

MT COOK! MOBILISED

Mt Cook Mobilised

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No 7 - September 2010

Welcome to Mt Cook Mobilised. This newsletter is an ELECTION SPECIAL. On pages 2-3 candidates appeal for your vote — give it to them. We thank Michelle Lacey for asking questions specific to Mt Cook. We also welcome your input on any issue concerning Mt Cook. Many thanks again to the Southern Cross, 39 Abel Smith St, for sponsoring the printing. Peter Cooke

VOTING IN LOCAL ELECTIONS

In local body elections we vote for many people: the mayor of Wellington City, three Councillors representing Lambton Ward, seven elected members of the Capital & Coast District Health Board (CCDHB) and five representing our city on Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC).

Official lists of those standing for Council and CCDHB are found on Wellington City's website <www.wellington.govt.nz> and GWRC website for regional council candidates <www.gw.govt.nz/candidates/>

TWO VOTING SYSTEMS

There are two voting systems in use. WCC and CCDHB use STV (Single Transferable Vote) while Greater Wellington uses FPP (First Past the Post). The voting paper will be arranged with the STV system first and FPP positions second. The STV positions will also be distinguished by being on a coloured background.

Care needs to be taken when filling out the voting paper to make sure it is valid.

Voting in an STV election, whether single or multiple vacancy, requires ranking the candidates. You must begin with number 1 for first choice, 2 for second choice and so on, ranking as many or as few as you wish, regardless of the number of positions available.

With the vote for mayor, there is only one vacancy. On the initial count of first preferences, if no

candidate has an absolute majority, the lowest polling candidate is eliminated. His or her votes are then redistributed according to second preferences and so on, until one candidate receives a majority of the votes.

The elections for ward councillors and CCDHB candidates are multiple-vacancy. Again rank as many or as few as you want. The **numbers must be sequential, starting with '1'**. Counting votes begins with first preferences and anyone receiving the quota (greater than 25% for Lambton Ward with three vacancies) is declared elected. Their votes in surplus of the quota are redistributed according to voter preferences to other 'live' candidates. The process continues at each round, either eliminating the lowest-scoring candidate or electing the next one reaching the quota until all positions are filled.

The full description of the STV method is given in Schedule 1A to the Local Electoral Regulations 2001. Calculations are done by a computer program, called the STV Calculator. Unfortunately the calculator is not available for perusal by the general public, somewhat denting the transparency of the process.

For every candidate you rank your vote may pass to them. On the other hand if all the candidates you rank are eliminated early then your vote disappears and the quota reduces accordingly.

PLAYGROUND – KIDS' FOCUS

Thanks to the enthusiasm of MCM parents and current councillors, Mt Cook will have a playground this year – using the grassed area on Hutchinson Rd between Wallace and Wright Streets.

On a chilly Sunday morning a focus group of hardy children and parents drew up a wish-list. We quickly blew the budget, but the ideas were so good that future efforts may include fundraising and sponsorship to extend playground features. Our playground should consider environmental issues; we like recycling, use of natural features (such as existing trees or boulders to climb on), and plantings; it needs facilities for a range

of ages; a shade shelter, seats and table. The children recommend equipment for climbing and hanging from – ropes and bars, swings, tree stumps or posts to walk on, and swing bridges between equipment, and slides.

They also suggest basketball hoops, and a football goal, a large flying fox, a play house, big pipes to crawl through, a 'fireman' pole, a stack of old tyres cemented into a climbing tower, and a rope climbing wall. Other ideas include a stone family picnic sculpture to climb on, equipment in many colours for playing 'colour tag' and an art wall for us to personalise our playground.

The only signage would tell kids



to have fun, and local supermarket sponsorship of a BBQ and sausages for community gatherings would top it off nicely.

No virtual playground – as per the All White's Winston Reid, above – MCM wants the real thing.

Voting for GWRC uses the FPP system. Place a tick alongside the candidates who you want elected. The Wellington Constituency of GW has five positions, so **up to five candidates can be ticked** - but no more. If you tick six or more your GW vote is disallowed. Take care and avoid numbering as is done for the STV votes.

IMPORTANT TO VOTE

It is important we all vote. Any resident can vote - you don't have to be a ratepayer. Local government impacts on our daily lives, so it is our duty to vote and support the city in which we live. Last election the turnout for Lambton Ward was less than 40% of eligible voters. Let's double it this time.

WHO TO VOTE FOR...

Massey University student **Michelle Lacey** interviewed eight of the nine local body candidates standing for the Lambton Ward, which includes Mt Cook. Three Lambton Ward councillors are elected every three years. Candidates were interviewed by phone, and are listed here alphabetically. There were asked about their background, and how they planned to make Mt Cook more of a community. Michelle asked the candidates what they hoped to bring to Mt Cook, what their strengths were. How would they ensure that children's issues and needs are given attention by the Council (noting that children are often invisible in planning). Candidates were asked in broad terms what they think Mt Cook needs (such as emphasising changed traffic routes or developing Memorial Park). Finally, they were asked about their vision for Mt Cook (for instance, how to improve the area, and how to communicate with the public).

