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## **Where's The Coffee?**

*Using GIS to Better Understand Wellington's Cafés*

While finding that perfect cup of coffee can turn into the search of a lifetime, Wellington just might be the place to start. With one of the highest concentrations of cafes per capita, the city is teeming with coffee establishments.<sup>1</sup> The purpose of this project was to identify cafes in the Central Business District (CBD), and translate this knowledge into a GIS application for further analysis.

### **Data Collection**

To identify cafes in a reasonable amount of time, my group decided to divide the area of interest into individual and more manageable segments. We drafted a simple data collection form to record the attributes, or specific characteristics, of each café. As a group we decided to identify: whether or not a café sold alcohol; if it had the option of sitting only indoors, outdoors or both; the relative size of each establishment according to number of tables (where <5 = Small, 5-20 = Medium and >20 = Large). As well as those attributes, we would need the name of each café, its physical address and its unique identification number. This ID number would be an easy way to quickly organize and identify our data on our small hand-held maps used in the field.

It was vital that my group reach a common definition of “café” before we started our fieldwork, or members might be mapping eateries other members would not include in that category. As categories of eating establishments differ a bit from place to place, myself and another foreign student needed to understand the New Zealand definition of café. The kiwis in my group agreed that for this purpose a café would be an establishment which made most of its income from serving coffee and light, pre-made foodstuffs. Each group member was assigned a specific ID number range for their unique section of the CBD. Our first member had the ID numbers 100 to 199; the next

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<sup>1</sup> “Wellington New Zealand – New Zealand’s Information Network,” n.d., <<http://www.newzealandnz.co.nz/wellington/>> (26 March 2006)