

FEATURED PROJECTS : RANGIORA TOWN CENTRE 2020 + HERETAUNGA PLAINS ACCESSIBILITY MODEL STAFF PROFILE : PAUL DURDIN

## A word with the Managing Director...

Welcome to this inaugural edition of Street Smart, the newsletter of Abley Transportation Consultants.

This is an interesting time to be a transportation consultant in New Zealand. The Government Policy Statement on Land Transport Funding 2010–2019 has signalled a major emphasis on efficiency and national road development priorities i.e. the Roads of National Significance or RoNS.



Steve Abley  
Managing Director



### MAGNITUDE 7.1 EARTHQUAKE HITS CHRISTCHURCH

On Saturday 4 September Christchurch was hit with an earthquake that measured 7.1 on the Richter scale. There was no loss of life but there was initially significant damage to power, water supply and water disposal. There was also significant damage to a number of historical and older buildings that will take some time to repair, or in some instances will be demolished and replaced.

The Abley office was fully operational on the Monday following the earthquake and our team (including their homes) have come through this generally unscathed. There are some less fortunate than us though and our thoughts are with those people that have lost their homes, businesses and places of employment. This is indeed a very challenging time for some in Canterbury and it is truly amazing no one was hurt – we have a lot to be thankful for.

The New Zealand Red Cross is coordinating the Canterbury Earthquake Appeal and donations can be made via [redcross.org.nz](http://redcross.org.nz)

The RoNS are major capital investment with an estimated cost of about NZ\$8,800M. While the RoNS are moving ahead at a strong pace there remains a statutory duty to better integrate land use and transport.

On first blush it may appear that these are mutually exclusive objectives, but I don't think so. Rather the Government has sent a strong message to enhance New Zealand's economy and economic prosperity by using a much finer ruler for all public investment, not just transport. As for the matters of integration, a number of RoNS have the potential to segregate rather than integrate with land use and this requires a good understanding of effects.

What this means for those of us that advise central and local government is a need to better appreciate all

the effects a project might produce including secondary and potentially tertiary effects. If, as a nation, we are indeed truly seeking better economic efficiency, then we owe it to ourselves to make sure we capture all the benefits and costs including downstream issues. This means being more knowledgeable about how things are done at the moment and considering the appropriateness of traditional paradigms.

The recent Public Health Advisory Committee (PHAC) report is case in point. The report notes that the primary outcome that would most significantly improve the health of New Zealanders is "to develop urban infrastructure that promotes active transport for all populations". In short, what the PHAC is saying is that we need 'better integration'. They also appreciate the

secondary effects better land use integration can provide. It might be that a number of the tools we have as a profession such as the Economic Evaluation Manual may need a fundamental stepwise change to capture all these benefits...

Our firm is staying true to our core value of 'Innovation' and continuously evolving to keep ahead of the changing landscape in which we operate. This means our deliverables are cutting edge to meet the changing needs of our clients. Our team is responding to what is asked of us – plus a bit more.

Enjoy this edition of Street Smart.

## FEATURE PROJECT : RANGIORA TOWN CENTRE 2020

IN EARLY 2010, THE WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL SOUGHT THE EXPERTISE OF ABLEY TO ASSIST WITH AN AMBITIOUS FORWARD-THINKING PROJECT FOR THE RANGIORA TOWN CENTRE. THE PROJECT AIMS TO CREATE A TOWN CENTRE WHICH IS SUSTAINABLE, PROSPEROUS, VIBRANT, EASILY ACCESSIBLE, SAFE AND PEDESTRIAN-FRIENDLY.

Council engaged four consultant groups covering transportation, urban design, planning and retail specialisms to provide guidance and advice on how to best meet the future challenges posed by population growth, while improving access and enhancing the character and quality of the built environment. Transport and access to



the Town Centre is key driver for the project.

Abley adopted a holistic and strategic approach to identifying the root causes of the current transport issues. Concepts were produced without preconceived ideas of the best solution – these were explored and developed in a collaborative manner with the project's key stakeholders in a three day workshop. Technical concepts were then translated into readily understandable outcomes and consequences and incorporated into the 'Issues and Concepts' public consultation document. Feedback from the public, which was overwhelmingly positive, was incorporated into the RTC2020 strategy and subsequently adopted by Council at its meeting on 21 September.

The project involved the collection of a significant

amount of data including comprehensive parking demand and duration-of stay surveys, pedestrian activity surveys, travel pattern surveys, and vehicle registration plate geo-coding. Abley is currently in the process of developing a micro-simulation model of Rangiora - the first application of which will be to test the transport concepts for the Town Centre.