To find out more about the candidates, including links to their websites, go to <www.elections2010.co.nz>

JOHN BISHOP

John Bishop has worked as a communication consultant for the past 15 years, after being a journalist in radio, television and print. John said he knows how central and local government works as he has been involved in and around politics for 30 years. He said he wants to serve the people as a Lambton Ward councillor; "Wellington needs fresh people and ideas." John said he is "seeking to represent people, not run their lives." He said he wants to help the area retain its sense of character and community. In terms of sport among kids, teens and adults John said he wants more artificial playing surfaces as they are less weather-dependant than

muddy fields. John said he would be inventive with funding - "We could either borrow money or get commercial sponsorship."

STEPHANIE COOK

Stephanie Cook has been a Lambton Ward councillor for 15 years and said she knows the area very well. She said it was a difficult balancing act to find ways to reduce the additional traffic on

spaces in Mt Cook, like the walkway between Drummond Street and Tasman Street. "It would be great to have fruit trees, berry bushes and herbs that people can pick," she said. Stephanie said she supported the recent approval of a liquor ban from Mt Cook to Newtown. "Hopefully it will stop people smashing bottles and reduce noise in the area."



Iona Pannett for Council Working hard for Mt Cook

Authorised by Iona Pannett, 27 Caroline St, Mt Victoria

Bidwill Street. "We could reopen Webb Street all the way to Willis Street," in the hope of diverting traffic from Bidwill Street. Stephanie said she supports planting green spaces, although these are difficult to find. She has been involved with the replanting of Papawai Reserve, where residents have discovered native fish (Banded Kokopu) living in the stream. Stephanie is involved with developing edible green

Stephanie said she wants to see Mt Cook have a community centre. "This is not going to be easy. This either involves finding a suitable building or gaining access to an existing facility, like Massey University."

ADAM CUNNINGHAM

Adam Cunningham has been involved with numerous businesses around Wellington for the past 15 years. He said the council would benefit from his background in business experience, in terms of how to manage ratepayers' money for community projects. Adam said Mt Cook needs to work on communicating more as a community, such as children-orientated events. "Instead of a go-through zone, we should make Mt Cook a go-to zone." He said in terms of trans-



Your 1st vote for:

Ian McKinnon

Lambton Ward, incorporating Mt Cook

Proven record of commitment, 'responding and doing' -approachable and accessible.

Authorised by Ian McKinnon, 186 The Terrace, Wellington

port, the area has had "small quick fixes" but what the area really needs is "to have a far more strategic big-picture approach to solving the transport and public transport needs". Adam has three children and realises the importance of road safety, especially for children.

MICHAEL FOWLER

Sir Michael Fowler was a Wellington City councillor in 1968, and then served as the Mayor of Wellington from 1974 for nine years. "I have a long association with the city and I think I can help," he said. Sir Michael said he thought the traffic system would be hard to solve due to the area's growing density. He is in favour of Memorial Park being turned into a green space. Overall, Sir Michael said he would work alongside the local community and residents' association Mt Cook Mobilised and submit their needs to the council.

Stephanie Cook



Lambton Ward

Authorised by Stephanie Cook
37 Holloway Rd, Aro Valley,
Wellington.



CELIA FOR MAYOR A good choice for Wellington

Contact Celia: 04 938 6691
or 027 483 6691

celia@celiaformayor.org.nz

<http://www.celiaformayor.org.nz>

Authorised by Celia Wade-Brown
101 Wakefield Street, Wellington

MARCUS GANLEY

Marcus Ganley has lived in Perth, Brisbane and Auckland, however he said he has lived in Wellington for the past 11 years by choice, as he thinks it is a fantastic city. Marcus said he favours a "cut and cover" for Buckle Street to allow Memorial Park to extend into a larger green space. He said it is important, "doing it once, and doing it right." He has suggested while the vacant lots along Buckle St remain empty, they should be planted for the community to use as a green space. Marcus drew on this idea from the Brisbane City Council, where by law a vacant lot should be planted for people to appreciate and use, he said. He said he was in full support of establishing/renting a community centre for the area, to create a focal point for the community. He said he would engage with parents in the area and see what children want, to ensure their needs are met. Marcus said he wanted to

lacking from our council." He said, "We need to ensure community groups have the support of the council so we can better hear what residents want." By doing so, Mark said "We need people who can persuade the council to invest in our communities." Mark said Mt Cook needs better management and planning of parking, "It's getting more expensive and much more difficult to find. Non-residents struggle to find parking and are left to in-

three years. With Mt Cook's increasing population, high number of people in flats and increasing traffic flow through the area, Ian said he wants to continue helping Mt Cook tackle certain issues, which



IONA PANNETT

Iona Pannett has been a Lambton Ward councillor for the past three years and was involved with setting up Mt Cook Mobilised in 2007. Iona said she is a strong advocate for the area and wants to continue her work for Mt Cook. She was involved with the playground proposed for Hutchinson Street. Iona is a mother and said children's issues and needs are important to her. Iona said she wants speed limits to be reduced to approx 40kph in the hope of increasing traffic safety in the area. She has worked on a number of projects ranging from preserving heritage buildings in the area, to traffic safety and meeting the needs of the community. "I love the heritage buildings in the area and think Mt Cook needs to maintain its character." She said she wants to continue as a Lambton ward councillor, "The projects I have been working on are complex and long term."

