

MT COOK! MOBILISED

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Welcome to Mt Cook Mobilised. In this newsletter we update on developments in our suburb. We welcome your input or comment on any issue concerning Mt Cook. Stratum Management has declined to outline how it plans to deal with the PCB toxicity problem at the Production Village site, 25 Wright St. Many thanks again to the Southern Cross, 39 Abel Smith St, for sponsoring the printing. Peter Cooke

A TOUR OF MT COOK STREET ART

Walk around the streets of Mt Cook and you will see a number of different styles of street art - some long-lived, others more recent. The most innovative is on the footpath (yes, underfoot) at the intersection of Taranaki and Wallace streets. It is best viewed in the evening when the street light above defines in outline the traffic lamp below. Opposite Wallace Street by the bus stop is a mural by prolific street artist drypnz (pronounced 'dripinz'). After a long spell without tags, some are now appearing to blight this piece (*right*). Drypnz is philosophical about tagging as it can't be completely ruled out on a concrete canvas.

Head south on Wallace St, past the Ian Curtis R.I.P. - a 28-year-old graffiti memorial to the Joy Division singer. It was painted out by the Council graffiti-removal team in September last year, then painted back courtesy of ZM radio station after an outcry. Further south on Wallace Street is a mural of a stylized pohutukawa (*below*) and the much-reduced 'Herstory' series. Both have been there for a long time and



Wallace Street mural by drypnz, painted in 2008. For a long time this mural was tag-free. Anyone wanting a mural can contact drypnz at drypnz@drypnz.com.

are protected from taggers by the constant stream of traffic up Wallace Street, and the fact that these murals are on a part of Wallace Street with no

footpath at road level.

Turning into John Street there is a series of living room walls, an art gallery on the street. This project is part of a masters degree for Massey student, Michael Denton. The project explores how to involve the community in creating public art. Michael approached Progressive Enterprises with his idea for a mural on their site hoardings. Walk back through Massey into the Wellington High School grounds where there is a lavish piece of graffiti art on the curved wall at the top of the path leading to the tennis courts.

DONALD McDONALD

WCC GRANT

MCM thanks WCC for a \$250 operating grant, to help with our community activities. We received considerable help from both the Newtown and Mt Victoria Residents' Associations, and Mt Cook Civil Defence, in support of our application.



TRENCH MEMORIAL PARK!

The Memorial Park project for Buckle St has become inextricably linked with solving the traffic congestion around the Basin Reserve. NZ Transport Agency has started the Basin Reserve roading project, working with partners Wellington City Council, Greater Wellington Regional Council and the Ministry of Culture & Heritage. Together with the Ministry, MCM is interested in how the Basin Reserve project will mesh with the park. The Basin Reserve roading project is speaking informally to around 30 groups who have an interest in



this area (schools, hospital, emergency services). Mt Cook Mobilised is one of these groups.

On the park, MCM has strongly voiced its desire that the best solution is to trench and cover Buckle St, enabling the park to

expand in front of the war memorial. This would create a park that honours and pays respect to the sacrifices made in the past, and also provide a strong focal point both for national and community activity and celebration. Moreover, the existence of a roadway through what could become an iconic national commemorative area would be undesirable. A trenched roadway would also negate the concerns raised by Mt Cook School about increased noise and pollution.

The community of Mt Cook is very supportive of the Memorial Park concept but is uneasy at the current compromise that involves closing Buckle St (State Highway 1) for commemorations: the resulting congestion will undoubtedly impact the rest of the suburb. The Minister for Arts, Culture & Heritage Hon Chris Finlayson has said that this park must be the best by world standards. MCM says aye to that.

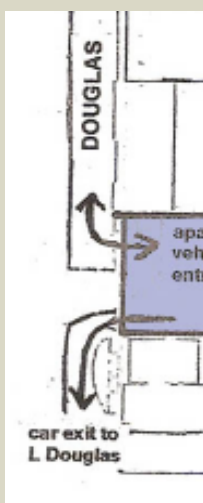
When the date of MCM's meeting with NZTA is confirmed, it will be widely publicised among residents who will all be invited to attend.

FOODSTUFFS SUPERMARKET – LOWER DOUGLAS ST SUCCESS

The resource consent granted by the Wellington City Council in early December 2009 for the Tasman St New World in Rugby/Tasman Streets included a minor success for MCM.

In a change from the original proposal, the vehicle exit into lower Douglas Street and Adelaide Road (*right*) was not included, following strong representations from both MCM and residents in the immediate vicinity.

