



TIME CAPTURE

NORTHCOTE

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As Northcote evolves, we can look back on this snapshot to see what the community and place looked like in 2023. If we do the same thing in 5 years, or even 10, what changes do you think we'll find?

This is the third exhibition within the Time Capture project in Northcote. The other iterations included:

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- Images captured of the local community at a winter event in 2022.

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Photography by Jinki Cambreros



Based on an interview with Chuck Buckley

The collaboration between two talented bike enthusiasts resulted in EC Cycles setting up a shop in Northcote town centre in March 2021. Eric de Freitas had been looking for premises in the Milford/Takapuna area, and Chuck had been looking in the Onewa/Birkenhead area. They decided to join forces and settled on Northcote town centre as Chuck knew the area well. It is also centrally and conveniently located for customers coming from all parts of Auckland, the rent was affordable, and it has lots of good car parks. The centre is a pedestrian walkway that has proved to be a bonus for the families that come to service or buy a bike as it is safer than being on a main road or commercial area.

Setting up a new business during the on/off COVID-19 lockdowns provided the benefit of being able to negotiate a good rent, and they were able to manage the traffic light system well, so they could continue to trade.

Chuck is keen to see new service businesses move into the town centre as it is currently very food-focused. However, with the economic downturn, no one seems to be wanting to set up a new business, partly due to the uncertainty about the town centre refurbishment. He thinks new businesses will be needed as there is a diverse mix of new families moving into the area who will need to access businesses other than supermarkets and food outlets.

He is looking forward to seeing the town centre refurbished, but points out that there is much uncertainty about when and how this might happen.



EC CYCLES

Clockwise from top:
Chuck Buckley,
Ewart Bower,
Jack Lockett, &
Eric de Freitas



FU-U BBQ

Hongmei Kuai (Rose)



HEARTS AND MINDS

Clockwise from top:
Carol Elizabeth Ryan,
Becky Gong, &
Stephen Richard Baker



MAD FOR CHICKEN

Sung Woon Jung
(Joseph)



GET SMART HAIR SALON

Mai Yan Yi



NORTHCOTE FAMILY PHARMACY

Wai Ming Daniel Siu



NORTHCOTE BAPTIST OP SHOP



Clockwise from top:

Nicole Tan,
Niki Cowie, &
Clenia Bihoy



"People find their way back to this shop as it is the only original shop in the current town centre and often comment that they remember coming here when they were little."

- Niki Cowie

Based on an interview with Niki Cowie

When Niki started to volunteer once a month back in 2008, she would never have believed that she would end up as the manager of this busy op shop.

The shop has moved to three different sites within the town centre since starting way back in the 1970s, and Niki was delighted with a strategic expansion into the empty shop next door, that allows more products to be placed on show. When the church first set up the shop, they didn't really know what they were doing. When the doors opened at 9am, there was a queue outside, and by closing they had sold almost everything. The volunteers had to do a quick ring around church members to collect more stock to sell when they opened the next morning.

At its peak before the housing was removed, the op shop had 70 volunteers on the books, proving how popular this charitable business was. The shop is now manned by 40 volunteers, and after paying the day-to-day costs of running a business, 100% of the profit goes to a diverse range of charitable causes. The volunteer staff mainly live in the area and Niki has written many CV references for local students who have volunteered over the years. The op shop is a great place to learn new skills, such as customer service, and stock management.

Niki loves all the new changes to the area, seeing the old, tired houses go, replaced by warm, dry homes, and an ever-increasing number of new families moving to Northcote. She loves that the houses have been built to a high standard and is very happy that the KiwiBuild programme is getting young couples into their first homes.

The town centre is connected to a greenway called Te Ara Awatahā, designed to link the housing with public parks. This new greenway worked very effectively during the floods earlier this year and did exactly what it was supposed to do. Niki would like to see the greenway connection idea being replicated in the town centre refurbishment. Connecting the town centre's open spaces, shops and businesses to a centrally located community hub would benefit all who come to the town centre. Great food choices and the town lit up at night will help to make the town centre thrive.

Niki loves the Asian feel of the area, and after a trip to China, she decided to learn Mandarin so she could communicate with the many Chinese customers that the shop attracts. She says that there is a great community feeling and openness that you don't see elsewhere. "We don't need to ask for monetary donations for our causes, but we always need new volunteers" laughed Niki.



Jasoda &
Jay Patel



MITCHELL'S PAPER POWER



TAISUMYUN MALAYSIAN CUISINE

Yew Veng Lee



Based on an interview with Yew Veng Lee

Mr Lee is proud to follow in the footsteps of his father and grandfather, who both owned businesses in Sarawak, a state of Malaysia on the island of Borneo. Mr Lee's restaurant offers traditional Malaysian dishes with a small menu of Sarawakian traditional treats.

Mr Lee opened Taisumyun one and a half years ago, choosing Northcote town centre as the rent was affordable, there are lots of car parks, and a good environment. Mr and Mrs Lee also live nearby, and their three children go to the local school.

Even though Northcote is centrally located, and it is easy to get to other places quickly, Mr Lee is very pleased that he can get everything that he needs for his dishes, and is able to source his fresh ingredients from other businesses in the town centre, saving him time and money.

Mr Lee has grown a loyal local following for his cuisine, but is uncertain about the planned upgrade of the town centre and how that will affect his business. He is aware that the footprint of the town centre will be reduced and wonders if he will still be able to trade. Mr Lee, however, is confident that he will be able to move his business somewhere else if he is unable to move back after the rebuild.



Jessica Powrie
& Monica Wang



ZERO WASTE HUB



NAILS BY ISHA

Isha Bodasel



BELLE BOUQUET

Oksana
Voloshko

NORTHCOTE LIBRARY



(L-R):
May Chen, Sora
Chun, Lucia Mataia,
Te Waiarangi Marie
Sullivan, &
Yu-ling Chou





Clockwise from top:
Hyungtag,
Ok Kim, &
Kevin Kim



HOLLYWOOD BAKERY ESPRESSO

Amit Kumar J. Rana



AIM HIGH CAFÉ

Based on an interview with Ok Kim

Prior to opening Aim High Café in February 2022, Ok Kim had already established an education centre for people with disabilities. The centre is in a building across the road, but in the future that building will be rebuilt, so she plans to move the centre to the area behind the café.

The education centre brings people from all over Auckland as Northcote is easily accessible from the motorway, and Ok feels that having the education centre together in the same building as the café will be a positive move.

The café has proved to be very popular as it is situated near a Korean Church. Northcote also offers lots of parking spaces and is a public transport hub. The awning around the building provides great shelter for the customers if it's raining. Some of the housing close to the centre has been built for older people as the land is flat and easy for walking.

Ok has seen many changes to the local area with new housing and development bringing in new families to the area. She would love to see a playground built in the town centre to attract families with children into the town centre.



UNICHEM PHARMACY

(L-R):

Suki Lee, Karen Lee, Xinnan Zhang,
Jiun Kim (Luka), & Anthony Yee



BELLA KOREAN DESIGNER CLOTHES

Bona Kwon



CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU



Clockwise from top:
Scott Choi,
Wendy Lai,
Francis Lim, &
Pooja Hafizi



20
23



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