[www.rtc2020.co.nz](http://www.rtc2020.co.nz)

**Abley Contact: Paul Durdin**  
[paul@abley.com](mailto:paul@abley.com)  
 +64 3 367 9004

**Client Contact: Bruce Thompson**  
[bruce.thompson@wmk.govt.nz](mailto:bruce.thompson@wmk.govt.nz)  
 +64 3 313 6136

## ARTICLE : FUTUREINTECH

Futureintech is an IPENZ initiative to promote careers in technology, engineering and science. Run by IPENZ and funded by the Government (through a New Zealand Trade and Enterprise grant), the aim is to boost enrolments in tertiary study in these areas. Futureintech looks to inspire school students by

making the connection between education and industry.

Regional Facilitators arrange for 'Ambassadors' to visit schools to showcase their career and/or enhance learning by providing realistic links between the curriculum and a career. Peter Rose and Courtney Groundwater, two graduates at Abley, are both Futureintech

Ambassadors. They take time out of their days to visit schools and introduce students to the prospect of a career in transportation engineering. Their work so far has ranged from introducing broader civil engineering concepts of bridge design at a primary school level to showing year thirteen statistics students specific examples of where the maths they are learning in class today is used in the 'real world'.



**Catherine Smith (Futureintech Facilitator Christchurch)**

**Hosted by: Abley Transportation Consultants**  
 Level 3, 99 Victoria St  
 PO Box 25350, Christchurch 8144

**For Further information see [www.futureintech.org.nz](http://www.futureintech.org.nz)**  
**Client Contact: Angela Christie, Director,**  
 +64 4 474 8981

## STAFF PROFILE : PAUL DURDIN

### DIRECTOR BE(Hons) MIPENZ CPEng

Paul is a Director of Abley Transportation Consultants. Paul joined Abley Transportation Consultants at the beginning of 2008 as a Senior Transportation Engineer and in December 2009 was appointed as a Director.

Paul is an active participant in the transportation industry being Administrator of the Canterbury / West Coast Branch of the Institution of Professional Engineers New Zealand (IPENZ) Transportation Group, a role which he has held since 2006. Paul is also a Chartered Professional Engineer and a Professional Member of IPENZ.

Paul's specialist skills are in the areas of road safety, strategic and local transport planning, integrated transportation assessments, and

the planning and design of public transport, walking and cycling networks and facilities.

Practicing what he preaches, Paul cycles to work more days than not, and has been the driving force behind Abley's participation and success in the **Bike Wise Challenge** for the past 3 years.

Paul is currently managing the delivery of a number of interesting projects, including:

- The development of a micro-simulation model of Rangiora for Waimakariri District Council,
- Rewriting of the Transport section of the Timaru District Plan for Timaru District Council, and
- Providing advice to Christchurch City Council on the feasibility of installing 40km/h speed zones outside every school in Christchurch.



Born and educated in Christchurch, he is a Cantabrian through and through. Paul is married to Bronwyn and father of two lively and delightful boys, Cadell (2 years) and Harry (4 months). Paul tells us that the boys keep him very busy and weekends are now filled with playgrounds and trips to the bike park.

## ARTICLE : A DEGREE OF PLANNING

Abley and GHD have been assisting the University of Canterbury with a range of transport and parking related issues over the last few years. On campus car parking is in short supply as student and staff numbers grow, there are now more than 20,000 students and 1,500 staff, and existing car parking is progressively being used for developments. Furthermore, on campus parking charges implemented 7 years

ago have pushed the parking problem onto neighbouring streets and the local community. An innovative travel and parking demand model was developed by Abley based on transport and parking surveys undertaken at the University. Fifteen scenarios for improving transport to and from the University were tested using the model. As well as changes to transport infrastructure, the scenarios also included management and

service changes such as modifying parking charges and increasing bus frequencies. The model tested the impact of initiatives on transport mode share, the level of on-campus versus on-street parking and the economic feasibility of the scenarios.

Abley's work culminated in a workshop, facilitated by Dr Roy Barton from Australia, attended by key participants from within

the University community as well as Christchurch City Council, local community boards, Environment Canterbury and the New Zealand Transport Agency. Principles to guide transport in the future were developed during the workshop. Abley presented scenario testing outcomes to workshop participants, which enabled clearly winning and losing initiatives to be easily identified.

