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The latest information and community news from Auckland's port DECEMBER 2008

rapport

The Wiri rail link could save as many as 100,000 truck trips each year

Wiri rail link to take pressure off Auckland roads

A planned rail link at Ports of Auckland's inland port at Wiri, South Auckland will help take pressure off Auckland roads.

On 6 November the Government announced it was putting $6m into the project, which it's hoped will be up and running by mid-2009.

The rail link will mean businesses can drop off and pick up their goods at Wiri, instead of driving through the central city to the seaport.

When fully operational, the rail link could save a forecast 100,000 truck trips in and out of Auckland – 2.5 million truck kilometres each year.

"This is great news for our neighbours and the wider Auckland community," Ports of Auckland Managing Director Jens Madsen says. "We hope to lift the proportion of port cargo carried by rail from 10% to 30%."

Giraffes on the move

Two young giraffes loaded onto a ship at the Ports of Auckland in November have arrived safely in Australia after a seven-day voyage.

Port staff hooked chains underneath steel lugs on the bottom of the giraffes' crates, before using a crane to transfer the giraffes to the ship.

"The word on the ground is that the giraffes really enjoyed all the attention," Stevedoring Manager Jonathan Hulme says. "We went the extra mile to minimise noise and keep them as calm as possible."

The giraffes, Ntombi and Forrest, who are headed for a breeding programme, were born at Auckland Zoo.

16 month old Ntombi coped well with her voyage to Australia

Environmentally-friendly car ship visits Ports of Auckland

Earlier this month the *Aniara*, the world's biggest and most environmentally-friendly car carrying ship, called into Jellicoe Wharf on its maiden voyage.

One of the largest ships ever to call New Zealand, the mammoth vessel can carry up to 8,000 cars stowed over 13 decks, and holds a 'Green Passport' for environmental efficiency. The ship is operated by the Wallenius Wilhelmsen line.

'Did you know'

The Ports of Auckland is important to our country's economy. We are by far the country's largest port, handling 37% of New Zealand's total annual trade by value – that's nearly 13% of national GDP.

Hello from Jens

Welcome to *Rapport*, Ports of Auckland's new community newsletter. We're re-starting this newsletter (formerly known as the *Port Report*) following feedback from neighbours and the wider Auckland community that they'd like to know more about their port.

As a city port, we are working hard to create strong relationships with our neighbours. We are proud to support a wide range of community events and projects, and of our commitment to managing our operations sustainably.

During 2008 community participation in our free boat tours and guided heritage walks hit record highs – clearly there are many people who find what we do here behind the Red Fence as fascinating as I do.

Over the last few months we've welcomed some interesting visitors to the port and advanced some important projects that will be of great benefit to the Auckland community. I hope you enjoy reading the latest news and welcome your feedback.

Kind regards,
Jens Madsen
Managing Director

Walkway popular with families and fishermen

Now summer has arrived, the new public walkway at the Ports of Auckland's eastern edge is proving popular. And it's not just the views of Rangitoto and North Head that are a drawcard – apparently the fishing is good too! The walkway entrance is adjacent to Mikano Restaurant, Mechanics Bay.

Update on Queens Wharf

Queens Wharf is one of the port's "finger wharves", right in the heart of downtown Auckland. We are currently participating in an Auckland Regional Council-led study into whether a cruise ship terminal could be developed on Queens Wharf, alongside other port operations.

Ports of Auckland will require compensation for any full or partial release of Queens Wharf, so that replacement cargo handling facilities can be funded.

Ports of Auckland