Concerns had been expressed about the impact of the proposed



Bottom exit - gone!

steep and narrow exit on the safety of people using lower Douglas St, and also about the likely increase in congestion for residents, particularly when exiting into Adelaide Rd. The exclusion of this exit from the proposal as finally approved has greatly eased the concerns of residents in Douglas St and Myrtle Cres. MCM is meeting with Foodstuffs on outstanding issues.

ARLINGTON RESILIENCE NETWORK

This network was conceived when playgroup parents were discussing family emergency plans and working out who would be available to pick up children in an emergency. While talking about where to store emergency supplies in the compact Arlington apartments, the parents decided to contact the Council for help with storage space.

Resilience: the ability to bounce back from a bad situation, is much easier when people relate to each other and can work together. The first meeting of the Resilience Network was held in May 2009. Twenty neighbours met, inviting expertise from the Mt Cook Civil Defence Centre, NZ Resilience Trust, Code Cert, Red Cross and the Wellington City Council. This was the catalyst for planning for a Community Survival Kit (which would contain spades, heavy gloves, blankets, bulk non-perishable food, baby needs, water, first aid and sanitation supplies, and more). The experts were able to suggest training that would help, such as first aid and civil defence. Members of the group are also

networking with other initiatives people have taken to be better organised as neighbours - how to improve recycling and investigating whether community gardens could be established at Arlington. With many different language groups living in the neighbourhood, it is hoped that different groups within the Network will work in languages other than English.

In November the group held its first Neighbourhood Gala. The gala was a lively event benefiting from a sunny day and a great team of organisers and contributors. Funds raised went towards building up the Community Survival Kit. From small beginnings the Resilience Network hopes to extend over time, as families spread the word to their neighbours and acquaintances, and work together with the Arlington arm of the Wellington Housing Association of Tenants (W.H.A.T.), to create a greater sense of neighbours helping each other.

For more information email robandbridget@paradise.net.nz

IMPROVING SUBURBAN CENTRES

MCM's work on the Foodstuffs supermarket resource consent application highlighted that residents have limited opportunities for involvement in non-notified resource consent applications.

As a result we have put a submission to the WCC's 2009/10 Review of the District Plan rules applying to centres such as the Adelaide Road centre (WCC's suggested name in future is the Mt Cook Centre).

The main points in MCM's submission are:

- That where a proposed development may have significant effects on surrounding residents the developer be required to consult with residents, and that if reasonable concerns are not resolved, the application be publicly notified

- That for all applications and on an ongoing basis, the Council consider the cumulative effects of developments, not just those immediately flowing from a particular development
- That if a proposed development will increase the pressure for on-street parking to the detriment of residents, developers be required to provide off-street parking as part of their proposal
- That where residential development is seen as one of the objectives for a Centre, as is the case for the Mt Cook Centre, developments should be undertaken in a way that ensures a mixed community develops, rather than having a single predominant social group.

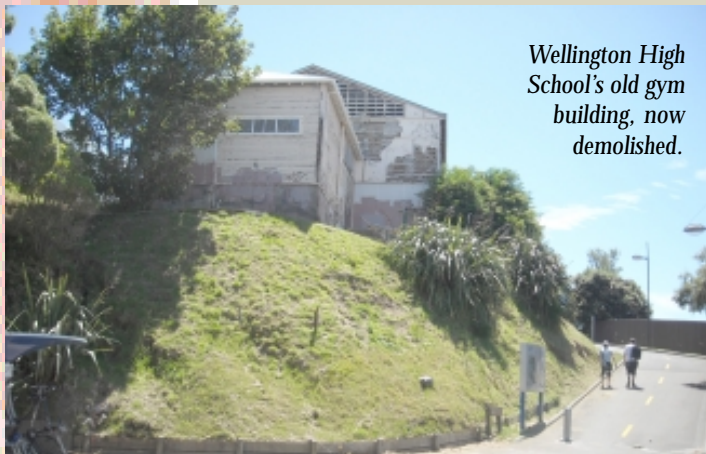
MCM intends to appear at the forthcoming WCC hearings on Review submissions.