A campus master plan is also currently underway for the university, and Abley's work has been used to assist with the transportation aspects of the master plan development. This collaborative work is set to continue as Abley have recently been commissioned by Christchurch City Council to develop an animated transport model of Ilam Road, a key access road for the University, to enable visualisation of proposed changes to the road corridor and the campus master plan proposals.

**ON CAMPUS PARKING IS IN SHORT SUPPLY WITH OVER 20,000 STUDENTS AND 1,500 STAFF. SOLUTIONS HAD TO BE FOUND.**



[www.canterbury.ac.nz](http://www.canterbury.ac.nz)

**Abley Contact: Ann-Marie Mulligan**  
[ann-marie@abley.com](mailto:ann-marie@abley.com)  
 +64 3 367 9005

**Client Contact: Chris Hawker**  
[Chris.hawker@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:Chris.hawker@canterbury.ac.nz)  
 +64 3 364 2987 ext 6480

## FEATURE PROJECT : HERETAUNGA PLAINS

### ACCESSIBILITY MODEL FOR HASTINGS AND NAPIER

In April 2010 the New Zealand Transport Agency appointed Abley to create an accessibility model for Hastings and Napier. The overall objective of the model was to fit hand-in-glove with the Heretaunga Plan Transportation Study (HPTS) and together provide a holistic approach to land use integration.

The access modelling is expected to complement the main HPTS Transport Model outputs and the addition of access maps will help understanding of the outputs and assumptions from the traditional 3-step transport model. Also, the access model indicators will be used to identify the changes in access for households to key destinations and services arising from current growth and transport solutions, so the options that deliver the greatest combined economic, social and environmental efficiencies, can be optimised.



Accessibility modelling is a new area of study Abley are using to solve complex transportation problems. This involves new challenges such as determining accessibility to car parking for different destinations. On the horizon are projects where access indicators will be used as targets for developments and communities, as well as using the access model to set appropriate maximum parking standards by zone and destination type.

[www.hpuds.co.nz](http://www.hpuds.co.nz)

**Abley Contact: Steve Abley**  
[steve@abley.com](mailto:steve@abley.com)  
 +64 3 367 9003

**Client Contact: Matt Barnes**  
[matt.barnes@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:matt.barnes@nzta.govt.nz)  
 +64 4 894 6439

### RECENT NEWS

TO FIND OUT MORE VISIT OUR WEBSITE [www.abley.com/news](http://www.abley.com/news)

**Abley becomes an ESRI Business Partner**  
 20 September 2010

**Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Cooperative Research**  
 9 September 2010

**Magnitude 7.1 Earthquake Hits Christchurch**  
 6 September 2010

**Steve Invited To Speak at Local Government Transport Forum**  
 3 September 2010

**Welcome Olivia Abley**  
 30 August 2010



**Steve Abley**  
 Managing Director  
[steve@abley.com](mailto:steve@abley.com)



**Paul Durdin**  
 Director  
[paul@abley.com](mailto:paul@abley.com)



**Andy Milne**  
 Principal  
 Transportation Engineer  
[andy@abley.com](mailto:andy@abley.com)



**Ann-Marie Mulligan**  
 Senior  
 Transportation Engineer  
[ann-marie@abley.com](mailto:ann-marie@abley.com)



**Kurt Janssen**  
 Senior GIS Consultant  
[kurt@abley.com](mailto:kurt@abley.com)



**Alex Bateman**  
 Consultant  
 Transportation Planner  
[alex@abley.com](mailto:alex@abley.com)



**Peter Rose**  
 Graduate  
 Transportation Engineer  
[peter@abley.com](mailto:peter@abley.com)



**Courtney Groundwater**  
 Graduate  
 Transportation Engineer  
[courtney@abley.com](mailto:courtney@abley.com)



**Stacy Rendall**  
 Consultant  
 Transportation Researcher  
[stacy@abley.com](mailto:stacy@abley.com)



**Kathryn Brown**  
 Finance and  
 Administration Assistant  
[kathryn@abley.com](mailto:kathryn@abley.com)

**Professionalism Innovation Quality Relationships**

**Abley Transportation Consultants Limited** [www.abley.com](http://www.abley.com) [info@abley.com](mailto:info@abley.com)

Christchurch Level 3, 99 Victoria Street  
 phone +64(0)3 377 4703 fax +64(0)3 377 4702  
 PO Box 25350, Christchurch 8144, New Zealand

Auckland  
 phone +64(0)9 974 9820 fax +64(0)9 974 9824  
 PO Box 911336, Auckland 1142, New Zealand

