

Mangere Bridge Village turning into Food Court

Eating out in Mangere Bridge 10 years ago consisted of fish and chips, or Chinese, and was take-away. These days locals and visitors alike can treat their taste buds to a variety of ethnic and European foods, and in European style sit outside in a buzzing shopping area.

The recent arrival of La Perla Del Sur (the Pearl of the South), and Brandy's Roast and Café (both on Coronation Road) is further spoiling us for choice. Let's be naughty and start with the desserts. The Pearl of the South, run by Norma, Lorena and pastry chef Walter, specialises in European and Latin American delicatessen in the true sense of a bakery or patisserie. Only open since 18 June, there was a steady flow of customers when I visited them a week after their opening.

The Argentinian background of the Pearl's owners is obvious in the product range. The savoury range covers a variety of empanadas, Latin American pastries filled with meat, cheese, or vegetables. Add to that a wide range of specialty sandwiches, with exotic names like "simples jamon y queso", and "milanesa al pan" (don't worry, translation is provided so you know what you will be eating). And for sweets you can't do better than Danish (and one name does not do justice to the different types on display), or caramel doughnuts.

Norma, who has lived in New Zealand for about 20 years, mentions that they also cater for functions. "Another side of the business we are developing is specialty cakes for birthdays and weddings, and we would like to grow that part." The Pearl can be found at 2/24 Coronation Road, and is open 7 days a week from 7am to 7pm.

Across the road at number 21, Brandy's Roast and Café has taken over the premises vacated by Waka's Pork and Bone (please note this, "Where to live in Auckland" writers!), offering a wide range of pork, beef or lamb roast full meals, rolls or sandwiches for eating in, or take-away/catering. Owner Andy Lim has been in business for more than 10 years, and this is his fourth Brandy's Roast place. Says Andy: "We now have branches in Papakura, Papatoetoe, Ellerslie and Mangere Bridge, and the Mangere Bridge one is our head office. And all our branches are run by our family." Brandy's Roast is also open 7 days a week, and caters for take-away and dine-in meals.

So if this has wetted your appetite, go check out the Village eateries which are all within walking distance. There is bound to be something to suit all different taste preferences in your family or group of friends, just like a Food Court. Be quick though before others beat you to it.

Copyright ©2005 Peter Dentener

Published on the Mangere Bridge Community web site (www.mangerebridge.co.nz),
29/06/2005

Peter R. Dentener
Adecron WebDesign
9 Ashcroft Ave
Mangere Bridge
Auckland
Ph/fax +64 09 636-6245
Mobile: 021 261-2029
Email: peter.dentener@adecron.co.nz
www.adecron.co.nz