

MT COOK! MOBILISED

Mt Cook Mobilised

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No 18 - December 2015

Kia Ora, Talofa, Kia Orana, Chao mung quy vi, Malo e lelei, Aloha, Olá, Halo, Ni Sa Bula, Fakalofa atu, Ni Hao, Assalamu alaykum, Namaste, Ahalan, Saleem, Shalom, Dia dhuit, Zdravstvuyte, Greetings! Mt Cook Mobilised, your resident community group, wishes you a happy festive season. We invite your input (via the email above) on any Mt Cook issue. We urge all owners to paint out graffiti immediately and look out for neighbours. **Peter Cooke**

MT COOK SPRING FLING

On a grey windy Sunday, with clouds threatening, the call was made to go ahead with the annual Spring Fling at Papawai Reserve on 18 October. An excellent call!

150 or more hardy Mt Cook residents admired the restoration of the last six years; enjoyed coffee (thanks Caffè L'Affare) and cake.

Kids had the happiest time with face painting, swinging, sliding and climbing, a pea-straw bunker and jumping site, as well as the now traditional egg & spoon races, sack races, and lolly scramble.

The photo display of old Mt Cook and older Mt Cook residents attracted much attention. Eager children (and adults) were shown the joys of planting to attract bees and make our Mt Cook garden spaces more productive and colourful.

Coloured ribbons representing different neighbourhoods in Mt Cook were given to wear so people could identify and get to know people who live close by. It worked! There were plenty of conversations, ideas, stories and new connections made.

It was a highly enjoyable way to spend

what could have been a dismal Sunday. On the way out one enthusiastic young lad told his mother that Spring Fling was so much fun it should be held about every two days.

Congratulations and thanks to everyone involved in making the event a success.

Many thanks to Councillors Iona Pannett and Nicola Young who attended and the Council Parks & Garden staff for their support for the restoration of Papawai Reserve.

To get involved in Mt Cook Mobilised, or helping at Papawai Reserve, we'd love to hear from you mtcookmobilised@gmail.com.



NATURE IMAGINED

On Sunday 15 November around 40 children and adults, including Mayor Celia Wade-Brown, gathered at Prince of Wales Park for the first session of Imagine My City. It is "a voyage through your neighbourhood nature like you've never seen it before". Mt Cookies enthralled the crowd with stories of swales, kokopu and kaka, before the group headed up the hill on their adventure, accompanied by a number of colourful performers. And all kids could choose a free native plant to take home. This pilot project was created in partnership with Nature ▶



AFTER THE FLYOVER


MCM and other community organisations with interests in the Basin Reserve area are discussing ways to improve traffic flows around it and build in environmental and social objectives and give weight to public transport, cycling and pedestrian traffic.

After the rejection of the Basin flyover, a high-level governance group from NZTA, WCC and the regional council is considering a wider range of transport options for the Ngauranga-to-Airport transport spine.


The communities are asking the governance group to involve them in the development of options for future work at the Basin, and to do this in ways

that ensure community views are taken on board. Lack of responsiveness to community views was one factor that led to the failure of the flyover proposal.

Meantime, we are developing principles, objectives and values to take to the governance group as a basis for future consultation and the development of options for improvements at the Basin. The initial contact with the governance group is expected to happen after a further meeting of the community group in November.

People with views on future traffic options at the Basin or who would like to be involved in the ongoing discussions are welcome to contact MCM. 



➤ Through Arts Collective, NZ National Commission for UNESCO and Mt Cook Mobilised. It aims to inspire and empower young people (*above*) to join with others in bringing nature into their backyards and neighbourhoods. 

WHY A SILENT CARILLON?

Many Mt Cook residents are missing the regular sound of the carillon bells ringing out on a regular basis. We had expected they would be back after the opening of Memorial Park – but the continued silence caused us to ask the Ministry for Culture & Heritage what was happening.

When the National War Memorial tower or campanile was strengthened recently to meet revised earthquake stan-

dards, the carillon mechanism it houses was damaged by concrete dust.

Fortunately some of the larger bells are now fully operational and available for special ceremonial occasions. This included the 2015 Anzac Commemorations where it featured as part of the amazing Light & Sound Show sponsored by Wellington City Council.

The first-rate National Carillonnist, Timothy Hurd QSM will be



IN OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD


3 Toru Myrtle Crescent is a nerve centre for organising a variety of activities including health, employment, education, fitness and holiday programmes.

CART (Consultancy Advocacy & Research Trust) which runs the centre is specially concerned with realising the positive potential of people formerly affected by self-defeating behaviours and removing barriers to their participation in a constructive and healthy lifestyle.


These groups are often described as 'hard to reach' or 'at risk' but CART's holistic approach enables whanau to

determine realistic goals and assists with a plan to achieve them.

CART deals with immediate needs and, with their continuing process of 'Whanau Future Narrative', motivates participants to keep striving to be the best they can.

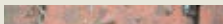
The sign over the door 'Whare Whakapakari – Achievement Gym' says it all. CART'S mission is proud testament to the diversity and vitality that adds to Mount Cook's reputation as an excellent and inclusive inner-city community. 