KRIS PRICE

Kris was not available during interviewing.

Hi Mt Cook residents. Mayor Kerry here. We need strong leadership to keep "the best little Capital in the World" on its current path.

"Kerry with grand-daughter Amber Leigh"

Authorised by K Prendergast, 101 Wakefield St, Wellington



fringe, impacting on residents." Also, Mark said Mt Cook's water supply needs attention, "The Council have been actively avoiding it for some time, but it's time to make some hard

is why he is re-standing for his position. He said with the growing population spilling into Mt Cook the area has to remain well-serviced for residents. Ian has helped with proposals for a children's playground on Hutchinson Street. "There are a lot of young families and the importance of a play area must not be underestimated." He said he wants to see Buckle Street trenched so Memorial Park can be a large green space enjoyed by the public and Mt Cook School.

"With the growing population it would be great to have a picnic on Memorial Park. If the road remains in front of the park it won't have that attractive park feel." Ian said thanks to the drive of some long-term residents, the Mt Cook Mobilised community group has helped develop a strong sense of community spirit in the area.

decisions. If we don't address this issue, expect the arrival of meters and more charging." Mark said in regard to green spaces, "surely it is a better idea (given the current financial climate) to integrate a Chinese garden into the Basin Reserve motorway development project (perhaps as a park in front of the Carillon), rather than a separate very expensive (\$5 million) project, that clogs up our waterfront with more buildings."

IAN MCKINNON

Ian McKinnon has been a Lambton Ward councillor for the past

1 MARCUS GANLEY



Cleaner streets
Better traffic management
Walking and cycling as
transport priorities

www.marcusganley.org.nz

Authorised: A. Williams 14/161 Willis St

improve recycling in the Lambton Ward area by establishing a system of collection points to encourage regular recycling. "I have a passion about inner city issues and bringing back the buzz to Wellington."

MARK GREENING

Mark is currently completing a Masters of Law degree. He said he is a strong advocate as he considers himself approachable and a good listener. "In business you have to be constantly listening to your customers and be responsive to their needs - something that has been seriously



Concept design for Massey's new College of Creative Arts (CoCA) building. Construction will begin in September 2010, aiming for completion by February 2012. Athfield Architects have planned to have many of the building's components pre-fabricated off-site, in order to minimise disruption to students and neighbours.

LIQUOR BAN IN MT COOK

To reduce crime and provide a safer environment, Wellington has had a city liquor ban since July 2008. Now this has been extended to Mt Cook. The Council proposed a city-wide ban and Newtown Residents Assn favoured a limited ban extending as far as Newtown. MCM agreed that Mt Cook (and the Town Belt bordering Brooklyn) be included. From 10 August 2010 the Council bylaw prohibits the consumption of alcohol in public, including inside vehicles. The "transportation of unopened bottles or containers" will not contravene the bylaw. The NZ Police enforces this bylaw - our new Community Constable Dean Adams is on (04) 494 3820.

Exemptions from the ban are possible for events where limited BYO alcohol will be consumed in

public (including street parties and Mt Cook Mobilised's upcoming 'Spring Fling' at Papawai Reserve). These specifically exclude any sale or supply of liquor, must be "low-risk" (not likely to lead to harm) and "limited" consumption is defined as three drinks each. Councilors tell us the exemptions are easy to get and should cost nothing. The application form is available at

< www.wellington.govt.nz/plans/bylaws/pdfs/pp-liquor-application.pdf>



MT COOK!
MOBILISED ☆
community

An Anglican Independent School
for girls and boys
Pre-School to Year 8

St Mark's Church School



FAMILY @ THE CROSS!

Tuesdays: Free massages for parents

Thursdays: Free manicures

Saturday: Free kids activities

Sunday: Free kids activities and table visits from our 'mentalist' Rob



SOUTHERNCROSS
GARDEN BAR RESTAURANT



Fluffies are free and we have staff on each shift to help out with the youngins!



www.thecross.co.nz / 04.384.9085 / 39 Abel Smith St

Mini Cookies

Meet other preschooler parents & kids in your neighbourhood

Just turn up at 10am for coffee, cookies and a chat.

We have a spacious new venue with plenty of room to run around!

Thistle Hall (corner Arthur & Cuba Streets), upstairs, entry on Arthur St.

- Friday 15th October
- Monday 15th November

We have a toy box, but bikes welcome.

For more info ring Kirsty 384 8369



Mt Cook
Spring Fling

31 October



11 - 2

novelty races, face painting & crafts for kids
bring a picnic, BYO

L'Affare coffee & homemade lemonade

WHERE: Papawai Reserve (off Salisbury Tce)

CAFFE L'AFFARE
THE COFFEE BUSINESS EST. 1990

Absolutely
POSITIVELY
ME HEKE KI PŌNEKE
WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL Wellington