

stuff

Cambridge chippie an institution for 40 years

EMMA JAMES

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EMMA JAMES/FAIRFAX MEDIA

Queen Vic Chippy is owned by Amanda Duggan and her husband Bernie.

I am a "foodie" and to me, finding a new fish and chip shop is like finding a new hair dresser - you want to make sure they are up to your standard.

Queen Vic Chippy in Cambridge was definitely up to mine.

It's been a fish and chip shop for about 40 years, but Bernie and Amanda Duggan became its proud owners just four years ago and renamed it.

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Reporter Emma James rates Queen Vic Chippy's fish and chips 5/5.

"We wanted to put our flair into it, so we got the name from the location as it's on Victoria St next to Queen St, and there's also a lot of English people in this town," Duggan said.

They also started selling English favourites - mushy peas and home-made curry sauce.

Although Cambridge isn't a "beach" town, that hasn't stopped their business from booming, and they still have a steady flow of customers through winter.

EMMA JAMES/FAIRFAX MEDIA

Amanda Duggan makes reporter Emma James some fish and chips.

"About 90 per cent of our trade is local which we found out when the [Waikato Expressway] bypass went through, but we're still a destination shop.

"People come off the expressway to eat our food, and they tell us about it," she said.

In the first six months of business they were named the best fish and chip shop in the Waikato/Bay of Plenty region.

"Our trade practically doubled overnight and it hasn't dropped since."



They have also been finalists in the Waipa Networks Business Awards many times.

Duggan was raised in Cambridge. She originally wanted to join the army as a cook, but because it was difficult for women to join at that time, she opted for work elsewhere.

Duggan and husband Bernie are both qualified chefs.

"When we saw this place come up for sale we thought it would be great because it's food straight to the customers from us, no waiters or waitresses," she said.

FISH 'N CHIPS RATING: 5 / 5

The fish comes from Tauranga daily, and the snapper was divine. The chips, too, were perfectly cooked - not soggy or too greasy, but golden and crisp. As for the home-made curry sauce, I couldn't get enough of it. It's mildly spiced, and tangy, with a lingering after taste. If you are in Cambridge over the summer, I definitely recommend stopping in at Queen Vic Chippy.



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