THANKS TO WCC

MCM acknowledges with thanks a WCC grant for Community Venue Assistance for the use of a meeting room. Meetings are currently held upstairs in the 'Heritage Café', at 40 Wallace St. 

playing again as soon as the instrument is fully functional. Other musicians are also keen to be involved. The Ministry hopes that the carillon will be fully functional in time for Anzac 2016 commemorations.

Once the restorative work is complete the carillon will again be an integral part of Wellington's cultural scene and a feature of Pukeahu National War Memorial Park.

So it seems they will be silent for a good while yet. The Ministry for Culture & Heritage has said it will keep its websites updated about progress on this – so hopefully next time we go looking for information there will be something available. 

THE LAST POST

The first daily public Last Post ceremony was held at Pukeahu National War Memorial Park on Anzac Day 2015. The ceremony will be conducted every evening until 11 November 2018 and the public are invited to participate by reading the ode or playing the bugle call. The ceremony begins at 5pm each night in front of the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior. Google 'Pukeahu Last Post' to add *your* Last Post.

LEARNING FROM THE CRÈCHE



The Ministry for Culture & Heritage is in early discussions with the Wellington City Council and the NZ Transport Agency about fitting out the Home of Compassion Crèche building as a centre for its education programme at Pukeahu National War Memorial Park.

The proposed Education Centre would have a schoolroom for up to 35 school students, or chairs to seat groups of adults. The crèche sleep room from a 100 years ago would likely become a research/study room, and the original hallway could be exhibition space.

School groups would enter from the northern end, where heritage fruit trees have been planted as a tribute to Mother Mary Joseph Aubert who founded the Home of Compassion Crèche. It is hoped that as part of the fit-out the original black and white tiles on the porch floor at the Sussex

Street end, under the beaten-in ceiling, will be reinstated. The tiles were specially numbered when they were taken up so they could be re-laid.

Children from around the country already visit the park and participate in the Ministry's education programme. The education team tailors programmes for pre-schoolers through to seniors. Pleasingly, the proposed plans for the building include community groups meeting there (outside business hours).

The proposed fit-out would include a dedicated space to commemorate Mother Aubert's life and work. Mother Aubert is on the pathway to becoming recognised as New Zealand's first saint. If she is canonised her restored 1914 crèche building will be likely to attract pilgrims from the world over.



PUKEAHU NATIONAL SKATE PARK?

With the warmer weather and longer daylight hours, Pukeahu National War Memorial Park has turned into a skate park. The park should be enjoyed by all, however, despite the discrete 'No skate boarding' signs, there are often groups of people skateboarding on steps and blocks. Since its opening (April 2015) Mt Cook residents have been concerned that skateboarders are damaging the park's infrastructure.

The Wellington Consolidated Bylaw 2008, Pt 5 (Public Places), Sec 15 (Skateboard-

ing) states that skateboarding is allowed in public places except where signs indicate otherwise. More importantly, skateboarders must ensure that no damage is caused to Council property and show reasonable consideration for others using the public place. Small metal brackets (skate deterrents) are being added to skatable edges in the park.

On the upside, skateboarders bring life to the park; in the late evening their presence increases the sense of safety when few others are around.




PHOTO VIVIENNE MORRELL, WELLINGTON HERITAGE COMMITTEE

HANGING ON TO THE GHQ

At 11am on Armistice Day around 35 residents of Mt Cook, members of several heritage groups and concerned Wellingtonians gathered at the historic 1911 defence building on Buckle St to 'hang on to the GHQ'. They laid hands on to protest plans for its demolition. They expressed their affection for one of Pukeahu National War Memorial Park's red-brick 'book-ends' and agreed that it should be retained, strengthened and re-used. Its heritage stories would be invaluable if incorpo-

rated into the Defence Force's recruiting centre planned for the site. Four people said they had been issued uniform and equipment from it or had a parent who served in it.

 Follow Us on 'Save the GHQ building'

Below In spirit, Barbara Mitcalfe brought her father Maj Maurice Fougere to hang on to the GHQ Building. Chief of 400 members of the Base Pay Corps, he served from the top office behind her.

At 5pm when the Last Post is played, most of the skateboarders respectfully take a break. But the park was intended to be a place of remembrance where people can sit peacefully, have a picnic or read without skateboarders whizzing past! Residents are concerned that the repair bill for fixing the damaged surfaces will be significant.

Many of the young men whose ultimate sacrifice is remembered here would have been close in age to the skateboarders, which begs the question – what would their views have been?





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URBAN FARM

There's a happy buzz around Hospital Road with volunteers for the new *workerBe oasis* organization busy landscaping, planting and tending 30 square meters of garden beds - with much more to come.

Water tanks will be installed soon, and paths created for wheelchairs, walking aids and strollers. A programme of summer events is planned to get the site producing vegetables and enhance the environment for bees, birds and humans. Plans are well in hand for weekly workshops on Thursdays, beekeeping on site and two Wednesday workshops (2 December and 6 January at 5.30pm) to help new gardeners get started.

It's an excellent new project for green space improvement in our neighbourhood. For more detail, or to get involved email them on workerbeoasis@gmail.com

And if anyone has a free lawnmower to donate, or sell cheaply, please get in touch.

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