MASSEY'S EXPANSION PLANS

MCM has met with Massey University Wellington about its projected facilities for the College of Creative Arts (CoCA) and the library. This consultation will continue with meetings on a bi-monthly basis. The CoCA development is to be a 3,600m² purpose-built facility on the site of the former Wellington High School gymnasium. The CoCA facility will include two lecture theatres, labs and galleries. For the library, the proposal is to refurbish the existing space in Block 5 and provide additional floor space by extending the current facility. Overall, the library will increase in size to meet current and future needs of the University. The library will also include an enlarged 'Information Commons' facility providing ad-

ditional computer facilities for students and staff.

In preparation for these projects the University has appointed Arrow International as the project managers. The initial phase has concluded with the completion of concept design and cost estimates for both projects. These are now subject to approval by the University Council. The old gym was demolished over two days beginning 21 January. To try to cause as little disruption for PolyHigh Childcare Centre this work began at 6.30am. After a complaint to Wellington City Council, the University and Arrow International have apologised for the disturbance this caused to local residents and have reassured local residents that future work will begin from 7.30am.



Wellington High School's old gym building, now demolished.

BIDWILL ST TRAFFIC

At a recent MCM meeting, Bidwill Street residents expressed concern at the volume and speed of traffic currently using Bidwill Street. It is apparent that people living in nearby suburbs (Brooklyn and perhaps Aro Valley) are using Bidwill St as a route to get to Newtown or to Te Aro (and to the several schools in the area). The traffic volume is compounded because there is no other cross-town route to Te Aro accessible from Brooklyn Rd or Willis St, until Vivian St.

Around 2000 vehicles per day use Bidwill St. The speed of some vehicles, both up or down the street, can be excessive, endangering residents and the many children who currently live on the street. Moreover, access is narrow, making two-way traffic slow and difficult particularly in peak traffic times. Some drivers ignore rules to give way to uphill traffic. One suggestion currently being discussed by residents is that Bidwill Street become one way (but which way?).

Residents welcome feedback on these traffic issues. Please send suggestions and reactions to mtcookmobilised@gmail.com.

MOU FOR PAPAWAI

MCM and the Papawai Reserve group are developing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Council to formalise our working relationship. It will clarify the commitments, roles and responsibilities for both parties. For WCC there will be a strong emphasis on health and safety. WCC has also agreed to no chemical spraying in the area or near the higher reaches of our stream (a tributary of the Waitangi Stream). WCC provides plants and mulch, and takes away the rubbish.

We do the work of regular planting, weeding and general tidying. Another important function for us will include guardianship for the fish, through to the upper reaches of the stream. We hope in future to include in the MOU the possibility of planting fruit trees and a community garden.

We are hoping for signage in the area explaining what is happening, how to contact the group and join in restoration and maintenance activities. The notice will also carry the 24-hour Greater Wellington pollution hotline (0800 496734) for anyone who notices any unusual discharge into the stream.



Shane McGrath with his Massey MA of Fine Arts installation - 'Behind everything beautiful there is some kind of pain'. It was erected in front of The Engine Room on the CoCA site.

The residents of Mt Cook are fond of their street art, but are unimpressed with tagging and stickers. WCC give free graffiti removal kits to residents (call at the City Service Centre, or ring 499 4444). Pen tags can be

removed with meths on a cloth and MCM has paint for the others. We urge all homeowners to remove tags on your property immediately, and call City Council if any offensive material appears.

MT COOK T-shirts

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Price: \$25 Colour: Black Only

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EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRE ON ADELAIDE RD

There is an oasis of children's play and learning tucked in beside Midas Auto Service Experts at 130 Adelaide Rd. MCM visited the WCCCA Early Childhood Centre on a hot summer's day. After a morning of painting, play dough and dress-ups, half of the children were resting while their older playmates were enjoying the sand-pit and water play outside. The outside area will soon have a planted garden box, kindly donated by Mitre 10 Mega in Petone.

WCCCA Adelaide Rd opened a year ago using the part-time community creche model (hours 8.30-3.30). Following feedback from the community, the Centre is reviewing its opening hours and will make a decision in the coming weeks on whether it will extend its hours.

Assistant Head Teacher, Aimee Hammond, sums up the Centre's focus - to provide a relaxed and light-hearted environment where children have the time and space to develop, where the children



WCCCA EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRE

are able to explore, discover, have fun and use their imaginations. Contact the WCCCA Early Childhood Centre on 389 3409, or

wcccakids@gmail.com. (WCCCA stands for Wellington Community Child Care Association. WCCCA provides support to many community crèches in Wellington.)

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community

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Rock guru Nick Bollinger labelled the album handmade music of the finest kind, with the songs and instrumentals acting as a vehicle for a group really listening and responding to each other.

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