Policy to ensure they comply with the new Act. Abley has assisted a number of councils to review their policies, testing and verifying the assumptions and accuracy of the data used in determining the transport and roading development contributions. It is imperative that any revised policy maintains a level of transparency regarding the calculation and allocation of contributions. The team at Abley has extensive experience in conducting plan and policy reviews and are more than happy to discuss your external review requirements to ensure compliance with the law changes.

At the same time this legislation was passed, Associate Local Government Minister Peseta Sam Lotu-Iiga announced the appointment of Development Contribution Commissioners. Steve Abley was one of these appointments, which acknowledges his experience, skills and expertise in this area.
The increasing abundance of personal smart devices presents huge opportunities for improving transport outcomes through the use of “crowdsourced” geographical information.

For example, an app may use volunteered GPS information from a large number of users to track congestion or road incidents and provide optimal directions to the driver in real-time. The NZ Transport Agency has recently commissioned Abley to assess the potential for crowdsourced data in a transport context to enhance the efficiency of the New Zealand transport network, and hence national economic outcomes. From the perspective of traffic operations centres and road controlling authorities this information might assist in the identification of real time traffic issues, allowing rapid response, or highlight opportunities for smarter investment that may not have been identified by traditional means.

The project will consider a wide range of aspects relating to crowdsourced information, and geographic information in particular, ranging from legal and ethical implications to techniques for handling continuously updated data on such a large scale. Other opportunities include the potential for users to not only contribute information, but also make use of value-added information, and contribute knowledge or related information that may not be captured by traditional means.

The research will be conducted as part of a fixed term project for the NZ Transport Agency and the results will be published in a research report upon completion in 2015.

Staff Profile: Ruby Kim

Ruby has recently transferred to the Abley Auckland office where she is applying her skills attained from her time working in Christchurch. Ruby joined Abley after completing her Bachelor of Civil and Environmental Engineering (Hons) degree at the University of Auckland in 2013. Ruby enjoys the variety of projects she is working on. In particular she has been trained to use the s-Paramics micro-simulation modelling software which she has used extensively in many projects.

“I have been introduced to this amazing world of modelling where the dynamic behaviour of people, traffic and cities can be modelled and run in front of my eyes. The skills that I have learned enable me to deliver high quality outputs for our clients in terms of exploring future transport infrastructure options, looking at population growth, industrial growth and even the operation of a congested roundabout in Queenstown.”

Ruby has also attended various conferences, including the IPENZ Transportation Conference held early this year in Wellington which focused on transport ingenuity.

With her local knowledge and engineering skills, Ruby is currently working on Integrated Transport Assessments, District Plan reviews and Corridor Management Plans.

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Abley Transportation Consultants’ clients are busy people, more often than not involved in projects of considerable importance.

They are results-driven and interested in finding out as quickly as possible how Abley can help them achieve their goals.

We want our brand to represent the essence of our business, offering clarity to existing and new clients. This includes being concise, informative, polished and well-organised. With this in mind, the Abley team decided that it was time for a rejuvenating brand refresh. We have created a fresh, light new identity for our tried and trusted brand. We have taken New Zealand landscapes (both natural and built) and integrated our logo within it, which represents the integral part that Abley has in shaping our environment through our consultancy services.

With the brand refresh our website, business cards and stationery has a fresh new look, whilst still keeping the ‘Abley’ feel. Updating the Abley design reflects our modern and innovative way of approaching our client’s needs, whatever they may be. Check out our new look at www.abley.com.

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Recent News
To find out more visit our website www.abley.com/news

Seven Abstracts accepted for IPENZ Conference in 2015
4 November 2014

Two Abley Teams up for the 6 Hour Mountain Bike Blast
24 October 2014

Natalie Scott Awarded Esri Technical Certification
7 October 2014

Abley Proud to Sponsor 1st International Conference on Transport & Health
6 October 2014

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